



*Tichkematse drawing of two Cheyenne men hunting buffalo, 1879. Courtesy of National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, NAA MS 290844; NAA INV 08601200*

Bison (buffalo) were the heart of the Cheyenne economy. A buffalo cow could yield 500 pounds of food as well as resources for robes, tipi covers, and other necessities. Buffalo populations in the mid-nineteenth century were estimated at thirty to sixty million. Buffalo are also spiritually important to the Cheyenne Nation; there are accounts that describe the buffalo helping Cheyenne warriors during battle.

Gilbert King, "Where the Buffalo No Longer Roamed," *Smithsonian Magazine*, July 17, 2012.