

Tatanka Bison Ranch

STANDUP (Parking Lot): Thanks guys, our road trips have taken us north south east and this week we're going west, wild west (Whiplash) Lets Go (Snap)

GFX: (Bison running over me and kicking up dust revealing the text "Reece's Road Trips...Tatanka Bison Ranch"

STANDUP (Bison Ranch): Well I lost my hat, but thanks to my bison buddies, I've made it to tatanka bison ranch.

SOT FRED OVER BROLL: Alright you guys ready to go bison ranching.(turns engine key)

VO: Originally from South Africa, Fred Illza has spent the last 5 years as a Bison Rancher.

SOT FRED: I had a huge fascination with elephants. And this is basically my African elephant in the United States.

VO: Fred moved to the US in 1995, and after years of office work, he was ready for a change.

SOT FRED: I was working 14 hours a day, six days a week now I work 18 hours a day, seven days a week, but the big difference is I'm having fun.

VO: In 2014 Fred retired from his office job and began to build his ranch from scratch. Two years later... his first baby bison was born.

SOT FRED: it was a Saturday morning I came I was real heavy fog and everything like that and I knew they were pregnant, you know. It was foggy I couldn't make out was going on The sun was not up yet and I saw this calf and it was quite the most amazing feeling my first one born here.

VO: One by one the herd began to grow, revealing a social structure that Fred had seen before.

SOT FRED: It's a matriarchal society. So it's run by females just like elephants. They are very protective of each other. You go in and mess with one you end up messing with the whole herd.

VO: These animals roamed the Carolinas about 200 years ago, yet they are rare to see in the wild today. But Fred is more than happy to bring back the Bison as they have changed his life forever.

SOT FRED: I'm 60 years old now, and I must be far better shape than I was 20 years ago. Because, you know, it's an active lifestyle. And so it's, it's pretty much was me a new lease on life.

STANDUP (Bison Ranch): This has been one of the most beautiful places for a road trip and while you might not get this close to the bison, I would definitely recommend anyone to come out and see them for themselves.Reporting for the Buzz, I'm Reece.

Link to broadcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0uYj76v0OM&t=579s>
Starts at 7:11