

VIDEO SCRIPT

TITLE: People of The Bison

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V I S U A L

VISUAL:

OPEN MONTAGE

(:20) Kids at Cultural Center with guide.

Buffalo running 003-1 CSP

002-2 Wallowing

WS Herd

Cut to a MS buffalo

WS Herd

Cut to an American Indian child laying on a great buffalo hide.

WS Two indian girls cooking pot of buffalo stew over an open fire. 1880s.

MS OTO stew in pot.

A U D I O

AUDIO:

NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER

MUSIC UP and UNDER

Ikceya Wicasa Singers: Spirit of the Song

Wokiksuya Olowan Wan (:33)

NARRATOR

For many lifetimes, the people who spoke the Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota languages followed great bison herds...

across the land we now call South Dakota.

MUSIC UP and UNDER Honoring Song (Rosebud Fair Singers)

They used great, wooly bison skins to keep warm through winter.

They ate bison meat.

And found uses for almost every part of the animal.

V I S U A L

Buffalo Headdress artifact

Meat drying in sun.

Lakota Camp

Warrior on horseback

Buffalo bone scrapper artifact

Buffalo skin shielded artifact.

Buffalo herd running

Buffalo on hillside.

Photo Montage 9/7 Comp

Curtis CP 03001 "The Medicine Man"

CX05062 "Dancing in to Medicine Lodge"

CT05050 "Atsina-Flight of Arrows"

Warriors on Horseback.

Morphing FX Buffalo to White
Buffalo to Peace Pipe.

Curtis Collection Montage:

CP 03001 "The Medicine Man"

Cx05062 "Dancing in to Medicine lodge.

CT05050 "Atsina-Flight of Arrows"

A U D I O

MUSIC Drums Honoring song.

Continues Under

VOICE OVER

WEBSTER TWO HAWK

The buffalo provided us with food, shelter, clothing and utensils. The whole buffalo is used by our people. And that means our livelihood. And so when it was unnecessarily slaughtered that just took away all of that so much. I might just say this. We were never defeated until we were defeated by starvation. But that's what the buffalo means to us. Life. Basically, all of life.

ON CAMERA

WEBSTER TWO HAWK

The buffalo also is spiritual because it keeps us alive physically, mentally and spiritually. And also there is a legend...

VOICE OVER

WEBSTER TWO HAWK

...Our story that the buffalo brought us, our people, way back when, a, you know, a tool, i guess it's a spiritual tool with which we can pray to the great spirit – god- you know, through the peace pipe. And so the buffalo was a being that brought us that pipe too. So that's the spiritual connection we have with the buffalo.

MUSIC CONTINUES: Powwow

NARRATOR

There were songs and dances honoring bison, or sung to prepare bison hunters...

V I S U A L

Rosebud Powwow dancers and Singers plus drumming.

POWWOW MONTAGE

Aerial shots

Horses running across the prairie.

MONTAGE: Wild horses on a grassy prairie.

MAP showing horse migration up from Mexico.

POP UP FACT: The first horses were introduced by the Spanish Explorer Cortez in 1519. Over wild horses montage.

Reinactment:IND Life 2 013-015

Lakota Warriors on horseback toward and past camera out of village.

Same warriors riding away and up hill.

Continued

A U D I O

songs and dances still heard and seen at pow wows today.

POWWOW CONTINUES

MUSIC UP and UNDER

Gary Stroutsos – Winds of Honor

Song for Granpa Joe Flying Bye (1:45)

NARRATOR

Another mighty animal galloped into the world of these people, too.

SFX Horses running and whinnying.

UP and UNDER

NARRATOR

Horses came with Spanish settlers to America...and moved northward from Mexico. It's hard to imagine a more perfect world for horses than the Dakota plains—miles and miles of rolling, grassy prairie.

And it's hard to imagine anyone taking to horses faster than these American Indian people. They became expert riders who could travel greater distances to hunt bison.

They raised horses.

Traded horses.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Continued

And, as successfully as any people ever, used horses to become mighty warriors.

Ind. Life 018 Chief Bald Eagle family walking up hill with travois dog, away from camp.

They were called the Sioux by some other American Indian people. That was the name European explorers and fur traders first heard and used, too.

POP-UP FACT: THE WORD "SIOUX" WAS USED BY THEIR ENEMY AND MEANT "SNAKE" .

Comp 3 9-20

Soaring shot over Cheyenne River

SUPER: Flying in tribal names

Itazipco

Oohenunpa

Sihasapa

Mdewakantonwan

Waqpe-tonwon

Sisitonwan

Ihantunwan

Oglala

Sicangu

Hunkpapa

Hohwoju

Titonwan

Waqpe-kute

Santee

Ihantunwan na

But the people others called Sioux thought of themselves as thirteen groups, connected by families and marriage. Some names these groups had for themselves were Wahpetons, Sissetons, Yanktons, Oglalas, Brules, Hunkpapas, Minneconjous...among others.

MUSIC CONTINUES

V I S U A L

A U D I O

WEB Pointer. Up and out.

MUSIC SEGUE

Rosebud Singers DRUM BEAT BEGINS UNDER THE NARRATION, SLOW AND RHYTHMIC. (:33)

Photos Curtis Collection
9-21 Comp-1

Their life two hundred years ago is hard for most of us to imagine. There was regular movement...

Bison herds

following bison herds...

Lakota village

moving entire villages...

Indian Girls putting up teepee

and packing up villages when the bison moved.

Indian kids playing in village set up in valley.

Changing seasons meant movement, too. As winter approached, the villages were set up in valleys sheltered from cruel north winds.

Cut to close-up of a ceremonial drum being beaten.

There was constant movement, but there was rhythm to it...the rhythm of bison and seasons...

Large herd of Bison.

Quick Montage cuts of various buffalo, then empty prairie.

Dissolve to

...until the unthinkable happened.

DRUM BEAT STOPS

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

DWCD 345 Cut 1 "The Mystery" (:12)

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Shots of wide, empty prairie.

Large herd, Small herd

No herd. Empty prairie

Covered wagon with kids behind.

Photo montage: West 0902 –091

Dead buffalo, in snow.

buffalo skins in pile

Photo montage:

MT02624u "The Interview"

9-66 Comp "Boarding school Pine Ridge

WS Indian camp Pine Ridge

P155 Skinning beef 2

O251v US Indian School Pine Ridge 2512

POP-UP FACT: U. S. GOVERNMENT AGENTS WERE APPOINTED TO WORK WITH AMERICAN INDIANS, AT PLACES CALLED "AGENCIES."

Photo Montage continues

West 073-2 Indian group

House on Prairie

West 108 "Indian farmer"

The bison disappeared. After dotting vast prairies for human lifetimes beyond memory, they vanished in less than one lifetime...

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

DWCD 345 Cut 17 "Voices of the Dead" (:50)

overhunted by newcomers moving west...

and because of demand for bison skins in eastern cities, and in Europe.

Herds were cleared so railroads could be built.

Some American Indians overhunted bison, too, because they found they could trade skins for other valuable items.

American Indians who relied on bison had no choice except to live close to United States government agencies - places where they could get other kinds of meat, clothing fabric and everything else bison once supplied.

Government officials said it was time for wandering American Indian people to stop, build houses, and learn farming.

Some did.

V I S U A L

Photo montage: Curtis

Lakota Warriors on horseback in
Badlands

WS Crazy Horse Mountain

SUPER Tasunka Witko/Crazy Horse

Curtis photos showing traditional
Lakota life. 9-39 Comp-1

Photo Montage 9-40 Comp

Photo of Red Cloud, captioned:
Malipiya Luta, or Red Cloud. 1822-
1909

Curtis Collection Lakota Warriors

Comp 9-41 9-41 A 9-42

Cut to Curtis photos of warriors in full
war gear.

A U D I O

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Joseph Fire Crow: Northern Cheyenne Flute

Wolfe Song (:50)

NARRATOR

But others—especially those in what's now
western South Dakota—angrily rejected the idea.
Tasunka Witko, whose name in English was
Crazy Horse, said...

VOICE OF CRAZY HORSE

***"We do not want your civilization. We would
live as our fathers did, and their fathers
before them."***

NARRATOR:

Mahpiya Luta, or Red Cloud, said:

VOICE OF RED CLOUD

***"It is an insult to the spirits of our ancestors.
Are we to give up their sacred grounds to be
plowed for corn? Lakota, I am for war!"***

NARRATOR

And there was war. As long as Crazy Horse and
Red Cloud's people had horses, they could make
war.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Dissolve to:

U. S. Cavalry, 1870s. Charging past camera full charge

Lakota warriors (2) riding across river at full gallop.

Cavalry Charge from side.

Two Indian warriors on horseback

Charging the camera whooping war cries.

Photo montage

9-43 Gold panning in Black Hills

Mainstreet Deadwood 1876

Quartz Mine with miners.

MAP: showing Little Bighorn River

And Custer Battlefield in Montana.

Portrait of Custer.

Montage "Custer's Last Stand"

Painting and Curtis photo images.

Blood running on the ground.

Dissolve to:

NAT SOUND UP AND UNDER

Bugler sounding Charge & gunfire

The United States Army learned that painfully in the 1860s and 1870s. The Army had very little success in battles against these skilled horse warriors.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

U.S. Airforce Band

"Gary Owen March". (:32)

In 1876 the Army suffered one of its most famous defeats ever. It was the year gold seekers were pouring into the Black Hills, a land Crazy Horse and Red Cloud believed holy, a place the government once promised it would keep off-limits to settlers.

In June of that year, on a river northwest of the Black Hills called Little Bighorn, Crazy Horse, his warriors, and other American Indian warriors, battled Lieutenant Colonel George Custer's Army troops.

SFX Pitched battle.

None of Custer's soldiers survived.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Custer Battlefield Markers

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Lakota Thunder – Veterans Songs

"Mila Hanska Ceya Natan Pelo" (:17)

NARRATOR

But victory in summer...

Photo Montage 9-47

Indians moving with travois

Dissolve in:

Blizzard over Curtis images and
Bison in snow.

...didn't solve the problem of living through
winters without bison meat.

Montage 9-48 Comp.

P185 Skinning beef at Pine Ridge

9-48A Comp

MUSIC SEGUE

Joseph Fire Crow – Northern Cheyenne Flute

"Flight of Dreams"

NARRATOR

Even the people of Crazy Horse and Red Cloud
had to come to lands set aside for them by the
United States government, where there would be
government food.

Indian child in front of teepee

Montage Continues

02512u Hostile Indian Camp

NARRATOR

It was either that, or starvation.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Gary Stroutsos – Winds of Honor

"Winds of Honor – Suite For Sitting Bull"

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Photos

NARRATOR

Cheyenne River Indian School

The lands set aside were reservations. Today we might ask, what did government leaders of the time think they were doing?

Crow Creek Indian Reservation

Did they see reservations as places where American Indians would eat, get medical care, and learn to survive in a world without bison?

P196 Girls in Indian school.

Did they think of them as places where people would forget their Indian ways?

Aerial of Pine Ridge reservation today.

Were reservations out-of-the-way spots where American Indians would be mostly forgotten, and kept separate from other Americans?

Photo: 9-54 Comp "Colored" water fountain with boy drinking from it.

Keeping different races of people apart from each other is segregation. Unfortunately, it's been attempted in many ways throughout United States history.

WS Rapid City.

But over time, segregation always fails—because people refuse to stay apart.

Downtown Rapid City with Lakota people walking on the street.

Today people descended from the bison hunters...

WS Downtown Sioux Falls

live in all South Dakota communities.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Rosebud Powwow SOVTR

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Whites at PowWow

Not all reservation residents are American Indians.

Children of various races in a South Dakota classroom.

And many South Dakotans in the 21st century claim both American Indian and European ancestors.

Comp 9-59 SDCHC#2 Pine Ridge Catholic School

Dissolve to:

As for people a hundred years ago who perhaps thought reservations were places where American Indians would drop their traditional ways...

Pow Wow dancing montage

history proved them wrong. The old traditions are celebrated on reservations like nowhere else...

White visitors watching powwow

by people who live here, and by visitors from around the world.

Single Male Powwow dancer

Aerial shot over running bison herd.

The people of the bison are forever part of South Dakota.

More bison herds

And so are the bison themselves. These great animals, nearly wiped out, made a comeback—thanks mostly to South Dakotans.

Blizzard shot with Bison bull

Old bison hunt (B/W)

Photo of Scotty Philip

During the winter of 1880-81, the Dupuis brothers rode in the last great bison hunt. They brought home five live bisons. Descendents of those animals were purchased by Scotty Philip, a rancher who wanted to save the bison.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

Photo Wagons hauling Bison

West 024A-2

Custer State Park Bison

Custer State Park Sign

Single bull bison

Bison.

Custer State Park bison.

777 Ranch bison.

Tribal herd, Cheyenne River

In 1914, specifically-built wagons carried some of the Dupuis-Philip herd to the Black Hills wildlife preserve now called Custer State Park, where it grew into a herd of a couple thousand.

Now bison are seen all across the state...

in the park...

on ranches...

and on reservations. Reservation leaders know bison will always be part of spiritual life for some people here.

V O I C E O V E R

Powwow Dancers

Male Dancer dancing buffalo dance.

Girl dancer fancy dancing.

Russell Eagle Bear

We want to teach our people to take on the characteristics of the buffalo and be able to...they always tell a story of a blizzard coming and the buffalo will face the blizzard. They'll face the storm head on... and that's what we want people to...that's our walk of life here, as Lakota people.

V I S U A L

A U D I O

ON CAMERA

Russell Eagle Bear

More bison in Badlands area

Soaring shot of Bison
Herd scatters as we fly over them.

DISSOLVE to;

Close.

ON CAMERA

Russell Eagle Bear

We went through many different things in our walk here, you know, we're still in existence today and it was because of the buffalo and the horse that kept us alive. So you know, animals, the animal nation we really hold them in high esteeme because they ah they brought us to this point here today.

NARRATOR

These leaders wonder whether bison should also be hunted, raised for meat, be used to attract visitors...

or just left alone. Those decisions will likely be made in the 21st century.

Closing Music UP and HOLD
