



## VERMEJO BISON HARVEST

### **MANAGEMENT BISON**

- Vermejo's bison herd is free ranging and privately owned. No hunting license is required to harvest Vermejo bison as New Mexico law considers bison to be livestock.
- Bison harvests occur after the rut season in late July and August. Vermejo offers 3-day stays during our fall hunt season.
- Due to the size of the ranch, hunters should expect to spend much of the time in the truck locating a herd as there are no internal fences restricting bison movement. A herd may travel 10-15 miles in one day in search of prime grass for grazing.
- Vermejo maintains what is considered a conservation herd carrying our Castlerock genetics which is unique in that no cattle genes have been found during genetic testing.
- To manage for high genetic diversity, we only keep limited number of bulls over 3 years old.
- Bison harvests are not exceptionally challenging, but you will get to experience a variety of the habitats and wildlife Vermejo has to offer in addition to looking at a lot of bison before selecting the bull you want to harvest.
- Rifles are recommended for harvesting bison and caliber depends on shot placement. If you insist on attempting to harvest a bison with a bow, standard protocol involves your guide using a rifle as a backup for safety and to ensure a clean harvest.
- Vermejo defines a management bison as:
  - o Coming 3-year-old bulls designated by a specific ear tag denotation
  - o Your Vermejo guide will identify a variety of bulls and allow the hunter to select the bull they wish to harvest
- Vermejo offers between 25 and 30 management bison hunts each year. Management bison field dress at 600-700 pounds yielding roughly about the same amount of packaged meat as a bull elk.
- Additionally, a bison head, skull or rug is a unique piece of American history. Taxidermy can be coordinated onsite.