

Name _____

The Role of Bison in the Ecosystem

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Bison are called ecosystem engineers because they shape the land, support plant growth, and help other animals thrive.
2. If bison disappeared, plants might overgrow, and other animals could lose food and water sources.
3. Bison help plants by grazing and fertilizing the soil. They help animals by creating water sources and keeping grasslands open.
4. People can help protect bison by supporting wildlife reserves and protecting grassland habitats.

