

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS



“What do you mean Saturday Night Live isn’t here conducting auditions to revive the ‘Coneheads’ skit?”

Little People's Learning Center would like to thank everyone that helped make our inaugural Halloween Fest a huge success! The support from the community was amazing, the kids had a blast, and we couldn't have done it without you! Funds raised go toward our new Nature Explore Classroom equipment.

It's not too early to mark your calendar for Sunday, December 11th, for our next community event - the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting from 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Mammoth Map Room. Visit our website for more information - <http://www.littlepeopleslearningcenter.blogspot.com/>

Ski season is coming! Get ready for the season with a fitness center membership at the Mammoth Community Center. With elliptical machines, stationary bikes, a treadmill and weights, you'll have plenty of equipment to choose from for only \$10 a month! Contact Kevin Franken (2514) or Karin Schwartz (2052) to sign up. Want a free membership? Volunteer as a part of the Mammoth Community Center Board! A few positions are open. Contact Bianca Klein (2221) for more information.

The November edition of the Employee Assistance Program newsletter is available [P:\EAP Newletters\Healthy Aging - Nov 2011.pdf](#)

Comments and suggested updates for the Winter Operations “Blue Book” are due to Tami.Blackford@nps.gov by noon Wednesday. You can find the most recent version at [P:\BlueBookWinter](#).

The current edition of “PFMD Update”, the official publication of the Park Facility Management Division, contains a photo and bio of Gardiner native and former Yellowstone STEP employee Steve Olig, who now works in WASO. (See page 7.) http://classicinside.nps.gov/documents/PFMDUpdate_2011_09_10_FINAL.pdf

IN THE NEWS

October 31, 2011 – Grand Teton National Park News Release

Identity of Man Injured by Bear in Grand Teton Released

The 32 year-old man who was injured by a bear on Sunday, October 30 in Grand Teton National Park has been identified as Timothy Hix of Jackson, Wyoming.

<http://www.nps.gov/grte/parknews/news-release-11-99.htm>

RECENT YELLOWSTONE NEWS RELEASES

October 31, 2011

Roads to Old Faithful & Canyon Close for the Season Next Monday

Roads to most of the park’s popular tourist destinations close for the season at 8:00 a.m. Monday, November 7.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11110.htm>

October 27, 2011

New Yellowstone Road Improvement Plan Approved

A new plan to reconstruct a portion of the northern section of Yellowstone National Park’s Grand Loop Road has been approved. <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11109.htm>

CALENDAR

Two Spaces Left! Operational Leadership Training | November 8 & 9, 2011 | 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. | Telecom Training Room - Upstairs

Operational Leadership Training provides a leadership philosophy and new methods for analyzing risk. All IMR employees are to receive basic Operational Leadership Training by the end of fiscal year 2013. Please obtain supervisor approval and sign up at the following link - [P:\Safety Office\Operational Leadership Training](#).

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

With both Supt. Dan Wenk and Deputy Supt. Steve Iobst out of the park today, Chief Ranger Tim Reid is Acting Superintendent.

WEATHER

Our changing weather is resulting in some **temporary road restrictions and closures** impacting both visitors and admin travel.

Before setting out on any trip outside your immediate work area, you are encouraged to call the recorded Admin Travel report at 344-7115.

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 819 AM MDT TUE NOV 1 2011

Today...Cloudy. Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 4 inches. Highs 22 to 28. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the evening...then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 5 to 11. North winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Wednesday...Sunny. Highs 28 to 34.

SUBMISSIONS

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A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

IN THE NEWS

November 1, 2011 – Gallatin National Forest News Release

Beattie Gulch Area Closure Lifted, Reminder to Be Bear Aware

The emergency area closure for Beattie Gulch area north of Gardiner, Montana has been lifted. Gardiner Ranger District implemented the emergency closure to address bear-human safety concerns resulting from multiple grizzly bears feeding on an elk carcass in the area near the Beattie Gulch Trail (#3240).

As hunting season continues, Ron Hecker, Gardiner District Ranger reminds forest users that “It is important to check local conditions, leave a route itinerary with someone at home, be prepared for rapidly changing weather conditions and be aware of wildlife activity.” Following a late start to summer this year, bear activity continues in lower elevations. Carrying bear spray and having it readily available, following food storage regulations in place for the Gallatin National Forest and the Beartooth Ranger District on the Custer National Forest, and traveling in groups of 3 or more can help reduce the chances of a negative encounter with a bear.

The recently reported bear incident prompting the Beattie Gulch area closure resulted from a hunter shooting an elk. The hunter took all the right steps when hunting in grizzly country - he was hunting with a group, had bear spray, and after seeing the bears quickly backed off the carcass and notified agency authorities. Backing away from the food source and not trying to scare the bears away helped ensure the safety of the hunters and the bears. For information about the Gardiner Ranger District contact (406) 848-7375. For additional ranger district information in your area contact your local office on the Gallatin or Custer National Forest or visit us online at www.fs.fed.us/r1/custer or www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin.

Attack stokes criticism of hunt

Opponents of park elk hunt say mauling was preordained, grizzlies were known to be around.

By Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole News & Guide - November 2, 2011

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=7895

Sunday's mauling of a hunter participating in Grand Teton National Park's elk reduction program was inevitable, and it is irresponsible for park officials to allow the hunt to continue, critics of the program said this week.

The hunt puts hunters and bears too close together, because bears have learned to find gut piles from hunter-killed elk, the critics say, and hunters slinking through the woods can surprise a bear, resulting in a mauling or a hunter shooting a bear.

Park officials have documented at least seven grizzly bears that have traveled in the general area where the attack occurred along the Snake River north of Moose. This fall, grizzly bears 399 and 610 led five cubs from Signal Mountain and Willow Flats past the attack area to Moose-Wilson Road.

“We told them so a hundred times,” photographer Tom Mangelsen said of pleas to the park that a conflict was only a matter of time. “It’s really unconscionable that [park officials] continue to have their heads in the sand.” Park officials counter that the elk reduction program is authorized by law and they cannot stop it unilaterally. A Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologist said the park hunt is “critical” to achieving population objectives for the Jackson Elk Herd.

Nevertheless, the attack led the park to close a quarter-mile area around where hunter Timothy Hix was mauled. Rangers found an elk carcass nearby.

A bear bit Hix, 32, of Jackson, at least twice Sunday during the surprise encounter in the river bottom between the Blacktail Ponds and Glacier View overlooks.

St. John’s Medical Center staff deemed Hix in good condition and discharged him from the hospital Monday. Park officials suspect the bear that bit Hix was a grizzly.

Grand Teton Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott said Tuesday she would not close more of the Snake River bottom, an elk travel corridor where dense foliage could conceal a bear.

Park rangers found an elk carcass roughly 70 feet from where Hix was attacked. The carcass was partially buried, likely by a grizzly bear.

A hunter had warned park officials that there was a carcass in the area before Hix was injured Sunday, but rangers had been unable to find it, park spokeswoman Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles said.

“Rangers could not confirm the presence of a carcass,” she said. “They did post a notification near that access point notifying ... park users that a hunter had reported a carcass in the area.”

The park might close a trail when a carcass is nearby, but “when it is not near a heavily used area, it’s not typical for the park to institute a closure,” Anzelmo-Sarles said.

Park bears cue in on the hunt because of the gut piles left behind by hunters, Mangelsen said.

“They’re running to the sounds of bullets,” he said. “It’s a dinner bell.”

That bear activity, coupled with hunters moving silently through the woods, is a dangerous mix, Mangelsen said.

“To put hunters in that situation is insane,” he said.

Jackson resident Tim Mayo agreed that the hunt makes for a dangerous situation.

“The superintendent is playing with fire,” he said. “I am incredibly grateful that the mauling was not fatal.”

Sunday’s incident was unfortunate, but bear attacks can happen anywhere in the park, Scott said Tuesday.

“This just as easily could have been a hiker or a fisherman or a boater,” she said. Hunters receive information on the danger of bears and are required to carry bear spray in Grand Teton.

Park’s enabling legislation

The elk reduction program is mandated by law, Scott said. The program is required when the elk herd is at or above management objectives set by the state, she said.

“It’s very important to note that the park does not have unilateral discretion to discontinue the hunt,” Scott said. “Those who think that the Park Service does have the authority to unilaterally discontinue the hunt, they either don’t understand the law or are choosing to ignore it.”

The park’s 1950 enabling legislation specifically requires a collaborative decision on the elk reduction program by the State of Wyoming and the Park Service.

The legislation states, “The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the National Park Service shall devise, and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Wyoming for their joint approval, a program to insure the permanent conservation of the elk within the Grand Teton National Park established by this act. Such a program shall include the controlled reduction of elk in such park, by hunters licensed by the State of Wyoming and deputized as rangers by the Secretary of the Interior, when it is found necessary for the purpose of proper management and protection of the elk.”

‘Only an option’

Scott’s refusal to end the elk reduction program is arrogant, Mangelsen said.

“The enabling legislation does not require [the park] to have a hunt every year,” he said. “It is only an option.

They need to prove that the elk herd really does need to be reduced.”

If the agencies want to reduce the elk population, they could end supplemental feeding of elk on the National Elk Refuge and state-run feedgrounds, Mangelsen said.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department north Jackson wildlife biologist Doug Brimeyer said the park hunt is needed to target a segment of the Jackson Elk Herd with a high reproductive rate.

“The calf production on the southern end of Grand Teton Park and on private lands along the Snake River is high enough that we need to maintain hunting in the southern end of the herd unit,” he said. “Grand Teton is in the southern end of the herd unit.”

Data from radio collars show those elk move back through the park before they go to the National Elk Refuge for the winter, Brimeyer said. The hunt is a collaborative approach that helps meet the goals outlined in the 2007 Bison and Elk Management Plan, he said.

One of those goals is to have fewer elk on artificial feed on the refuge in the winter, a goal that is supposed to be achieved through hunting.

Without the combined hunting effort in the park, on the Bridger-Teton National Forest and on the National Elk Refuge, more elk would move through subdivisions and golf courses and onto roadways during the winter. “The problem would only be worse without hunting,” he said.

Stopping artificial feeding would also send elk onto roads and golf courses and into subdivisions, Brimeyer said. “Just saying that we shouldn’t feed is a simplified answer,” he said. “It creates its own problems.

“It’s unfortunate that this incident occurred,” Brimeyer said. “But that incident could have occurred anywhere.” Mangelsen said allowing hunters to leave gut piles behind is hypocritical given the park’s strict food storage rules.

"If you leave a candy wrapper or an empty beer can on your picnic table, they give you a ticket," he said. "But you can leave a pile of guts and legs anywhere you want."

The park is ignoring its obligation to protect grizzly bears as mandated by the Endangered Species Act, Mangelsen said. Hunters "know that some guy got bit, and they're going to be scared, and they're going to fire their gun," he said. "It's very upsetting. I hope they don't kill any bears."

Grizzly bear protection and human safety are "foremost on the mind of managers in Grand Teton," Scott said. Hix noticed the bear when it began to charge from a few yards away, park officials said. Hix rolled up in a ball and the bear bit him, then left. Hix was carrying bear spray, but did not have a chance to use it, officials said. He used his cellphone to call for assistance. Some 15 park rangers, including biologists and resource managers, responded.

Rangers collected hair samples and other evidence at the scene that could help identify the species of bear that attacked. Park officials have not announced plans to find the bear.

Hix was "following the recommended protocols for hunting in bear country" at 11:30 a.m. Sunday when he surprised the animal at a distance of five to 10 yards, park officials said. Hix had not killed an elk and did not fire his weapon at the animal. After Hix dropped to the ground, the bear bit him at least twice.

The nature of Hix's injuries was not available. Hix did not respond to a request for comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Friday, NOVEMBER 5	Sunday, NOVEMBER 6	Monday, NOVEMBER 7
Lewis Lake Campground	Canyon – Yellowstone Adventure Store	NPS Desk at West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center
	Snow Lodge Geyser Grill	ALL interior park roads close to public at 8 a.m.
	Old Faithful Bear Den Gift Shop	

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IN THE NEWS

Montana FWP Commission delays Yellowstone bison relocation

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press | Posted: Wednesday, November 2, 2011 8:00 pm
http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_f61bb97d-00e1-5d1e-a1a5-4626112c03b1.html#ixzz1ceVJrSJ8

A decision on a plan to relocate up to 160 Yellowstone National Park bison onto state and tribal lands has been postponed after ranchers raised objections, wildlife officials said Wednesday.

A vote by Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission on the relocation had been scheduled for next week. State wildlife chief Ken McDonald said the vote has been postponed and it is uncertain whether the topic will be revisited in December.

The delay throws into doubt a key first step in an ambitious plan to establish new herds of North America's largest land animal outside the confines of Yellowstone.

Conservation groups back the relocation plan as a means of restoring a species that once roamed across most of North America and numbered tens of millions of animals. But ranchers who spoke at recent public hearings on the topic said they were worried about the bison damaging their fields and fences and spreading the animal disease brucellosis.

McDonald said the delay was driven by the need to review about 3,000 public comments that have been submitted on the proposal. He declined to say if most of those were positive or negative.

"There are a lot of issues being brought up in the comments that we need to develop responses to. We need some additional time," he said.

Wildlife officials have offered four potential relocation sites that would take up to 40 bison each: the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Indian reservations in northeast Montana and two state-run wildlife management areas in central and southwestern Montana, Spotted Dog near Avon and Marias River near Shelby.

The animals would be kept at the relocation sites until a statewide bison conservation plan was completed.

Officials have said that plan is expected to be done by 2015.

In the interim, fences would be erected at the wildlife management areas to keep the bison from wandering. Fencing already is in place on the two reservations.

Yet ranchers are suspicious that the temporary relocations could become permanent, forcing their cattle to compete for grazing space with free-roaming bison. Some hunters and recreational users have said they are concerned the bison fences would restrict access to the state management areas, which are populated by elk, deer and antelope.

"I think this relocation is just to jump the gun so in 2015 they can tear their fences down and say, 'Now you have free-roaming bison,'" said Brian Quigley, a rancher near Avon and head of the local stockgrowers association. "It's going to take a whole lot of people to stop this."

The relocations have been in the works for several years. Supporter Keith Aune, with the Wildlife Conservation Society, said the state had made a strategic error by waiting so long to engage the public on whether bison belong on a broader landscape in Montana.

"The state is in a tough spot, but I think this could be done," said Aune, a former Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist. "Part of the problem has been getting the process to work and getting information out to everybody so they understand what has been proposed."

About 100 of the bison are being held for the state by philanthropist and media mogul Ted Turner on his ranch near Bozeman, McDonald said. Turner got the bison after earlier relocation attempts failed. He will be allowed to keep some of the bison's offspring in exchange for caring for the animals.

The remaining bison slated for relocation are in a government-run quarantine north of Yellowstone near Corwin Springs, McDonald said.

"If they are in that facility for two or three more years, there's still a need to find a place for them," he said.

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November 1, 2011 – Gallatin National Forest News Release

Beattie Gulch Area Closure Lifted, Reminder to Be Bear Aware

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtDDw9AI8zPyhQoY6BdkOyoCAGixyPg!/?ss=110111&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=STELPRDB5337785&navid=1800000000000000&pnavid=null&position=News&ttype=detail&pname=Gallatin%20National%20Forest-%20News%20&%20Events

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Last Update: 803 AM MDT THU NOV 3 2011

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Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows 16 to 22. South winds around 15 mph.

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RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

November 3, 2011

Yellowstone Completes Winter Use Environmental Impact Statement

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11112.htm>

Yellowstone National Park will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Friday that ensures the park opens for motorized oversnow travel as scheduled on December 15.

This Final EIS will be available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. The National Park Service intends to issue a Record of Decision selecting only the transition year from the preferred alternative, and then publish and implement a "One-Year Rule" for the upcoming 2011-2012 winter season

These actions will allow the park to open for winter use on December 15, and provide for managed motorized oversnow travel over groomed, snow-packed park roads in the same manner as allowed the past two winters under a temporary plan. Under the One-Year Rule, up to 318 commercially guided, Best Available Technology (BAT) snowmobiles, and up to 78 commercially guided snowcoaches a day will be allowed this winter into Yellowstone National Park.

After the Record of Decision and One-Year Rule are published, the National Park Service will begin working on a Supplemental EIS, which will contain the further analysis of the issues raised during the public comment period.

Some of the more than 59,000 public comments received on the Winter Use Draft EIS raised additional questions as to long-term effects and options regarding winter use in Yellowstone.

Among the subjects identified for further analysis are variable use limits, a 10:30 a.m. entry requirement, air quality and modeling assumptions, proposed Best Available Technology standards for snowcoaches, cost of avalanche hazard mitigation on Sylvan Pass, and opportunities for non-commercially guided snowmobile access.

A draft Supplemental EIS will be completed and released for public review and comment in early 2012. The National Park Service intends to have a final Supplemental EIS, a Record of Decision, and a long-term regulation in place prior to the start of the 2012-2013 winter season.

November 3, 2011

Free Entrance to Yellowstone for Veteran's Day Weekend

(Corrects that free entry is for the full weekend of November 11-13)

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11111a.htm>

The North and Northeast Entrances to Yellowstone National Park will offer free visitor admission on Friday, November 11 through Sunday, November 13, to honor all past and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces. All other park entrances and interior roads close at 8 a.m. on Monday morning, November 7.

All entrance fees, including commercial tour entrance fees and transportation entrance fees, will be waived at all National Park Service sites during this three-day holiday weekend. Free admission is offered to all visitors, not just to veterans or military personnel.

Yellowstone has a long and proud association with our nation's military. After struggling for years with limited staff and budget in an effort to thwart souvenir hunters and poachers in Yellowstone's early years, the U.S. Army was called upon to protect the park in 1886.

During the 32 years the U.S. Army was present in the park, it set the tone for conservation and protection of special places like Yellowstone, which still guides the uniformed members of the National Park Service to this day. Among the most visible reminders of the military presence in the park are the stone and tile roofed structures of Fort Yellowstone in Mammoth Hot Springs, which are still used by the park for administration and residences. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the historic fort all year 'round.

The road from the park's North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana, through Mammoth Hot Springs, Tower Junction, the Lamar Valley, and on to Cooke City, Montana, is open to wheeled vehicle travel all year.

At Mammoth Hot Springs, the Yellowstone General Store, Post Office, medical clinic, campground, and the Albright Visitor Center remain open all year. Pay-at-the-pump fuel is available 24 hours a day all year at the Mammoth Hot Springs and Tower Junction service stations.

Additional information on the military era and on Fort Yellowstone can be found online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/historyculture/ftyell.htm>.

IN THE NEWS

Birth control for wildlife may hold promise for population, disease control

By BRETT FRENCH of The Gazette Staff

Posted: Friday, November 4, 2011 12:00 am

As some presidential candidates denounce federal funding for birth control, researchers are studying the benefits of a government-developed contraceptive vaccine for wildlife.

The vaccine GonaCon has been tested as a way to control deer and wild horse populations and may help reduce the incidence of brucellosis in bison and elk. But like its human-ingested counterpart, the vaccine isn't without controversy and shortcomings.

Full article available online at: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_f3580868-25ec-580b-ada7-e103d8d7d043.html

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All are welcome to attend the Employee Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for 10:00 am next **Wednesday, November 9** at the Mammoth Superintendent's Conference Room. Representatives from each District and Division will be in attendance as well as Occupational Workers' Compensation and Safety Office representatives. All agendas and minutes from past meetings can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc>.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Linda Young will be out of the office through November 10. Judy Knuth Folts will be Acting Chief of Interpretation during that period. She can be reached at ext. 2259.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst will be out of the park November 7-16.

WEATHER

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Tonight...Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 14 to 20. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Saturday...Breezy...colder. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

SUBMISSIONS

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, November 7, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBER: All interior park roads closed to wheeled vehicle traffic today at 8:00 a.m.! The NPS desk at West Yellowstone's Visitor Information Center is also now closed. Yellowstone's Winter season begins December 15.



The Gardiner School is holding a ceremony to honor local veterans on Wednesday, November 9th from 10:30 to 11:00 in their gymnasium. All area veterans are invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony and a lunch afterwards. Please call the school at 406-848-7563 by Monday, November 7th to let them know if you plan on staying for lunch.

The previous link we posted for the November edition of the Employee Assistance Program newsletter did not work. The correct, working link is <P:\EAP Newsletters\Healthy Aging - Nov 2011.pdf>. *Our apologies!*

A going away party will be held for the Ken Meyer family, Sunday, November 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Community Center. All are welcome to attend to send Ken off to his new position in Houston, Texas.

RECENT PARK NEWS RELEASES

November 3, 2011

Yellowstone Completes Winter Use Environmental Impact Statement

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11112.htm>

Yellowstone National Park will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Friday that ensures the park opens for motorized oversnow travel as scheduled on December 15.

November 3, 2011

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<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11111a.htm>

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IN THE NEWS

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=59297>

FEMA, FCC Call on All Stakeholders to Help Educate the Public About Nationwide Test of Emergency Alert System

First-ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System to occur on November 9th at 2:00 pm eastern

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- With the first-ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System less than one week away, the leaders of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sent an open letter to all stakeholders today, including governors, federal legislators, broadcasters, news networks and other organizations, asking for their help in educating their respective communities about the test.

Although the Emergency Alert System is decades old and often tested and used at the local level, it has never before been tested on a nationwide scale. This first-ever test will occur at 2:00 pm eastern on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. The test will occur simultaneously across the U.S. and its territories and will last approximately 30 seconds, after which regular programming will resume. The test will look and sound very similar to the local tests of the Emergency Alert System that occur frequently.

“The various disasters our country has faced this year underscore the need for effective and well-tested emergency alert and warning systems that could be used in a time of real emergency, at a moment’s notice,” FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski wrote in their letter to stakeholders. “The purpose of the test is to allow FEMA and the FCC to assess how well the Emergency Alert System would perform its primary function: alerting the public about a national emergency.”

As Fugate and Genachowski explain in their letter, testing this existing technology will help identify any positive changes that could be made as FEMA, the FCC and other partners continue working to build a modernized and fully accessible Emergency Alert System.

In preparing for this test, FEMA and the FCC have been working closely with the broadcast and disability communities, as well as state, territorial, tribal and local partners, and many other stakeholders to help broadcasters to make this test as accessible as possible.

As the test approaches, Fugate and Genachowski are spearheading an aggressive public education campaign to ensure that all Americans are aware of the test and know what to expect. As part of these efforts, they are asking stakeholders to make sure their communities are aware of key facts about the test, including that the test will appear on all broadcast radio and television stations, cable television systems, satellite radio and television systems, and wireline video service systems. The test will not impact landline or mobile phones, power grids, or Internet connectivity.

“As with all of our work, we know that the support of our state, local, tribal and territorial partners, along with the private sector, our faith-based and disability communities, and other key stakeholders, will be vital to effectively raising the public’s awareness of the test and minimizing undue public concern,” Fugate and Genachowski continue in their letter. “We greatly appreciate your continued partnership as we prepare for this unique event and important public service.”

The full text of their letter can be found at: www.fema.gov/eastest. For more information on the test, [visit the FCC’s website](#) or [FEMA’s blog](#).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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Relocating grizzlies-

Conflicts increase as Game and Fish continues to relocate grizzlies

By CHRISTINE PETERSON Casper Star-Tribune The Billings Gazette | Saturday, November 5, 2011

MEETEETSE — At 5:35 a.m. May 3, the drivers watched their catch, a ghost in the hazy darkness.

Even from a distance, they could see the male grizzly bear lunge forward, a mess of fur and muscles. His right front paw caught in a snare, he threw himself to the end of the cable and somersaulted, crashing to the ground.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_6216daea-d5b7-5e9c-aea9-cf193f6115de.html

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Birth control for wildlife may hold promise for population, disease control

By BRETT FRENCH Of The Gazette Staff The Billings Gazette | Posted: Friday, November 4, 2011

As some presidential candidates denounce federal funding for birth control, researchers are studying the benefits of a government-developed contraceptive vaccine for wildlife.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_f3580868-25ec-580b-ada7-e103d8d7d043.html

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CALENDAR

It's not too early to mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 11th**, for our next community event - the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting from 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Mammoth Map Room. Visit our website for more information - <http://www.littlepeopleslearningcenter.blogspot.com/>

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 245 AM MST MON NOV 7 2011

Today...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 29.

Tonight...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 to 11.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night...Partly cloudy. Lows 5 to 11. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

JUST BECAUSE...



Rangers Tara Ross & Ben Welch doing their post-Halloween/Fall Super Hero PEB at the South entrance, November 2.

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Tuesday, November 8, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS



VET'S DAY: The Gardiner School is holding a ceremony to honor local veterans tomorrow from 10:30 to 11:00 in their gymnasium. All area veterans are invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony and a lunch afterwards.

HEALTH AND BENEFITS: This year, the Federal Benefits Open Season starts November 14, 2011 and ends on December 12, 2011. Information about Open Season can be found on OPM's Website:

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp>.

ROAD WORK: West Maintenance and Special Projects personnel will be cleaning ditches between Elk Park and Tuff Cliffs this week. Watch for equipment and trucks on the road.

BEARTOOTH CLOSURE: As of 8:090 a.m. today, the Beartooth Highway (U.S. 212) between Cooke City and Red Lodge will no longer be maintained for wheeled vehicle traffic. Please check the Montana or Wyoming Department of Transportation for the most up to date information.

The U.S. 212 construction activities in from Beartooth Lake Outlet Bridge to the Top of the World Store are near completion. Learn more at the project website at <http://www.cflhd.gov/projects/archive/WYBeartooth.cfm>.

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IN THE NEWS**Feds consider test of non-guided sleds**

By BRUCE McCORMACK Cody (WY) Enterprise

Monday, November 7, 2011

<http://www.codyenterprise.com/>

We continue to be hopeful about indications of a new sense of openness and objectivity being displayed by top Yellowstone Park officials. Or is it all just a mirage? We've been disappointed on this score many times in the past.

Completion of the Park Service's final winter use plan has been delayed so officials can further study a number of thorny issues. In its place, they are finalizing a one-year plan that will allow winter access by snowmobilers and snowcoach users this winter.

Barring completion of the final document, that's a common-sense approach that avoids closing the park this winter just because the legal process is bogged down.

We appreciate that NPS officials are considering the possibility of non-commercially guided snowmobiling. That means private sledders could ride without the pricey services of an official guide. That practice has all but turned Yellowstone snowmobiling into a sport for the wealthy.

The guide requirement has long been a heavy overreaction by park managers to the past misdeeds of a few. It's a case of drastic over-regulation of a group of typically responsible adults who simply don't need or deserve to be treated like juvenile delinquents.

Park Service officials, at the consistent prodding of Gov. Matt Mead and others at the local and federal level, finally seem to be acknowledging that a test of non-guided snowmobiling is warranted. We encourage a small-scale, fair-minded test of this traditional form of snowmobiling under whatever basis the NPS insists.

At the same time, the feds are further considering the cost of avalanche mitigation on Sylvan Pass.

Oh brother. Don't tell us Yellowstone managers might allow private snowmobilers, but close the east gate due to cost.

That would be a nightmare scenario and we think an unlikely outcome. The Park Service is rightfully proud of keeping all five entrances open in the spring, summer and fall and the same five open in the winter.

Deviation from that standard would be unthinkable to Wyoming interests.

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<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=59297>

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Idaho and Montana wolf hunts head to court

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Posted: Monday, November 7, 2011

UPDATE -- 4:45 P.M.: With more than 150 gray wolves shot in the Northern Rockies so far this fall, a panel of federal judges Tuesday will consider halting public wolf hunts until a lawsuit seeking to restore protections for the animals is resolved.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_a234c4a4-096a-11e1-81d5-001cc4c03286.html

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MSU grad student to use national fellowship to help reintroduce buffalo to Wind River reservation

By EVELYN BOSWELL MSU News Service The Billings Gazette | Posted: Monday, November 7, 2011

BOZEMAN -- A Montana State University graduate student who shares his father's dream for reintroducing buffalo to a Wyoming Indian reservation has received a national fellowship from the Environmental Protection Agency.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/article_7b05e86c-095c-11e1-990e-001cc4c03286.html

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

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November is National American Indian Heritage Month

http://oneinterior.doi.net/oneinterior/News/DOI_IndianHeritageMonth.cfm

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IN THE NEWS

GRIZZLY BEAR RELOCATED

Wyoming Game and Fish Department News Release

Cody -The Wyoming Game and Fish Department trapped and relocated an adult male grizzly bear on November 4, 2011.

The bear was captured because it was frequenting a ranch east of the Absaroka Front north of Cody, WY in what would not be considered typical grizzly bear habitat. In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, the bear was moved to preempt any conflicts with people, property, or livestock.

The bear was released in the Cascade Creek drainage approximately 10 miles west of Flagg Ranch and approximately 10 miles east of the Idaho-Wyoming state line. The release site is located within currently occupied grizzly bear habitat and grizzly bears are present throughout the area. Bears are capable of moving long distances over a short time period and a relocated bear is not expected to remain near the release site.

Grizzly bear relocation is a management tool afforded bear management personnel to minimize conflicts between humans and grizzlies. The decision to relocate and the selection of a relocation site is made taking into consideration the age, sex, and type of conflict the bear was involved in. Grizzly bears are listed as "Threatened"

under the Endangered Species Act, therefore consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the appropriate land management agency is also conducted to minimize the chance of future conflicts and maximize the survival potential of the relocated grizzlies. Bears are relocated in accordance with federal law and regulation.

When selecting a relocation site, the Department makes every consideration to minimize potential conflicts with livestock and people.

Bears can create conflicts after they have obtained food rewards. The Department continues to stress the importance of keeping all attractants (food items, horse feeds, bird seed and others) unavailable to bears. Reducing attractants reduces human-bear conflicts.

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New Chief of Interpretation Named for Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce the selection of Victoria (Vickie) Mates to the position of chief of interpretation and partnerships for Grand Teton National Park. Mates comes to Grand Teton from Yosemite National Park where she is currently the deputy chief of interpretation and education. She will begin her new post in early December.

Mates will be responsible for the daily operations of the Division of Interpretation and Education. In addition to overseeing a full range of interpretive and education programs, she will coordinate Grand Teton's web presence and serve as the liaison between the park and its friends and partner organizations.

Mates began her 14-year career with the National Park Service (NPS) at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio as an environmental educator, interpretive park ranger, liaison to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and front-line supervisor. Mates later moved to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as a district interpreter and worked as a front-line supervisor, webmaster and publications specialist before transferring to Yosemite in 2004.

In her present role at Yosemite, Mates directs a complex of visitor services and education programs and frequently collaborates with park partners and gateway communities. Additionally, she manages a variety of interpretive projects, including the design of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Exhibit Hall. Mates was a collaborative member of Yosemite's interdisciplinary planning team and worked on the Tenaya Lake Restoration and Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan among other projects.

Mates has served as an advocate for advancing the field of interpretation on a national level. Her professional experience and skills as a trainer and certifier in the servicewide Interpretive Development Program has led to invitations as a subject matter expert on various curricula development teams with the NPS.

Mates holds a Master's Degree in Resource Interpretation from Stephen F. Austin State University at Nacogdoches, Texas, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Mates and her husband Adam—both originally from Scottdale, Pennsylvania—are looking forward to their upcoming move to Wyoming and becoming a part of both the park and the local community.

“Grand Teton National Park is where I fell in love with the mountains,” said Mates. “I’ll always remember how I felt sitting at Jenny Lake, looking at those immense snow-capped mountains for the first time in my life. I am thrilled to have been selected to lead the interpretive and partnership efforts at the park and am looking forward to collaborating with park staff, partners and community members.”

IBM Picked to Supply Wyo. Climate Supercomputer

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. November 8, 2011 (AP)

IBM has beaten out three competitors and won a bid to supply one of the world's most powerful supercomputers for use in climate research at a new facility in Cheyenne.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/ibm-picked-supply-wyo-climate-supercomputer-14900892>

Wyoming lawmakers recommend approval of wolf plan

Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Tuesday, November 8, 2011

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A panel of Wyoming lawmakers voted Tuesday to recommend approval of a plan that could remove federal protections from gray wolves in the state as soon as next year.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_8f1c8fed-4720-5d68-80fa-934f4638a442.html

Advocates seek stop to Idaho, Montana wolf hunts

By NOAKI SCHWARTZ and MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) -- Wildlife advocates appeared in federal court Tuesday seeking to stop gray wolf hunts that are already well under way in the Northern Rockies, arguing that Congress overstepped its authority in stripping federal protections from the canines.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_WOLF_HUNT_APPEAL_MTOL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-11-08-19-01-25

Feds consider test of non-guided sleds

By BRUCE McCORMACK Cody (WY) Enterprise

Monday, November 7, 2011

<http://www.codyenterprise.com/>

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Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst will be out of the park November 7-16.

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Dennis Deweese will be out of the office Nov. 9-21. Claude Long will be acting Plumbing Shop supervisor. Claude can be reached in the office at 344-2333.

- - - - -

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Veteran's Day Service, Nov. 9, 2011, Gardiner High School.



NOTE: Today is also the 236th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Happy Birthday to all Marines former and present! And Yellowstone has a few of the proud working out there in the park!!



November is National American Indian Heritage Month

http://oneinterior.doi.net/oneinterior/News/DOI_IndianHeritageMonth.cfm

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ROAD WORK: West Maintenance and Special Projects personnel will be cleaning ditches between Elk Park and Tuff Cliffs this week. Watch for equipment and trucks on the road.

WINTER HEALTH: Lunchtime Yoga classes have been extended into December at the Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Center. Classes run Thursday from 12:00p.m. to 12:45pm and cost \$5 per class.

EAP PROGRAM: Check out the Employee Assistance Program at <P:\EAP Newletters\Healthy Aging - Nov 2011.pdf>. For more information on benefits and assistance programs, visit **Federal Occupational Health** – <https://www.magellanassist.com> or call (800) 222-0364.

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IN THE NEWS

Hunter Charged for Illegally Killing a Bison in Grand Teton National Park

Grant Teton National Park News Release

An Idaho man was charged with illegally taking wildlife in Grand Teton National Park. Daniel Kluth, 48, of Kimberly, Idaho shot and killed a bull bison on Sunday, November 6 around 11:00 a.m. Kluth had a permit to take a bison in the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Kluth requested that a hunt outfitter service remove the bison for him. The service notified rangers that the coordinates Kluth provided were inside of Grand Teton National Park. The hunter fully cooperated with rangers and took rangers to the bison's location. Rangers determined the approximate location of the killed bison to be two miles inside the park from the park's boundary line to the east and one mile inside the park from boundary line to the south in the vicinity of Uhl Hill (see map).

Rangers remind individuals hunting near the park boundary with the Bridger-Teton National Forest to be especially diligent in locating the park's boundary prior to hunting, and to be sure that they are outside park lands before taking wildlife. It is the individual hunter's responsibility to know where they are and where the park boundary lies.

Hunting is prohibited in Grand Teton National Park. Only those who have been issued a permit to participate in the park's Elk Reduction Program can lawfully take wildlife in Grand Teton National Park. The Elk Reduction Program is a cooperative management tool used to regulate elk population numbers and was established by Congress in the 1950 enabling legislation that created Grand Teton National Park.

Visitors and park users are reminded that rangers are consistently on patrol, monitoring activities to ensure the safety and well-being of visitors and the park's cultural and natural resources. To report an incident, please call the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center at 307.739.3301.

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New Chief of Interpretation Named for Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce the selection of Victoria (Vickie) Mates to the position of chief of interpretation and partnerships for Grand Teton National Park. Mates comes to Grand Teton from Yosemite National Park where she is currently the deputy chief of interpretation and education. She will begin her new post in early December.

Mates will be responsible for the daily operations of the Division of Interpretation and Education. In addition to overseeing a full range of interpretive and education programs, she will coordinate Grand Teton's web presence and serve as the liaison between the park and its friends and partner organizations.

Mates began her 14-year career with the National Park Service (NPS) at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio as an environmental educator, interpretive park ranger, liaison to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and front-line supervisor. Mates later moved to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as a district interpreter and worked as a front-line supervisor, webmaster and publications specialist before transferring to Yosemite in 2004.

In her present role at Yosemite, Mates directs a complex of visitor services and education programs and frequently collaborates with park partners and gateway communities. Additionally, she manages a variety of interpretive projects, including the design of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Exhibit Hall. Mates was a collaborative member of Yosemite's interdisciplinary planning team and worked on the Tenaya Lake Restoration and Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan among other projects.

Mates has served as an advocate for advancing the field of interpretation on a national level. Her professional experience and skills as a trainer and certifier in the servicewide Interpretive Development Program has led to invitations as a subject matter expert on various curricula development teams with the NPS.

Mates holds a Master's Degree in Resource Interpretation from Stephen F. Austin State University at Nacogdoches, Texas, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Mates and her husband Adam—both originally from Scottdale, Pennsylvania—are looking forward to their upcoming move to Wyoming and becoming a part of both the park and the local community.

“Grand Teton National Park is where I fell in love with the mountains,” said Mates. “I’ll always remember how I felt sitting at Jenny Lake, looking at those immense snow-capped mountains for the first time in my life. I am thrilled to have been selected to lead the interpretive and partnership efforts at the park and am looking forward to collaborating with park staff, partners and community members.”

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Can elk migration routes be restored?

Pronghorn and deer still make the trek, but elk unlikely to follow

By Angus M. Thuermer Jr., Jackson Hole News and Guide, November 9, 2011

Perhaps no conservation story has been celebrated recently in Jackson Hole as much as that of the Path of the Pronghorn.

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=7920

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Wyoming state lands office rolls out online mapping

Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Wednesday, November 9, 2011

CHEYENNE — Outdoorsmen will soon have a new place to go online to look up which state lands they may access for hunting and fishing, and which are off-limits.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_0d73240b-5758-59cc-9a02-cf83117a0e87.html

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IBM Picked to Supply Wyo. Climate Supercomputer

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. November 8, 2011 (AP)

IBM has beaten out three competitors and won a bid to supply one of the world's most powerful supercomputers for use in climate research at a new facility in Cheyenne.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/ibm-picked-supply-wyo-climate-supercomputer-14900892>

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CALENDAR

EMPLOYEE SAFETY COMMITTEE: All are welcome to attend the Employee Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for **TODAY** at 10:00 am at the Mammoth Superintendent's Conference Room. Representatives from each District and Division will be in attendance as well as Occupational Workers' Compensation and Safety Office representatives. All agendas and minutes from past meetings can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc>.

It's not too early to mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 11th**, for our next community event - the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting from 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Mammoth Map Room. Visit our website for more information - <http://www.littlepeopleslearningcenter.blogspot.com/>

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Superintendent Dan Wenk will be out of the park November 9-16. Chief Ranger Tim Reid will be Acting Superintendent from Nov. 9-14, and George Helfrich will be Acting Superintendent Nov. 14-16.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst will be out of the park November 7-16.

Dennis Deweese will be out of the office Nov. 9-21. Claude Long will be acting Plumbing Shop supervisor. Claude can be reached in the office at 344-2333.

Doug Madsen will continue to serve as the YCR Acting Chief of Compliance and Science Coordination for the next several months. Please contact Doug at x2017 with any questions or needs related to resource compliance, science communications or research permitting.

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 237 AM MST THU NOV 10 2011

Today...Mostly sunny. Highs 28 to 34. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows 9 to 15. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Veterans Day...Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Friday Night...Breezy. Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the evening...then mostly cloudy with chance of snow after midnight. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent.

SUBMISSIONS

Please remember to send submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Back issues of the newsletter are available at [P:\YNP@Work Published Issues](#)

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, November 14, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please have a safe Winter Season!!!

ADMIN TRAVEL: Please be aware that due to rapidly changing road conditions in the park, admin travel should be conducted using the highest safety precautions. Admin travelers should carry a radio and extra personal clothing and gear and check with the comm. Center and others who may have had recent “eyes on” the road conditions prior to traveling. As we tell our visitors, prepare for the worst and expect the unexpected!

MAMMOTH WINTER PARKING: In the interest of maintaining a safe work environment in the Mammoth area, please consider the following notes from the Maintenance division regarding parking this winter:

1. Please clear any UNUSED vehicles from the eastside of the YCR building, and do not park vehicles in the lot next to the trailers overnight so crews can plow and sand in the mornings. Vehicles that need to be parked for longer periods of time should be moved to the lot on the west side of the Christmas story, or move them to Stevens Creek for the winter. If you need help, call maintenance and they will help.
2. Please don't park any vehicles next to doors or stairs. Plow crews need a good two-car width between these areas for plowing and sanding.
3. Please park only personal vehicles east of YCR along the fence and just below that area -- not government vehicles -- so crews can plow before everyone shows up in the morning.
4. There is to be no overnight parking on the east, west and south sides of the old Blacksmith Shop and also the small parking lot just across the street on the east side of the Blacksmith Shop. (Daytime parking ONLY).
5. If you see snow building up around one of your vehicles, move it to a cleared spot so crews can clean it up.
6. If a vehicle is just sitting unused accumulating snow and ice, maintenance will remove it to Steven's Creek.

If we work together on this, we can avoid accidents and ensure a more enjoyable winter work experience!

ROADS: Crews will be placing wood chips on the roads for the winter season this week. The effort will start today at Old Faithful and gradually work towards Golden Gate. Chips will be windrowed on the road and not laid out this year, watch for one way traffic. District personnel will place barricades on the windrowed areas as they are placed. Snowmobile delivery will continue this week.

The Maintenance work shift will run this year from 6:00 am until 6:30 pm to cover the roads. If needed, they will plow until 9:00pm.



America Recycles Day. Since 1997, communities across the country have come together on November 15 to celebrate America Recycles Day. More than a celebration, America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to the promotion of recycling in the United States.

- One day to educate and motivate.
- One day to get our neighbors, friends and community leaders excited about what can be accomplished when we all work together.
- One day to make recycling bigger and better 365 days a year.

For copies of Yellowstone's poster, WHAT GOES IN OUR RECYCLE BINS, contact a Green Team member or Lori Gruber at x2314.

UNIFORM ORDERING: The suspension of our uniform contract has been lifted and the contract dispute has been settled. VF Imagewear is still our uniform provider. You can now place your order with VF. If you have had a pending order it will be shipped as soon as possible, this includes any exchanges or returns.

November is National American Indian Heritage Month

http://oneinterior.doi.net/oneinterior/News/DOI_IndianHeritageMonth.cfm

HEALTH AND BENEFITS: The Federal Benefits Open Season starts TODAY and ends on December 12, 2011. Information about Open Season can be found on OPM's Website:

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp>.

WINTER HEALTH: Lunchtime Yoga classes have been extended into December at the Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Center. Classes run Thursday from 12:00p.m. to 12:45pm and cost \$5 per class.

EAP PROGRAM: Check out the Employee Assistance Program at <P:\EAP Newletters\Healthy Aging - Nov 2011.pdf>. For more information on benefits and assistance programs, visit **Federal Occupational Health – <https://www.magellanassist.com>** or call (800) 222-0364.

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support and patience with the Wolf Project staff during this busy time, including the Maintenance and Resource and Visitor Protection divisions for their assistance and cooperation with our field crews, as their support in the past has been essential for safe and productive field seasons.

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Superintendent Dan Wenk will be out of the park November 9-16. George Helfrich will be Acting Superintendent Nov. 14-16.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst will be out of the park November 7-16.

Dan Hottle will be Acting PAO November 14-16. He can be reached at x2012, or by cell at 406-581-4239.

Tobin Roop will be the acting Chief of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, November 14-16. He can be reached at x2224.

Bret De Young will be Acting Chief of Admin, November 14-18. He can be reached at x2070.

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IN THE NEWS

Christmas Tree Permits on Sale for Gallatin and Custer National Forests

U.S. Forest Service Release

Bozeman and Billings, MT – Starting November 14 on the Gallatin and Custer National Forests, Christmas tree permits will be available for purchase at all local ranger district offices located in Big Timber, Livingston, Gardiner, Bozeman, and West Yellowstone on the Gallatin National Forest and Ashland, Red Lodge, Billings and

Camp Crook, SD on the Custer National Forest. For many area residents, cutting their own Christmas tree on National Forest System lands continues to be a popular and long-standing family tradition.

Permits are \$5.00 each with a limit of three permits per family and can be purchased during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at any of the local ranger district offices.

Additionally, the Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest will have extended hours beginning with the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26, and continuing December 3 and 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

On the Gallatin National Forest, permits are also available at the following local businesses:

- Livingston – Livingston Ace Hardware
- Gardiner – North Entrance Food Farm
- Bozeman – Owenhouse Ace Hardware (downtown bicycle shop and W. Main St. locations), Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply and Wholesale Sports
- Belgrade – Lee and Dad's IGA and Belgrade True Value
- Big Sky – Big Sky Conoco
- West Yellowstone – Corner Conoco

Those with a permit may cut a Christmas tree anywhere on the Custer or Gallatin National Forest except in campgrounds, trailheads, designated wilderness areas, developed recreation sites, posted timber sale units, recently planted locations and administrative sites. Permits are also valid for any national forest in the Northern Region, which includes all of Montana and northern Idaho. Forest maps, free motor vehicle use maps, and tree species identification guides are available at all offices. General guidelines for cutting a tree include the following:

- No tree cutting is allowed within 100 feet of any stream, lake, or wetland.
- Only trees 15 feet tall or less may be cut.
- Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible and below the lowest live limb. A remaining stump height of 4 inches is ideal.
- After cutting your tree, attach the purchased permit to a lower limb near the trunk for transporting home.
- "Topping" trees, or cutting the top off trees, deforms any future growth and leaves a visual eyesore. Take the entire tree or choose another one.
- Trees help protect watersheds, provide habitat for wildlife, and contribute to beautiful scenery. Keep these values in mind when selecting a tree.

For more information, please contact any Gallatin or Custer National Forest office or visit us on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin or www.fs.fed.us/r1/custer.

People in Wyoming's bear country adapt

By: CHRISTINE PETERSON, Casper Star-Tribune | Nov. 10, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/news/2011/11/people-wyomings-bear-country-adapt>

CALENDAR

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WEATHER**NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 917 AM MST MON NOV 14 2011

Rest Of Today...Windy. Snow likely late in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Areas of blowing snow through the day. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tonight...Windy...cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Areas of blowing snow through the night. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Lows 7 to 13. West winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph early in the morning. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tuesday...Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25. West winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tuesday Night...Cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 2 to 8. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

CALENDAR



Get involved!

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December 5 – All NPS employee meeting with Superintendent

All Yellowstone NPS employees are invited to a meeting with the Superintendent on Monday, December 5, beginning at 3:30pm at the Mammoth Community Center. Dan would like to talk to you about the plans and expectations for the upcoming winter season and winter bison operations. In addition, the impacts of budget discussions in Congress, issues including visitation, grizzly bear, cutthroat trout, and any other emerging and ongoing issues facing the park that you would like to discuss. There will be a question and answer session where employees will be able to ask the Superintendent questions on any topic of their choosing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLICY: Ear Phones/Head Phones – Best Management Practice

While driving any vehicle, using earphones or "Ear Buds" presents many risks and is illegal in most states. The most obvious reason this is dangerous is that you cannot hear what is happening around you. With headphones on, it becomes very hard to hear emergency vehicles, and other cars that might honk to alert you of a pedestrian, another vehicle or potential hazards. In addition, wearing headphones prevents you from hearing your own vehicle which may be making noises indicating a mechanical problem. A

final problem with using your MP3 player in your car is the potential distraction, even without the earphones on.

Ear phones or head phones will not be worn when operating any type of vehicle or equipment within Yellowstone. This is one distraction that we can remove from our operating practices and turn it into a “Best Practice”. Law enforcement personnel with an ear phone connected to their portable radio is exempt from this Best Management Practice.

Below are the requirements and responsibilities as outlined in Directors Order #50B - Occupational Safety and Health Program.

Requirements

1. The National Park Service (NPS) will meet or exceed applicable safety, health, environmental and related trade codes and standards. It should be remembered that these codes and standards represent the minimum acceptable level of safety. Nothing precludes the design, construction or operation of NPS units at a higher level of safety than that provided for in these codes and standards.
2. Where conflicts arise between codes and standards, the more stringent requirement(s) will be used.

Responsibilities

1. Supervisors and managers will ensure that safety standards are implemented and enforced to prevent injuries and property loss and reduce legal liability exposures.

Please have a safe Winter Season!!!

ADMIN TRAVEL: Please be aware that due to rapidly changing road conditions in the park, admin travel should be conducted using the highest safety precautions. Admin travelers should carry a radio and extra personal clothing and gear and check with the Communications Center and others who may have had recent “eyes on” the road conditions prior to traveling. As we tell our visitors, prepare for the worst and expect the unexpected!

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IN THE NEWS**Washington Post: Negotiators approve spending package**

House and Senate negotiators have agreed on the details of a spending package that will keep the federal government running until Dec. 16--and fund five major federal departments through all of fiscal 2012, staffers announced Monday night. http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/2chambers/post/negotiators-approve-spending-package/2011/11/14/gIQARXvtMN_blog.html

Bozeman Chronicle: City approves hand-held cell phone ban (excerpts)

The Bozeman City Commission voted 4-1 Monday night to adopt an ordinance banning the use of hand-held devices such as cell phones, laptop computers and GPS navigations systems while driving or bicycling.

The commission will consider a second, final passage of the ordinance on Nov. 28. Commissioner Chris Mehl stipulated that the law not go into effect any earlier than Jan. 17, so city officials have time to educate people.

Under the ordinance, if you're caught texting or talking on a hand-held cell phone while behind the wheel, you could be pulled over and fined \$100. Using a hands-free communications device such as Bluetooth, however, is allowed.

Commissioners on Monday night changed language in the ordinance to exempt drivers on Interstate 90, who may not even realize they're in the city of Bozeman. Plus, highway patrol officers monitoring highways don't enforce each individual city's laws.

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Yellowstone News Release: New 'Vital Signs' Report Documenting Yellowstone's Ecological Health

Yellowstone National Park's 2011 "Natural Resource Vital Signs" report is helping park managers and scientists more fully understand the status of important ecological "health indicators."

Read more: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11114.htm>

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National Parks Traveler: "Vital Signs" Report From Yellowstone National Park Points To Areas Of Concern In Park's Health <http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2011/11/vital-signs-report-yellowstone-national-park-points-areas-concern-parks-health9040>

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Christmas Tree Permits on Sale for Gallatin and Custer National Forests: [News Release](#)

For more information, please contact any Gallatin or Custer National Forest office or visit us on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin or www.fs.fed.us/r1/custer.

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 520 AM MST TUE NOV 15 2011

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Today...Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25. West winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tonight...Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Wednesday...Breezy. Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon

SUBMISSIONS

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

CALENDAR

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December 7 & 8, 2011 - Operational Leadership Training 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. | Telecom Training Room – Upstairs. Operational Leadership Training provides a leadership philosophy and new methods for analyzing risk. All IMR employees are to receive basic Operational Leadership Training by the end of fiscal year 2013. Please obtain supervisor approval and sign up at the following link - [P:\Safety Office\Operational Leadership Training](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAVEL: (TDY) plans in-light of a possible government shutdown (the current Continuing Resolution covers through Friday, 11/18/2011): Per AOC, official guidance will come down at the last minute. In the meantime, for travel in the process of being arranged:

If we know there's a potential government shut-down, and travel cannot be postponed, the use of refundable airfares is strongly encouraged. This type of airfare can be cancelled without penalty, or if the traveler is already on TDY, this type of airfare can be changed without penalty to return the traveler home.

If restricted airfare has already been purchased, and must be cancelled, information must be obtained from Sato on the length of time to use the "voucher" or credit towards a future ticket for TDY so the funds are not wasted. If a traveler purchased restricted airfare in order to combine TDY and personal travel and the government shuts down, the official response from AOC is that the traveler may not reimburse the government for the ticket, and use it for personal use.

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Below are the requirements and responsibilities as outlined in Directors Order #50B - Occupational Safety and Health Program.

Requirements

1. The National Park Service (NPS) will meet or exceed applicable safety, health, environmental and related trade codes and standards. It should be remembered that these codes and standards represent the minimum acceptable level of safety. Nothing precludes the design, construction or operation of NPS units at a higher level of safety than that provided for in these codes and standards.
2. Where conflicts arise between codes and standards, the more stringent requirement(s) will be used.

Responsibilities

1. Supervisors and managers will ensure that safety standards are implemented and enforced to prevent injuries and property loss and reduce legal liability exposures.

Please have a safe Winter Season!!!

ADMIN TRAVEL: Please be aware that due to rapidly changing road conditions in the park, admin travel should be conducted using the highest safety precautions. Admin travelers should carry a radio and extra personal clothing and gear and check with the Communications Center and others who may have had recent “eyes on” the road conditions prior to traveling. As we tell our visitors, prepare for the worst and expect the unexpected!

ROADS: Crews will be placing wood chips on the roads for the winter season this week. The effort will start today at Old Faithful and gradually work towards Golden Gate. Chips will be windrowed on the road and not laid out this year, watch for one way traffic. District personnel will place barricades on the windrowed areas as they are placed. Snowmobile delivery will continue this week.

The Maintenance work shift will run this year from 6:00 am until 6:30 pm to cover the roads. If needed, they will plow until 9:00pm.

RECYCLING: Excerpt from 11/15 DOI memo:

We are doing a great job of recycling everything we can, but we need to do even better if we are going to reach our goal of recycling 50% of our waste by 2015. To help achieve that goal, I am proud to announce a new online resource to help the Department's sites recycle even more. Our Greening the Department of the Interior Website has an updated section on Waste Reduction and Recycling. This website provides a broad range of information on pollution prevention and waste management including the Department's solid waste management goals, resources providing best management practices, possible solutions for locations where implementing a program is challenging, and tips to improve existing recycling programs. I invite you to visit the site at <http://www.doi.gov/greening/waste/index.html>.

If your unit, office, or workgroup has achieved notable success in recycling, we want to hear about it! Share your success stories and ideas to help DOI meet our recycling goals at: <http://www.doi.gov/greening/GreenDOISChallenge/greenchallenge.html>.

UNIFORM ORDERING: The suspension of our uniform contract has been lifted and the contract dispute has been settled. VF Imagewear is still our uniform provider. You can now place your order with VF. If you have had a pending order it will be shipped as soon as possible, this includes any exchanges or returns.

WINTER HEALTH: Lunchtime Yoga classes have been extended into December at the Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Center. Classes run Thursday from 12:00p.m. to 12:45pm and cost \$5 per class.

EAP PROGRAM: Check out the Employee Assistance Program at <P:\EAP Newletters\Healthy Aging - Nov 2011.pdf>. For more information on benefits and assistance programs, visit **Federal Occupational Health** – <https://www.magellanassist.com> or call (800) 222-0364.

The Wolf Project staff will begin its annual Early Winter Study program starting November 15 and ending December 14, 2011. Winter Study is an intensive 30-day study where field researchers will be monitoring several wolf packs every day from dawn until dusk on the northern range. The purpose of winter study is to document long-term wolf predation patterns, territorial movements, behavior, interactions with other species, and characteristics of their prey. They would like to thank all involved Yellowstone employees beforehand for their support and patience with the Wolf Project staff during this busy time, including the Maintenance and Resource and Visitor Protection divisions for their assistance and cooperation with our field crews, as their support in the past has been essential for safe and productive field seasons.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst will be out of the park November 7-16.

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Dan Hottle will be Acting PAO November 14-16. He can be reached at x2012, or by cell at 406-581-4239.

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Tobin Roop will be the acting Chief of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, November 14-16. He can be reached at x2224.

- - - - -

Bret De Young will be Acting Chief of Admin, November 14-18. He can be reached at x2070.

- - - - -

Claude Long will be acting Plumbing Shop supervisor, November 9-21. He can be reached at x2333.

- - - - -

Doug Madsen will continue to serve as the YCR Acting Chief of Compliance and Science Coordination for the next several months. Please contact Doug at x2017 with any questions or needs related to resource compliance, science communications or research permitting.

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IN THE NEWS**Montana's 3-month bison season under way**

Associated Press, November 15, 2011

HELENA — Montana's three-month public bison hunt opened Tuesday in areas outside Yellowstone National Park, including for the first time in Park County's Gardiner Basin.

The season runs through Feb. 15 and allows for up to 144 bison to be shot by licensed hunters. Whether that figure is reached will depend on how many bison migrate out of the park, where hunting is prohibited.

In 2009-2010, when the migration was light, only one animal was harvested. But last winter, deep snows prompted more than 1,400 bison to migrate out of the park in search of food at lower elevations, with hunters killing 194 of the animals.

"It really is all weather dependent," said Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Ron Aasheim. Bison, North America's largest land animal, can reach up to 2,000 pounds and provide hundreds of pounds of meat.

Vast herds of the animals once roamed most of North America but were wiped out by overhunting in the late 1800s. Bison were later restored to the wild in Yellowstone and a few other areas, and an estimated 3,500 now roam the park.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional administrator Pat Flowers said Tuesday he was not aware of any bison leaving the park so far this year.

"Certainly there are ample numbers of the bison in the park to support a good harvest," he added. "Typically we don't have large numbers that migrate outside the park until after the first of the year." Most bison taken last year were shot by members of American Indian tribes under treaties signed with the federal government more than a century ago. Those hunts are not regulated by the state.

Three Indian nations participated last year: the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana, the Nez Perce of Idaho and the Umatilla of Oregon. Members of the Shoshone Bannock Tribe of Idaho also have treaty hunting rights but did not take any animals last year.

Aasheim said tribal hunters are expected to return if bison start to move out of the park.

The state-sponsored hunt is split into two areas: West Yellowstone and the Cabinet Creek-Monument Mountain area on the west side of the park, and the Gardiner Basin and Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness on the north side. In the past, thousands of bison entering the Gardiner Basin were captured and shipped to slaughter to prevent the transmission of the disease brucellosis to cattle. That policy was changed last year at the direction of Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who put a temporary moratorium on shipping the animals to slaughter.

Park County officials have filed a lawsuit seeking to force the state to return to its policy of blocking any mass migrations of bison into Montana. That case is pending in state District Court.

The governor's moratorium on slaughtering bison ended earlier this year and it is uncertain if the tactic will be revived. Montana officials have said they will continue to allow bison into the 75,000-acre Gardiner basin, although in more limited numbers than last year.

Kevin Schneider Selected to be Deputy Superintendent at Grand Teton National Park

<http://www.nps.gov/grte/parknews/news-release-11-103.htm>

Night-time Speed Limit Permanently Reduced to 45 mph in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton News Release

Effective Wednesday, November 16, 2011 night-time speed limits on Highway 26/89/191 inside Grand Teton National Park will be permanently reduced to 45 mph. The section of highway with the reduced night speed limit spans from the park's south boundary 4 miles north of Jackson, Wyoming to the park's east boundary 2 miles east of Moran Junction. The daytime speed limit remains 55 mph on Highway 26/89/191.

Yellowstone on fire (Newspaper centennial series)

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/100/newsmakers/article_77d2cca4-0f4d-11e1-ad9f-001cc4c03286.html

Yellowstone News Release: New 'Vital Signs' Report Documenting Yellowstone's Ecological Health

Yellowstone National Park's 2011 "Natural Resource Vital Signs" report is helping park managers and scientists more fully understand the status of important ecological "health indicators."

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11114.htm>

Yellowstone officials take park's 'vital signs'

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-officials-take-park-s-vital-signs/article_f738f2a2-4bc9-5cdf-a47f-f7e0f295cbbc.html

Christmas Tree Permits on Sale for Gallatin and Custer National Forests: [News Release](#)

For more information, please contact any Gallatin or Custer National Forest office or visit us on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin or www.fs.fed.us/r1/custer.

WEATHER**NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 400 AM MST WED NOV 16 2011

Today...Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning...then cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 17 to 23. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight...Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Thursday...Windy. Not as cold. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph increasing to 50 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday Night...Windy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph after midnight. Chance of snow 70 percent.

SUBMISSIONS

Please remember to send submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, November 17, 2011

WINTER STORM WATCH

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...LAKE...MAMMOTH...OLD FAITHFUL
314 AM MST THU NOV 17 2011

...WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FROM THIS AFTERNOON THROUGH
FRIDAY AFTERNOON...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN RIVERTON HAS ISSUED A WINTER
STORM WATCH...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM THIS AFTERNOON THROUGH
FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

- * SUMMARY AND TIMING...LIGHT SNOW WILL DEVELOP LATE THIS
MORNING...INCREASING OVERNIGHT. SNOW WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE
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- * SNOW ACCUMULATIONS...6 TO 12 INCHES POSSIBLE IN THE NORTH WITH
10 TO 16 INCHES IN THE WEST AND SOUTHWEST PORTIONS OF THE PARK.
- * WIND AND VISIBILITY...SOUTHWEST 20 TO 30 MPH WITH GUSTS NEARING
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CALENDAR

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December 5 – All NPS employee meeting with Superintendent

All Yellowstone NPS employees are invited to a meeting with the Superintendent on Monday, December 5, beginning at 3:30pm at the Mammoth Community Center. Dan would like to talk to you about the plans and expectations for the upcoming winter season and winter bison operations. In addition, the impacts of budget discussions in Congress, issues including visitation, grizzly bear, cutthroat trout, and any other emerging and

ongoing issues facing the park that you would like to discuss. There will be a question and answer session where employees will be able to ask the Superintendent questions on any topic of their choosing.

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December 7 & 8, 2011 - Operational Leadership Training 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. | Telecom Training Room – Upstairs. Operational Leadership Training provides a leadership philosophy and new methods for analyzing risk. All IMR employees are to receive basic Operational Leadership Training by the end of fiscal year 2013. Please obtain supervisor approval and sign up at the following link - <P:\Safety Office\Operational Leadership Training>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Update From the NPS Office of Public Health & Mammoth Clinic Staff

As most of you are aware, there is an ongoing outbreak of Pertussis or “Whooping Cough” that has affected both Gallatin and Park Counties in Montana. This outbreak has had a large impact on the Arrowhead School located near Emigrant MT. In an attempt to contain this outbreak, Public Health Officials in Park County have been working with area schools and institutions to ensure adequate vaccination coverage for children and staff. At this time there are no confirmed cases in Gardiner or Mammoth and we hope to keep it that way!

Important Pertussis Facts:

- Pertussis is a highly contagious but vaccine-preventable disease. It is primarily spread by direct contact with discharges from the nose and throat of infected individuals (i.e. through coughing and sneezing)
- Pertussis usually begins as a mild upper respiratory infection similar to the common cold. Symptoms include sneezing, runny nose, low-grade fever and a mild cough. Within two weeks, the cough becomes more severe and may have a characteristic “whoop” sound.
- Coughing episodes may continue or recur for one to two months
- In young children and infants, pertussis can cause severe illness and may result in hospitalization or even death.
- In recent years there has been a large increase in the number of pertussis cases in people over 19 years of age.
- Protection from your childhood immunization for pertussis fades over time, and **booster shots are recommended for adolescents and adults.**
- Mammoth Clinic staff can help ensure that you and your family are up-to-date on all vaccinations, including pertussis. Call 307-344-7965 for assistance.

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TRAVEL: (TDY) plans in-light of a possible government shutdown (the current Continuing Resolution covers through Friday, 11/18/2011): Per AOC, official guidance will come down at the last minute. In the meantime, for travel in the process of being arranged:

If we know there's a potential government shut-down, and travel cannot be postponed, the use of refundable airfares is strongly encouraged. This type of airfare can be cancelled without penalty, or if the traveler is already on TDY, this type of airfare can be changed without penalty to return the traveler home.

If restricted airfare has already been purchased, and must be cancelled, information must be obtained from Sato on the length of time to use the "voucher" or credit towards a future ticket for TDY so the funds are not wasted. If a traveler purchased restricted airfare in order to combine TDY and personal travel and the government shuts down, the official response from AOC is that the traveler may not reimburse the government for the ticket, and use it for personal use.

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RECYCLING: Excerpt from 11/15 DOI memo:

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IN THE NEWS

Brucellosis found in Madison County cattle herd

KTVQ.com, November 16, 2011

Helena - The Montana Department of Livestock is reporting today a bull on a Madison County ranch has cultured positive for brucellosis.

<http://www.ktvq.com/news/brucellosis-found-in-madison-county-cattle-herd/>

Citizens' group to present recommendations for bison management Nov. 30

Bozeman Chronicle, Thursday, November 17, 2011

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/agriculture/article_8fb7dd9a-10e3-11e1-b0ce-001cc4c002e0.html

Comments sought on 2 wolf proposals

The Billings Gazette | Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Should the wolf hunting season be extended and should hunters allowed to participate in wolf depredation removals? The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission is seeking comments on these two topics.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/comments-sought-on-wolf-proposals/article_9a6c3159-c58b-5f17-b8bb-2b89fa782e6e.html

Wyoming wolf meeting draws strong opinions

The Billings Gazette | Wednesday, November 16, 2011

RIVERTON, Wyo. -- Ranchers offered their support and conservationists questioned the science about a proposal to lift federal protections for Wyoming's wolf population at a public hearing Tuesday night.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wyoming-wolf-meeting-draws-strong-opinions/article_6cb8abbf-14f6-59ec-9373-a28e503151d9.html

Kevin Schneider Selected to be Deputy Superintendent at Grand Teton National Park

<http://www.nps.gov/grte/parknews/news-release-11-103.htm>

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 243 AM MST THU NOV 17 2011

Today...Windy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph with gusts to around 50 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Tonight...Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 6 inches. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph early in the morning. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Friday...Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 6 inches. Highs 21 to 27. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Friday Night...Colder. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 11 to 19 inches. Lows zero to 6 above zero. Chance of snow 60 percent.

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Friday, November 18, 2011

WINTER STORM WARNING

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...LAKE...MAMMOTH...OLD FAITHFUL
336 AM MST FRI NOV 18 2011

A WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT **UNTIL 5 PM MST THIS AFTERNOON...**

- * SUMMARY AND TIMING...SNOW WILL CONTINUE THIS MORNING. SNOW WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE DAY BEFORE TAPERING OFF THIS AFTERNOON.
- * SNOW ACCUMULATIONS...6 TO 12 INCHES POSSIBLE IN THE NORTH WITH 10 TO 20 INCHES IN THE WEST AND SOUTH PORTIONS OF THE PARK.
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PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A WINTER STORM WARNING FOR HEAVY SNOW MEANS SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED OR OCCURRING. SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF SNOW ARE FORECAST THAT WILL MAKE TRAVEL DANGEROUS. ONLY TRAVEL IN AN EMERGENCY. IF YOU MUST TRAVEL...KEEP AN EXTRA FLASHLIGHT...FOOD...AND WATER IN YOUR VEHICLE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

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APARTMENT FOR BID: Quarters 70N is a 437 sq. ft. efficiency apartment in Building 70. It rents for \$92.06/pay period, which includes water, sewer, trash, and fuel oil. Electricity is the responsibility of the tenant and is billed separately. This apartment is being bid “as-is” and is ready for immediate occupancy. Housing Bid Sheets and policy copies are available at <http://www.yell.nps.gov/housing>. All bids are due in the Chief Maintenance Office by 4:30 p.m. on December 1, 2011, to the attention of Debby Young.

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ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Holly Long will be acting Facility Manager Nov. 21 to Dec. 4. She can be reached at 307-344-2324.

Randy Froelich will be acting Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Nov. 21-25. He can be reached at 307-344-2322.

Bret De Young will be Acting Chief of Admin, November 14-18. He can be reached at x2070.

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IN THE NEWS**Congress approves minibus spending bill, sends to Obama**

By Josiah Ryan - 11/17/11 07:16 PM ET

The Senate followed the lead of the House on Thursday, easily passing a 2012 "minibus" spending bill that also contains a continuing spending resolution keeping the government running through December 16.

The legislation next heads to the president for a signature, likely on Friday.

The bill, H.R. 2112, was approved in a 70-30 vote in which Senate conservatives and some moderate Republican opposed it. All fifty-seven Democrats and the two independents voted in favor of the bill.

Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) was the only senator to raise his voice against the spending legislation in the two-hours of debate that led up to the vote arguing that once again Congress was abdicating its responsibility to cut spending.

"I don't think the American people know how badly they have been hoodwinked by the Congress," said Coburn, prior to the vote. "This bill should be defeated...we are running out of money."

More Democrats and Republicans, however, spoke out in favor of the legislation. Some Republicans, like Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.), noted it met the spending caps imposed by the summer's Budget Control Act and came in from the conference at even lower numbers than the original Senate version.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) hailed the bipartisan process that lead to passage as an example of how the Congress ought to work.

The bill was approved earlier in the day in the House by a 298-121 vote in which more Democrats supported it than Republicans. Among Democrats, 165 supported the bill and 20 opposed it, while 133 Republicans supported it and 101 opposed it.

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State won't identify brucellosis bull type

The Billings Gazette | Friday, November 18, 2011

BUTTE — Montana livestock officials are not disclosing whether a Madison County bull infected with brucellosis came from a bison or cattle herd.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/state-won-t-identify-brucellosis-bull-type/article_3befb5ec-4472-548d-8e3a-d5106ffdda6a.html

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Yellowstone cutthroats may benefit from Greybull River dam project

The Billings Gazette | Friday, November 18, 2011

MEETEETSE, Wyo. -- An effort to reconnect Yellowstone cutthroat trout with their spawning grounds high in the mountains west of here is unfolding alongside a \$3.7 million dam project on the Greybull River.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-cutthroats-may-benefit-from-greybull-river-dam-project/article_18ef88b4-2955-5ea5-9e1b-8c340f3ae064.html

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 628 AM MST FRI NOV 18 2011

Today...Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. Visibility one quarter mile or less at times in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight...Snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 12 inches. Lows 4 to 10. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Saturday...Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 14 to 20. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night...Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 1 to 7. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

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SUBMISSIONS

Please remember to send submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

Back issues of the newsletter are available at [P:\YNP@Work Published Issues](#)

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, November 21, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: There will be NO YNP@Work issue published on Friday, November 25. Please have a SAFE and enjoyable **Thanksgiving holiday!!**

CALENDAR

November 14 - December 12 -- HEALTH AND BENEFITS: The Federal Benefits Open Season started November 14 and ends on December 12, 2011. Information about Open Season can be found on OPM's Website: <http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp>.

December 5 – All NPS employee meeting with Superintendent

All Yellowstone NPS employees are invited to a meeting with the Superintendent on Monday, December 5, beginning at 3:30pm at the Mammoth Community Center. Dan would like to talk to you about the plans and expectations for the upcoming winter season and winter bison operations. In addition, the impacts of budget discussions in Congress, issues including visitation, grizzly bear, cutthroat trout, and any other emerging and ongoing issues facing the park that you would like to discuss. There will be a question and answer session where employees will be able to ask the Superintendent questions on any topic of their choosing.

December 7 & 8, 2011 - Operational Leadership Training 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. | Telecom Training Room – Upstairs. Operational Leadership Training provides a leadership philosophy and new methods for analyzing risk. All IMR employees are to receive basic Operational Leadership Training by the end of fiscal year 2013. Please obtain supervisor approval and sign up at the following link - [P:\Safety Office\Operational Leadership Training](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Albright VC is open 9am to 5pm on Thanksgiving Day. (Reminder: Albright VC is open 365 days per year.)

Please have a safe Winter Season!!!

ADMIN TRAVEL: Please be aware that due to rapidly changing road conditions in the park, admin travel should be conducted using the highest safety precautions. Admin travelers should carry a radio and extra personal clothing and gear and check with the Communications Center and others who may have had recent “eyes on” the road conditions prior to traveling. As we tell our visitors, prepare for the worst and expect the unexpected!

HOUSING ELECTRIC INSPECTIONS: Per recommendations from the Safety Committee, the Electric Shop will be coming by each residence in Mammoth, Tower, Lamar, North and NE Entrances to conduct an inventory on your quarter's electrical panel. This will begin TODAY and will continue through Friday, December 16 (if not before.) **If you would like to be there when the inspection is made, please contact Harold Anderson by email to let him know.** If he does not hear from you, then he will assume that it is OK to go into your residence to check the electrical panel. The inspection should not last very long at all in each quarters.

APARTMENT FOR BID: Quarters 70N is a 437 sq. ft. efficiency apartment in Building 70. It rents for \$92.06/pay period, which includes water, sewer, trash, and fuel oil. Electricity is the responsibility of the tenant and is billed separately. This apartment is being bid "as-is" and is ready for immediate occupancy. Housing Bid Sheets and policy copies are available at <http://www.yell.nps.gov/housing>. All bids are due in the Chief Maintenance Office by 4:30 p.m. on December 1, 2011, to the attention of Debby Young.

UNIFORM ORDERING: The suspension of our uniform contract has been lifted and the contract dispute has been settled. VF Imagewear is still our uniform provider. You can now place your order with VF. If you have had a pending order it will be shipped as soon as possible, this includes any exchanges or returns.

WINTER HEALTH: Lunchtime Yoga classes have been extended into December at the Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Center. Classes run Thursday from 12:00p.m. to 12:45pm and cost \$5 per class.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Holly Long will be acting Facility Manager Nov. 21 to Dec. 4. She can be reached at 307-344-2324.

Randy Froelich will be acting Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Nov. 21-25. He can be reached at 307-344-2322.

Doug Madsen will continue to serve as the YCR Acting Chief of Compliance and Science Coordination for the next several months. Please contact Doug at x2017 with any questions or needs related to resource compliance, science communications or research permitting.

IN THE NEWS

Officials Seek New Ways to Cull Bison

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The New York Times

November 21, 2011

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — As many as 360 migrating wild bison would be shot by hunters in Montana, captured

for slaughter or shipped elsewhere this winter under a proposal from Yellowstone National Park officials seeking an alternative to the indiscriminate slaughters of previous years.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show that officials are considering “selective culls” to help reduce the park’s bison population to 3,000 from 3,700. Some of this winter’s anticipated decrease would come from natural deaths.

The proposal comes amid rising pressure from Montana officials, including Gov. Brian Schweitzer, to rein in the size of Yellowstone’s iconic bison herds. Others say the animals should roam freely, although cattle ranchers worry that that could bring unwanted competition for grazing space and spread the animal disease brucellosis.

Park biologists wrote in the proposal that reducing the population could avert the need for large-scale slaughters like those of past migrations, when bison left the park in large numbers in harsh winters to seek food at lower elevations. In 2008, more than 1,700 were killed or removed.

State officials said hunting was their top choice for population control. Mr. Schweitzer said in an interview that for that strategy to work, however, the park must open its borders to hunting because hunts during mild winters, when the animals did not cross out of the park, yielded few bison.

“These things have to have some give and take,” Mr. Schweitzer said. “The buffalo doesn’t know there the line is when it leaves the park. We end up taking care of the oversupply of bison because they aren’t managing their population within the park.”

Yellowstone administrators declined a request to interview the biologists who wrote the proposal. A park spokesman, Al Nash, said that it was a draft document subject to change, but that hunting inside the park would not be considered.

Still, after years of public acrimony over the slaughters, Mr. Nash said, the park is looking for a new and lasting approach to bison management.

“Everybody would agree that we would rather not see large culls of animals,” Mr. Nash said.

More than 3,600 Yellowstone bison were removed over the last decade to prevent the spread of brucellosis. That included the number in 2008, when Yellowstone’s temporary bison capture pens were overwhelmed.

Brucellosis can cause pregnant animals to miscarry and has been eradicated nationwide except in the Yellowstone region.

Tens of millions of bison once roamed North America. Only about 20,000 wild bison remain, and Yellowstone’s are considered among the most genetically pure.

A representative of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeast Montana said slaughtering those prized bison did not make sense when tribes had been trying for several years to get Yellowstone bison to start new herds outside the park.

“If they want to give them to the tribes, they wouldn’t have this problem,” said Robert Magnum, a fish and game warden at Fort Peck.

Park officials predict that this winter’s migration will top 1,000 bison from the park’s two herds, potentially offering an early test of the culling proposal if other state and federal agencies approve it.

In years without major migrations, Yellowstone’s bison population grew relatively unchecked. That set the stage

for yet more slaughters when the population peaked again.

“These large removals that have happened every few years are a black mark on everybody,” said Dr. Marty Zaluski, the Montana state veterinarian. “We need to manage with regular, smaller removals to regulate those peaks and valleys.”

The proposal calls for 200 female bison, 50 calves and 50 yearlings from the park’s northern herd to be shot by hunters, captured for relocation or captured for slaughter. The slaughter would focus on animals that test positive for disease exposure.

Thirty bull bison from the park’s central herd would be killed by hunters. An additional 20 to 30 bulls from the northern herd could be removed during a late-winter hunt of animals that resist returning to the park.

Relocated bison could be shipped elsewhere to establish new herds or to be used for research, the proposal states.

Grizzly bear team to meet in Missoula

The Billings Gazette | Friday, November 18, 2011

A presentation by Chris Servheen, grizzly bear recovery coordinator, regarding the fatal bear confrontations in Yellowstone National Park this summer will highlight the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee's annual winter meeting in Missoula on Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/grizzly-bear-team-to-meet-in-missoula/article_5abbe04f-52ca-5b13-93be-904a657e923a.html

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 511 AM MST MON NOV 21 2011

Today...Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight...Breezy. Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Tuesday...Breezy. Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Tuesday Night...Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

SUBMISSIONS

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Back issues of the newsletter are available at [P:\YNP@Work Published Issues](#)

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: YNP@Work will not be published on Friday, November 25. Please have a SAFE and enjoyable **Thanksgiving holiday!!**

CALENDAR

HEALTH AND BENEFITS: The Federal Benefits Open Season ends on December 12, 2011. Information about Open Season can be found on OPM's Website: <http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp>.

December 5 – All NPS employee meeting with Superintendent

All Yellowstone NPS employees are invited to a meeting with the Superintendent on Monday, December 5, beginning at 3:30pm at the Mammoth Community Center. Dan would like to talk to you about the plans and expectations for the upcoming winter season and winter bison operations. In addition, the impacts of budget discussions in Congress, issues including visitation, grizzly bear, cutthroat trout, and any other emerging and ongoing issues facing the park that you would like to discuss. There will be a question and answer session where employees will be able to ask the Superintendent questions on any topic of their choosing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mammoth General Store is now serving hot lunches 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. They have gyros, burgers, hot dogs, paninis, chili, soup chicken and tuna sandwiches, and two new veggie wraps as well as the nacho lunch plate each day. Taco Tuesday is back, too! Take a break and have lunch with co-workers and friends!

The Albright VC is open 9am to 5pm on Thanksgiving Day. (Reminder: Albright VC is open 365 days per year.)

HOUSING ELECTRIC INSPECTIONS: Per recommendations from the Safety Committee, the Electric Shop will be coming by each residence in Mammoth, Tower, Lamar, North and NE Entrances to conduct an inventory on your quarter's electrical panel. Inspections are underway and may continue through Friday, December 16. **If you would like to be there when the inspection is made, please contact Harold Anderson by email to let him**

know. If he does not hear from you, then he will assume that it is OK to go into your residence to check the electrical panel. The inspection should not last very long at all in each quarters.

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APARTMENT FOR BID: Quarters 70N is a 437 sq. ft. efficiency apartment in Building 70. It rents for \$92.06/pay period, which includes water, sewer, trash, and fuel oil. Electricity is the responsibility of the tenant and is billed separately. This apartment is being bid “as-is” and is ready for immediate occupancy. Housing Bid Sheets and policy copies are available at <http://www.yell.nps.gov/housing>. All bids are due in the Chief Maintenance Office by 4:30 p.m. on December 1, 2011, to the attention of Debby Young.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Superintendent Dan Wenk is out of the office this week.

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Holly Long will be acting Facility Manager Nov. 21 to Dec. 4. She can be reached at 307-344-2324.

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Randy Froelich will be acting Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Nov. 21-25. He can be reached at 307-344-2322.

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Doug Madsen will continue to serve as the YCR Acting Chief of Compliance and Science Coordination for the next several months. Please contact Doug at x2017 with any questions or needs related to resource compliance, science communications or research permitting.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone rethinks grizzly bear safety issues after two deaths

by [Rocky Barker](#) - Idaho Statesman (Boise) - Monday, November 21, 2011

http://voices.idahostatesman.com/2011/11/20/rockybarker/yellowstone_rethinks_grizzly_bear_safety_issues_after_two_deaths

Kerry Gunther isn't sure whether the National Park Service has been good or lucky when it comes to grizzly bears.

Since the early 1980s, when Gunther, Yellowstone's bear manager, began studying bear-human conflicts in the park it has averaged one bear-caused injury annually. This year grizzly bears killed two hikers.

Gunther and park officials are taking another look at what can only be called a remarkably successful program in light of this year's deaths.

“We definitely have more bears and more people living in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem,” he said. “We definitely have a lot more people recreating in Yellowstone, over 3 million people. A lot more people, combined with more bears mean more encounters.”

When Gunther, a graduate of Northland College like me, came to Yellowstone 30 years ago the population was estimated in and around the park at 200 bears, if that. Today, biologists are confident there are more than 600. "When I started working here if you saw a dozen bears in a summer you thought it was a good summer for bears," he said. "I can see a dozen bears in a morning easy now."

Keeping tabs on bears, keeping camps and developments sanitized so bears can't get human food, and strong education programs are at the heart of Yellowstone's program. A study done this year showed that backpackers get it, and most carry bear spray into the backcountry.

But only 16 percent of casual hikers, like the two who were killed, carry bear spray.

Those are the main target of their efforts to reduce conflicts, Gunther said. But they have other tools. Park officials already closed areas of high bear use seasonally.

They might divert some trails out of high bear use areas entirely. They are talking about encouraging people to travel only in groups into the backcountry.

These issues are important for Idahoans, among the most frequent Idaho visitors. It is also only a matter of time until they have moved into central Idaho.

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Yellowstone National Park plan could remove 360 bison

Associated Press | Posted: Sunday, November 20, 2011 10:08 am

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-national-park-plan-could-remove-bison/article_b9a360a2-139a-11e1-97b8-001cc4c03286.html

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 403 AM MST TUE NOV 22 2011

Today...Windy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows 12 to 18.

Wednesday...Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

SUBMISSIONS

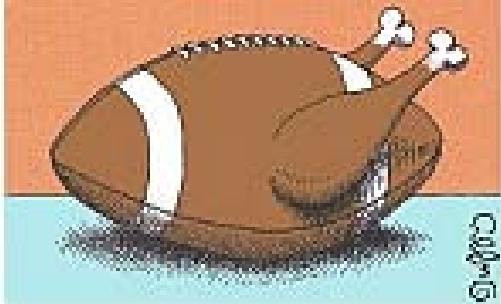
Please remember to send submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, November 23, 2011



YNP@Work will not be published on Friday, November 25.

Please have a SAFE and enjoyable **Thanksgiving holiday!!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each employee of the National Park Service a happy Thanksgiving. I hope this holiday will find you among friends and loved ones.

We will, where possible, dismiss National Park Service employees from work two hours early on Wednesday, November 23, 2011.

-- Director Jonathan B. Jarvis

Reminder: Please check with your supervisor to see if you are eligible to take advantage of this early release.

The Rendezvous Ski Trail system, located on the Gallatin National Forest near West Yellowstone, Montana, is now being groomed thanks to early snow and a compacted base.

During the month of November, a Yellowstone Ski Festival pass is required for all skiers. Pass prices (per skier) are \$10 for one day and \$50 for the entire month of November. Passes are available for sale in West Yellowstone at the Chamber of Commerce, Free Heel & Wheel, Holiday Inn, and at the Rendezvous Trailhead.

From December 1 to March 31, skiers will need a permit to use the trail system as per the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Permit prices are \$8 per day per skier, \$40 for an individual season permit, and \$75 for a family season permit. Permits will be available in West Yellowstone at Alpen Guides, Bud Lilly's, FreeHeel & Wheel, Chamber of Commerce, and the Hebgen Lake Ranger Station. Only day-use permits will be available at the Rendezvous Trailhead.

For more information, please contact the Hebgen Lake Ranger District on Highway 191 or by phone at 406 823-6961. For more information about grooming and events, visit www.rendezvousskitrails.com

The Winter Blue Book, 2011-12 edition, is available on the P: drive in the folder "BlueBook_2011_Final."

The Mammoth General Store is now serving hot lunches 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. They have gyros, burgers, hot dogs, paninis, chili, soup chicken and tuna sandwiches, and two new veggie wraps as well as the nacho lunch plate each day. Taco Tuesday is back, too! Take a break and have lunch with co-workers and friends!

There is now a folder titled "Menus" on the P: Drive for local restaurants (Gardiner/Mammoth). The first menu (Mammoth General Store) has been placed there for your enjoyment. If you have a CURRENT menu from any Gardiner/Mammoth establishment that you'd like to add to the folder, type or scan it into a document and place it in the folder for everyone to utilize. If you'd like us to scan a menu, send it to the PAO.

The Albright VC is open 9am to 5pm on Thanksgiving Day. (Reminder: Albright VC is open 365 days per year.)

CSS will be closed on Friday this week. If you require immediate assistance on Friday please contact Andy Bilton at (406) 581-9024. Technology Services will be minimally staffed on Friday. If no one is in, contact Jerry Bartlett at (406) 581-7515 or Bret De Young at (406) 581-2617.

The Public Affairs Office is closed Friday. Staff members are in the area and available for call out if needed.

CALENDAR

The Mammoth Clinic is closed November 23 to November 27. It will reopen November 28.

The Mammoth Community Center will hold a Holiday Card Making Class and Cookie Exchange on **December 4** beginning at 3:00 PM. The card making class will provide the opportunity to learn new techniques and create one of a kind Christmas cards for everyone on your list! Contact biancjaklein@gmail.com for more information. Spaces are limited!

The Holiday Cookie Exchange begins at 5:15 PM. Please don't forget to bring extra containers and a copy of your cookie recipe to participate!

HEALTH AND BENEFITS: The Federal Benefits Open Season ends on December 12, 2011. Information about Open Season can be found on OPM's Website: <http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/index.asp>.

Join us at the Mammoth Community Center on the following nights for a potluck and some winter family fun! Potlucks begin at 5:45 PM.

- Sunday, December 4th (See above)
- Thursday, January 5th - Board Game Night
- Tuesday, February 7th - Spotlight Sledding
- Wednesday, March 7th - Kids Craft Night

December 5 – All NPS employee meeting with Superintendent

All Yellowstone NPS employees are invited to a meeting with the Superintendent on Monday, December 5, beginning at 3:30pm at the Mammoth Community Center.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Superintendent Dan Wenk is out of the office this week.

Chief Ranger Tim Reid is out of the office the remainder of this week.

Holly Long will be acting Facility Manager Nov. 21 to Dec. 4. She can be reached at 307-344-2324.

Randy Froelich will be acting Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Nov. 21-25. He can be reached at 307-344-2322.

IN THE NEWS

Court says Yellowstone grizzlies still threatened

By MATTHEW BROWN - Associated Press - Nov 22, 4:38 PM EST

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MT_YELLOWSTONE_GRIZZLIES_MTOL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-11-22-16-38-53

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that grizzly bears in the Yellowstone region need continued protection under the Endangered Species Act due to the decline of a tree species that serves as a key food source for some of the animals.

The ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals blocks the federal government's effort to lift protections on about 600 threatened grizzlies across 19,000 square miles of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Such a move would

have turned over management of the animals to state wildlife agencies and allowed hunting for grizzlies for the first time in decades.

But the judges said a significant threat to the bears' recovery has emerged in recent years as whitebark pine trees have declined.

Whitebark pine nuts are a key food source for some bears. Beetle infestations brought on by a warmer climate have devastated huge stands of the trees at high elevations across the Yellowstone region.

After a judge in Montana pointed to the trees' decline as an unacknowledged threat to grizzlies, biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service argued in the appeal to the 9th Circuit that grizzlies could adapt and find other food sources.

Members of the three-judge 9th Circuit panel offered harsh criticism of that approach in Tuesday's ruling. And they said they were unconvinced by the government's pledge that protections could be restored at a later date if the bears' recovery falters.

"Now that this threat has emerged, the Service cannot take a full-speed ahead, damn-the-torpedoes approach to delisting," Judge Richard Tallman wrote. "We reject out of hand any suggestion that the future possibility of relisting a species can operate as a reasonable justification for delisting."

Tallman was joined in his opinion by Judge Susan Graber.

The 9th Circuit panel's third member, Judge Sidney Thomas of Billings, issued a dissenting opinion. Thomas agreed with the other judges on the whitebark issue, and also said the government had failed to set up adequate regulatory measures to protect grizzly bears once they come off the threatened species list.

Graber and Tallman said the regulatory framework was sufficient. That part of the case was sent back to a lower court for reconsideration.

Fish and Wildlife spokesman Chris Tollefson said the agency was reviewing the ruling and officials have not decided how to proceed. But the agency's grizzly bear coordinator, Chris Servheen, said an appeal was unlikely. Servheen said the agency would start working on a new proposal to lift protections based on research not available to the 9th Circuit.

"We can provide more information on the whitebark issue as they requested," he said.

Since the case began in 2007, the grizzly population "hasn't declined at all," Servheen said. "We're seeing the bears pushing out to where they haven't been in decades, and the density of bears in the center of the ecosystem is very high."

Grizzly bears were once found across much of the West. Their numbers dwindled rapidly in the late 1800s and early 1900s as intensive hunting and trapping exterminated grizzlies across more than 98 percent of their historic range.

By the time grizzlies were given protections under the Endangered Species Act across the lower 48 states in 1975, as few as 136 bears survived in the Yellowstone region.

Protections were lifted in 2007 following a protracted and costly recovery effort that also has resulted in a sharp increase in the frequency of bear-human conflicts. Four people have been killed by grizzly bears in Montana and Wyoming over the past two years.

A Montana conservation group, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, challenged the government's decision in a 2007 lawsuit.

After U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy sided with the group in a 2009 ruling that restored protection, the government appealed, setting the stage for Tuesday's opinion.

An attorney for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition said the ruling revealed that the government had been "hell-bent" on lifting protections despite the scientific evidence on whitebark.

"Whitebark is the key food source that has a dramatic effect on whether grizzly bears live or die," attorney Doug Honnold said. Since the 2007 decision, he added, "a lot more trees have died and the problem has only been magnified."

State wildlife agencies, the National Wildlife Federation and the Safari Club had intervened in the case on the side of the federal government.

National Wildlife Federation attorney Tom France said he was encouraged the 9th Circuit had sided with the government at least on the issue of regulatory protections.

"We feel like the grizzly bear in the greater Yellowstone is a real conservation success story," France said.

Environmental report looks at natural clues to Yellowstone's health

CARLY FLANDRO, Chronicle Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 12:15 am

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/yellowstone_national_park/article_572d9614-14ca-11e1-bbe5-001cc4c03286.html

From earthquakes to fires and trumpeter swans to pronghorn, natural clues are helping scientists and resource managers gauge the health of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The Yellowstone Center for Resources recently released a report that looks at how the area's natural resources are changing based on more than two dozen so-called "vital signs."

"We do believe Yellowstone is in a healthy state," Dave Hallac, chief of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, said Monday. "But the purpose is not really to give (Yellowstone) a 'B' or a 'C' or an 'A' grade. It's to provide raw, unedited information ...that can be used in many management arenas."

According to the report, there were more than 3,000 earthquakes in the park last year, including a swarm of 2,400 that occurred northwest of Old Faithful — the largest concentration since 1985. The two largest quakes were magnitude 3.7 and 3.8.

Grizzly bear populations reached 602 in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in 2010, the largest number since the recovery program began in 1975.

The wolf population, at 97, was at its lowest in the park since 1999. Wolf numbers throughout the ecosystem, however, have increased.

Those are just a few highlights. The report looks at diverse vital signs categorized by environmental quality, native species, ecosystem drivers such as climate and fire, and stressors such as nonnative species and park visitation.

One of Yellowstone's management goals is to minimize human interference with its ecological processes, according to the report. But determining whether changes are due to ecology or human influence requires careful monitoring of the vital signs.

For example, there were 11 known wildfires in the park in 2010. Two were considered human-caused.

Last year, 41 grizzly bears died in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, including six in the park. Three of the deaths were natural, and three were undetermined. Humans caused the other 35 deaths, which were either hunting-related, road accidents or the result of bears killing livestock or people. A half dozen live bears were also removed from the area.

The report also provides insight into how the ecosystem is affected naturally.

For example, a 1982 pinkeye epidemic reduced the population of bighorn sheep by more than half. Since the winter of 1996, though, the herd numbers have generally grown.

This year, the Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group counted 363 sheep, with 38 lambs per 100 ewes. The report noted that the population has increased since the 1995 wolf reintroduction began.

Pronghorn have been affected throughout the last century both by people and by the environment. Fluctuations in their population — which has ranged from about 100 to about 800 — have shown the “effects of management interventions as well as natural shifts in forage availability, competition with elk, and predation,” the report said. They’ve been fenced, fed, and removed from the park because of “perceived sagebrush degradation.”

Currently, pronghorn fawn survival is low due to coyote predation. Development of private land north of the park has reduced their available winter range.

Trumpeter swans, which had a peak population of 69 in 1961, now winter in some greater Yellowstone waters, but few stay to build nests.

The report was released for the first time in 2008, and since then has helped inform various management decisions. Hallac said data from the report helped formulate the park's native fish conservation plan. The report will be released periodically, though Hallac said officials are still deciding on how often.

“It’s the best place you can go to get a good, succinct summary of scientific data on the status of indicators in the park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem,” he said. “Our superintendent, or a manager of a national forest next to the park, can pick this up and in a very short period of time get an idea of what’s happening.”

WEATHER**NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 220 AM MST WED NOV 23 2011

Today...Breezy. Mostly sunny. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.**Tonight...**Breezy. Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 17 to 23. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.**Thanksgiving Day...**Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph.**Thursday Night...**Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph increasing to 20 to 25 mph after midnight.**Friday...**Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 23 to 29. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.**Friday Night...**Colder. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 1 to 7.**Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs 20 to 26.**Saturday Night...**Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 8 to 14.**Sunday...**Not as cold. Partly cloudy. Highs 30 to 36.**Sunday Night...**Partly cloudy. Lows 13 to 19.**Monday...**Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32.**SUBMISSIONS**

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

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<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11116.htm>

IN THE NEWS

Geologists monitoring Yellowstone's underground shifts

By MARTIN KIDSTON Gazette Wyoming Bureau | Posted: Sunday, November 27, 2011 12:00 am

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/geologists-monitoring-yellowstone-s-underground-shifts/article_18caacdc-bcc4-5ad6-baac-617ea901a3e3.html

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Knowing what it all means, however, remains something of a mystery.

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Heasler attributed the increase in geological events to improving technology. Scientists can now detect earthquakes that passed unnoticed just 30 years ago. Deformations in the ground can be measured down to the millimeter.

To say there are more earthquakes now than before, Heasler said, is akin to saying people get more phone calls now than they did 30 years ago. Technology makes the difference.

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anything in a can or a box) and for every one item donated, we will give one ticket toward chances to win a Frosty Fun package or a pair of Nikon Action Zoom Binoculars. If we experience a great response, we will draw for a 2nd Frosty Fun package giveaway at the end of the sale.

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Using hand-held devices while driving in Bozeman banned as of Jan. 17

AMANDA RICKER, Bozeman Chronicle

Starting Jan. 17, it will be illegal to text or talk on a hand-held cellular phone while driving or bicycling in Bozeman.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/city/article_1ff0acc6-1a3e-11e1-ae04-001cc4c03286.html

WEATHER**NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 641 AM MST TUE NOV 29 2011

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Winter Weather ADVISORY from 8AM to 11PM Wednesday for a large section of Southwest Montana including West Yellowstone, Bozeman and Bozeman Pass:

http://forecast.weather.gov/showsigwx.php?warnzone=MTZ055&warncounty=MTC031&firewxzone=MTZ118&local_place1=Bozeman+MT&product1=Winter+Weather+Advisory

Winter Storm WATCH from Wednesday afternoon through Thursday Morning for the Absaroka-Beartooth Mountains and Cooke City – but excluding Paradise Valley:

http://forecast.weather.gov/showsigwx.php?warnzone=MTZ067&warncounty=MTC067&firewxzone=MTZ123&local_place1=Gardiner+MT&product1=Winter+Storm+Watch

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Also, wood chips have been spread out on various sections of interior roads. Please use extreme caution when traveling on interior roads. Be aware of the icy, snow-packed road conditions, the reduced speed limits, and the wood chip sites.

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- Wednesday, March 7th - Kids Craft Night

December 5 – All NPS employee meeting with Superintendent

All Yellowstone NPS employees are invited to a meeting with the Superintendent on Monday, December 5, beginning at 3:30pm at the Mammoth Community Center.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Holly Long will be acting Facility Manager Nov. 21 to Dec. 4. She can be reached at 307-344-2324.

IN THE NEWS**Using hand-held devices while driving in Bozeman banned as of Jan. 17**

Bozeman Chronicle

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/city/article_1ff0acc6-1a3e-11e1-ae04-001cc4c03286.html

Top 5 Yellowstone Animals To See in Winter

Discovery.com

<http://dsc.discovery.com/adventure/yellowstones-big-5-animals-you-can-only-see-during-winter.html>

'Mark of the Grizzly' update includes new science, maulings

Ravalli Republic, Nov. 23, 2011

http://www.ravallirepublic.com/lifestyles/recreation/article_75e5e1ff-8d73-5b75-a80d-6fa72a892b74.html

99 wolves killed so far in Montana less than half of quota

Montana Standard, Nov. 29, 2011

http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/wolves-killed-so-far-in-montana-less-than-half-of/article_e092f06a-1a43-11e1-839c-001cc4c03286.html**WEATHER****NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 237 AM MST WED NOV 30 2011

Today...Areas of blowing snow in the morning. Snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the morning becoming northwest around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Tonight...Breezy...cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Areas of blowing snow through the night. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 6 inches. Lows 1 to 7. North winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 17 to 23. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph in the morning.

Thursday Night...Mostly clear. Lows 5 below to 3 above zero.

SUBMISSIONS

Please remember to send submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

Back issues of the newsletter are available at [P:\YNP@Work Published Issues](#)