

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 1, 2011

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- Thursday, January 5th - Board Game Night
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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. Supt. Wenk 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.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

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IN THE NEWS**Group seeks changes in Yellowstone bison handling**

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press, Dec 1, 2011

PRAY, Mont. (AP) -- A diverse group of ranchers, wildlife advocates and others urged government officials on Wednesday to give 3,700 Yellowstone National Park bison more room to roam in Montana, while redoubling efforts to prevent disease transmissions from bison to cattle.

Those were among the major recommendations to emerge from months of meetings by a 30-person citizens group set up to advise state, federal and tribal agencies struggling to deal with herds of bison that regularly attempt migrate from the park seeking food.

Many bison carry brucellosis, a disease that can cause pregnant animals to miscarry. In the last decade, more than 3,000 Yellowstone bison leaving the park were captured and shipped to slaughter to guard against transmissions to cattle.

The slaughters have strained relations between ranchers and conservationists and drawn sharp criticism from members of Congress. By offering alternatives, the consensus-driven citizens group was attempting to bridge the deep divide over the issue.

Members of the group said more public and tribal hunting of bison could keep the Yellowstone population in check even as the animals ranged more widely in Montana. That includes land where bison would be allowed year-round in the Hebgen Basin west of the park, the Upper Gallatin River watershed to the northwest and Gardiner Basin to the north.

Current government policies exclude bison from those areas for much of the year.

The citizens group also says vaccinating bison against brucellosis should have a lower priority than vaccinating cattle. Bison vaccines are considered minimally effective, and diseased cattle pose a greater and more direct economic threat to the ranching industry than infected wildlife.

"The livestock industry is going to bear the burden of this disease for a long, long time because trying to get it out of wildlife is huge," said Jim Hagenbarth, a rancher from Dillon and member of the citizens group. "We need to boost the ability of our (cattle) to withstand the risks they run into when they come in contact with wildlife."

Other recommendations from the group included the creation of a bison education campaign, more collaboration between tribal bison hunters and wildlife officials and the relocation of brucellosis-free bison to establish herds elsewhere.

Many of the proposals were in line with efforts already under way by agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture and the Montana Departments of Livestock and Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Yet some of the proposals have languished for years, and the citizens group urged the agencies to move faster. Its recommendations could provide officials with political cover on issues such as expanded bison habitat, which in the past has been staunchly opposed by Montana's livestock industry.

"Five years ago it would have been hearsay to ever talk about allowing bison outside the park," said Christian Mackay with the Montana Department of Livestock. "It's come a long way."

It remains to be seen if the broader agricultural community will go along. Officials from Park County, which borders Yellowstone, and the local stockgrowers association have lawsuits pending against the state for allowing hundreds of bison into the Gardiner Basin last winter.

County Commissioner Marty Malone said a brucellosis infection discovered earlier this year in Park County reinforced concerns among ranchers about diseased bison leaving the park.

"Wildlife are the king up there," Malone said of Yellowstone. "It seems to me that we're running over private property rights."

State livestock officials have blamed the Park County disease transmission on elk, not bison. There has never been a recorded instance of cattle being infected with brucellosis by exposure to wild bison.

"We have to quit killing them when they come across the boundary," said Joe Gutkoski, president of the Yellowstone Buffalo Foundation. "There could be a lot more harvesting and hunting once we get them established (in Montana) but we've got to quit killing them."

Federal and state officials said they would meet in February to determine what to do with the citizens group's recommendations.

Fish Wildlife and Parks regional director Pat Flowers said putting the ideas into action could be challenging given tight budgets at the state and federal levels.

In Idaho, the Natural Resources Conservation Service announced Wednesday that it has money available for farmers and ranchers in the Yellowstone area to build fences or take other steps to keep wildlife and livestock separate to prevent the spread of brucellosis.

FWP recommends moving bison to Indian reservations

Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Wednesday, November 30, 2011

HELENA — Montana wildlife officials on Wednesday said they will recommend the relocation of 68 quarantined Yellowstone National Park bison to two Indian reservations after running into strong opposition by ranchers and landowners to proposals to move the animals to other parts of the state.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/fwp-recommends-moving-bison-to-indian-reservations/article_fbda13a-1ba9-11e1-b774-001cc4c03286.html

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Bozeman Chronicle

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

Talks fail on motorized use on Gallatin Crest north of Yellowstone Park

Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Wednesday, November 30, 2011

UPDATE -- 10:54 A.M.: HELENA — Attempts to reach a settlement failed in a long-running dispute over the use of snowmobiles, dirt bikes and other vehicles in a wilderness study area north of Yellowstone National Park, leaving a federal appeals court to resolve the conflict.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/talks-fail-on-motorized-use-on-gallatin-crest-north-of/article_72a6144e-1b54-11e1-a0ff-001cc4c002e0.html

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Yellowstone Grizzly Bears Safer For Now

Earth Justice

Yellowstone grizzly bears warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. So says the federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals which recently upheld a lower-court ruling that rejected a federal government effort to strip the bears of their protections.

<http://earthjustice.org/news/press/2011/protections-upheld-for-yellowstone-grizzly-bears>

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 900 AM MST THU DEC 1 2011

Rest Of Today...Partly cloudy late in the morning then clearing. Highs 18 to 24. Northeast winds around 15 mph late in the morning.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows 2 below to 6 above zero.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 20 to 26.

Friday Night...Mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the evening... Then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero. North winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

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IN THE NEWS

Agencies hit deadlock on Yellowstone bison exodus

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press, Dec 1, 2011

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MT_BISON_SLAUGHTER_MTOL-
?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-12-01-17-18-55](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MT_BISON_SLAUGHTER_MTOL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-12-01-17-18-55)

PRAY, Mont. (AP) -- Federal and Montana agencies hit an impasse Thursday on what to do with bison leaving Yellowstone National Park - even as biologists predicted this winter's migration could top 1,000 animals.

Park officials on Thursday offered a proposal to kill or remove up to 360 bison that enter Montana to keep the population in check and help prevent disease transmissions to cattle.

But Gov. Brian Schweitzer said he will block the shipment of any of those animals to slaughter - as he did last year - because of concerns such actions could spread the brucellosis disease.

Schweitzer said he has gotten mixed messages from federal officials regarding whether some bison that have been moved out of the park were diseased. Until that is resolved, the Democratic governor said, "nothing changes."

"We've got to know what is and what isn't disease-free," Schweitzer said.

Even before Schweitzer's Thursday comments, a decision on the park proposal already had been delayed until mid-January. That came after Montana officials said they had not determined how widely the animals can roam outside the park.

The uncertainties leave agencies without clear direction on how to handle bison heading into what is predicted to be a cold, wet winter. If the forecast bears out, it could trigger a large migration of bison seeking to graze at lower elevations in Montana.

Despite the impasse, Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said he remains hopeful an agreement can be reached before the migration begins. He said that will depend on how quickly the state and park can work out their differences and how soon bison start to move across Yellowstone's border.

"Maybe the stars will align," Wenk said. "We believe the things we put on the table can be effective tools to manage the bison population and reduce the risk" of disease transmissions.

The park's proposal comes after government agencies and hunters killed or removed more than 3,600 bison over the last decade under a federal-state agreement intended to prevent brucellosis transmission to cattle.

The disease causes pregnant animals to miscarry. Largely eradicated across the U.S., brucellosis persists in Yellowstone-area wildlife including elk and bison.

Federal sanctions against states that have infected livestock have eased in recent years, paving the way for changes in how bison are managed.

Allowing bison into Montana's 75,000-acre Gardiner Basin, just north of Yellowstone, is considered key to the park's proposal to more closely manage the animals through hunting. Yellowstone officials also want to ship some diseased bison to slaughter to reduce the prevalence of brucellosis among the park's two herds.

But at a Thursday meeting of state and federal officials in Pray, some wildlife advocates urged the park to back off aspects of its plans for an iconic species that one advocate referred to as "ecologically extinct." Tens of millions of bison once roamed North America. Yellowstone's two herds of the animals are considered among the most genetically pure of about 20,000 bison remaining in the wild.

"Before you harvest them, give them something back first. Let them recover," said Stephany Seay with the Buffalo Field Campaign.

Schweitzer recently suggested the park would have to "attach balloons to the bison and float them out" if it wanted to ship animals to slaughter without the state's consent.

And he insisted the only way the population control plan can work would be to include hunting inside the park, to account for those mild winters when few of the animals enter Montana.

Yellowstone administrators stiffly opposed the prospect of hunting within the park and said it would require a change in federal law.

"Even if Congress were to approve that, it would likely not be well received by the American public," said park biologist P.J. White. "Certainly the Park Service will oppose that."

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IN THE NEWS

Schweitzer says Montana will not allow wild bison shipments

Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Friday, December 2, 2011

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/schweitzer-says-montana-will-not-allow-wild-bison-shipments/article_53bb4d62-1cec-11e1-a22b-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1fOp2yOZR

Gov. Brian Schweitzer said he will not allow any wild bison to be moved within Montana because a federal agency has raised concerns about potential disease transmissions - throwing into doubt a proposal to relocate 68 of the animals from Yellowstone National Park to two American Indian reservations.

The governor said blocking such shipments is intended to ramp up pressure on the U.S. Department of Interior to accept his proposal to relocate a second group of Yellowstone bison onto the National Bison Range near Moiese. Schweitzer said that offer was rejected Thursday by Interior officials who cited concerns about brucellosis, a disease that can cause pregnant animals to miscarry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has said the buffalo are brucellosis-free. The animals have been held in quarantine for the past several years with the aim of relocating them to establish new, genetically pure bison herds on public and tribal lands - an idea the Democratic governor strongly supports.

But Schweitzer said no bison will be moved until the disease issue is resolved.

"I'm not moving any buffalo anywhere - not into quarantine, not out of a quarantine, not to a reservation, not to slaughter, not across the road," he said. "Nobody's moving them, live or dead, or until we have a conclusion here."

State officials Wednesday had announced a plan to relocate the 68 bison to Montana's Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations sometime this winter. The animals have been tested repeatedly for brucellosis and are being held in a fenced compound in Corwin Springs, under a joint state-federal program to determine if Yellowstone bison are suitable for relocation.

Another 143 Yellowstone bison that already have been through the quarantine are being held on a ranch near Bozeman owned by media mogul and philanthropist Ted Turner. Those are the animals that Schweitzer wanted relocated onto the 18,500-acre National Bison Range run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Not all of them would be relocated because Turner gets to keep some offspring under his arrangement with the state.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Tom Palmer said next week's FWP commission vote on relocating the 68 bison to the Indian reservations will go on as scheduled.

"The commission will make a decision whether or not to move any bison, but we won't move any bison until this is all sorted out," Palmer said.

The governor's gambit frustrated tribal leaders, who have been pressing for the Yellowstone bison's relocation to their reservations for years.

"What the governor is doing is, he's playing chess with the federal government and he's using us as pawns," said Fort Peck Fish and Game Director Robert Magnan. "It could still move forward if he just stops playing these games."

Asked if he would change his stance if the Interior Department accepted the bison at the National Bison Range, Schweitzer replied, "That would be a good start." He predicted a resolution of the dispute in time to allow the 68 bison to be moved to the reservations next spring.

Schweitzer added that he considers the estimated 400 bison already on the range to be "mongrels" because researchers have determined they carry traces of cattle genes from past interbreeding with domestic livestock.

In rejecting the state's proposal, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Daniel Ashe cited worries over brucellosis raised by agency scientist Tom Roffe, Schweitzer said.

Roffe, chief of wildlife health for the agency in Bozeman, said in an interview he had three concerns: Yellowstone bison could expose an estimated 400 bison already at the Moiese range to other animal diseases or parasites, an ongoing study of the Yellowstone bison could be compromised if they interacted with range bison, and other states would be reluctant to take any range bison if they knew they had come into contact with Yellowstone animals.

Ryan Clarke, an epidemiologist for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the bison have been through as many as 20 tests to ensure they don't have the disease, and the agency is requiring five years of post-relocation checks on some of the animals out of "an excess of caution."

"Some of those cows have been tested since 2004. These bison are probably the most tested group of bison in the nation by far, ever," Clarke said.

But Roffe said brucellosis was "not a personal concern" because of the extensive testing done.

"I know that the (quarantined) bison don't harbor brucella," he said, referring to the bacteria that causes the disease. "This is being painted too simply. This is not about brucellosis. This is more about the appropriate way to complete a quarantine feasibility study on brucellosis."

Glenn Hockett, with the Gallatin Wildlife Federation, said the dispute underscores the state's lack of a coherent strategy for dealing with bison, an animal that under Montana law has dual status as both domestic livestock and wildlife.

"You've got to be honest about what the end game is here," Hockett said. "The fear is there is no clear end, and they might end up fenced in on a wildlife management area or on a reservation."

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[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MT_BISON_SLAUGHTER_MTOL-
?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-12-01-17-18-55](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MT_BISON_SLAUGHTER_MTOL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-12-01-17-18-55)

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Climate change insight gleaned from Yellowstone wolves

The Guardian, December 1, 2011

Scientists develop model on how various species will adapt to climate change after studying wolves in national park

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/dec/01/climate-change-scientists-wolves>

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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

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 434 AM MST MON DEC 5 2011

Today...Mostly sunny. Highs zero to 6 above zero. Lowest wind chill readings 28 below to 38 below zero in the morning.

Tonight...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of freezing fog after midnight. Lows 2 below to 10 below zero.

Tuesday...Not as cold. Partly cloudy. Areas of freezing fog in the morning. Highs 19 to 25. Lowest wind chill readings 12 below to 22 below zero in the morning.

Tuesday Night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Lows zero to 8 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](#)

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

TODAY: Xanterra Sale and YA Book Drive from 9 AM – 2 PM in the Map Room of the Mammoth Hotel.

In addition to the regular sale, this year Xanterra is working with YA on holding a Food Drive for the Gardiner Food Pantry. We are very motivated to encourage everyone to do what they can to donate food this year as this year in particular has hit the GFP very hard and they are in even greater need for food. As a side note, Xanterra's already been working on a Food Drive of our own that we've done now for 11 years and just this year to date we've collected over 2100 pounds of food since October 14th.

With that said, during the YA Book Drive and Xanterra Sale, we'd like to ask everyone that attends to consider bringing canned foods/non-perishable food items (tunas, vegies, stews, soups, pastas, rice, peanut butter, jams, - 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.

Frosty Fun package = 2 nights lodging at OFSL, snowcoach transportation into the Park, two breakfasts for 2 people, welcome gift and discount card.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All employees and volunteers who will be operating a snowmobile are required to complete **snowmobile training**. All Mammoth trainings will be held in the Mammoth Garage conference room. Please do not delay in signing up for the trainings because class size is limited. Sign-up sheets can be found on the park wide drive at <P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training 2011-2012 Sign-up> Contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029.

The Winter Blue Book, 2011-12 Edition, is available on the P: drive in the folder "BlueBook_2011_Final." For printed copies contact Yell Office Services via email or phone 2031 or 2032.

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!

CALENDAR**Spaces Left for Operational Leadership Training | December 7 & 8, 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>.

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 p.m. in the Mammoth Map Room. Visit our website for more information - <http://www.littlepeopleslearningcenter.blogspot.com/>

NPS Employee Party: Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mammoth Community Center. In the spirit of giving, please bring a canned or non-perishable food item for the Gardiner Food Pantry. There will also be an opportunity to make donations to the Rob Stermitz Fund and Adopt-A-Local Family program. For those traveling from the interior, there are overnight accommodations available in private homes. Please contact Judy Jensen for more information at 344-2031.

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

- Thursday, January 5th - Board Game Night
- Tuesday, February 7th - Spotlight Sledding
- Wednesday, March 7th - Kids Craft Night

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Colleen Curry will be acting Branch Chief for Cultural Resources Dec. 5-9. She can be reached at 2262.

IN THE NEWS**Montana governor changes mind, says quarantined Yellowstone bison can be transferred to Indian reservations**

(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS via BILLINGS [MT] GAZETTE)

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/schweitzer-will-not-block-bison-relocation-plan/article_8efff60c-1f62-11e1-be86-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1fgQKfUHB

Montana, Yellowstone complicit in buffalo slaughter (*letter to editor*)

(BILLINGS [MT] GAZETTE)

http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/mailbag/state-yellowstone-complicit-in-buffalo-slaughter/article_d4f7bb60-36fe-53fb-964c-3e51760483c4.html

Bear spray not carried in more than half of human-grizzly incidents in 2011 in northern Rockies

(KPAX-TV [MISSOULA, MT])

<http://www.kpax.com/news/bear-spray-not-carried-in-more-than-half-2011-grizzly-incidents/>

Arduous life of wolverines documented in Yellowstone National Park

(YALE ENVIRONMENT 360 [YALE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, NEW HAVEN, CT])

http://e360.yale.edu/digest/arduous_life_of_wolverines_documented_in_yellowstone_national_park/3235/**WITH:****-- Abstract: '*Spatial ecology of wolverines at the southern periphery of distribution*'**

(THE JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT via WILEY ONLINE LIBRARY)

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jwmg.289/abstract>**WEATHER****NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 739 AM MST TUE DEC 6 2011

Today...Partly cloudy. Patchy freezing fog in the morning. Highs 19 to 25. Lowest wind chill readings 14 below to 24 below zero in the morning.

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows zero to 8 above zero.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28.

Wednesday Night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 4 to 10.

SUBMISSIONS

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

70th Anniversary - Pearl Harbor



December 7, 2011 marks 70 years since 353 Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes attacked Pearl Harbor and brought the United States into World War II. Of the 60,000 military personnel who were on the island that day, more than 2,400 did not survive and another 1,282 were wounded.

Two battleships, the Arizona and Oklahoma, were sunk and never recovered. Two others were raised and rebuilt. Also sunk or damaged were three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship, a minelayer, and 188 aircraft.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to lack of snow, today's **Initial Snowmobile Training** has been rescheduled for the morning of December 14th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you were scheduled to attend today's course and this new time doesn't work for you, please contact the Safety Office or remove your name from the list on the P drive. There is also a second training class scheduled for January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Garage. Please don't forget to come to the class prepared for the hands-on riding session. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet.

Sign-up sheets can be found on the park wide drive at <P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training 2011-2012 Sign-up>. Contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029.

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Santa is coming to town! Mark your calendar for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting this Sunday, December 11th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at the Mammoth Map Room. Please bring items to donate to the Gardiner Food Pantry and a dish to share at the potluck. A silent auction will be held featuring area ski passes, gift certificates and great holiday gift items. The annual Little People's Learning Center Calendar of Yellowstone Artwork will be available for purchase as well. Musical performances by the students of Little People's, Snoopy School, and the Yellowstone School of Music are sure to get you into the holiday spirit. Many thanks to Xanterra, Delaware North and YPSS for providing the desserts, drinks and ensuring this community event continues!

7 Days until the NPS Employee Holiday Party. Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mammoth Community Center. For those traveling from the Interior, overnight accommodations are available in private homes. Contact Judy Jensen @ 344-2031 to take advantage of this offer.

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

- Thursday, January 5th - Board Game Night
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(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS via BILLINGS [MT] GAZETTE)

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/schweitzer-will-not-block-bison-relocation-plan/article_8efff60c-1f62-11e1-be86-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1fgQKfUHB

Yellowstone grizzly bears: New cause célèbre for effects of global warming?

(CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR [BOSTON])

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2011/1206/Yellowstone-grizzly-bears-New-cause-celebre-for-effects-of-global-warming>

Yellowstone park wolf-watching guide sees spike in business

(PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE public-interest news online [BOULDER, CO])

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/23576-2>

Montana considering ways to fill quota for wolf hunt

(MISSOULIAN [MISSOULA, MT])

http://missoulian.com/news/local/state-considering-ways-to-fill-quota-for-wolf-hunt/article_84eacbc4-1f76-11e1-9c50-0019bb2963f4.html

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 149 AM MST WED DEC 7 2011

Today...Mostly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the morning...then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the morning. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 2 to 8.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25.

Thursday Night...Partly cloudy. Lows 1 below to 5 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](#)

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 8, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are an **IDEAS User** the annual training is now part of your DOI Learn requirement. There has been some confusion about email messages prompting IDEAS Users to take the training even though it has not been a full year since the last training. Unfortunately you must take the training again even though it has not been a full year since the last training. We understand that it is an inconvenience but it is a requirement per the auditors. You will have until January 15th to complete the training. If you have any questions please feel free to call Tina Holland @2082.

Due to lack of snow, today's **Initial Snowmobile Training** has been rescheduled for the morning of December 14th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you were scheduled to attend today's course and this new time doesn't work for you, please contact the Safety Office or remove your name from the list on the P drive. There is also a second training class scheduled for January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Garage. Please don't forget to come to the class prepared for the hands-on riding session. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet.

Sign-up sheets can be found on the park wide drive at <P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training 2011-2012 Sign-up>
Contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029.

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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!

CALENDAR

Santa is coming to town! Mark your calendar for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting this Sunday, December 11th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM at the Mammoth Map Room. Please bring items to donate to the Gardiner Food Pantry and a dish to share at the potluck. A silent auction will be held featuring area ski passes, gift certificates and great holiday gift items. The annual Little People's Learning Center Calendar of Yellowstone Artwork will be

available for purchase as well. Musical performances by the students of Little People's, Snoopy School, and the Yellowstone School of Music are sure to get you into the holiday spirit. Many thanks to Xanterra, Delaware North and YPSS for providing the desserts, drinks and ensuring this community event continues!

Mammoth General Store: 2011 Holiday Shopping Extravaganza! December 12-16. All locals will receive 25% off their entire purchase of gifts and apparel. Simply show a valid Montana or Wyoming driver's license or proof of local employment. Items NOT included in the discount: fountain items, grocery items, optics, memory cards, liquor and tobacco. Visit the Mammoth General Store for more details.

NPS Employee Holiday Party. Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mammoth Community Center. For those traveling from the Interior, overnight accommodations are available in private homes. Contact Judy Jensen @ 344-2031 to take advantage of this offer. Remember to bring your own reusable plates and silverware to reduce amount of waste sent to the landfill!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: Yes Virginia, we have a family from our local community of Gardiner.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. The needs range from everyday to wish items. Please email Sue Capasso or call her at x2055 if you would like to purchase a gift for one or more. This is important so we avoid duplication and at the same time make sure all items are covered. It would help, though is not required, if you wrap your gift and label it with the item/family member intended for. Labeling the item ensures that the gifts are matched to the correct family member. CASH DONATIONS are also welcomed, and will be used to purchase unfilled items. Here is the list of needs/wish items:

Family: Dad, Mom, and 2 high school children. FAMILY ITEMS [Grocery store gift cards, Fuel gift cards, board games (talking UNO game), X-Box Connect family games, & any other everyday item you wish to give]

Girl (high school age)

- Shirts, long or short sleeves, medium to large in girls sizes
- Skirts or dresses, size 10/12 (could use black & white, a bit dressier for band)
- Puffy pleated skirts, size 10/12, any color
- Levi jeans, size 12 or 1, hip-hugger, bell-bottom style
- Ugg style boots, size 7 1/2 women's, light color
- Avid reader of fiction & nonfiction

Boy (high school age)

- Long sleeve, button-up shirts, western style, medium/large*, dress up or down
- Levi jeans, size 29x34
- Black cowboy boots, size 13
- Avid reader of Sci-Fi books (anything with dragons, knights, etc.)

Mom

- Light pink sweatshirts, pull-over or zip up hoody, large to extra-large
- Hot pink Snuggli
- Butter fleece socks (available at Bath & Body Works)
- Fleeced-lined tights, large (available at Payless)
- Favorite color is hot pink

Dad

- Henley long sleeve shirts, extra-large (available at Walmart)
- Hoody's, extra-large (anything warm)
- Low quarter hiking boots, dark color, size 11 1/2 to 12
- Favorite colors are red, blue & black
- Avid reader of fiction & nonfiction books

*when in doubt on any of the sizes, lean toward the larger of the two listed

In the spirit of GIVING, thank you for your contributions, and for making this family's holidays and upcoming year better.

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

- Thursday, January 5th - Board Game Night
- Tuesday, February 7th - Spotlight Sledding
- Wednesday, March 7th - Kids Craft Night

- - - - -

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Colleen Curry will be acting Branch Chief for Cultural Resources Dec. 5-9. She can be reached at 2262.

IN THE NEWS

Panel to seek ways to better manage elk herds infected with brucellosis

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Thursday, December 8, 2011

Montana wildlife officials are setting up an advisory panel to guide their efforts to reduce the risk of diseased elk transmitting brucellosis to cattle.

The 12-member citizens advisory panel is scheduled to begin meeting in January. The group will draft recommendations on how infected elk herds in Montana's Yellowstone region can be better managed. Bison have long been the focus of concerns over brucellosis, which can cause pregnant animals to miscarry their young. Thousands of bison migrating from Yellowstone National Park have been slaughtered over the past decade to prevent transmissions of the disease to cattle.

Nevertheless, five cattle herds have been infected with the disease in the last several years. Livestock officials say elk are likely to blame.

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FWP SEEKS ELK-BRUCELLOSIS WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking up to 12 individuals to serve on a working group charged with developing elk management options in areas where the transmission of brucellosis between elk and livestock is a concern.

The working group will lead an effort to examine effective elk management options and risk prevention efforts in several southwestern Montana hunting districts. The areas generally include hunting districts that border or are near Yellowstone National Park.

Brucellosis is a contagious bacterial infection in domestic animals, wildlife and humans worldwide. In Montana, brucellosis has been detected in elk, bison and, several years ago, in cattle in areas surrounding Yellowstone National Park. The disease results in miscarriages in some pregnant animals, including domestic cattle, and bison and elk.

FWP is seeking a representative mix of Montanans who are committed to work to reach consensus on elk management guidelines that seek to conserve elk on public and private lands while reducing the risk of brucellosis transmission between elk and livestock.

Applicants will be assessed on the perspective they represent and for their willingness and ability to respectfully engage in a structured decision-making process.

Working group members will be appointed by FWP Director Joe Maurier in consultation with the FWP Commission. Appointed members will be expected to participate in at least six, two-day facilitated meetings between Jan. 26 and June 27, 2012. Members will be asked to contribute to additional discussions throughout the term.

Applications must be submitted by Dec. 21. To apply online—or to download an application form— visit FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov. Click "[Elk-Brucellosis Working Group](#)". Address additional inquiries via e-mail to fwpwld@mt.gov.

Yellowstone bison relocation on packed agenda at Montana wildlife agency meeting Thursday, Friday

(HELENA [MT] INDEPENDENT RECORD)

http://helenair.com/news/local/packed-agenda-at-fwp-commission-meeting/article_18b2d5fe-20a3-11e1-b6a6-0019bb2963f4.html

AND:

Buffalo land (*letter to editor*)

http://helenair.com/news/opinion/readers_alley/buffalo-land/article_1c2b55a4-20a2-11e1-8c1b-0019bb2963f4.html

Landsat Satellites Track Yellowstone's Underground Heat

NASA, December 7, 2011

Yellowstone National Park sits on top of a vast, ancient, and still active volcano. Heat pours off its underground magma chamber, and is the fuel for Yellowstone's famous features -- more than 10,000 hot springs, mud pots, terraces and geysers, including Old Faithful.

<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/yellowstone-heat.html>

Like NPS at Yellowstone, Forest Service reverts to interim snowmobile rules for Gallatin Crest in Montana

(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS via BILLINGS [MT] GAZETTE)

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/forest-service-reverts-to-interim-snowmobile-rules-for-gallatin-crest/article_f6bfa50e-2015-11e1-b252-001871e3ce6c.html

Yellowstone grizzly bears: New cause célèbre for effects of global warming?

(CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR [BOSTON])

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2011/1206/Yellowstone-grizzly-bears-New-cause-celebre-for-effects-of-global-warming>

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 1002 AM MST THU DEC 8 2011

Rest Of Today...Mostly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the afternoon. Highs 19 to 25. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs 22 to 28.

Friday Night...Mostly clear. Lows 2 to 10.

SUBMISSIONS

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, December 9, 2011

ADMIN TRAVEL: Starting TODAY, crews will begin packing Craig Pass (the section of road from Old Faithful to West Thumb). At that time, the road will be closed to wheeled vehicles for the winter season.

On Saturday, December 10, crews will begin the same work on the South Entrance Road (West Thumb to the South Entrance). Wheeled traffic will not be allowed on the South Entrance Road beginning that morning.

In effect, a 12-hour clock has begun for Craig Pass, and a 24-hour clock begins for the South Entrance Road Friday, December 9, at 8:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wolves in Mammoth. The Canyon pack has recently taken up residence in and around Mammoth. When the elk move onto winter range, the wolves follow them in. This pack lives in the interior where many elk leave for the winter and they know to come here to find them. They will go back and forth all winter. In general, but not exclusively, they work the developed area at night looking for elk and pull out during the day when the human activity begins. Early joggers and people out walking dogs may run into the wolves near the buildings. Please be aware and prepared. If you have your dog on a leash, be alert, and carry bear spray. The risk is low of anything happening but it does not hurt to take precautions. This pack is used to people and a little tolerant as they have been hazed on several occasions. But they are also still good at keeping their distance. Everyone should abide by the 100 yard rule and it is up to YOU to maintain that distance, not the animal

The Canyon pack is 8 wolves: 5 black and 3 gray, 4 adults and 4 pups. Only one radio collar on the large black wolf who is the alpha male. On Tues they had a kill, Capital Hill area in Mammoth. If you have a good sighting story or photograph, send it to YNP@Work so we can share it with others! *As the editor, I have seen them up close and personal in my front yard in Lower Mammoth (from out my window, of course!) – one black wolf howling 5 feet from my front porch under a full moon! Does it get any better than this living in Yellowstone?*

Flex Spending for 2012. The final day to enroll in either the health care or dependent care flex spending program for 2012 is Monday, December 12, 2011. Enrollment is done through the website WWW.FSAFEDS.COM. Flex Spending, unlike other benefits programs that carryover an enrollees preferences from year to year. Flex Spending requires each enrollee to make a positive choice to enroll each year. This means that if you were enrolled during the 2011 benefit year, you must enroll again for 2012 in order to receive benefits. Enrollment must occur via the website and cannot be done on a paper application. The Yellowstone HR staff can assist employees if they have questions. For specific questions, please contact Karin Schwartz at extension 2052.

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NPS Employee Holiday Party. Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mammoth

Community Center. For those traveling from the Interior, overnight accommodations are available in private homes. Contact Judy Jensen @ 344-2031 to take advantage of this offer. Great food and special entertainment by some of our very own Yellowstone employees – you won't want to miss the show!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: Yes Virginia, we have a family from our local community of Gardiner.

Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. The needs range from everyday to wish items. Please email Sue Capasso or call her at x2055 if you would like to purchase a gift for one or more. This is important so we avoid duplication and at the same time make sure all items are covered. It would help, though is not required, if you wrap your gift and label it with the item/family member intended for. Labeling the item ensures that the gifts are matched to the correct family member. CASH DONATIONS are also welcomed, and will be used to purchase unfilled items. Here is the list of needs/wish items:

Family: Dad, Mom, and 2 high school children. FAMILY ITEMS [Grocery store gift cards, Fuel gift cards, board games (talking UNO game), X-Box Connect family games, & any other everyday item you wish to give]

Girl (high school age)

- Shirts, long or short sleeves, medium to large in girls sizes
- Skirts or dresses, size 10/12 (could use black & white, a bit dressier for band)
- Puffy pleated skirts, size 10/12, any color
- Levi jeans, size 12 or 1, hip-hugger, bell-bottom style
- Ugg style boots, size 7 1/2 women's, light color
- Avid reader of fiction & nonfiction

Boy (high school age)

- Long sleeve, button-up shirts, western style, medium/large*, dress up or down
- Levi jeans, size 29x34
- Black cowboy boots, size 13
- Avid reader of Sci-Fi books (anything with dragons, knights, etc.)

Mom

- Light pink sweatshirts, pull-over or zip up hoody, large to extra-large
- Hot pink Snuggli
- Butter fleece socks (available at Bath & Body Works)
- Fleece-lined tights, large (available at Payless)
- Favorite color is hot pink

Dad

- Henley long sleeve shirts, extra-large (available at Walmart)
- Hoody's, extra-large (anything warm)
- Low quarter hiking boots, dark color, size 11 1/2 to 12
- Favorite colors are red, blue & black
- Avid reader of fiction & nonfiction books

*when in doubt on any of the sizes, lean toward the larger of the two listed

In the spirit of GIVING, thank you for your contributions, and for making this family's holidays and upcoming year better.

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

- Thursday, January 5th - Board Game Night
- Tuesday, February 7th - Spotlight Sledding
- Wednesday, March 7th - Kids Craft Night

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Colleen Curry will be acting Branch Chief for Cultural Resources Dec. 5-9. She can be reached at 2262.

IN THE NEWS**Final decision due in proposal to move Yellowstone Park bison to reservations**

Associated Press | Friday, December 9, 2011

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/final-decision-due-in-proposal-to-move-yellowstone-park-bison/article_1d45270a-2271-11e1-9c98-0019bb2963f4.html#ixzz1g3I4iVod

HELENA — Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission is set to make a final decision on whether to transfer 68 quarantined Yellowstone bison to two Indian reservations.

The commission takes up the proposal at its Friday meeting. Last month, FWP officials recommended moving the disease-free bison to the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations instead of two wildlife management areas that were also under consideration.

While landowners and hunters have opposed relocating bison, the Indian tribes have said they would welcome the animals

The transfer became uncertain when Gov. Brian Schweitzer said he would oppose any wild bison movements because federal officials rejected his proposal to move a group of the animals to the National Wildlife Refuge near Moiese. Schweitzer later said he would not block the transfer to the reservations.

NOTE: the airport in West Yellowstone (KWYS) which operates seasonally is called Yellowstone Airport.

The airport in Cody (KCOD) calls itself Yellowstone Regional Airport.

Gallatin Airport Authority approves airport name change

Friday, December 9, 2011

JASON BACAJ, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/economy/article_b605c604-2224-11e1-8be9-0019bb2963f4.html

The local airport has a new name: the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport at Gallatin Field.

More than 35 people were on hand late Thursday afternoon in the airport bar that served as the Gallatin Airport Authority meeting room when board members voted to change the name of the airport from Gallatin Field Airport.

“We do believe that Bozeman Yellowstone Park International Airport will make a difference to someone in Japan, Germany or even Georgia when they choose from a list of the seven airports that serve (Yellowstone),” airport director Brian Sprenger said as he revealed the staff recommendation.

Authority members deemed the word “park” superfluous in the airport title.

The name change is the latest in a series of developments at the airport this year. A \$40 million terminal expansion was completed in August; \$400,000 was donated to establish a customs service; and the airport received a \$950,000 federal grant in September to establish a direct flight between New York City and Bozeman.

Changing the airport's name should simplify things for out-of-state travelers, Sprenger told board members, because the three-letter airport code — "BZN" — will now be reflected in the name. Out-of-state travelers make up 65 percent of the airport's traffic.

The name "Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport" makes the airport competitive in attracting tourists, especially international tourists, visiting the park, Sprenger said. The word "international" often is the deciding factor for people coming from other countries, he said. And including "at Gallatin Field" maintains some of the local heritage.

All of the dozen or so people who addressed the board spoke in favor of the name change. Debra Youngberg, executive director of the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, was the only commenter who didn't fully endorse the new name, but she concluded her remarks by saying she understood the reasoning behind the change.

Board member Steve Williamson spoke out against the name, saying that it was too long — "sounds like a law firm" — and was misleading by claiming to be an international airport before the U.S. Customs and Border Protection is established at the airport.

Besides, he said, the number of people using the airport has steadily increased despite not having "international" or any reference to Yellowstone in its name.

Board member Ted Mathis also felt the word "international" was a bit deceptive, given that the airport doesn't yet have customs services and doesn't know how long it will have them once they are established.

Airports have to pay for customs services, Sprenger explained after the meeting. The airport, Yellowstone Club and another entity have committed to funding the customs office for its first year, he said. Projections show user fees — paid by airlines using the airport's customs office — will cover about 80 percent of the cost of running the customs office, Sprenger said. The final 20 percent will be covered by the three groups that are funding the first year of service.

He admitted the airport is "stretching it a little bit" by including "international" in the name but said many airports do the same thing.

When it came before the board for a vote, only Williamson dissented.

A firm date for the name to take effect was not set at the meeting. When asked, board chairman John McKenna said it would be "soon."

"It reflects who we are and our vision for the future," McKenna said.

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Panel to seek ways to better manage elk herds infected with brucellosis

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Thursday, December 8, 2011

Montana wildlife officials are setting up an advisory panel to guide their efforts to reduce the risk of diseased elk transmitting brucellosis to cattle.

The 12-member citizens advisory panel is scheduled to begin meeting in January. The group will draft recommendations on how infected elk herds in Montana's Yellowstone region can be better managed. Bison have long been the focus of concerns over brucellosis, which can cause pregnant animals to miscarry their young. Thousands of bison migrating from Yellowstone National Park have been slaughtered over the past decade to prevent transmissions of the disease to cattle.

Nevertheless, five cattle herds have been infected with the disease in the last several years. Livestock officials say elk are likely to blame.

FWP SEEKS ELK-BRUCELLOSIS WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking up to 12 individuals to serve on a working group charged with developing elk management options in areas where the transmission of brucellosis between elk and livestock is a concern.

The working group will lead an effort to examine effective elk management options and risk prevention efforts in several southwestern Montana hunting districts. The areas generally include hunting districts that border or are near Yellowstone National Park.

Brucellosis is a contagious bacterial infection in domestic animals, wildlife and humans worldwide. In Montana, brucellosis has been detected in elk, bison and, several years ago, in cattle in areas surrounding Yellowstone National Park. The disease results in miscarriages in some pregnant animals, including domestic cattle, and bison and elk.

FWP is seeking a representative mix of Montanans who are committed to work to reach consensus on elk management guidelines that seek to conserve elk on public and private lands while reducing the risk of brucellosis transmission between elk and livestock.

Applicants will be assessed on the perspective they represent and for their willingness and ability to respectfully engage in a structured decision-making process.

Working group members will be appointed by FWP Director Joe Maurier in consultation with the FWP Commission. Appointed members will be expected to participate in at least six, two-day facilitated meetings between Jan. 26 and June 27, 2012. Members will be asked to contribute to additional discussions throughout the term.

Applications must be submitted by Dec. 21. To apply online—or to download an application form— visit FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov. Click "[Elk-Brucellosis Working Group](#)". Address additional inquiries via e-mail to fwpwld@mt.gov.

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 714 AM MST FRI DEC 9 2011

Rest Of Today...Mostly cloudy early in the morning then clearing. Highs 21 to 27.

Tonight...Clear. Lows zero to 10 above zero.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Saturday Night...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 6 to 12. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

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Avalanche information can be accessed for those working in the field, or for those just interested! You can sign up for a daily subscription that will be emailed to you at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node> then look on the left side of the page and click "subscribe." The report comes in at 7:30 each morning during avalanche season. With the number of our employees working in avalanche terrain, this can help raise awareness and employee safety. When you get the report, there is a paragraph that talks specifically about our area (i.e. the mountains around Cooke City, the Washburn Range, Southern Gallatin's, etc.) The areas are sometimes lumped together differently based on avalanche conditions but the reports are concise and to the point.

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, December 12, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The roads from Old Faithful to West Thumb and from West Thumb to the South Entrance are closed to wheeled vehicles for the winter season.

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Wolves in Mammoth. The Canyon pack has recently taken up residence in and around Mammoth. When the elk move onto winter range, the wolves follow them in. This pack lives in the interior where many elk leave for the winter and they know to come here to find them. They will go back and forth all winter. In general, but not exclusively, they work the developed area at night looking for elk and pull out during the day when the human activity begins. Early joggers and people out walking dogs may run into the wolves near the buildings. Please be aware and prepared. If you have your dog on a leash, be alert, and carry bear spray. The risk is low of anything happening but it does not hurt to take precautions. This pack is used to people and a little tolerant as they have been hazed on several occasions. But they are also still good at keeping their distance. Everyone should abide by the 100 yard rule and it is up to YOU to maintain that distance, not the animal

The Canyon pack is 8 wolves: 5 black and 3 gray, 4 adults and 4 pups. Only one radio collar on the large black wolf who is the alpha male. On Tues they had a kill, Capital Hill area in Mammoth. If you have a good sighting story or photograph, send it to YNP@Work so we can share it with others.

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Flex Spending for 2012. The final day to enroll in either the health care or dependent care flex spending program for 2012 is Monday, December 12, 2011. Enrollment is done through the website WWW.FSAFEDS.COM. Flex Spending, unlike other benefits programs that carryover an enrollees preferences from year to year. Flex Spending requires each enrollee to make a positive choice to enroll each year. This means that if you were enrolled during the 2011 benefit year, you must enroll again for 2012 in order to receive benefits. Enrollment must occur via the website and cannot be done on a paper application. The Yellowstone HR staff can assist employees if they have questions. For specific questions, please contact Karin Schwartz at extension 2052.

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If you are an **IDEAS User** the annual training is now part of your DOI Learn requirement. There has been some confusion about email messages prompting IDEAS Users to take the training even though it has not been a full year since the last training. Unfortunately you must take the training again even though it has not been a full year since the last training. We understand that it is an inconvenience but it is a requirement per the auditors. You will

have until January 15th to complete the training. If you have any questions please feel free to call Tina Holland @2082.

CALENDAR

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Mammoth General Store: 2011 Holiday Shopping Extravaganza! December 12-16. All locals will receive 25% off their entire purchase of gifts and apparel. Simply show a valid Montana or Wyoming driver's license or proof of local employment. Items NOT included in the discount: fountain items, grocery items, optics, memory cards, liquor and tobacco. Visit the Mammoth General Store for more details.

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- Wednesday, March 7th - Kids Craft Night

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Brian Suderman is Acting Deputy Chief, Operations and Youth Programs for the Division of Interpretation through Wednesday, December 14.

IN THE NEWS**Pilots of Yellowstone**

CARLY FLANDRO, Chronicle Staff Writer | Posted: Sunday, December 11, 2011 12:15 am

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/yellowstone_national_park/article_af9af8e2-23bf-11e1-a84c-001871e3ce6c.html

On most mornings, Roger Stradley wakes up at about 6 a.m. and starts checking the weather. If there's no extreme wind, fog or snow, he will fly.

He'll go to his hangar at the Gallatin Field Airport, strap on his pilot helmet, don his sunglasses, and pull on his green jumpsuit, made to protect him from cold and fire.

He'll open the door to one of his canary yellow Piper Super Cub airplanes, lean back, hoist his legs into the cockpit one after the other, then ease the rest of his body into his seat.

"You don't get in a Cub, you put it on," he says.

This is Roger's office. It is 26 inches wide and 42 inches long, just wide enough for him to fit in, and to have one passenger ride in the seat directly behind his.

Pilots measure their experience in hours flown, and typical pilots might have accumulated 6,000 or 7,000 hours.

Roger, 73, has 65,000 hours "plus or minus." That's more than seven years inside an airplane.

"I live in them," he said recently.

Roger comes from a family of pilots, all local legends in the aviation community. Collectively, he, his late father Jim Stradley and brother Dave Stradley have instructed pilots, flown air ambulances, patrolled fires from the air, piloted charter planes for governors of Montana and dusted crops.

They have also made a living flying among the peaks and remote backcountry of southwest Montana.

Roger's father was one of the first aerial wildlife counters in the country, gathering data on bison, elk and other animals as early as the 1940s. The information Jim Stradley collected would later form the basis of some of Yellowstone National Park's earliest wildlife records.

Jim loved flight and seemed to have a passion for wild places and animals. His sons, too, became superb pilots and gurus of a backcountry world few ever see.

Roger is considered one of the best bush pilots in the country, and even today, after 60 years of flying, he can still be found in the air above Yellowstone National Park, pointing out wolves, grizzlies and cougars to wildlife biologists.

"It's just really a good job," Roger said. "I haven't gotten rich but I sure enjoy my work."

Learning from the best

The Stradley brothers benefited early on from having a remarkable flight teacher – their father.

Jim taught many to fly, including Richard Roehm, a pilot and Vietnam veteran who recently recounted some lessons he learned from Jim that stuck with him throughout his life.

Years ago, when Roehm was learning to fly and had accumulated 200 hours of flight time, he thought he was "ace of the airways." There was nothing he couldn't do.

Around that time, Jim had just purchased two new Super Cub airplanes. One day, Roehm checked out one of the planes to fly. It was blowing gale force winds that day.

Jim said to him, "Let's go flying."

So they did, and headed toward the Bridgers.

Jim told him where to go, and eventually got Roehm into a spot where the wind was blowing so hard, the plane was at full throttle and going backwards.

"I'd never been in that position, I couldn't power out of it," Roehm said.

He looked back at Jim, who was sitting behind him. His feet were up on the back of Roehm's chair, his hands were behind his head, and he was just laughing.

Roehm thought he was going to die, but he could tell Jim wasn't going to help him. So he turned his plane in the direction the wind was blowing, and it carried him up over the mountains.

"Wind is a lot like water in a stream. It flows over rocks and to the side of them. Wind flows that way over mountains," Roehm said.

The lesson he learned that day kept him alive, and would later help him as a fighter pilot during two tours in Vietnam.

"I count the fact that I'm alive today to what Jim taught me – to have humility and respect the environment and the airplane," Roehm said. "You can always get into something that exceeds your flying capability."

"He was a true aviator," Roehm now says of his former instructor. "I just really respect the memory of Jim Stradley."

Some of the lessons Roehm learned must, too, have rubbed off on Dave and Roger, who started flying with their dad at age seven.

Superior pilots

According to Doug Smith, a senior wildlife biologist and wolf project leader for Yellowstone National Park, the Stradleys stand apart.

As soon as you get in a plane with them, they're clearly different than other pilots –they're better.

"The biggest thing (Roger) does is feel the air," Smith said. "He works with it rather than against it."

Flying tends to be a "macho business," Smith said, and pilots often try to power through everything. But sometimes when he's in heavy wind with Roger, he'll just throttle back the plane and float in the air.

"It can be nerve-wracking, but he says we're not going to overpower it," Smith said. "It's quite an experience."

Roger knows southwest Montana like the back of his hand; its mountains and valleys are his backyard. He can look at a peak and tell Smith that pilots should always fly on its right side, because the left is always windy.

And he's constantly watching the weather.

"He's totally looking at weather because he wants to go," Smith said. "It is a passion for him, absolutely... Even at his age (he gets excited to fly) like a little kid."

Someone once told Smith, "You do not want to fly with a bush pilot who doesn't love to fly."

When flying with Roger, Smith doesn't have to worry about that.

Yellowstone from above

Smith and Roger have spent many hours together flying above Yellowstone National Park looking for wolves and other wildlife. Being in that plane is in many ways a special experience, Smith said.

One of the neatest parts about it is they can observe the wildlife acting as they naturally would. The plane circles slowly and quietly above them, and they pay no attention to the bright yellow machine, Smith said. If he were on the ground watching them, the animals would react to his presence rather than carrying on with what they were doing.

“Every trip we see some kind of wildlife in its undisturbed natural state,” Smith said. “There hasn’t been a flight where we haven’t seen something interesting, and a lot of times it’s remarkable.”

“You’re always in a different wonderland,” Roger said of his time above the park. “You can fly all day and never see another person.”

When asked how he would describe Yellowstone to someone who’d never seen it, Roger said “still wild.”

While at his hangar recently at Gallatin Field, Roger pulled out several photographs he’s taken from his plane. It was late morning, but he was still on the ground because a blanket of fog surrounded the airport.

Roger was wearing his pilot suit just in case it cleared up, but in the meantime laid out the photos on a table.

One showed two mountain lions lying on a rock. They, Roger said, are some of the most difficult animals to pick out. But once you start seeing them, they’re amazing.

He showed a photo of an albino moose his dad had photographed from a plane. In another, a collared sow grizzly bear was burying a bull elk. Roger said the sow returned two weeks later and ate the elk, maggots and all.

He also told stories of wildlife interactions he’s seen over the years. Wolves, for example, often make a kill only to have grizzly bears take over and eat the carcass. He’s seen bears and wolves fight over the meals.

Roger also told how a wolf will kill a coyote that comes near its food but will allow a fox to share the meal once its full. He’s watched wolves take down bison by attacking their rumps and waiting for them to bleed out. It can take days, he said, for a bison to die that way.

He’s also seen grizzly bears kill bison by breaking their backs, and has seen bison that are gored to death during the rut season.

Roger counts and observes essentially every other type of wildlife in the park as well, including birds, fish, beaver, wolverines, elk and pronghorn.

“One of our most powerful and effective tools to understanding Yellowstone’s ecology has been a yellow Super Cub piloted by Roger Stradley,” Dan Stahler, a wildlife biologist for the park, wrote in an email to the Chronicle. “Roger’s 40-year plus tenure of aerially observing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is a gold-mine of information to biologists.... As an observer, Roger has an uncanny ability to track, spot, count and interpret the behaviors of nearly all of Yellowstone’s wildlife, making him as much a biologist as a pilot.”

Stahler said flying with Roger has given him a perspective of Yellowstone he never could have had otherwise. In a given four-hour flight, Stahler might see a wolf pack hunting bison in deep snow, another pack kicked off an elk carcass by a grizzly, a large herd of elk migrating over a mountain pass to winter range or increased geothermal activity at a hot springs basin.

“These shared experiences with Roger over Yellowstone have also given me a more profound appreciation for the value of Yellowstone as part of our human heritage,” Stahler wrote. “Each time I fly with Roger, I am reminded of this.”

The apple doesn’t fall far

Among Roger’s photos were some of his family together – himself, his father, brother and mother, Margaret Stradley.

In several, Jim had a large pink mark on his forehead. Roger smiled as he told of how his father often walked into the wing of his plane.

“We never could teach him how to duck,” he said.

Later, when his brother Dave joined him at the hangar, he pointed out that Roger, too, has had his run-ins with plane wings.

“But I don’t carry the mark,” Roger was quick to respond.

Jim and his boys seem to be alike in many ways, including in the reputations they gain among their passengers.

Ken Hamlin, a retired research biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said Jim was “quite a character, a gruff old man, one of the classic pilots of Montana.”

He has flown with all the Stradleys.

“They were the types that if anybody could get you out of trouble, they could,” Hamlin said. “But their forte was not getting you into trouble.”

Jim used to be a logger, Roger said, but became a pilot after two serious foot injuries. At one time, he owned and operated an airport in Sandpoint, Idaho. During World War II, he was drafted and sent to Bozeman to instruct fighter pilots. Later, he started the Gallatin Flying Service.

Flight was always a part of Jim’s sons’ lives, and the love for being airborne became a family tradition.

“It gets in your blood in a way,” Roger said.

Dave, 74, stopped flying at age 65 because pilots must pass certain health tests to maintain their licenses.

Still, he flew for 46 years, and in that time saw incredible things. He often flew with wildlife biologist Mary Meagher, and on one occasion they spotted an unusual pit in a talus slope.

Native Americans, it turns out, had used the pit to hunt for bighorn sheep. It was dubbed “The Stradley Site.”

Dave was known for his work counting and observing bison and recalled days spent flying where he’d be in three states – Wyoming, Idaho and Montana – in a single outing.

The Stradleys’ careers have certainly seemed spectacular.

“They were totally passionate about flying,” Hamlin said. “Even though in the scheme of things they were not paid a lot, a lot of mornings they see things that nobody else gets to see. You should almost have to pay to do it, some of the things you see.”

Another morning, another flight

Thursday, Roger sat in his hangar, waiting for the thick fog to clear from Gallatin Field so he could pick up a biologist and fly over the park. He ended up grounded that day, but soon enough he’ll be up in the air again.

With every morning comes another opportunity for him to soar above this beautiful place, and he’ll take it every chance he gets, as long as they let him.

It’s the Stradley tradition.

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Gallatin Airport Authority approves airport name change

Friday, December 9, 2011

JASON BACAJ, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer

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Full article available at

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/economy/article_b605c604-2224-11e1-8be9-0019bb2963f4.html

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 231 AM MST MON DEC 12 2011

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Avalanche information can be accessed for those working in the field, or for those just interested! You can sign up for a daily subscription that will be emailed to you at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node> then look on the left side of the page and click "subscribe." The report comes in at 7:30 each morning during avalanche season. With the number of our employees working in avalanche terrain, this can help raise awareness and employee safety. When you get the report, there is a paragraph that talks specifically about our area (i.e. the mountains around Cooke City, the Washburn Range, Southern Gallatin's, etc.) The areas are sometimes lumped together differently based on avalanche conditions but the reports are concise and to the point.

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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

Tuesday, December 13, 2011



Superintendent Dan Wenk kicks off the Christmas cheer at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting December 11 with future park employees of Little People's Learning Center. Festivities included the lighting of the Christmas tree and a visit by bear biologist, Santa!! Many thanks to Xanterra, Delaware North and YPSS for providing the desserts, drinks and ensuring this community event continues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Admin Travel NOTE: Sylvan Pass is currently being groomed for oversnow travel. The East Entrance road is currently closed to admin travel. The road from Old Faithful to West Thumb and the South Entrance has transitioned to oversnow Admin travel.

All the rest of the interior park roads remain open to wheeled vehicle admin travel. Good snow tires are required, with 4-wheel drive vehicles strongly recommended. If you don't need a government or personal vehicle in the interior, please move it out now.

While no significant snowfall is forecast over the next few days, this situation can change quickly. All employees need to monitor weather forecasts, and be prepared to transition to oversnow admin travel on short notice.

Please limit your wheeled vehicle admin travel once we open to visitors Thursday morning.

If you're leaving on days off and leaving a vehicle behind in the interior which you don't want snowbound, make arrangements to have the vehicle moved if we transition to oversnow admin travel while you are gone.

Courier Schedule: Due to the current road conditions we will be asking some of our interior employees for help in the shuttling of mail into parts of the park that have transitioned to over-snow travel. TODAY, the courier run will be hitting the west side and then over to Canyon in hope to rendezvous with someone from Lake. Stay tuned to receive updates on the current courier schedule.

The December 14th **Initial Snowmobile Training** has been cancelled. The current road and snow conditions do not support carrying out the training. There is another initial training date being offered on January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Garage, and more dates will become available soon. Contact Laura White in the Safety Office at x2029 for more information.

Wolves in Mammoth. The Canyon pack has recently moved up into Swan Lake Flat after achieving an elk kill near the Glen Creek area, so they will likely be out of the general Mammoth area for a while. When the elk move onto winter range, the wolves follow them in. This pack lives in the interior where many elk leave for the winter and they know to come here to find them. They will go back and forth all winter. In general, but not exclusively, they work the developed area at night looking for elk and pull out during the day when the human activity begins. Early joggers and people out walking dogs may run into the wolves near the buildings. Please be aware and prepared. If you have your dog on a leash, be alert, and carry bear spray. The risk is low of anything happening but it does not hurt to take precautions. This pack is used to people and a little tolerant as they have been hazed on several occasions. But they are also still good at keeping their distance. Everyone should abide by the 100 yard rule and it is up to YOU to maintain that distance, not the animal

The Canyon pack is 8 wolves: 5 black and 3 gray, 4 adults and 4 pups. Only one radio collar on the large black wolf who is the alpha male. If you have a good sighting story or photograph, send it to YNP@Work so we can share it with others.

The Yellowstone Wolf Project's 30-day Early Winter Study began November 15 and ends December 14. For the next few days, you can read local media stories regarding this year's efforts in the IN THE NEWS section below.

W-2 Print Options: To help curb identity theft or the loss of your tax statement in the mail, employees this year have the capability to stop the receipt of the mailed Form W-2 and self print their own document. Visit Employee Express at www.employeeexpress.gov or contact HR for more information on how you can set this up.

Employees may make this change up through December 27, 2011, for the 2011 W-2. Employees who do not make this election will continue to receive a printed and mailed hard copy W-2.

Flex Spending for 2012. The final day to enroll in either the health care or dependent care flex spending program for 2012 is Monday, December 12, 2011. Enrollment is done through the website WWW.FSAFEDS.COM. Flex Spending, unlike other benefits programs that carryover an enrollees preferences

from year to year. Flex Spending requires each enrollee to make a positive choice to enroll each year. This means that if you were enrolled during the 2011 benefit year, you must enroll again for 2012 in order to receive benefits. Enrollment must occur via the website and cannot be done on a paper application. The Yellowstone HR staff can assist employees if they have questions. For specific questions, please contact Karin Schwartz at extension 2052.

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SPECIAL NOTE: As some of you may be aware, Ryan and Kristen Tripp (Ryan is our Engine Foreman), became the parents of twin boys (Hunter and Connor) in Salt Lake City in late November. Tragically, due to complications, Hunter only lived a few days. Connor is getting stronger and now weighs about 3.5 lbs. He is expected to be in the hospital intensive care unit in Salt Lake City for several more weeks. The family hopes to return to Bozeman sometime in January. If you would like to send cards/notes of encouragement during the holidays, they may be sent to

Ryan and Kristen Tripp
428 South Elizabeth
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

CALENDAR

NPS Employee Holiday Party. Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mammoth Community Center. Donations will be accepted for the Rob Stermitz Family (funds to help offset travel expenses for current and upcoming medical treatments). Also accepting canned & non-perishable food for the Gardiner Food Pantry. Yellowstone Federal Employee's Association (YFEA) is offering CASH DOOR PRIZES to those present. Be sure to get a free ticket at the door!

Bus Transportation...In an effort to alleviate parking problems at the Mammoth Community Center (MCC), bus transportation will be available from the Garage at 2:45 p.m., then picking-up at the Admin. Bldg. east side at 2:50 p.m. Folks will be returned from the MCC at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for clean-up after the party. The bus will stop at the MCC one last time to pick-up the remaining commuters before heading toward Livingston.

Mammoth General Store: 2011 Holiday Shopping Extravaganza! December 12-16. All locals will receive 25% off their entire purchase of gifts and apparel. Simply show a valid Montana or Wyoming driver's license or proof of local employment. Items NOT included in the discount: fountain items, grocery items, optics, memory cards, liquor and tobacco. Visit the Mammoth General Store for more details.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: Yes Virginia, we have a family from our local community of Gardiner. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. The needs range from everyday to wish items. (See complete list in previous editions of the newsletter.) This is important so we avoid duplication and at the same time make sure all items are covered. It would help, though is not required, if you wrap your gift and label it with the item/family member intended for. Labeling the item ensures that the gifts are matched to the correct family member. CASH DONATIONS are also welcomed, and will be used to purchase unfilled items.

Please email Sue Capasso or call her at x2055 if you would like to purchase a gift for one or more.

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

- Thursday, January 5th - Board Game Night
- Tuesday, February 7th - Spotlight Sledding
- Wednesday, March 7th - Kids Craft Night

- - - - -

WFR class. January 23rd (Monday - Friday) and then January 30th - February 1st (Mon - Wed) at Mammoth. Total Hours: 72. Cost is \$575. Contact Amy Mazzarisi x2138.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Brian Suderman is Acting Deputy Chief, Operations and Youth Programs for the Division of Interpretation through Wednesday, December 14.

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IN THE NEWS

Intensive studies provide insight into iconic species

CARLY FLANDRO, Bozeman Chronicle, Tuesday, December 13, 2011

The long, howling cries of wolves broke the silence of a cold morning inside snowy Yellowstone National Park on Monday.

A group of people gathered on the side of a park road heard the calls. One of them was Doug Smith, a senior wildlife biologist at the park and leader of its wolf project.

"The best way to experience wolves is to hear them," he said.

Smith was checking in with a crew that's spent the last month observing the Blacktail wolf pack, which is one of about a dozen in the park. Each year in early winter and in March, crews spend 30 consecutive days tracking, observing and counting wolves.

"It's a real data engine for us," Smith said. "It's one of the most important things we do to understand wolves." The early winter study ends Wednesday, and with its conclusion will come new information on wolves, including how many there are, what they've hunted, where they've lived and how they've interacted with other wildlife.

The on-the-ground crews search for wolves with scopes, inspect any recent kills and even cross-country ski to observe wolves in their territory. A bush pilot and biologist fly above wolves each day, letting crews know wolves' locations via radio.

Colby Anton, a biologist technician on one crew, spent Monday morning with three others hauling a cow elk carcass off a park road. A wolf pack had killed the animal in the middle of a road, which created a dangerous situation for the animals and for people.

So the crew cut the elk into several large pieces and hauled it by rope down the road and to the top of a nearby hill – a difficult task considering the animal's live weight was probably about 500 pounds. Wolves had already consumed the elk's organs but would likely return to feed on its bones and marrow.

Looking at the elk's teeth and jawbone, biologists estimated it was between 22 and 25 years old.

Wolves were restored to the park in 1995, and since then, controversy has surrounded their perceived effect on elk. Since elk have co-existed with wolves, their population has decreased, Smith said. And yes, wolves have played a role in that — but they are only one factor.

"Everybody thinks that everything that happened after wolves (were reintroduced) happened because of them," Smith said.

In reality, a combination of wolves, human management and climate changes, such as a 10-year drought and last year's harsh winter, have led to today's reduced number of elk. Also, Yellowstone is now home to more predators than there have been in 100 years — including species like cougars and bears.

Fewer elk doesn't have to be a bad thing, Smith said. The environment is now more balanced. Woody vegetation is growing better, which has resulted in more beavers and songbirds.

Monday, another crew had a scope out to spot members of the Agate Creek wolf pack. The pack tends to stay away from the road, so crew members often ski out to observe them.

"Tracking them the old-fashioned way," said biologist technician Josh Irving.

Irving described how he'd watched the pack dwindle in size after five of its members died, including its alpha female. The wolf died after being attacked by another pack.

Biologists said violent interactions between packs occur as they spar over territory or kills. Inside the park, Smith said most wolves' deaths are caused by other wolves. Outside the park, humans cause the most deaths.

After the pack's alpha female died, another moved in to take its place: wolf 471F, as the biologists know her. That wolf, Irving said, was born in the Agate Creek pack, but moved to found another pack before returning recently.

“All the packs are definitely unique and have their own personality,” Irving said.

Laurie Lyman, a retired schoolteacher from San Diego, was standing roadside Monday and had her scope on a female wolf traveling across a hillside. Lyman doesn’t work for the park, but loves to observe the packs.

“The wolves brought me to Yellowstone,” she said.

(VIDEO) Yellowstone study shows more wolves in park Adam Bell, KBZK TV Bozeman, December 13, 2011

<http://www.kbzk.com/videos/volunteers-talk-about-yellowstone-wolf-study/>

(More videos are on KBZK’s news page associated with this story)

Killing of wolf draws response from watchers

By Wes Venteicher, Enterprise Staff Writer

On wolf-related websites and online forums, an outcry is growing over the recent illegal killing of a wolf near Gardiner.

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/news/index.php?PHPSESSID=120c357399d09971226aa04260861e79#4489>

Pilots of Yellowstone

CARLY FLANDRO, Chronicle Staff Writer | Posted: Sunday, December 11, 2011 12:15 am

On most mornings, Roger Stradley wakes up at about 6 a.m. and starts checking the weather. If there’s no extreme wind, fog or snow, he will fly.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/yellowstone_national_park/article_af9af8e2-23bf-11e1-a84c-001871e3ce6c.html

Gallatin Airport Authority approves airport name change

Friday, December 9, 2011

JASON BACAJ, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer

The local airport has a new name: the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport at Gallatin Field.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/economy/article_b605c604-2224-11e1-8be9-0019bb2963f4.html

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 511 AM MST TUE DEC 13 2011

Today...Partly cloudy. Patchy ice fog in the morning. Highs 21 to 27. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight...Partly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows 4 to 10. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday Night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 8 to 14. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

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Avalanche information can be accessed for those working in the field, or for those just interested! You can sign up for a daily subscription that will be emailed to you at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node> then look on the left side of the page and click "subscribe." The report comes in at 7:30 each morning during avalanche season. With the number of our employees working in avalanche terrain, this can help raise awareness and employee safety. When you get the report, there is a paragraph that talks specifically about our area (i.e. the mountains around Cooke City, the Washburn Range, Southern Gallatin's, etc.) The areas are sometimes lumped together differently based on avalanche conditions but the reports are concise and to the point.

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Need a good place to find out when the **sunrise and sunset** will be for Yellowstone each day? Try this link: <http://www.sunrisesunset.com/calendar.asp>

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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

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Come One, Come All !!! NPS Employee Holiday Party TODAY, Mammoth Community Center 3-5pm

You'll be sorry if you miss this! Special entertainment, door prizes courtesy of Yellowstone Federal Employees Association, great food and fun for all!

Free Bus Transportation to the Party...In an effort to alleviate parking problems at the Mammoth Community Center (MCC), bus transportation will be available from the Garage at 2:45 p.m., then picking-up at the Admin. Bldg., east side at 2:50 p.m. Folks will be returned from the MCC at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for clean-up after the party. The bus will stop at the MCC one last time to pick-up the remaining commuters before heading toward Livingston.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The East Entrance Road, the South Entrance Road, and the road from West Thumb over Craig Pass to Old Faithful have all transitioned to oversnow Admin travel.

All the rest of the interior park roads remain open to wheeled vehicle admin travel. Good snow tires are required, with 4-wheel drive vehicles strongly recommended. If you don't need a government or personal vehicle in the interior, please move it out now.

While no significant snowfall is forecast over the next few days, this situation can change quickly. All employees need to monitor weather forecasts, and be prepared to transition to oversnow admin travel on short notice.

Please limit your wheeled vehicle admin travel once we open to visitors Thursday morning. If you're leaving on days off and leaving a vehicle behind in the interior which you don't want snowbound, make arrangements to have the vehicle moved if we transition to oversnow admin travel while you are gone.

Park safe this winter: Please use caution when parking near structures and overhangs during the winter months. There have been a few instances where ice and snow have broken loose from buildings and roofs and collided with parked vehicles, resulting in significant damage. Take the time to ensure you are parked in not only an authorized spot, but also one free from obstacles and hazards to reduce potential accidents and injuries and damage to personal or government property.

The classroom portion of today's Initial Snowmobile Training is being held. The field portion of the training will be rescheduled for a later date. There is another initial training date being offered on January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Garage, and more dates will become available soon. Contact Laura White in the Safety Office at x2029 for more information.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

December 12, 2011 @ 7PM

Yellowstone Opens For Winter Season Thursday

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11119.htm>

Yellowstone National Park will open to the public for the winter season as scheduled on December 15.

Beginning Thursday morning, visitors will be able to travel on commercially guided snowmobiles or rubber-tracked snowcoaches between the park's South Entrance and Old Faithful. Businesses which normally offer commercially guided snowmobile and snowcoach tours will be temporarily allowed to use either rubber-tracked snowcoaches or wheeled vehicles to transport visitors from West Yellowstone and Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful. Rubber-tracked snowcoaches will be permitted to travel between Norris and Canyon.

The rest of the interior park roads have too much ice and snow to allow visitor travel by commercial wheeled vehicles, but not enough snow yet to permit commercially guided snowmobile or snowcoach travel.

Park staff members will continue to closely monitor conditions and weather forecasts. Additional sections of the park will be opened to commercially guided snowmobile and snowcoach travel as soon enough new snow falls to permit the roads to be packed and groomed for safe oversnow travel.

Travel through the park's East Entrance over Sylvan Pass is scheduled to begin December 22.

The road from the park's North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana through Mammoth Hot Springs and on to Cooke City, Montana outside the park's Northeast Entrance is open to automobile travel all year.

At Old Faithful, the Geyser Grill, the Bear Den Gift Shop, and the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center open for the season on December 15. The Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins and the Obsidian Dining Room open on Sunday, December 18.

The Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, dining room, and gift shop will open for the season on Tuesday, December 20. The Yellowstone General Store, the medical clinic, campground, post office, 24-hour gasoline pumps, and the Albright Visitor Center at Mammoth Hot Springs are open all year.

All communities around and on the way to Yellowstone are open year-round, with local businesses offering a wide range of winter recreation opportunities. Extensive information and assistance for planning a visit to Yellowstone are on the park's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/yell>.

The final legal requirement to winter opening of the park was met Monday, with the publication of the "One Year Rule" in the Federal Register. This allows managed oversnow travel this season in the same manner as has been permitted under a temporary plan the last two winters.

Under the rule, up to 318 commercially guided, Best Available Technology (BAT) snowmobiles, and up to 78 commercially guided snowcoaches a day will be allowed into Yellowstone again this winter.

In the next few weeks, the National Park Service will begin working on a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to complete a long-term plan to guide winter use in Yellowstone. 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.

IN THE NEWS**Yellowstone National Park opens Thursday for winter season**

BRETT FRENCH Of The Gazette Staff | Posted: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 11:55 pm

Yellowstone National Park will open for the winter season on Thursday, but a lack of adequate snow cover on portions of the park's interior roads means snowmobiles will be limited to the South Entrance only.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/yellowstone-national-park-opens-thursday-for-winter-season/article_ab167f04-b9db-595f-b9cc-e6f0116c8000.html#ixzz1gWX1EvGm

Governor Schweitzer halts federal wildlife shipments

Associated Press | Posted: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 6:00 pm

Montana's governor on Tuesday issued an order blocking the Interior Department from transporting fish and wildlife anywhere within the state or across state lines — raising the stakes in his ongoing tussle with federal officials over their management of wildlife.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/governor-schweitzer-halts-federal-wildlife-shipments/article_8f0e17c6-25ef-11e1-88de-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1gWXSMeTv

Yellowstone Wolf Project studies dance of predator, prey

By MARTIN KIDSTON Gazette Wyoming Bureau | Posted: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 12:00 am

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK -- A waning moon hangs low in the morning sky as park biologists Doug Smith and Daniel Stahler pack their gear for another day in the field.

It's day 28 of the Yellowstone Wolf Project's annual December push, a 30-day blitz to collect as much information as possible about the park's wolf population and how they interact with their prey, from elk to bison to the occasional hapless raven.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-wolf-project-studies-dance-of-predator-prey/article_15f357c5-3d22-5cb1-b97c-6904bc874e14.html#ixzz1gWWVm94w

Intensive studies provide insight into iconic species

CARLY FLANDRO

Bozeman Chronicle, Tuesday, December 13, 2011

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A group of people gathered on the side of a park road heard the calls. One of them was Doug Smith, a senior wildlife biologist at the park and leader of its wolf project.

Read more: http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/yellowstone_national_park/article_4bbbf114-2554-11e1-b1ba-001871e3ce6c.html)

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 536 AM MST WED DEC 14 2011

Today...Cloudy. Snow likely in the morning...then scattered snow showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 7 to 13. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning.

Thursday...Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

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INQUIRING MINDS!

Have a question about park decisions, operations, or policy but don't know who or even how to ask? Well, send them to us in the Public Affairs Office!

We'll forward them to the appropriate subject matter experts, and begin sharing these questions and answers in the daily newsletter after the start of the new calendar year.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 15, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senate leaders hope deal near on payroll tax cut

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press – 8:30 am MST

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shifting from confrontation to cooperation, Senate leaders of both parties expressed optimism Thursday that agreement was near on extending this year's payroll tax cut, renewing unemployment benefits and averting a federal shutdown.

Read More At: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5icGk2bFQDIQT2HZnNNV-UdWEtMnA?docId=614cc69497594a309848ea71d4f32150>

A HUGE thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the employee Christmas party a big success! From the set-up to the clean-up, and everything in between, it was a great community effort that made for a lot of fun, good eating, and camaraderie!

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

December 14, 2011

Current And Former Yellowstone Area Residents And Employees Asked To Share Holiday Memories

The Oral History Collection at Yellowstone National Park contains recordings made by people from all walks of life who have visited the park, or worked or grown up in the area.

However, there is very little material in the collection about the holiday season.

Once again this year, the project is reaching out to current and former area residents and employees, inviting them to share their special memories by participating in the third annual "Holidays in Yellowstone" oral history project.

Read More at: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11120.htm>

IN THE NEWS

Dec 14, 7:07 PM EST

AP Exclusive: Colo., SD eyed for Yellowstone bison

By MATTHEW BROWN - Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- For the first time in decades, the federal government is considering moving bison captured leaving Yellowstone National Park to public lands in Colorado, South Dakota and elsewhere as part of efforts to curb periodic slaughters of the animals.

However, Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer said Wednesday the animals belong to his state and he will block any attempt to move them.

In a Tuesday letter obtained by The Associated Press, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar told Schweitzer his agency is looking at relocation sites including Badlands National Park on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado.

Salazar also mentioned Wyoming's Wind River Reservation, where a prior attempt to place Yellowstone bison collapsed two years ago.

The proposal came as state and federal officials have been trying to come up with alternatives to the periodic slaughter of bison leaving the park in search of food. Cattle ranchers say those migrations raise the chance of livestock being infected by diseased bison.

Many of Yellowstone's 3,700 bison have been exposed to the disease brucellosis, yet the animals remain prized for their pure genetics. The bison to be transferred have been tested and are considered disease-free.

"I want to work with you to manage bison numbers and reduce disease prevalence in the Yellowstone herd," Salazar wrote to Schweitzer. "While the Department of Interior alone cannot resolve this issue, I am willing to look at options of moving Yellowstone bison onto other DOI properties."

After receiving the letter, Schweitzer issued an order blocking any fish and wildlife shipments by the Interior Department in Montana. The governor wants the bison to go to the National Bison Range near Moiese in western Montana.

He said he was concerned in part that the Interior Department's past actions have allowed animal diseases such as brucellosis and chronic wasting disease to spread across the region.

"These aren't Interior's bison to decide where they go. They belong to the state of Montana," Schweitzer said Wednesday.

Wildlife officials said Wednesday the prohibition ordered by Schweitzer could effect federal trout hatcheries that produce more than a million fish annually.

No other wildlife shipments are currently planned, although Yellowstone administrators have proposed shipping brucellosis-positive bison to slaughter this year if hunting outside the park does not keep the population from outgrowing the park.

The prohibition comes after Interior officials earlier this month rebuffed Schweitzer's proposal for the bison range. They said having Yellowstone animals on the Montana range would stigmatize the bison already there and make it harder to eventually transfer the Yellowstone animals to other states that are worried about the spread of the disease.

Salazar said in his letter that the transfer of bison to Moiese had not been ruled out, but an evaluation of such a move would not be completed during the upcoming winter season.

A relocation of animals to the Great Sand Dunes could be done in partnership with a conservation group, The Nature Conservancy, that owns the Zapata Ranch adjacent to the park, Salazar said. Bison relocated to the Badlands would be managed in cooperation with the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Yellowstone biologists have predicted that more than 1,000 bison could exit the park this winter seeking food at lower elevations.

Millions of bison once roamed North America. Most of those herds were wiped out by the late 1800s, and by 1902 only about two dozen of the animals remained in Yellowstone.

After the park's herd gained new protections and gradually rebounded, Yellowstone administrators sought to keep bison numbers in check by slaughtering the animals or shipping them elsewhere, said Keith Aune a bison biologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Those shipments continued into the 1960s, ending after the park adopted a policy of regulation in which bison numbers would be controlled by natural deaths.

But the park's herds soon began spilling over its border, and thousands of those migrating animals have been captured and shipped to slaughter over the past decade to guard against livestock being infected by brucellosis. The disease can cause pregnant animals to miscarry. Ranches that suffer infections are subject to lengthy quarantines.

Schweitzer has said he will allow the state to transfer 66 disease-free Yellowstone bison to eastern Montana's Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Indian reservations.

Another 143 Yellowstone bison are being held at a ranch near Bozeman. Those are the animals that Salazar is suggesting could be sent to federal lands elsewhere. Before being put on the Turner ranch for temporary holding, the bison spent several years in a government-run quarantine near the park to ensure they were brucellosis-free.

The quarantine compound is expected to be used beginning next year to study the effectiveness of chemical contraceptives on bison. Salazar said in his letter that he has asked the National Park Service to evaluate whether a new quarantine facility should be built.

Aune said the relocation of disease-free bison captured from Yellowstone has potential to help the species recover in other parts of the country.

Garrit Voggeser, director of tribal partnerships for the National Wildlife Federation, said that could take several years to arrange, and that his organization would not endorse specific proposals.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 424 AM MST THU DEC 15 2011

Today...Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tonight...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 to 9. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs 21 to 27.

Avalanche information can be accessed for those working in the field, or for those just interested! You can sign up for a daily subscription that will be emailed to you at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node> then look on the left side of the page and click "subscribe." The report comes in at 7:30 each morning during avalanche season. With the number of our employees working in avalanche terrain, this can help raise awareness and employee safety. When you get the report, there is a paragraph that talks specifically about our area (i.e. the mountains around Cooke City, the Washburn Range, Southern Gallatin's, etc.) The areas are sometimes lumped together differently based on avalanche conditions but the reports are concise and to the point.

Need a good place to find out when the **sunrise and sunset** will be for Yellowstone each day? Try this link: <http://www.sunrisesunset.com/calendar.asp>

INQUIRING MINDS!

Have a question about park decisions, operations, or policy but don't know who or even how to ask? Well, send them to us in the Public Affairs Office!

We'll forward them to the appropriate subject matter experts, and begin sharing these questions and answers in the daily newsletter after the start of the new calendar year.

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

Friday, December 16, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congressional leaders reach spending deal to avoid government shutdown

By Paul Kane and Rosalind S. Helderman, Published: December 15

Congressional negotiators signed off Thursday evening on a \$1 trillion spending agreement for 2012 for federal agencies, barely 27 hours before a deadline that could have led to a government shutdown.

After dropping minor policy prescriptions that President Obama opposed, members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees gave final approval to the plan after a four-day standoff related to Obama's demands to extend the payroll tax holiday for 160 million workers.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/congressional-leaders-negotiating-key-bills-to-avoid-government-shutdown/2011/12/15/gIQA6nPwwO_story.html?wprss=

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“Do good, avoid evil; remember who you are and what you stand for; and watch out for the company you keep.”

– a Jerry Mernin quote

On December 13, 2011, the National Park Service (NPS) family and community lost a good friend when retired Ranger Gerald “Jerry” Mernin passed away from a massive brain hemorrhage. Although he suffered with Parkinson's disease for the past several years, Jerry's mind, wit, and memory remained unaffected to the end. A mentor and leader to the very end, Jerry showed us how to handle the debilitating disease with dignity and grace. “We hired on to be rugged,” he would remind new rangers to Yellowstone; he remained rugged to the very end.

A “Ranger's Ranger” as one friend noted, Jerry developed his love for and passion to protect all that is wild at a very early age. Born to Emma and Gerald Mernin in Sacramento, California, Jerry spent his formative years in Yosemite National Park where his father was District Ranger. Raised on Park Service lore, Jerry had a deep understanding and a unique perspective of NPS operations that would serve him well during his long, distinguished NPS career.

Upon graduation from Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento, California, Jerry was accepted and attended the University of Notre Dame, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Economics. After graduation, he joined the Army and served state-side during the Korean War. He then attended Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, California. The deep love, high admiration and respect he had for his father was a determining factor in Jerry's decision to pursue his brilliant career with the NPS, rather than to continue working towards a law degree.

In 1952, Jerry began his NPS career as a seasonal Fire Lookout at Pelican Cone in Yellowstone National Park. Other summer employment included stints at Glacier and Yosemite National Parks. His first permanent position with the NPS was Bryce Canyon National Park. After a brief time at Grand Canyon National Park, he returned to Yellowstone in 1964. Turning down promotion after promotion, he would remain in his beloved Yellowstone for the next 32 years until his retirement in 1996. His commitment to Yellowstone didn't end with retirement, however; he continued to volunteer and spend summers patrolling and protecting Yellowstone's backcountry until his health could no longer permit it. Throughout the remainder of his life, he would continue to be a strong advocate for Yellowstone's wilderness and preservation, sharing his thoughts and expertise with park management and others.

In recent years, and with strong encouragement from friends and family, Jerry began writing his memoirs. A born story-teller, his decades of experience in Yellowstone gave him a lot of material to work with in tales of adventures, many involving his much-beloved horses and mules, and various other Yellowstone residents and visitors—both the four-footed and two-legged variety. A founding member of the Bozeman Gypsy Rhythm Writer's Club, his shared stories were always a highlight of the evening.

On a snowy morning in May 1971, Jerry met the woman he would love and spend the next 40 years of his life with. Patrolling in the Lake area, he noticed two vehicles carrying three "very attractive women" pull into the Lake Ranger Station. His future wife, Cindy, and the two friends were looking for the Lake Hospital where they would be working as nurses for the summer. He remembers thinking, "Wow, there's really trouble for someone." Little did he know! By late fall, Jerry had proposed and Cindy had accepted; they would have celebrated their 40th anniversary on December 18, 2011.

There are probably very few people who worked in Yellowstone during his tenure who did not at some point experience the warm hospitality of a cup of coffee and shared conversation at his table, along with a meal or some fresh baked goods (usually courtesy of Cindy, but which Jerry was always quick to claim credit for!). "A gentleman and a scholar," Jerry exemplified both throughout his life. He was a connoisseur of wide-ranging interests, including any field skills relating to rangers and law enforcement, and (most recently), the source of the best "biscuits and gravy" in the Bozeman area. He had well-thought-out opinions about subjects ranging from the proper condition in which to leave a back country cabin to the only way to drink Rainier ale. He could always be counted on for some thoughtful and eloquent words in any situation. Even employees who never met him are likely to remember the sound of his deep and calm voice on the radio, no matter what sort of situation prompted his attention. He leaves a legacy in several generations of younger Park Rangers inspired by his example.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Cindy; sister, Lynn Salley of Ashville, North Carolina; niece, Josephine Chandler of Ashville, North Carolina; nephews, Jerry Salley and Alfred Salley of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and by the many extended NPS family and friends. Preceding Jerry in death are his parents, Emma and Gerald Mernin.

A celebration of Jerry's life will be held at a future date.

Donations in Jerry's memory can be made to the Yellowstone Park Foundation at their website, www.yps.org/ or by mail at 222 East Main Street, Suite 301, Bozeman, Montana 59715. Donations will be used to fund projects or programs that protect, preserve, and enhance Yellowstone National Park.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.dahlcares.com.

The Lake Area Comprehensive Plan/EA, which includes portions of Fishing Bridge, Lake, and Bridge Bay, is available for internal review from Wednesday, December 14th through COB Friday, January 13th, 2012. The Lake Area Comprehensive Plan/EA balances resource protection and enhances visitor experience through a

process that establishes the limits of acceptable change for the future. Resource surveys, planning zones, planning prescriptions, and design standards provide guidance and mitigation for actions. The Draft Plan presents three alternatives, one of which is preferred. Once comments are received and integrated into the final document, it will be available to the public around the end of January through February.

The internal draft document is available electronically in a folder on the P:Drive: Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Draft. It is also available in hard copy through the Comprehensive Planning Office. Comments should be placed in the comment matrix provided on the P:Drive under Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Draft so that we can incorporate your comments and track our responses. Your comments are due by **COB Friday, January 13th, 2012.**

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These maps are now in the final draft process and we have copies for your review.

National Geographic plans to have these in stores for the summer season, so now is your chance to review them, check for errors, and comment!

Map location: P:\2012_Trails_Illustrated_Maps_REVIEW

These are very large .tif files, if you have an older computer they may be slow to load and navigate. Hard copies will be available in the Central Backcountry office (Canteen) and GIS Lab (YCR) in Mammoth. If you need a hard copy sent to your location, please let GIS staff know and we will do our best to get one sent to you.

Send comments to: yell_gis@nps.gov

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS COB WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11TH.

So take a look and give some feedback!

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The East Entrance Road, the South Entrance Road, and the road from West Thumb over Craig Pass to Old Faithful have all transitioned to oversnow Admin travel.

All the rest of the interior park roads remain open to wheeled vehicle admin travel. Good snow tires are required, with 4-wheel drive vehicles strongly recommended. If you don't need a government or personal vehicle in the interior, please move it out now.

While no significant snowfall is forecast over the next few days, this situation can change quickly. All employees need to monitor weather forecasts, and be prepared to transition to oversnow admin travel on short notice.

Please limit your wheeled vehicle admin travel now that we are open to visitors.

If you're leaving on days off and leaving a vehicle behind in the interior which you don't want snowbound, make arrangements to have the vehicle moved if we transition to oversnow admin travel while you are gone.



Congratulations Rob Heinis (Electric Shop) - 30 years of service!!



Congratulations Matt Nagel (Visitor Services) - 10 years of service!!

Tim and Ginger Townsend are leaving Yellowstone NP and heading to eastern Wyoming. Tim has accepted the Chief Ranger position at Fort Laramie NHS and will be starting his new job in early 2012. We congratulate Tim on his new job and wish both of them the best of luck on their new adventure!

Park safe this winter: Please use caution when parking near structures and overhangs during the winter months. There have been a few instances where ice and snow have broken loose from buildings and roofs and collided with parked vehicles, resulting in significant damage. Take the time to ensure you are parked in not only an

authorized spot, but also one free from obstacles and hazards to reduce potential accidents and injuries and damage to personal or government property.

CALENDAR

At Old Faithful, the Geyser Grill, the Bear Den Gift Shop, and the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center opened for the season on December 15. The Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins and the Obsidian Dining Room open on Sunday, December 18.

The **Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel**, dining room, and gift shop will open for the season on Tuesday, December 20.

Mammoth General Store: 2011 Holiday Shopping Extravaganza! Now through December 16. All locals will receive 25% off their entire purchase of gifts and apparel. Simply show a valid Montana or Wyoming driver's license or proof of local employment. Items NOT included in the discount: fountain items, grocery items, optics, memory cards, liquor and tobacco. Visit the Mammoth General Store for more details.

Wilderness First Responder (WFR) class. January 23rd (Monday - Friday) and then January 30th - February 1st (Mon - Wed) at Mammoth. Total Hours: 72. Cost is \$575. Contact Amy Mazzarisi x2138.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Ginger Hamilton Minor is Acting Chief of Administration December 16-21. She can be reached at x2050. Bret De Young (x2070) will also be available as back-up for Ginger.

Doug Madsen will be the acting YCR Division Chief from 12/19 - 12/23. He can be reached at x2017. Melissa McAdam will be acting YCR Division Chief from 12/26-12/30. She can be reached at x2202.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

December 14, 2011

Current And Former Yellowstone Area Residents And Employees Asked To Share Holiday Memories
<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11120.htm>

IN THE NEWS

Montana plans to let bison back into Gardiner Basin outside Yellowstone Park

Associated Press | Friday, December 16, 2011 6:12 am

State wildlife officials say they plan to allow bison back into the Gardiner Basin north of Yellowstone National Park this winter.

Hundreds of migrating bison were allowed into the basin last year for the first time in decades. But Montana officials said they would reconsider that change after Park County and a local livestock group filed lawsuits over public safety concerns and the potential for bison to spread the disease brucellosis. In a draft environmental study released Thursday, state wildlife officials proposed that bison again be allowed into the 75,000-acre basin.

Pat Flowers with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks says allowing bison into the area will give agencies more options for managing the animals. He says it could also allow for more bison hunting opportunities in the future. http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/montana-plans-to-let-bison-back-into-gardiner-basin-outside/article_5f70a844-27e8-11e1-b90e-0019bb2963f4.html

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 822 AM MST FRI DEC 16 2011

Rest Of Today...Mostly cloudy late in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy freezing fog. Occasional flurries. Highs 21 to 27.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Areas of ice fog after midnight. Lows 4 to 12.

Saturday...Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of ice fog in the morning. Highs 27 to 33.

Saturday Night...Mostly clear. Areas of ice fog after midnight. Lows 4 to 12.

Avalanche information can be accessed for those working in the field, or for those just interested! You can sign up for a daily subscription that will be emailed to you at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node> then look on the left side of the page and click "subscribe." The report comes in at 7:30 each morning during avalanche season. With the number of our employees working in avalanche terrain, this can help raise awareness and employee safety. When you get the report, there is a paragraph that talks specifically about our area (i.e. the mountains around Cooke City, the Washburn Range, Southern Gallatin's, etc.) The areas are sometimes lumped together differently based on avalanche conditions but the reports are concise and to the point.

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Have a question about park decisions, operations, or policy but don't know who or even how to ask? Well, send them to us in the Public Affairs Office!

We'll forward them to the appropriate subject matter experts, and begin sharing these questions and answers in the daily newsletter after the start of the new calendar year.

SUBMISSIONS

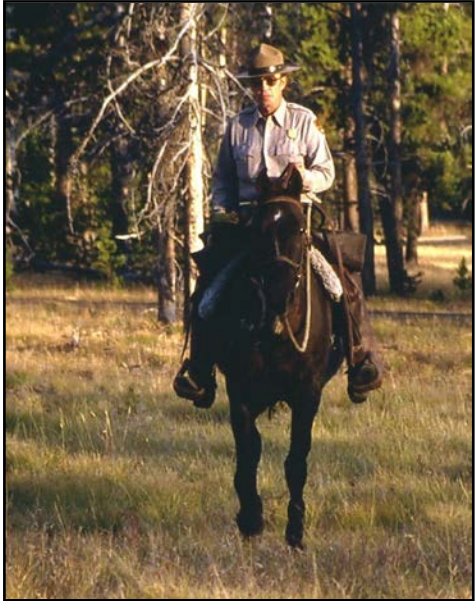
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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, December 19, 2011



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Recycling: This holiday season you can help Yellowstone reduce solid waste! Sort your recyclable, compostable, and non-compostable waste. Read about how to dispose of your waste in December 2011's *eHint*. You can also find it, and lots of other eHints, here: <http://inpyellshare/EnvMgt>. Most of the Park's trash goes to the compost facility in West Yellowstone. If they see a full bag of mostly compostable (biodegradable) items it enters the composting process. If a bag is picked up and it contains what appear to be mostly non-compostable items, it goes to the **landfill**. Therefore, it is important to sort compostable and non-compostable waste into separate bags. **THEY DO NOT SORT RECYCLABLES!** That's why it is **UP TO YOU** to do your part and sort!

Compostable items include: coffee grounds, food scraps, tissue, paper towel, vegetable-starch cups and utensils labeled as PLA, paper scraps, untreated/non painted wood scraps (nails okay), etc. More information on waste disposal can be found in the Employee Handbook. Remember, if you have a tree you can take it to Stephens Creek to get chipped.

ALSO, North District is no longer picking up bags of plastic bags at the shed (where electronic recycling is located). You can now put *bagged* plastic bags in the plastic recycle binnies (at any location in Mammoth). Full Circle Recycling requests that all loose plastic items be put in a secure "tied up" plastic bag. Don't make the bag too big so you can stuff it in the hole on the bin. Also, Full Circle Recycling is putting an extra plastic binnie at the Mammoth Community Center to help meet recycling needs.

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IN THE NEWS

Winter a whole different world at Yellowstone NP

Dec 16, 2011 by Adam Bell (KBZK Bozeman)

WEST YELLOWSTONE- Thursday marked the first day of winter operations inside Yellowstone National Park and the lack of snow hasn't cut down on the excitement.

"One year, it was kind of reversed, there was snow from Madison Junction to Old Faithful, and not from here to there, so we would trailer our snowmobiles to Madison Junction and load them and take people from there to Old Faithful and back, load the people up, load the snowmobiles up and come back here," Clyde Seeley with See Yellowstone Tours explained.

He owns Three Bears Lodge and See Yellowstone Tours, and has seen it all when it comes to weather in Yellowstone National Park during the winter season.

The lack of snow on the ground so far this season has led park officials to change their strategy when it comes to over-the-snow vehicles inside Yellowstone.

But despite the change, folks in the town of West Yellowstone remain optimistic when it comes to this winter tourism season.

"People are here...they've come in with their reservations made. We've had no cancellations," Seeley said.

"Looking at our books and speaking with other folks around town, I think we are seeing a small, but positive increase in advance reservations," Randy Robeson with Yellowstone Vacations commented.

"We work with our concession operators to figure out what approach makes sense to open the park to visitors", park spokesman Al Nash explained.

"They really bend over backwards to help accommodate that," Seeley added.

"I think it's been great, they're going out of their way almost on a day-to-day basis, pulling snow off the berms , plowing where they can to get the wheeled vehicles in, make it safe for everybody and accessible," Travis Watt with the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce observed.

Folks who haven't had the chance to see Yellowstone National Park during the winter are really missing out according to Robeson.

"The geysers, the ice the frost, the steam, [are] just much more graphic than you get to see in the summer," Seeley added.

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New Deputy Forest Supervisor, Custer and Gallatin National Forests

U.S. Forest Service Release

Bozeman and Billings, MT – The Custer and Gallatin National Forests will welcome a new Deputy Forest Supervisor, starting January 17, 2012. Pam Gardner will join Forest leadership, where she most recently reports from the Central Coast Ranger District – Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

"I am thrilled to be selected as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Custer and Gallatin National Forests," said Gardner. "I enjoy working with people and helping to find solutions that work for the people we serve and the important lands we manage. We can accomplish much more when we work together."

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Congress strips wolf 'no-lawsuit' rider from bill

The Billings Gazette | Friday, December 16, 2011

CHEYENNE — Congress has dropped language that would have barred lawsuits over a proposal to end federal protections for wolves in Wyoming.

Rep. Cynthia Lummis, a Republican and Wyoming's lone voice in the U.S. House, had sponsored the language as a rider to a spending bill. Congress already passed similar language blocking lawsuits over delisting of wolves in other Western states.

The ban on lawsuits could be critical to the success of a deal that Gov. Matt Mead and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar reached this year over how to end federal protections for wolves in Wyoming.

Lummis issued a statement on Friday claiming that radical environmentalists used what she called "their considerable sway in the White House" to remove the language. An attempt to reach her for comment on Friday was unsuccessful.

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 609 AM MST MON DEC 19 2011

Today...Mostly cloudy early in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 23 to 29.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows 1 to 9.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 24 to 30.

Tuesday Night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 9 to 15.

Avalanche information can be accessed for those working in the field, or for those just interested! You can sign up for a daily subscription that will be emailed to you at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node> then look on the left side of the page and click "subscribe." The report comes in at 7:30 each morning during avalanche season. With the number of our employees working in avalanche terrain, this can help raise awareness and employee safety. When you get the report, there is a paragraph that talks specifically about our area (i.e. the mountains around Cooke City, the Washburn Range, Southern Gallatin's, etc.) The areas are sometimes lumped together differently based on avalanche conditions but the reports are concise and to the point.

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YNP@Work

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Tuesday, December 20, 2011

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Recycling: This holiday season you can help Yellowstone reduce solid waste! Sort your recyclable, compostable, and non-compostable waste. Read about how to dispose of your waste in December 2011's *eHint*. You can also find it, and lots of other eHints, here: <http://inpyellshare/EnvMgt>. Most of the Park's trash goes to the compost facility in West Yellowstone. If they see a full bag of mostly compostable (biodegradable) items it enters the composting process. If a bag is picked up and it contains what appear to be mostly non-compostable items, it goes to the **landfill**. Therefore, it is important to sort compostable and non-compostable waste into separate bags. **THEY DO NOT SORT RECYCLABLES!** That's why it is **UP TO YOU** to do your part and sort!

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The East Entrance Road, the **South Entrance Road**, and the road from **West Thumb over Craig Pass to Old Faithful** have all transitioned to oversnow Admin travel.

All the rest of the interior park roads remain open to wheeled vehicle admin travel. Good snow tires are required, with 4-wheel drive vehicles strongly recommended. If you don't need a government or personal vehicle in the interior, please move it out now.

While no significant snowfall is forecast over the next few days, this situation can change quickly. All employees need to monitor weather forecasts, and be prepared to transition to oversnow admin travel on short notice.

Please limit your wheeled vehicle admin travel now that we are open to visitors.

If you're leaving on days off and leaving a vehicle behind in the interior which you don't want snowbound, make arrangements to have the vehicle moved if we transition to oversnow admin travel while you are gone.

Zach Jerla (Civil Engineer, Maintenance) and wife Pauwla Rumli welcomed a son, Hayden Casimer Jerla. Hayden was born on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 6:09 a. m. in the Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Hayden weighed 6 lb., 7 oz. and was 18 inches long.

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IN THE NEWS

Lack of snow in park brings challenges to West Yellowstone businesses

CARLY FLANDRO, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer | Tuesday, December 20, 2011

There's likely one Christmas gift West Yellowstone business owners want more than anything else this year: a snowstorm.

Yellowstone National Park opened for the winter season last week, but it hasn't snowed enough there to allow for snowcoach or snowmobile travel – the bread and butter of many businesses in the small town west of the park. Many have adapted by taking the snow tracks off their snowcoaches and replacing them with wheels to continue offering tours. Nonetheless, the lack of snow has been hard on local businesses.

“Do your snow dance, will you?” Bill Howell, owner of Yellowstone Arctic Yamaha, said in a phone interview Monday.

Howell’s business only offers tours on snowmobiles. Unlike snowcoaches, snowmobiles cannot be altered to run on pavement.

Some of Howell’s customers have rescheduled their trips or changed plans to snowmobile outside the park. Others are canceling.

“Business isn’t going real well, but we’ve got the door open,” Howell said.

He said next week will be critical because it’s one of the busiest of the year. If enough snow doesn’t accumulate, it wouldn’t be good.

Fortunately, snow is in the forecast.

Matt Jackson, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service, said West Yellowstone could get 2 to 4 inches of snow between Tuesday and Wednesday. Temperatures will remain cool through Christmas, he said, so any snow will likely stay around.

Al Nash, a spokesman for the park, said anywhere from several inches of snow to more than a foot may be needed in the park before it can open to snowmobiles and snowcoaches.

“It’s dependent upon when the snow comes and what the conditions are,” he said. “It’s not just getting snow, but getting snow that will stay on the roads and pack well.”

Scott Carsley, owner of Yellowstone Alpen Guides, usually offers tours via traditional bombardier snowcoaches. His coaches can’t be converted for use on pavement, so instead, customers have been riding in vans and Suburbans.

“There’s been a lot of disappointment,” he said, adding that he’s been giving customers discounts since they can’t go into the park the way they planned.

“We feel like farmers—we’re dependent on the weather,” he said. “But we don’t get bailouts.”

Clyde Seely, owner of the Three Bear Lodge and See Yellowstone Tours, said the park has been in contact with businesses each day, updating them on conditions.

Until enough snow falls, Seely is continuing tours by using snowcoaches with rubber tracks or wheels instead of metal tracks.

Many snowcoaches are actually Suburbans or buses modified for snow travel.

“This is rather unique,” he said of the lack of snow. “There are some pretty good stretches (in the park) of bare pavement.”

When there is enough snow, he said he’d immediately convert his vehicles.

“We’re a hardy bunch, and we make do with whatever changes we’re dealt,” he said.

He added that customers are still loving their Yellowstone trips. Monday morning, he talked about how the fog had cleared to show frost on all the trees.

“It was beautiful,” he said. “You just can’t fault Yellowstone no matter what time of year it is.”

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No Shooting Zone Implemented Near West Yellowstone

The Gallatin National Forest’s Hebgen Lake Ranger District will implement a **No-Shooting Zone** on January 1, 2012 on a small piece of land just north of West Yellowstone, Montana. The Forest has received numerous concerns and complaints from individuals living, visiting, or recreating in the area about their safety while the bison hunt is ongoing and we anticipate these safety issues to occur again this hunting season. The No Shooting Zone is an interim order that will address the issues listed below. It will be lifted as soon as snow conditions subside. The No Shooting Zone includes National Forest System lands from the Madison River south to the West Yellowstone town limits. It is bounded on the west by Highway 191/287 and on the east by Yellowstone National Park. It is important to recognize that this is would not be an area closure - hunters could still access the area.

-The configuration of the area is very problematic for safe shooting due to the proximity to Forest Service administrative area and houses, Yellowstone National Park boundary, US Highway 191/287 truck pull off, general proximity to US-191/287, Bakers Hole Campground, and two parallel trails that traverse the area from Boundary Street in West Yellowstone to Bakers Hole Campground.

-The No Shooting Zone would give groups of bison the opportunity to move further out of Yellowstone National Park to help ensure wounded animals don’t return to the Park where they cannot be retrieved or harvested.

-The No Shooting Zone will reduce the number of groups of bison returning to the Park after the lead animal or a few of the group are shot. What we are trying to avoid is having groups of bison moving out where a few of them are harvested and the rest return to YNP where they are inaccessible. The groups then bunch up again and the same scenario repeats itself.

-The No Shooting Zone would reduce the number of complaints, particularly from skiers of carcasses, gut piles, and random shots. These complaints are a routine occurrence to the Ranger District office.

-The potential for skier/hunter conflicts continues growing due to the national attention these ski trails have attained. The Boundary Ski Trail grooming program has become extremely popular with skiers (and their dogs). Ski and snowshoe use continue to grow exponentially.

-The boundaries chosen for the No Shooting Zone are very identifiable on the ground for both hunters and recreationists.

Please call Cavan Fitzsimmons, Hebgen Lake District Ranger (406) 823-6961; cfitzsimmons@fs.fed.us if you have questions.

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WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY
Last Update: 511 AM MST TUE DEC 20 2011

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Tonight...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 8 to 14.

Wednesday...Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 17 to 23. North winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Wednesday Night...Colder. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 7 below to 1 above zero. North winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 40 percent.

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Wednesday, December 21, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RIDE SHARE DRIVERS WANTED

Since 1998, the RideShare bus program is one of the ways Yellowstone supports its staff. Daily, the bus and our driver transport about 30 NPS and Concessioner employees to work, which keeps people safe and off the road, frees up parking in Mammoth, reduces carbon emissions, and contributes to employee well being. The Management Team fully supports this program and looks forward to improvements in the program over the coming year.

Mammoth Garage has ordered a new bus (thanks to a grant from the Department of Energy) and is completely overhauling one of the old buses. We expect the new bus to arrive in June 2012. For the comfort of riders, this 36-passenger biodiesel bus has bucket seats, similar to the current bus. The complete overhaul of the older bus includes a new engine, suspension, and transmission lines. It should be ready for service this winter. The two buses will continue to provide safe and reliable transportation for employees from Livingston and Paradise Valley to Mammoth.

RideShare is a great program and we need you to help improve it. Since Al Bowers retired in December 2010, we have only had one main driver, Jim Sykes, and one substitute driver, Steve Krumm. We need more drivers! If you are a commuter, please step up to the plate: get a Commercial Drivers License with passenger endorsement.

The NPS or your concessioner employer will pay for training, physical, and costs to obtain the license. Daily compensation is \$40.00. Be part of this great program: support RideShare as a driver! Contact Nancy Patterson (Nancy_E_Patterson@nps.gov) for details.

Thank you for supporting your RideShare program.

Dan Wenk

Superintendent

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Public Comments Sought for South Fork Watkins Environmental Assessment

U.S. Forest Service Release

West Yellowstone, MT... The Gallatin National Forest, Hebgen Lake Ranger District is seeking public input on an environmental assessment (EA) to maintain or improve desired rangeland and riparian conditions in the South Fork and Watkins Creek Range Allotments. The South Fork Allotment is located on the west side of the South Fork Madison River, near the southern end of Hebgen Lake. The Watkins Creek Allotment is located on the northwest side of Hebgen Lake next to Watkins Creek.

The proposal includes maintaining or improving habitat for wildlife species, while continuing to provide livestock grazing opportunities. The proposal would also update the existing Allotment Management Plan, Improve or maintain riparian and upland conditions, improve livestock distribution across the allotment to reduce areas of concentrated use, provide for continued livestock grazing, and address problems with gate closure at the Watkins Creek Trailhead.

“This management plan is being reviewed because the last analysis was completed more than 20 years ago,” said Cavan Fitzsimmons, Hebgen Lake District Ranger. “After reviewing the allotments and working closely with the permittee - we feel the allotments are already in good condition and believe the small improvements detailed in the EA will only make it better.”

The EA is available online at www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin or by contacting the Hebgen Lake Ranger District at (406) 823-6961, or at 330 Gallatin Road. Comments should be submitted by January 20, 2012. For more information please contact Susan LaMont at the Hebgen Lake Ranger District, (406) 823-6961.

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The Gallatin National Forest’s Hebgen Lake Ranger District will implement a **No-Shooting Zone** on January 1, 2012 on a small piece of land just north of West Yellowstone, Montana. The Forest has received numerous concerns and complaints from individuals living, visiting, or recreating in the area about their safety while the bison hunt is ongoing and we anticipate these safety issues to occur again this hunting season. The No Shooting Zone is an interim order that will address the issues listed below. It will be lifted as soon as snow conditions subside. The No Shooting Zone includes National Forest System lands from the Madison River south to the West Yellowstone town limits. It is bounded on the west by Highway 191/287 and on the east by Yellowstone National Park. It is important to recognize that this is would not be an area closure - hunters could still access the area.

-The configuration of the area is very problematic for safe shooting due to the proximity to Forest Service administrative area and houses, Yellowstone National Park boundary, US Highway 191/287 truck pull off, general proximity to US-191/287, Bakers Hole Campground, and two parallel trails that traverse the area from Boundary Street in West Yellowstone to Bakers Hole Campground.

-The No Shooting Zone would give groups of bison the opportunity to move further out of Yellowstone National Park to help ensure wounded animals don't return to the Park where they cannot be retrieved or harvested.

-The No Shooting Zone will reduce the number of groups of bison returning to the Park after the lead animal or a few of the group are shot. What we are trying to avoid is having groups of bison moving out where a few of them are harvested and the rest return to YNP where they are inaccessible. The groups then bunch up again and the same scenario repeats itself.

-The No Shooting Zone would reduce the number of complaints, particularly from skiers of carcasses, gut piles, and random shots. These complaints are a routine occurrence to the Ranger District office.

-The potential for skier/hunter conflicts continues growing due to the national attention these ski trails have attained. The Boundary Ski Trail grooming program has become extremely popular with skiers (and their dogs). Ski and snowshoe use continue to grow exponentially.

-The boundaries chosen for the No Shooting Zone are very identifiable on the ground for both hunters and recreationists.

Please call Cavan Fitzsimmons, Hebgen Lake District Ranger (406) 823-6961; cfitzsimmons@fs.fed.us) if you have questions.

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New Deputy Forest Supervisor, Custer and Gallatin National Forests

U.S. Forest Service Release

Bozeman and Billings, MT – The Custer and Gallatin National Forests will welcome a new Deputy Forest Supervisor, starting January 17, 2012. Pam Gardner will join Forest leadership, where she most recently reports from the Central Coast Ranger District – Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

“I am thrilled to be selected as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Custer and Gallatin National Forests,” said Gardner. “I enjoy working with people and helping to find solutions that work for the people we serve and the important lands we manage. We can accomplish much more when we work together.”

During her career, Gardner has served in several line officer positions including multiple assignments to acting Deputy Forest Supervisor and District Ranger positions across various regions. The past eight years she has served the role of District Ranger in two regions, including Oregon and Utah. Originally from Idaho, Gardner attended Boise State University where she received a BA in Communication Studies and has served the Rocky Mountain Region headquartered in Colorado and the Northern Great Plains Planning Team in Nebraska in this capacity, as a Public Affairs Officer.

Her areas of expertise stretch back to several years spent on the Payette National Forest in Idaho working in environmental planning as a writer/editor, environmental coordinator and public affairs specialist. Gardner looks forward to traveling and hiking with her dog Ranger throughout Billings and exploring the outdoors, including the Custer and Gallatin National Forests.

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New website to offer recreation information

Bozeman Chronicle, December 21, 2011

Heading up Hyalite Canyon and want to know if the road is plowed or the trails are groomed?

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/article_435d1dde-2b69-11e1-a18c-0019bb2963f4.html

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U.S. gray wolves rebound but still face uncertain future

The Billings Gazette | Wednesday, December 21, 2011

ATLANTA, Mich. — After devoting four decades and tens of millions of dollars to saving the gray wolf, the federal government wants to get out of the wolf-protection business, leaving it to individual states — and the wolves themselves — to determine the future of the legendary predator.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/u-s-gray-wolves-rebound-but-still-face-uncertain-future/article_81d0e27a-1636-5bb3-b2c2-a461e6c8d06e.html

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 231 AM MST WED DEC 21 2011

Early This Morning...Snow. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 9 to 15. Southwest winds around 15 mph with gusts to around 30 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Today...Snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 8 inches. Highs 15 to 21. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning becoming north around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight...Much colder. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 2 below to 12 below zero. North winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Avalanche information can be accessed for those working in the field, or for those just interested! You can sign up for a daily subscription that will be emailed to you at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node> then look on the left side of the page and click "subscribe." The report comes in at 7:30 each morning during avalanche season. With the number of our employees working in avalanche terrain, this can help raise awareness and employee safety. When you get the report, there is a paragraph that talks specifically about our area (i.e. the mountains around Cooke City, the Washburn Range, Southern Gallatin's, etc.) The areas are sometimes lumped together differently based on avalanche conditions but the reports are concise and to the point.

INQUIRING MINDS!

Have a question about park decisions, operations, or policy but don't know who or even how to ask? Well, send them to us in the Public Affairs Office!

We'll forward them to the appropriate subject matter experts, and begin sharing these questions and answers in the daily newsletter after the start of the new calendar year.

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

Thursday, December 22, 2011

Happy Holidays!



The "Santa Singers," Debby Young, Lynn Chan, Lauryl Mack, Stephanie Cochrane, Molly Nelson and Carrie Lang, along with some guy in a Santa suit (Steve... something or other.. works in headquarters), bringing goodwill and cheer to the employee Christmas party. And the magical Mammoth Christmas trees. (Courtesy Jim Peaco)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

By the numbers. A comparative look at the first week of the winter seasons of 2010 and 2011.

Dec 15-20, 2011

289 snowmobiles with a total of 395 people
124 snowcoaches/vans with a total of 1034 people
Total interior recreational visitors: 1429

Dec 15-20, 2010

566 snowmobiles with a total of 728 people
95 snowcoaches with a total of 787 people
Total interior recreational visitors: 1569

RIDE SHARE DRIVERS WANTED

Since 1998, the RideShare bus program is one of the ways Yellowstone supports its staff. Daily, the bus and our driver transport about 30 NPS and Concessioner employees to work, which keeps people safe and off the road, frees up parking in Mammoth, reduces carbon emissions, and contributes to employee well being. The Management Team fully supports this program and looks forward to improvements in the program over the coming year.

Mammoth Garage has ordered a new bus (thanks to a grant from the Department of Energy) and is completely overhauling one of the old buses. We expect the new bus to arrive in June 2012. For the comfort of riders, this 36-passenger biodiesel bus has bucket seats, similar to the current bus. The complete overhaul of the older bus includes a new engine, suspension, and transmission lines. It should be ready for service this winter. The two buses will continue to provide safe and reliable transportation for employees from Livingston and Paradise Valley to Mammoth.

RideShare is a great program and we need you to help improve it. Since Al Bowers retired in December 2010, we have only had one main driver, Jim Sykes, and one substitute driver, Steve Krumm. We need more drivers! If you are a commuter, please step up to the plate: get a Commercial Drivers License with passenger endorsement.

The NPS or your concessioner employer will pay for training, physical, and costs to obtain the license. Daily compensation is \$40.00. Be part of this great program: support RideShare as a driver! Contact Nancy Patterson (Nancy_E_Patterson@nps.gov) for details.

Thank you for supporting your RideShare program.

Dan Wenk

Superintendent

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The Lake Area Comprehensive Plan/EA, which includes portions of Fishing Bridge, Lake, and Bridge Bay, is available for internal review from Wednesday, December 14th through COB Friday, January 13th, 2012. The Lake Area Comprehensive Plan/EA balances resource protection and enhances visitor experience through a process that establishes the limits of acceptable change for the future. Resource surveys, planning zones, planning prescriptions, and design standards provide guidance and mitigation for actions. The Draft Plan presents three alternatives, one of which is preferred. Once comments are received and integrated into the final document, it will be available to the public around the end of January through February.

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These are very large .tif files, if you have an older computer they may be slow to load and navigate. Hard copies will be available in the Central Backcountry office (Canteen) and GIS Lab (YCR) in Mammoth. If you need a hard copy sent to your location, please let GIS staff know and we will do our best to get one sent to you. Send comments to: yell_gis@nps.gov DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS COB WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11TH.

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Drive Safe during the snowplow season. While traveling, please be aware of the specific hazards associated with sharing the roadways with plow trucks. About 70% of snowplow accidents involve collisions into the rear of the snowplow truck. Avoid following plow trucks too closely. Aside from not having a safe stopping distance, vehicles following too close to the plow truck may be in the operator's blind spot. Because of the plow trucks size and conditions in which they are being operated, maneuverability may be limited. Share the roads responsibly and be safe!

<http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/resources/pdf/iesna01a.pdf>

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ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

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Internationally known as a World Heritage site and Biosphere Reserve, the park is home to a large variety of wildlife including grizzly bears, wolves, bison and elk. Human history in the park has been traced back more than 11,000 years.

Catch a glimpse of Yellowstone in one of its quieter seasons with this week's National Park Getaway.

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 759 AM MST THU DEC 22 2011

Rest Of Today...Partly cloudy early in the morning then clearing. Highs 13 to 19. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero early in the morning.

Tonight...Mostly clear. Patchy freezing fog in the evening. Lows 3 below to 13 below zero.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs 17 to 23. Lowest wind chill readings 20 below to 30 below zero in the morning.

Friday Night...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 6 below to 4 above zero.

Avalanche information can be accessed for those working in the field, or for those just interested! You can sign up for a daily subscription that will be emailed to you at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node> then look on the left side of the page and click “subscribe.” The report comes in at 7:30 each morning during avalanche season. With the number of our employees working in avalanche terrain, this can help raise awareness and employee safety. When you get the report, there is a paragraph that talks specifically about our area (i.e. the mountains around Cooke City, the Washburn Range, Southern Gallatin's, etc.) The areas are sometimes lumped together differently based on avalanche conditions but the reports are concise and to the point.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, December 23, 2011

ADMIN TRAVEL: We are in that all-too familiar season of wheeled-vehicle/rubber-tracked/steel-tracked/snowmobiles on various road segments as we begin our second week of the Winter Season.

I ask that NPS employee wheeled-vehicle travel be 1) kept to a minimum and 2) restricted to interior employees leaving and returning to their duty station until a full conversion to oversnow vehicles only. The only exception to this is the travel necessary to respond to an EMERGENCY from Mammoth. A Mammoth (Northeast, Tower, Gardiner based employee travelling out the West Entrance IS NOT administrative travel.

-Steve Iobst, Deputy Superintendent

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Boone Vandzura will be Acting Chief Ranger from December 23-28. He can be reached at x2148. Bonnie Schwartz will assume this role from December 29-30. She can be reached at x2103. Tim Reid will be in the area and reachable by cell if the situation warrants.

Tim cell - 406-581-9543

Bonnie cell - 406-351-3168

Boone cell - **406-581-1349**

Judy Knuth-Folts will be Acting Chief of Interpretation on December 23. She can be reached at x2259. Katy Duffy will assume this role on December 27, and Judy will resume these duties from December 28-31.

Doug Madsen will be the Acting YCR Division Chief from December 19-23. He can be reached at x2017. Melissa McAdam will be acting YCR Division Chief from December 26-30. She can be reached at x2202.

Dan Hottle will be Acting Public Affairs Officer from Dec. 22-Jan 2. He can be reached at x2012.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courier Route: Thanks to the folks up here in Mammoth Garage, I have a tracked vehicle for the courier run which I will be using until we get more snow. This means that I will be delivering on my regular route starting

TODAY (Canyon> Lake> Grant> OF> Madison). Thanks for all your cooperation in the last month. Santa will not be joining me this year as he is busy helping the Elves make SNOW along with toys to bring to us on Christmas... (we can always hope).

Also, those of you who had my cell number from years past, please change it to 406-581-0519 regarding any courier duties. –*Rachel Cudmore*.

Christmas Tree Recycling: Holiday trees left by any Mammoth dumpster will be collected, chipped and used in the Park's Stephens Creek Nursery. Please remove all decorations. Questions? Contact Lori Gruber at x2314 or Sam Reid at x2621.

FEDEX: We received word from Fedex Express that they will not be picking up outgoing packages from the Supply Center TODAY. If you have something to send out via Fedex Express (not a Ground package) you can take it to Xanterra's Retail Office in Gardiner and Fedex will still be doing pickups from that location. I don't know what time they show up there! If you have any questions, please call me at 344-2085. I am working today. –*Barb Agle, Mammoth Supply Center 344-2085*

RIDE SHARE DRIVERS WANTED

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geysers, hot springs, and fumaroles on Earth, including one of the most famous geysers – Old Faithful.

Internationally known as a World Heritage site and Biosphere Reserve, the park is home to a large variety of wildlife including grizzly bears, wolves, bison and elk. Human history in the park has been traced back more than 11,000 years.

Catch a glimpse of Yellowstone in one of its quieter seasons with this week's National Park Getaway.

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New website to offer recreation information

Bozeman Chronicle, December 21, 2011

Heading up Hyalite Canyon and want to know if the road is plowed or the trails are groomed?

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/article_435d1dde-2b69-11e1-a18c-0019bb2963f4.html

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 201 AM MST FRI DEC 23 2011

Today...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 18 to 24. Lowest wind chill readings 20 below to 30 below zero in the morning.

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 3 below to 7 above zero. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs 23 to 29.

Saturday Night...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Patchy fog after midnight. Visibility one quarter mile or less at times after midnight. Lows 5 to 13.

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A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

Click here to view details for the western Wyoming [Winter Storm Watch](#)

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I ask that NPS employee wheeled-vehicle travel be 1) kept to a minimum and 2) restricted to interior employees leaving and returning to their duty station until a full conversion to oversnow vehicles only. The only exception to this is the travel necessary to respond to an EMERGENCY from Mammoth. A Mammoth (Northeast, Tower, Gardiner based employee travelling out the West Entrance IS NOT administrative travel.

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Tim cell - 406-581-9543

Bonnie cell - 406-351-3168

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The NPS or your concessioner employer will pay for training, physical, and costs to obtain the license. Daily compensation is \$40.00. Be part of this great program: support RideShare as a driver! Contact Nancy Patterson (Nancy_E_Patterson@nps.gov) for details.

Thank you for supporting your RideShare program.
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<http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/resources/pdf/iesna01a.pdf>

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 233 AM MST TUE DEC 27 2011

Early This Morning...Breezy. Cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows 5 to 11. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Today...Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight...Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 9 to 15. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Wednesday...Windy...snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 6 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Wednesday Night...Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Lows 18 to 24. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

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Thursday...Windy...snow. Blowing snow in the morning. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 5 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

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ADMIN TRAVEL: (As of 9:00 a.m.)

Sylvan Pass is temporarily CLOSED to ALL oversnow travel due to avalanche danger and current storm conditions. ALL travel by snowmobile, snowcoach, skis and snowshoes over Sylvan Pass is PROHIBITED.

Only those National Park Service employees specifically assigned to and involved in avalanche forecasting and avalanche hazard mitigation operations may travel in this area during this time.

Sylvan Pass will remain temporarily CLOSED until forecast conditions permit Yellowstone National Park employees to conduct avalanche hazard mitigation operations and groom the route for motorized oversnow travel.

It is not possible to estimate the duration of this temporary closure, since it is entirely dependent upon changing weather conditions.

You will be notified by e-mail when this work is completed and Sylvan Pass re-opens to oversnow travel.

Yellowstone's **West Entrance road** is temporarily closed to all travel due to a large boulder that has fallen in the road. It is not known at this time how long it will take for the road to be passable again.

PAO will try to advise you when the road re-opens, but please also check the Road Update line at 307-344-2117. For admin travel, please call 307-344-7115

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Tonight...Breezy. Snow likely in the evening...then snow after midnight. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Lows 17 to 23. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph shifting to the west 15 to 20 mph in the late evening and overnight. Chance of snow 90 percent.

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Friday Night...Windy...snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 11 to 17. Southwest winds 25 to 30 mph shifting to the west 15 to 25 mph after midnight. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, December 30, 2011



National Park Service

BE AWARE DURING WINTER TRAVEL! An SUV-sized boulder sits on Yellowstone National Park's West Entrance road approximately nine miles inside the park's west gate. The boulder apparently broke loose from a mountainside several hundred feet above the road early Thursday. Park crews have pushed the rock from the road and the West Entrance is now open for travel.

Click here to view details for extreme winter weather in the Yellowstone area:

[Avalanche Warning](#)

[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

[Winter Storm Warning](#)

ADMIN TRAVEL: (As of 9:00 a.m.)

The **West Entrance road** is now OPEN for visitor travel. Crews have cleared all debris from the road, and it has been deemed safe for all travel.

Sylvan Pass remains CLOSED to travel. Over the past 36 hours, Sylvan has received approximately 12" of snow and strong winds. The temps through the storm were warm, resulting in very dense snow (1.4 inches of water). This is an addition of a significant amount of weight compared to the very low density snowpack that existed before the storm. Poor visibility, due to blowing and drifting snow, and drifts on the road were also present this morning. We are predicted to get a brief pause in the storm this afternoon, with snowfall returning tonight and continuing through Saturday morning. An additional 1.0 - 1.2 inches of water and 8-12 inches of snow is predicted through that period. The plan is for Sylvan to remain closed through this storm cycle.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS / OUT OF OFFICE

Bonnie Schwartz will be Acting Chief Ranger from December 29-30. She can be reached at x2103. Tim Reid will be in the area reachable by cell if the situation warrants.

Tim cell - 406-581-9543

Bonnie cell - 406-351-3168

Boone cell - 406-581-1349

Judy Knuth-Folts will be Acting Chief of Interpretation from December 28-31. She can be reached at x2259.

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Melissa McAdam will be acting YCR Division Chief from December 26-30. She can be reached at x2202.

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Dan Hottle will be Acting Public Affairs Officer from Dec. 22-Jan 2. He can be reached at x2012.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courier Route: For the weeks of 12/26/11 and 1/2/12, I will be doing the courier run one time per week on Wednesdays (12/28 & 1/4). I will return to the normal schedule of Tuesdays and Fridays the week of 1/9/12. Any week that we recognize a holiday will usually mean that I will only be going out into the park with mail one time that week. If you have questions please let me know. Also, those of you who had my cell number from years past, please change it to 406-581-0519 regarding any courier duties. *–Rachel Cudmore.*

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Christmas Tree Recycling: Holiday trees left by any Mammoth dumpster will be collected, chipped and used in the Park's Stephens Creek Nursery. Please remove all decorations. Questions? Contact Lori Gruber at x2314 or Sam Reid at x2621.

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Holiday Memories: Please consider adding some of your holiday traditions/memories to the park collection!
c/o Charissa Olson Reid
Oral Historian
307-344-2260
(Charissa_reid@nps.gov)

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The Lake Area Comprehensive Plan/EA, which includes portions of Fishing Bridge, Lake, and Bridge Bay, is available for internal review from Wednesday, December 14th through COB Friday, January 13th, 2012. The Lake Area Comprehensive Plan/EA balances resource protection and enhances visitor experience through a process that establishes the limits of acceptable change for the future. Resource surveys, planning zones, planning prescriptions, and design standards provide guidance and mitigation for actions. The Draft Plan presents three alternatives, one of which is preferred. Once comments are received and integrated into the final document, it will be available to the public around the end of January through February.

The internal draft document is available electronically in a folder on the P:Drive: Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Draft. It is also available in hard copy through the Comprehensive Planning Office. Comments should be placed in the comment matrix provided on the P:Drive under Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Draft so that we can incorporate your comments and track our responses. Your comments are due by **COB Friday, January 13th, 2012.**

Recycling: The **Yellowstone Green Team is organizing a trip to Bozeman and Livingston, Montana on 12th January 2012** to learn more about local green businesses and operations.

We will visit:

- 1) **Livingston glass recycling and composting centers** - Livingston
- 2) **Four Corners Recycling** - Four Corners west of Bozeman (Yellowstone contract for recycling pick-up)
- 3) **Refuge, Sustainable Building Center** - Bozeman

We have arranged guided tours for all destinations in order to get the best benefit from these visits. If anyone has a job related interest in any or all of these destinations you are very welcome to join us. You can ride with us or meet us there. We have not organized details yet but plan on leaving Mammoth around 8.30am and back at 5pm.

Anyone interested (with supervisory permission) including Green Team Members should contact Molly Nelson (Environmental Management Program's Intern) at **Molly.Nelson@gtri.gatech.edu** If you know of local businesses working in the fields of sustainable building and site materials and/or recycling of construction waste, please let us know.

Sector Maps: The Yellowstone Backcountry Office and GIS staff have been working with National Geographic to update the four "sector maps" for Yellowstone. (#302, Old Faithful; #303 Mammoth Hot Springs; #304 Tower/Canyon; #305 Yellowstone Lake) These maps are now in the final draft process and we have copies for your review. National Geographic plans to have these in stores for the summer season, so now is your chance to review them, check for errors, and comment!

Map location: P:\2012_Trails_Illustrated_Maps_REVIEW

These are very large .tif files, if you have an older computer they may be slow to load and navigate.

Hard copies will be available in the Central Backcountry office (Canteen) and GIS Lab (YCR) in Mammoth.

If you need a hard copy sent to your location, please let GIS staff know and we will do our best to get one sent to you. Send comments to: yell_gis@nps.gov DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS IS COB WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11TH.

Drive Safe during the snowplow season. While traveling, please be aware of the specific hazards associated with sharing the roadways with plow trucks. About 70% of snowplow accidents involve collisions into the rear of the snowplow truck. Avoid following plow trucks too closely. Aside from not having a safe stopping distance, vehicles following too close to the plow truck may be in the operator's blind spot. Because of the plow trucks size and conditions in which they are being operated, maneuverability may be limited. Share the roads responsibly and be safe!

<http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/resources/pdf/iesna01a.pdf>

CALENDAR

Wilderness First Responder (WFR) class. January 23rd (Monday - Friday) and then January 30th - February 1st (Mon - Wed) at Mammoth. Total Hours: 72. Cost is \$575. Contact Amy Mazzarisi x2138.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone winter use plan undergoes revisions

The Billings Gazette | Friday, December 30, 2011

CASPER, Wyo. -- Some want more snowmobiles. Others want none. Both sides have another chance to voice their opinion in the upcoming year as staff at Yellowstone National Park works to come up with a new plan for managing winter use in the park.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-winter-use-plan-undergoes-revisions/article_99938a2f-dd54-528f-838f-8c4ea02096fd.html

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FWS tries to smooth dispute with Montana governor

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) -- Federal officials attempting to smooth over a wildlife management dispute with Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer sent over their plans to transport 4.5 million trout eggs from a federal hatchery over the next month.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MT_MONTANA_WILDLIFE_SHIPMENTS_MTOL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2011-12-29-18-45-42

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 140 AM MST FRI DEC 30 2011

Today...Windy. Snow in the morning...then snow and rain in the afternoon. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation near 100 percent.

Tonight...Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 6 inches. Lows 10 to 16. Southwest winds 25 to 30 mph with gusts to around 50 mph becoming west 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph early in the morning. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Saturday...Windy...colder...cloudy. Snow in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 7 to 14 inches. Highs 15 to 21. West winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Saturday Night...Breezy...colder. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the evening. Lows 7 below to 1 above zero. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening.

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