

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*



American Bison and Stony Gorge Dam – Photo Credit: Winetta Owens

Stony Gorge Dam, completed in 1928, is on Stony Creek about 18 miles downstream from East Park Dam and 20 miles west of the town of Willows in western Glenn County, Calif. The reservoir has a capacity of 50,380 acre-feet and stores surplus water for irrigation purposes.

Visitors to Stony Gorge Reservoir can enjoy the scenic views of mountains as well as nearby camping, boating, fishing, skiing, hiking, biking and wildlife viewing.

These American Bison, grazing in a field near Stony Gorge Dam and Reservoir, stand some 5 to 6 feet tall and can weigh over a ton. Despite their massive size, bison are quick and can run at speeds up to 40 miles an hour. Some have curved sharp horns that grow up to 2 feet long. The males (bulls) battle for primacy, but rarely fight to the death. The females (cows) give birth to one calf after nine months, much like humans. These large animals graze on grasses, herbs, shrubs and twigs.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, settlers in North America and the Great Plains killed some 50 million bison for food and sport. Today, there is a herd of about 200,000 bison living on preserves and ranches.

For more information about the American Bison, please visit:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Bison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Bison)