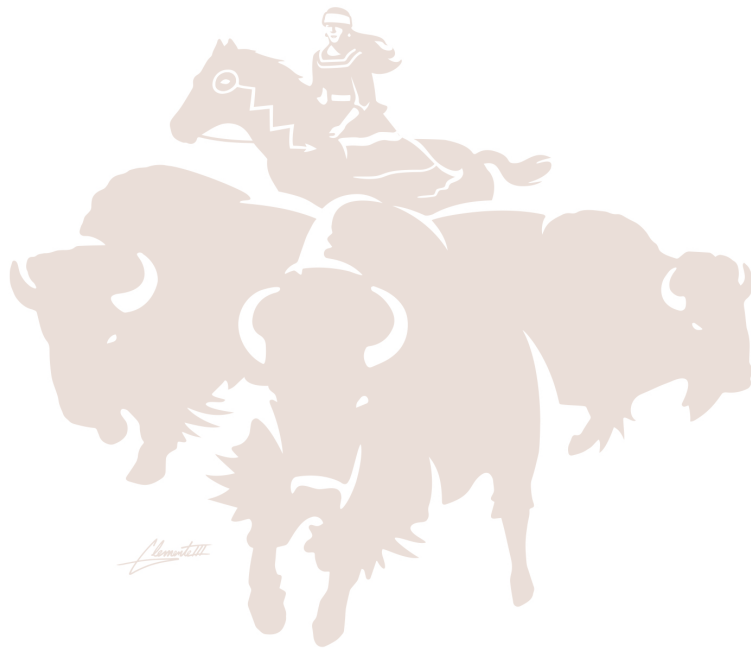


# Texas Tribal IYANEE'/Buffalo Project



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## Section We. Executive Summary

The American Bison that once ruled the southern plains and provided Native Americas living in Texas with food, homes, clothing, medicine, tools and many other essentials of living, reached near extinction near the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Recently, the Bison have experienced a comeback. For many it is a viable business venture. We are interested in providing a resurgence once again of a native life, that promotes health and vitality to the land they occupy and to the people who utilize their meat and other valuable products. Bison are inherently indigenous stewards of the land. We also want to be able to provide a space where Tribal people living on traditional indigenous Texas Tribal lands, a place to RECONNECT with our Buffalo relatives. Physically, Culturally and more.

We are excited to be a part of this comeback and able to provide the bison and products to all native and non-native people in South Texas and other states. These products include frozen meat, hides, skulls and more. We will also be offering cultural and educational tours to educate people about the bison and the health benefits the meat provides. As well as offer a formal location for spending time with our IYANEE'/Buffalo Relatives. Our goal is to offer this traditional food to indigenous cultures that have used this food historically. Texas tribes, for example the Lipan Apache of Texas, have been increasingly reconnected to our traditional homelands. We would like to reestablish our identity in Texas and provide reparations to the Bison. We will once again become caretakers of our relatives the Bison. Our families are reconnecting with the land and management of the Bison herds. This includes the traditional caretakers with living arrangements, such as traditional homelands, which will benefit of the descendants of the people who never left this land. The people who once roamed as free as the buffalo. Our Plan to reconnect Texas Indigenous descendants with Land, Spirit, Plants and Animals. My name is Lucille Contreras, Lipan Apache from San Antonio who left home at between twenty and thirty-four years ago, to seek an education and feed my inquisitive spirit. My education has focused on the religious and cultural ways of providing for the Lipan Apache. During the past four to five years We have been assisting with stewardship of a buffalo herd on the Pine Ridge Reservation in learning how to live among the Bison. My goal is to purchase land and caretake for buffalo.

We realize with buffalo there are 3 main needs to stay healthy and happy. Grass, Water and Fence. We would like to provide our Communities and surrounding communities the opportunity to experience the soul recharging of being around our 4 legged relative, for urban youth to experience restorative agriculture, and to learn the relationship between the land and animals and how that can relate to the individuals wellbeing. Both human and Animal.

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## Section II. Mission, Goals, and Objectives

### General Description of the Business

The Texas Tribal Buffalo Project is committed to healing the generational trauma of Lipan Apache descendants and other native nations bordering traditional Lipan Apache ranges. These ranges mimic the ancestral buffalo ranges of the southern plains. The state of Texas has prospered and grown to be an Agriculture and natural resource powerhouse in the nation. While this has happened through the generations the native descendants have had force relocation, suffered massacres and been severely traumatized. We however are a proud and strong nation still, even displaced in our own homelands. Just as the buffalo have been displaced from their southern ranges. We aim to provide a pathway to heal our people, our relatives, including the buffalo.

We will begin raising and marketing bison and bison meat and products. The primary products at present include frozen meat, bleached skulls, and tanned hides. A few breeding animals are also sold. The meat is especially attractive to those who are interested in the health benefits of low fat, natural red meat. Skulls and hides are purchased by our native people who will use these sacred items for both personal and other non-material purposes.

The primary means of marketing can be a trailer containing freezers, taken to various towns in the San Antonio, Austin, and Houston and surrounding regions. These are the part of the ancestral ranges for both buffalo and Lipan Apache. We will also have a website maintained for mail orders. The business involves all family members, and members of the Texas Indigenous communities who are learning about the buffalo. We have been working and learning from the relative by assisting in the care taking of a buffalo herd in Porcupine, SD. 28 head on 900 acres, Knife Chief Buffalo Nation Society. Texas Tribal Buffalo Project has the support of **FBLLC/SWB Tribal Internship**(<https://frasierbison.com/bison-consultation>) and the **Lipan Apache Band of Texas**(<http://lipanapachebandoftexas.com/>), and LIPAN APACHE WOMENS DEFENSE (LAW). In the future we will be working on creating a consortium of Texas Tribes, INCLUDING indigenous and relocated to Texas.

TTBP is licensed by the Texas Dept. of Health, to be purveyors that assist in getting this sacred relative into the bellies and hearts of our people!

**Mission Statement** Texas Tribal Buffalo Project, exists to establish Food Sovereignty and Reconnect Texas Tribal peoples to the Buffalo. This honors our ancestors and the ancestors or our relatives the buffalo through:

1) practicing good stewardship of its natural resources in the raising of bison 2) offering quality bison meat and products to enhance people's health and lives 3) promoting health and wellbeing of our tribe and other surrounding tribes of Texas 4) providing all peoples of Texas, a chance to interact and understand the buffalo and the native peoples of Texas history and culture 5)and learning about soil health and regenerative practices

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## Goals and Objectives

### Goal #1

- ▶ We have Established and maintain USDA assistance
- ▶ We are educating community. Practicing Regenerative and Sustainable AG practices
- ▶ We have established a relationship with [SouthWest Bison in Stinnet, TX](#) to purchase frozen buffalo wholesale as well as private caretakers across the state who we purvey live bison and send to B Healthy Meats in Uvalde, TX for processing
- ▶ We have acquired a herd and land and are seeking additional land, preferably adjacent to where we are located now.

### Goal #2:

- ▶ We are selling frozen Bison Meat to the public. We recently added some value added products such as sinew and organs.
- ▶ Continue parking lot sales in Native Gatherings and communities
- ▶ We Keep web page updated and current every month

### Goal #3:

- ▶ Find new links to increase Internet sales by 50%. We have onboarded with 2 school districts to be meat vendors.

- ▶ We will plan to Introduce youth to FFA and 4-H
- ▶ We host monthly tours to educate people about the advantages of bison to the environment and to a healthy diet. Sponsor education and cultural camps
- ▶ Prepare for tours.
- ▶ We have Texas Farm Bureau insurance to cover liability.

### Goal #4:

- ▶ Increase profitability and efficiency of business through better record keeping.
- ▶ Ongoing relationship with Emergence LLC for grants writing and Accounting to help track cash flow, sales, and expenses, and operate on a budget.
- ▶ Use records to evaluate expenditures and plan future areas of expansion.

### Long-Term Goals Goal #5: This year we have established herd of 20 bison, including

cows with calves and bulls, within the first 2 years. We wish to maintain this amount and increase with land increase

- ▶ Save back best heifer calves to add to herd and change bulls when needed to maintain quality and prevent in-breeding.
- ▶ Manage herd to avoid non-productive cows, disease and parasites.
- ▶ Continue to take in bison to fully utilize pasture on an absentee ownership plan.

**Goal #6:** Establish a Buffalo Reservation in Texas for the mutual benefit of all Texas Residents especially the Native American groups in Texas

**Goal #7:** Create 2 curriculums, Texas Indigenous history and culture centered on Food and Bison, and a second curriculum on holistic grazing, using TEKS, Traditional Educational Knowledge and Skills for bison caretaking. This will be uploaded in an online Moodle Education Platform

**Goal #8:** Create an online TX Indigenous museum, and database

**Goal #9:** Create a TX Indigenous DNA database and cultural survey statewide

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## Section III. Background Information

### Background Industry Information

Bison is similar in taste to beef but significantly lower in fat. Therefore, it is sought after by the health-conscious consumer and by those who must lower the fat in their diets but do not want to give up red meats.

Interest in by-products, especially skulls and hides has also increased in recent years, adding more value to the industry. (See “Burgeoning Bison Industry,” Meat Industry Insights news article.) The small producer can maximize her per animal return by taking advantage of such by-products.

Because this is a growing industry, many of the producers are still small (fewer than 50 cows), although there are also several herds numbering in the hundreds to thousands. There are bison herds in all 50 states and Canada.

**Tours, Meals:** To familiarize the public with the benefits of bison the we will host several open house events, school tours and other group tours. We can also grill buffalo burgers and hot dogs for special events. We can prepare to offer tours at the ranch on an appointment-only basis. We have a plains Tipi that can be used to share teachings and stories of our people and the buffalo. Visitors will also be given some history and information about the habits of these fascinating animals. A home-cooked meal featuring bison burgers or sliced bison roast sandwiches will be offered to groups.

**By-Products:** To more fully utilize the by-products of the bison will be cleaned, bleached skulls and tanned hides. These will be made available to Texas Tribes for ceremonial purposes. If any are left over, they can be sold.

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## Summary of Features and Benefits of Bison Meat:

### Features

Lower in fat than most other meats.

Less fat in meat means it cooks in less time at lower temperatures.

Meat has short muscles fibers.

45% more iron than beef.

Produced without hormones, antibiotics, or growth stimulants.

Price compares favorably to natural-fed beef and other specialty meats.

### Benefits

Healthy meat alternative.

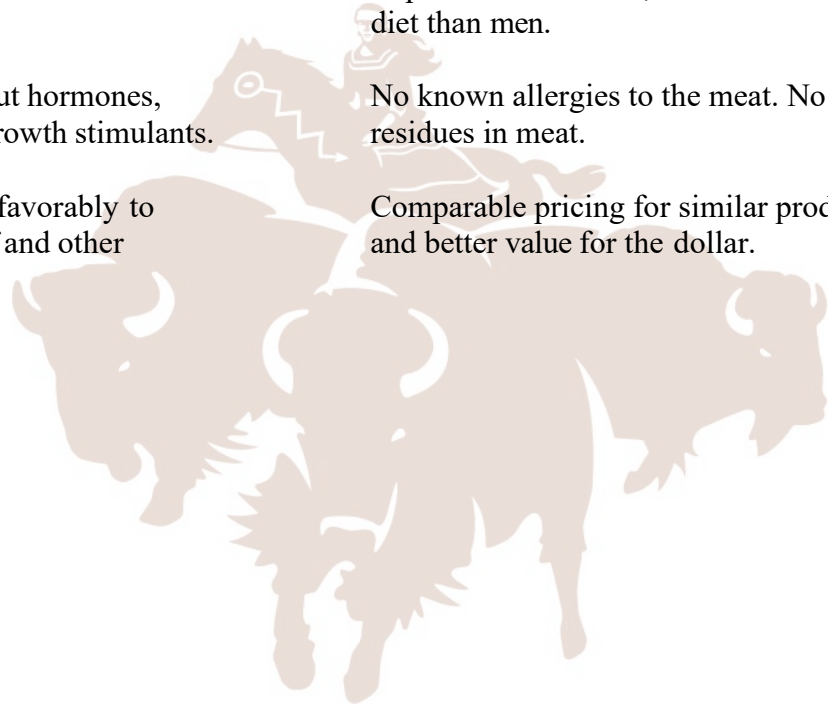
Saves time and fuel in preparation.

Tender without fat marbled into it.

Important for women, who need more iron in their diet than men.

No known allergies to the meat. No drug residues in meat.

Comparable pricing for similar products and better value for the dollar.



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## A. Conclusion

As a Lipan Apache descendent, mother, sister, and a nature loving woman, We have a vision to culturally revive and RECONNECT the relationship between Texas Tribes.

We would like to leave my descendants and the descendants of Texas Tribes, a legacy that will lead them to a healthy and happy future.

One in which, the people can be in harmony with not only the land and environment, but with ourselves and each other, as relatives.

Texas has grown and prospered immensely since the time my ancestors and 4 legged relatives lived freely on the land. We have a strong and powerful ancestral connection that We know can heal land, heal the people, and heal the spirit.

List staff, volunteers, consultants involved with the project:

Lucille R. Contreras, Chief Executive Director

We have an Americorp Vista grant, with an allocation of 8 Vista members for capacity building

-Volunteer development, Partnership Development, Fundraising Programs, Curriculum Development, Food Sovereignty research and development, Marketing and Communications, and a Vista Leader.

List members of the Board of Directors, including organizational and tribal affiliations

Lucille R. Contreras, Lipan Apache Band of Texas-enrolled

Tricia Whitman, Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas-enrolled

Patricia Herrera, Diné and Chicana

Helga Garcia Garza, Coahuiltecano Lineal desendent, SA TX missions



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Texas Tribal Buffalo Project is honored to receive Support and Endorsement from the following:



Lipan Apache Band of Texas



FBLLC/SWB Tribal Internship



Lipan Apache Women's Defense  
KónitsaiigokIyaá Gokiyaa



Texas Cherokee Nation