

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, January 3, 2012



National Park Service

About Margaret Anderson

Chicago Tribune
January 2, 2012

Margaret Anderson, the National Park Service Ranger who was killed in the line of duty on Jan. 1 was only 34, but her wedding announcement showed she had accomplished a lot.

Anderson, nee Kritsch, married Eric Anderson in October 2005. The couple has two young daughters, ages 4 and 2. The information below is taken from the couple's wedding announcement.

The couple met while they both worked as park rangers at Bryce National Park in Utah. Margaret attended Kansas State University where she earned a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology in 1999.

In 2000, Margaret graduated from the Seasonal Law Enforcement Training Program at Northern Arizona University. She then pursued a master's degree in biology from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan., in 2004. Margaret began working for the National Park Service in 2000 and worked at the Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah from 2000-2003 as a seasonal ranger. She then worked at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Maryland as a park ranger.

Eric graduated from Whitman-Hanson High School in Whitman, Mass., in 1997 and earned his B.S. in Park Management from Unity College in Unity, Me. in 2001. In 2002, he graduated from the National Park Service Seasonal Law Enforcement Training Academy at Southwestern Community College in Franklin, N.C.

Eric was a wildland firefighter for the National Park Service at the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado from 2000 to 2001. Since 2002, he has been a ranger for the National Park Service. He worked at Bryce Canyon National Park from 2002 to 2003 and at Yellowstone National Park in 2004.

ADMIN TRAVEL:

Yellowstone National Park employees have utilized the howitzer to conduct avalanche hazard mitigation operations on Sylvan Pass and have groomed the East Entrance road for motorized oversnow travel.

Sylvan Pass is now **OPEN** to all oversnow travel.

Park employees continue to monitor weather and snow conditions and conduct avalanche forecasting operations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courier Route: For the week of 1/2/12 I will be doing the courier run one time per week on Wednesdays (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.*

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.

The Gardiner Bruins will show **support for Rob Stermitz** with a benefit fundraiser this Friday, January 6 during the basketball games. The goal is to pack our gym with fans clad in Bruin blue t-shirts and/or beanie skull caps. While at the game, enjoy a chili dinner with all the trimmings and partake in the silent auction. Shirts/beanies can be purchased at the school, and this entitles you to free admission to the game. T-shirts are \$10 and beanies are \$15. The chili dinner starts at 4:00 pm and the cost is a donation. The Silent Auction is from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm, and the winners will be announced at halftime of the last game (approximately 7:30 pm.) We have some fantastic auction items which include artwork by local artists such as Lynn Chan, Stephanie Cochrane, and Todd Fredericksen; vacation packages from Xanterra and local vacation rental owners; homemade quilts; a restored dollhouse done by Lori Wilkinson; baked goods; and numerous other items. Please come and support Rob, while having a great time with your friends and neighbors.

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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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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.

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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>

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.

RECENT PRESS RELEASES

Yellowstone Switches to Oversnow Travel Parkwide Saturday

With significant snowfall throughout the park over the past 48 hours, Yellowstone National Park will ring in the New Year by transitioning fully to oversnow travel beginning at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, December 31.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/11122.htm>

IN THE NEWS

With wolves' return, study says trees rebound

The Billings Gazette | Monday, January 2, 2012

The return of gray wolves has dramatically altered the landscape in portions of Yellowstone National Park, as new trees take root in areas where the predators have curbed the size of foraging elk herds, according to scientists in a new study.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/with-wolves-return-study-says-trees-rebound/article_3aea6e28-3554-11e1-9aea-001871e3ce6c.html

Avalanche victims had taken precautions

GAIL SCHONTZLER, Chronicle Staff Writer, Tuesday, January 3, 2012 12:15 am

The 44-year-old Bozeman man killed in a weekend avalanche near Cooke City was remembered Monday as “a great colleague, a great conservationist and good friend.”

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/region/article_cb136726-35c1-11e1-a5e6-001871e3ce6c.html

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 756 AM MST TUE JAN 3 2012

Today...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the morning becoming southwest around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows 11 to 17. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening becoming southwest around 15 mph early in the morning.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs 29 to 35. South winds around 15 mph early in the morning.

Wednesday Night...Mostly clear. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

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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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

Wednesday, January 4, 2012



National Park Service

The wearing of black mourning bands on the NPS badge and the lowering of the national colors to half mast has been approved to honor Ranger Margaret Anderson until a day of interment is determined. Staff will be notified as soon as that date is available.

About Margaret Anderson

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<http://www.fedgycc.org/documents/GYCCNewsVol1Issue2Dec2011.pdf>

GAME NIGHT and Potluck Dinner, Thursday, January 5. Starts at 5:45 p.m. Bring your favorite games and celebrate the New Year at the Mammoth Community Center.

Courier Route: For the week of 1/2/12 I will be doing the courier run one time per week on Wednesdays (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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For folks that are not in Mammoth, you may e-mail YELL Office Services or call Judy Jensen at 344-2031 or Debbie McPherson at 344-2032. Please talk to other staff in your offices to designate one person to order the phone books. This keeps us from having duplicate orders. Specify which ones you would like, the LARGE phone books, or the STAFF LISTINGS, and how many of each you would like.

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Yellowstone Invites Public Comment On Draft Progress Report To UNESCO World Heritage Committee

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Yellowstone was designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1978. The World Heritage Committee placed Yellowstone on its List of World Heritage in Danger in 1995.

This is the sixth report to the World Heritage Committee on the conditions of the park since the park was removed from the list in 2003. It includes plans and actions currently underway that specifically seek to redress the 1995 threats and dangers. The report follows a visit this past summer from the Director of the World Heritage Centre and a representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), during which they observed the state of the park's resources and progress in addressing conservation challenges.

All member nations of the World Heritage Convention voluntarily nominate their own sites embracing outstanding natural or cultural values. Member nations retain complete sovereignty over each site and over the operation of locations added to the World Heritage List.

The draft progress report is available for public review and comment from January 3–20, 2012 through the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment web site at <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=39938>.

All comments will be reviewed by the National Park Service and transmitted, in their entirety, along with the final report to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

IN THE NEWS

With wolves' return, study says trees rebound

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 840 AM MST WED JAN 4 2012

Rest Of Today...Partly cloudy. Highs 30 to 36.

Tonight...Breezy. Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 11 to 19. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Breezy. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

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In honor of ranger **Margaret Anderson**, the United States flag will be lowered to half-staff at National Park Service units in the Pacific West Region until sunset on the day she is buried. Parks in all other regions are authorized to lower flags to half-staff on the day of interment until sunset. In addition, uniformed employees are allowed to wear mourning bands to honor the life and service of Anderson until sunset on Jan. 31.

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All member nations of the World Heritage Convention voluntarily nominate their own sites embracing outstanding natural or cultural values. Member nations retain complete sovereignty over each site and over the operation of locations added to the World Heritage List.

The draft progress report is available for public review and comment from January 3–20, 2012 through the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment web site at <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=39938>.

All comments will be reviewed by the National Park Service and transmitted, in their entirety, along with the final report to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone says hunt changes protect park wolves

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press, Jan 4, 2012

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- Wolf hunting restrictions in portions of Montana bordering Yellowstone National Park are protecting the park's animals from a repeat of a previous hunt when almost half the members of a well-known pack were killed, federal and state officials said Wednesday.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MT_HUNTING_WOLVES_YELLOWSTONE_MTOL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2012-01-04-18-05-36

Former Yellowstone ranger named Montana county undersheriff

(BOZEMAN [MT] DAILY CHRONICLE)

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/crime/article_3bb95cf8-36b5-11e1-9497-0019bb2963f4.html

'Judas fish' to help kill lake trout, save cutthroat in Yellowstone Lake

(JACKSON HOLE NEWS & GUIDE [JACKSON, WY])

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=8103

Montana wildlife officials track sick bighorn herd in Park County in, around Yellowstone park

(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS via BILLINGS [MT] GAZETTE)

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/montana-wildlife-officials-track-sick-bighorn-herd-in-park-county/article_59c49308-36d7-11e1-aa6c-0019bb2963f4.html

Wolverine, lynx lose strong advocate in death of Montana naturalist/conservationist David Gaillard in avalanche near Yellowstone

(WILDLIFE ART JOURNAL [BOZEMAN, MT])

<http://www.wildlifeartjournal.com/blog/361/in-memory-of-naturalist-conservationist-david-gaillard-44.html>

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 624 AM MST THU JAN 5 2012

Today...Breezy. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tonight...Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 to 12. West winds 15 to 20 mph.

Friday...Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Friday Night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 to 9.

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, January 6, 2012



National Park Service

In honor of ranger **Margaret Anderson**, the United States flag will be lowered to half-staff at National Park Service units in the Pacific West Region until sunset on the day she is buried. Parks in all other regions are authorized to lower flags to half-staff on the day of interment until sunset. In addition, uniformed employees are allowed to wear mourning bands to honor the life and service of Anderson until sunset on Jan. 31.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU!! -Dear YFEA and park service staff:

Thank you for the very generous donations. We are truly touched by your thoughtfulness and encouraging words.

Love,

Rob, Stacy, Bryson, Luke, Tyler, & Joel Stermitz

Wolf Project: In the next several weeks staff from YCR plan to capture wolves from each YNP wolf pack and count the northern Yellowstone elk herd. Both of these projects occur annually. There are approximately 98-102 wolves in 10 packs living mostly within YNP. Our objective is to maintain radio collars in each one of these packs for counting and monitoring purposes - as well as other projects such as assessing wolf impacts on the elk population. To do this it requires more than one collar/pack as wolves die, leave the pack, chew the collar off, or

the collar malfunctions. As in previous years (since 1998), we attach collars by capturing the wolves by darting them from a helicopter

The northern Yellowstone elk herd has been rigorously counted for decades, and has been an elk herd of interest since the beginning of the 20th century. Interest in this herd has always been high, but it has increased since the reintroduction of wolves and the cessation of the Gardiner late hunt. An interagency effort - because this herd ranges in and out of YNP - primarily involving the state of Montana and YNP staff, but also Gallatin National Forest and the USGS Bozeman office, has counted these elk from fixed-wing aircraft each year after methods developed in the 1970s and then modified again in the 1980s.

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<http://www.fedgycc.org/documents/GYCCNewsVol1Issue2Dec2011.pdf>

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Courier Route: 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.*

- - - - -

The **winter phone books** are here and ready to go. We have the large PHONE DIRECTORY that has the main offices and the sections that have the listings by offices and audix voice mailboxes. We also have the STAFF LISTINGS. It has the main staff listing and phone numbers.

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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.

The Gardiner Bruins will show **support for Rob Stermitz** with a benefit fundraiser TONIGHT during the basketball games. The goal is to pack our gym with fans clad in Bruin blue t-shirts and/or beanie skull caps. While at the game, enjoy a chili dinner with all the trimmings and partake in the silent auction. Shirts/beanies can be purchased at the school, and this entitles you to free admission to the game. T-shirts are \$10 and beanies are \$15. The chili dinner starts at 4:00 pm and the cost is a donation. The Silent Auction is from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm, and the winners will be announced at halftime of the last game (approximately 7:30 pm.) We have some fantastic auction items which include artwork by local artists such as Lynn Chan, Stephanie Cochrane, and Todd Fredericksen; vacation packages from Xanterra and local vacation rental owners; homemade quilts; a restored dollhouse done by Lori Wilkinson; baked goods; and numerous other items. Please come and support Rob, while having a great time with your friends and neighbors.

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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

BASIC EMT REFRESHER January 6-8, 2012 West Yellowstone, MT

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

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone says it may need to import grizzlies to improve genetics

By BRETT FRENCH Of The Gazette Staff | Thursday, January 5, 2012

Yellowstone National Park has asked its fundraising partners to come up with \$1 million a year for six years to expand its lake trout eradication effort at Yellowstone Lake, and by 2022 the park may need to import grizzly bears from other regions to increase the animals' genetic diversity.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-says-it-may-need-to-import-grizzlies-to-improve/article_cab0939e-363e-56db-8a66-2dfeaa60ff77.html?mode=story

Montana dog survives four-day burial by killer avalanche

Laura Zuckerman Reuters

SALMON, Idaho (Reuters) - A dog buried for four days by an avalanche that killed its Montana owner was hungry but otherwise unscathed when it was found outside a motel room the man had rented, authorities said.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-dog-avalanchetre80509i-20120105,0,5464682.story>

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 239 AM MST FRI JAN 6 2012

Today...Partly cloudy. Highs 23 to 29.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Lows 3 to 9.

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

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A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, January 9, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Chief Joseph Cross-Country Ski Trails Grooming Report

Cross country skiing enthusiasts will be excited to discover that conditions at Chief Joseph pass are in great shape. Located 26 miles west of Wisdom, MT, Cross Country ski trails at Chief Joseph Pass were groomed Wed. Jan. 6. Last week's snow storm brought over two feet of fresh snow to the area. Air temperatures have been averaging between the teens at night and the twenties during the day. These conditions will provide for superb skiing all weekend. Skiers are reminded to be prepared for changing weather conditions and to always let someone know where they are going and when they plan to return. Volunteers staff the Gordon Reese cabin located one half mile from the parking lot and will have a cozy fire and a smile for all who stop in to warm up and rest. Trails are groomed by the Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Visitation Tops 3 Million For Fifth Straight Year

Visitation to Yellowstone National Park in 2011 topped the 3 million mark for the fifth straight year.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12002.htm>

IN THE NEWS

Southwest Montana snowpack 80 percent below average

JOLENE KELLER, Chronicle Staff Writer | Monday, January 9, 2012

Looking outside, it may be hard to believe it's January. Where snow banks usually accumulate in Bozeman, there are piles of dirt. Kids are sledding on grass and plows are parked. And for the first time in 20 years, the annual Bohart Ranch Nordic Fest was canceled on Sunday.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/article_d2a994f6-3a85-11e1-897f-0019bb2963f4.html

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Tonight...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 10 to 16.

Tuesday...Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday Night...Colder. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero. Chance of snow 40 percent.

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Check here for the latest on the region's [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

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Chief Joseph Cross-Country Ski Trails Grooming Report

Cross country skiing enthusiasts will be excited to discover that conditions at Chief Joseph pass are in great shape. Located 26 miles west of Wisdom, MT, Cross Country ski trails at Chief Joseph Pass were groomed Wed. Jan. 6. Last week's snow storm brought over two feet of fresh snow to the area. Air temperatures have been averaging between the teens at night and the twenties during the day. These conditions will provide for superb skiing all weekend. Skiers are reminded to be prepared for changing weather conditions and to always let someone know where they are going and when they plan to return. Volunteers staff the Gordon Reese cabin located one half mile from the parking lot and will have a cozy fire and a smile for all who stop in to warm up and rest. Trails are groomed by the Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club.

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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.

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<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12003.htm>

- - - - -

Yellowstone Visitation Tops 3 Million For Fifth Straight Year

Visitation to Yellowstone National Park in 2011 topped the 3 million mark for the fifth straight year.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12002.htm>

IN THE NEWS

Lack of snow sends Yellowstone wolf pack wandering

(BILLINGS [MT] GAZETTE via MISSOULIAN [MISSOULA, MT])

<http://www.ktvz.com/news/30162252/detail.html>

- - - - -

James Cotharin McBride, 57, former Yellowstone National Park worker (obituary)

(THE MUSKEGON [MI] CHRONICLE)

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2012/01/todays_obituary_james_cotharin.html

Southwest Montana snowpack 80 percent below average

JOLENE KELLER, Chronicle Staff Writer | Monday, January 9, 2012

Looking outside, it may be hard to believe it's January. Where snow banks usually accumulate in Bozeman, there are piles of dirt. Kids are sledding on grass and plows are parked. And for the first time in 20 years, the annual Bohart Ranch Nordic Fest was canceled on Sunday.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/article_d2a994f6-3a85-11e1-897f-0019bb2963f4.html

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 457 AM MST TUE JAN 10 2012

Today...Breezy...cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning... Then snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Tonight...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 below to 1 above zero. Northwest winds around 15 mph. Wind chill readings 12 below to 22 below zero.

Wednesday...Colder. Partly cloudy. Highs 8 to 14. North winds around 15 mph in the morning. Lowest wind chill readings 14 below to 24 below zero in the morning.

Wednesday Night...Mostly clear. Lows 3 below to 11 below zero.

Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Check here for the latest on the region's [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

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State aims at park wolves

Flawed Wyoming wolf law up to Legislature to change, senator says.

By Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole News and Guide, January 11, 2012

A section of Wyoming's wolf management plan that seems to allow wolf hunting in Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge has local and federal officials worried.

http://jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=8127

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

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Thursday, January 12, 2012

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Come Change It!!!**

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Job Title: **Public Affairs Administrative Assistant**
Department: Department Of The Interior
Agency: National Park Service
Job Announcement Number: 586436

SALARY RANGE: \$34,907.00 to \$45,376.00 / Per Year
OPEN PERIOD: Monday, January 09, 2012 to Sunday, January 22, 2012
SERIES & GRADE: GS-0303-06
POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent
PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 06
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy(s) - Yellowstone Natl Park, WY United StatesView Map
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Local Commuting Area

<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/306381600>

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<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12003.htm>

IN THE NEWS

Bison relocation plan challenged in Montana court

Associated Press | Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Opponents of a plan to relocate 68 wild bison filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking to stop the transfer of the animals to two American Indian reservations in Montana.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/bison-relocation-plan-challenged-in-montana-court/article_8afd1f40-676a-589a-a836-227d8015ebcc.html

State aims at park wolves

Flawed Wyoming wolf law up to Legislature to change, senator says.

By Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole News and Guide, January 11, 2012

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Tonight...Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 4 below to 4 above zero.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Lowest wind chill readings 11 below to 21 below zero in the morning.

Friday Night...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 1 to 9. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

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Just a quick note to remind everyone that there will only be **one courier run** next week on Wednesday, January 18th. Also, If anyone is interested in assisting with film monitoring duties throughout the year when needed and has not been in contact with me yet, please let me know and I can add you to the email list. Feel free to call me with questions! Rachel Cudmore, Film Permit Coordinator: 307-344-2722.

Vacancy Announcement: Public Affairs Assistant, GS-0303-06, Full Time – Permanent. Yellowstone National Park is seeking a highly motivated individual to join the staff of the park's Public Affairs Office. The incumbent serves and integral role in the park's interactions with the news media and a wide variety of stakeholders. In addition, this individual provides important administrative support to a variety of functions within the Office of the Superintendent. Success in the position requires an individual who is organized, detail oriented, who can speak and write well, can think on their feet, and who can thrive under deadline pressure. Open through Sunday, January 22.

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CALENDAR

SPOTLIGHT SLEDDING & CHILI COOK-OFF NIGHT. Tuesday, February 7 at 5:45 P.M. at the Mammoth Community Center. Come join the community for a fun night of sledding and chili eating! An NPS fire engine will light up Dude Hill for a sledding extravaganza! Enter your secret chili recipe for a chance to win BIG! (\$5 to enter your chili in contest) Roast hot dogs and marshmallows over the bonfires! MCC will provide the s'mores, hot dogs, fixin's and hot beverages. Just bring a stick and your fastest sled.

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IN THE NEWS

Online opinion from The New York Times

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/>

January 12, 2012, 9:00 pm

A Murder at Paradise

By TIMOTHY EGAN

PARKLAND, Wa. — The next time somebody mindlessly bashes a “federal bureaucrat,” as if the term itself were a parasitic disease, remember the bright young woman we said goodbye to here a few days ago: Margaret Anderson, a park ranger in a flag-draped casket.

In the West, most people live in sprawling urban centers not far from the public-land playgrounds that shape so many lives on the sunset side of the United States. When the worst of our world spills over into that other one, it is people like Anderson who hold the line.

She was asked to do so on New Year's day, which dawned Technicolor bright on Mount Rainier, the 14,411-foot volcano that can get more snow in some years than any other place on earth. The biggest draw is Paradise, more than a mile above sea level at the high point of the main park road, named by an early visitor who gushed, “This must be what Paradise is like.”



On that first day of this year, an Iraq war veteran named Benjamin C. Barnes was steaming toward Paradise after a night of gunfire and partying. He blew past an initial stop where drivers were told to put chains on their tires. No one knows for sure what his intentions were, but it's not unreasonable to speculate, as many in law enforcement have, that he might have fired on people enjoying the snow at Paradise.

Anderson was the daughter of a Lutheran minister, 34 years old, a mother of two little girls. She was the kind of park ranger familiar, by necessity, with flora, fauna and firearms. Just below Paradise, Anderson set up a road block.

“She put herself between the evil coming up the mountain,” said her father, the Rev. Paul Kritsch, “and the people at the other end.” The gunman opened fire on the ranger. At least two shots, one to Anderson’s head, the other to her torso, were enough to kill her. Barnes plunged into waist-deep snow. The next day he was found, dead of exposure and drowning, in the icy creek that drops quickly into a waterfall, the subject of countless pictures.

“Margaret Anderson is a hero not because she died,” said Jon Jarvis, director of the Park Service, “but because of why she died.”

You could not help asking that question — the why — as the horse at the center of the funeral procession passed by on a winter day, boots reversed in the stirrups of an empty saddle, in the military tradition. On both sides of the street were cops and park rangers, hundreds of them from all over the West and Canada, uniforms crisp, faces downcast.

It’s a terrible thing whenever anyone pays with her life while protecting the rest of us. But in the case of a park ranger, it’s exceedingly rare. In the nearly century-old history of the National Park Service, Anderson was only the ninth ranger to be killed in the line of duty. But five of those killings have occurred in the last 20 years.

This is a consequence, in part, of how the surging population has pushed toward the parks, making them more a reflection of society’s ills, clutter and excesses. When Rainier was established in 1899 as the nation’s fifth national park, this suburb where Anderson’s service was held, about 35 miles from Seattle, was mostly farms and forests. Now nearly three million people crowd the Puget Sound metro area. The park is an island of the natural world, a fragile 368 square miles surrounded by everything from strip malls to military bases.

The other point worth noting is about how selfless and valuable so many public employees are — especially those who work the parks, forests, deserts and wildlife refuges owned by every citizen. The hours are torturous, and the rewards inconsistent. Meth labs loom deep inside any number of national forests. A park ranger, at peak season, can have a workload that rivals that of New York City cop. And when the government shuts down because politicians don’t have the courage to find middle ground, it’s these public servants who are kept from the jobs they love.

“They don’t punch a clock,” said Pastor Kritsch of his daughter’s work and that of his son-in-law as well, for Margaret married another park ranger, Eric Anderson.

Rainier is a sanctuary, a living museum of the land without much of a human imprint. On most days, the big mountain is the embodiment of why national parks are called America’s best idea. You don’t expect a park to go on lockdown, as Rainier did briefly, with helicopters dropping coffee cups with handwritten warnings to hikers.

At the start of Margaret Anderson’s memorial service, the mountain was in hiding, as it is on so many winter days. By the time taps was played inside an auditorium packed with nearly 3,000 people, the mountain had come out, in all its glory — a fresh reminder of why rangers young and old are so passionate in defense of Paradise, and us.

Editors note: Mourning bands are authorized for uniformed employees to honor the life and service of Ranger Anderson until sunset on January 31, 2012.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 218 AM MST FRI JAN 13 2012

Today...Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows zero to 10 above zero. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Saturday...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Saturday Night...Breezy. Partly cloudy. Lows 8 to 14. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Sunday...Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Sunday Night...Colder. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows zero to 6 above. Chance of snow 60 percent. Wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero.

Martin Luther King Jr Day...Colder. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 7 to 13. Wind chill readings 11 below to 21 below zero.

Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

INQUIRING MINDS!

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Click here for the latest on the approaching tempest:

**Hazardous Weather Outlook
Winter Storm Watch**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just a quick note to remind everyone that there will only be **one courier run** next week on Wednesday, January 18th. Also, If anyone is interested in assisting with film monitoring duties throughout the year when needed and has not been in contact with me yet, please let me know and I can add you to the email list. Feel free to call me with questions! Rachel Cudmore, Film Permit Coordinator: 307-344-2722.

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Vacancy Announcement: Public Affairs Assistant, GS-0303-06, Full Time – Permanent. Yellowstone National Park is seeking a highly motivated individual to join the staff of the park's Public Affairs Office. The incumbent serves and integral role in the park's interactions with the news media and a wide variety of stakeholders. In addition, this individual provides important administrative support to a variety of functions within the Office of the Superintendent. Success in the position requires an individual who is organized, detail oriented, who can speak and write well, can think on their feet, and who can thrive under deadline pressure. Open through Sunday, January 22.

<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/306381600>

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In an effort to make information about the **Mammoth Community Center** more available to everyone, the board has launched a new website - www.mammothcommunity.org. Certain parts of the site (interactive calendar and message board) are not quite up yet but will be soon. In addition to regulations, fitness center membership information and booking options, we hope the site will provide everyone in the community with information about events and give people the opportunity to look for everything from ski partners to rides to Bozeman. Your involvement is always welcome - contact any board member via email at board@mammothcommunity.org with your comments and suggestions.

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CALENDAR

SPOTLIGHT SLEDDING & CHILI COOK-OFF NIGHT. Tuesday, February 7 at 5:45 P.M. at the Mammoth Community Center. Come join the community for a fun night of sledding and chili eating! An NPS fire engine will light up Dude Hill for a sledding extravaganza! Enter your secret chili recipe for a chance to win

BIG! (\$5 to enter your chili in contest) Roast hot dogs and marshmallows over the bonfires! MCC will provide the s'mores, hot dogs, fixin's and hot beverages. Just bring a stick and your fastest sled.

Operational Leadership Training | February 8 & 9, 2012 | 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](#)

IN THE NEWS

New bison harvests proposed in Montana

Jan 16, 2012

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- Bison that wander beyond designated tolerance areas in Montana could be shot by hunters outside regular hunting seasons under a proposal from wildlife officials.

The proposal will be considered by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks commissioners on Jan. 19.

The move to expand bison hunting comes after state officials ran into stiff resistance on recent proposals to give bison more room to roam outside Yellowstone National Park. That includes allowing bison into the Hebgen Basin north of the park and relocating some of the animals to new areas.

A lawsuit filed in state District Court Wednesday by property rights groups and landowners would block a planned relocation of 68 bison to the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations. Two more suits are pending over bison in the Hebgen Basin.

Mont. considers extending wolf hunt in Bitterroot

Jan 16, 2012

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) -- Montana officials are proposing another extension of the state's gray wolf hunt as harvest numbers continue to lag original expectations.

Hunting in a portion of the Bitterroot Valley along the Idaho border would be allowed through April 1 or until hunters meet the area's quota of 18 wolves, whichever is first.

Through Thursday, only three wolves had been killed in the area this season.

An initial vote on the extension is scheduled for Jan. 19 by Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission. Statewide, 133 wolves have been killed this season out of a 220-wolf quota. Officials are aiming to reduce the state's wolf population from at least 566 animals to about 425.

The wolf season originally was scheduled to end Dec. 31 but has been extended statewide until Feb. 15.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 229 AM MST TUE JAN 17 2012

Today...Windy. Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 7 to 13. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph late in the afternoon. Lowest wind chill readings 28 below to 38 below zero in the morning.

Tonight...Windy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows zero to 6 above zero. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 50 mph. Wind chill readings 16 below to 26 below zero.

Wednesday...Windy. Not as cold. Snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 16 to 22. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

Wednesday Night...Windy...snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds 25 to 30 mph with gusts to around 50 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

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Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Admin Travel: Check the [Morning Report](#) each day before embarking on admin travel as SEVERAL road closures are in effect in the interior due to storms.

Click here for the latest on local storms:

[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
[Winter Storm Warning](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courier Run: Due to Hayden Valley being closed, I will be postponing the courier run today. I will do the run tomorrow with hopes to travel the entire loop. Rachel Cudmore, x2722.

Vacancy Announcement: Public Affairs Assistant, GS-0303-06, Full Time – Permanent. Yellowstone National Park is seeking a highly motivated individual to join the staff of the park's Public Affairs Office. The incumbent serves and integral role in the park's interactions with the news media and a wide variety of stakeholders. In addition, this individual provides important administrative support to a variety of functions within the Office of the Superintendent. Success in the position requires an individual who is organized, detail oriented, who can speak and write well, can think on their feet, and who can thrive under deadline pressure. Open through Sunday, January 22.

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OSHA 6000 Collateral Duty (part-time) Safety and Health Course for Federal Agency Employees

The Rocky Mountain **OSHA Training Institute** Region VIII will be at the Heritage Center in Gardiner from **February 13 to 16** to teach OSHA 6000 Collateral Duty Course for Federal Agencies. Supervisors, Safety Committee members, and collateral duty safety leaders are highly encouraged to attend.

This course introduces Federal Agency Collateral Duty (part-time) safety and health personnel to the OSH Act (Occupational Safety and Health 1970), Executive Order 12196 (Occupational safety and health programs for Federal employees), 29 CFR 1960 (Basic Program Elements for Federal Employees OSHA), and 29 CFR 1910 (the General Industry Standard). It enables employees to recognize basic safety and health hazards in their workplace and gives them the tools to effectively assist in the inspection and abatement efforts.

This is the most comprehensive safety training you can get in one week's time. You will use the information you gain in this course for the rest of your career whether you are a supervisor, line employee, program manager, or trainer.

There is no fee and a total of 25 spots are available. Contact Training and OWCP Coordinator, Bernie Adams at 2047 to register. Please request approval from your supervisor prior to registering.

In an effort to make information about the **Mammoth Community Center** more available to everyone, the board has launched a new website - www.mammothcommunity.org. Certain parts of the site (interactive calendar and message board) are not quite up yet but will be soon. In addition to regulations, fitness center membership information and booking options, we hope the site will provide everyone in the community with information about events and give people the opportunity to look for everything from ski partners to rides to Bozeman. Your involvement is always welcome - contact any board member via email at board@mammothcommunity.org with your comments and suggestions.

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IN THE NEWS

Feds consider allowing wolf hunt in parkway

Conservation groups get some 44,000 signatures opposing wolf plan.

By Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole, Wyo., January 18, 2012

Regional National Park Service officials say they would consider wolf hunting in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway if the hunt would help the state meet its management goals.

http://jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=8147

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 219 AM MST WED JAN 18 2012

Today...Windy...snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 17 to 23. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 55 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

Tonight...Windy...snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Lows 10 to 16. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 55 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Thursday...Windy. Not as cold. Snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 7 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Thursday Night...Windy...snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 7 inches. Lows 14 to 20. Southwest winds 25 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph decreasing to 15 to 25 mph after midnight. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

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Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, January 19, 2012

TRAVEL

As of the time this newsletter was distributed at 9:00 a.m. the road from the park's West Entrance to Old Faithful has re-opened to public and admin oversnow travel, with the road reported in very poor condition.

All other interior oversnow roads are closed to both public and Admin snowmobile and snowcoach travel.

The road from Gardiner to Mammoth and on to Cooke City is open to wheeled vehicles, snow tires requires, caution advised for drifting and animals near the roadway.

For updated Admin travel information, call 307-344-7115. The public road condition report line is 344-2117.

AVALANCHE WARNINGS

The Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center has issued a **BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE WARNING** for the Lionhead area near West Yellowstone and the mountains around Cooke City. Heavy snowfall, high winds and an extremely weak snowpack are causing unstable conditions. Today the avalanche danger is HIGH on all slopes. Areas of unstable snow exist. Natural and human triggered avalanches are likely. Avalanche terrain including avalanche runout zones should be avoided.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest Avalanche Center has issued an **AVALANCHE WARNING** for the mountains of Western Wyoming including the Teton, Gros Ventre, Snake River, Salt River and Wyoming Ranges, and the west slope of the Wind River Range and the Togwotee Pass area. Heavy snow and strong winds have created very dangerous avalanche conditions. Medium to large natural avalanche activity is likely and has already impacted area roadways. Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 517 AM MST THU JAN 19 2012

A **Winter Storm WARNING** remains in effect for the park until 5:00 a.m. Friday <http://tiny.cc/dv1bx>

Today...Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 5 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight...Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 6 inches. Lows 17 to 23. Southwest winds 25 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Friday...Windy. Areas of blowing snow in the morning. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

A Winter Storm WARNING remains in effect for Cooke City until 5:00 am Friday <http://tiny.cc/9sim6>

A Winter Storm WARNING remains in effect for elevations above 7000 feet in West Yellowstone, the Gallatin Canyon, Bozeman and Bozeman Pass <http://tiny.cc/kp1f3>

A Winter Weather ADVISORY is in effect for the Paradise Valley until 5:00 am Friday <http://tiny.cc/85tcn>

A Winter Weather ADVISORY is in effect for the Livingston Area until 5:00 am Friday <http://tiny.cc/ovpkg>

Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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Friday, January 20, 2012

TRAVEL

Many interior park roads remain closed to public and admin travel. Before you go, check the Morning Report for updated road information or call the road line. For Admin travel information, call 307-344-7115. The public road condition report line is 344-2117.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Heritage and Research Center**, including the library, archives and museum collections, will be closed the week of January 30th so the staff can complete some special projects and do preventative maintenance around the building. The front doors will be locked, so if you have a meeting with someone, please call ahead to make sure they will be waiting for you. Phone: 307-344-2264 yell_research_library@nps.gov

The final **Refresher Snowmobile Training** is being offered on January 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Mammoth Garage Conference Room. The sign-up sheet is located on the P drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training 2011-2012 Sign-up\2011-12 Refresher Training. If you need to take the refresher course, please don't miss this opportunity. Safety Office x2029.

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IN THE NEWS

FWP considers using hunters to kill stray bison

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press, January 19, 2012

HELENA, Mont. (AP) -- Montana officials gave their initial approval Thursday to a plan that would let hunters kill bison that stray beyond designated areas north of Yellowstone National Park and from the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Indian reservations.

The plan is to remove bison that wander outside of defined "tolerance areas" beyond the park and where wild Yellowstone bison have been slated for transfer, such as the two northeastern Montana reservations.

The proposal by Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks agency comes as state officials seek to ease the stiff resistance to bison being allowed to roam in more parts of the state. FWP Director Joe Maurier said the tolerance areas recently have been enlarged by 75,000 acres into the Hebgen basin north of Yellowstone.

"We've been working hard to find more tolerance for bison in Montana," Maurier said. "Essentially what we've done is move the line, and we are trying to figure out how we manage bison past that line."

Neighboring farmers and ranchers fear the bison will spread disease and destroy their property.

A lawsuit filed last week in state court by property rights groups and landowners aims to block the relocation of 68 Yellowstone bison to Fort Peck and Fort Belknap, which the FWP approved in December. Two other lawsuits are pending over bison in the Hebgen basin, where the animals are being allowed to wander as they seek food at lower elevations in the winter.

The commission voted 4-1 to tentatively approve the hunting measure, which now goes out for public comment before a final vote in February.

Commissioner Ron Moody, who voted against the plan, said he believes state regulators are improperly using hunters to kill wildlife that cross a containment line. At that point, an animal ceases to be game and becomes vermin, and that does not fit the concept of a fair hunt, he said.

"A moral onus falls on the people who are slaughtering bison who stray over a line. I want that moral onus to fall where it belongs and not where it shouldn't belong, which is on this thing that we call fair-chase hunting," Moody said.

Stephany Seay, representing the advocacy group Buffalo Field Campaign, said the agency should consider the bison's wildlife status in Montana instead of proposing to kill more of the animals.

"You can't just keep killing wildlife and confining wildlife because their presence is a minor inconvenience to a few. I think we need to learn how to coexist in a more meaningful way and a more sustainable way," she said.

Maurier said the agency is open to discussion and any ideas that people may have on managing the bison that wander beyond those designated areas.

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Wild bison advocates oppose FWP's bison management harvest

Buffalo Field Campaign, January 19, 2012

HELENA, Mont. – Wild bison advocates will be in attendance at the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission meeting in Helena, January 19 to oppose the new proposal by the Commission that would allow hunters to kill wild bison that migrate out of designated "tolerance" zones in the Gardiner Basin, north of Yellowstone National Park.

"The proposal by Montana's FWP Commission is nothing short of a dream-come-true for the Montana Department of Livestock," said Buffalo Field Campaign spokeswoman Stephany Seay. "As with Montana's regular bison hunt, these "bison management harvest" individuals will further be used to do the dirty work of killing buffalo that commit the crime of walking too far or being "unhazable."

Buffalo Field Campaign, a wild bison advocacy group based in West Yellowstone and Gardiner, Montana warns that the FWP Commissioners are setting up a repeat of the highly controversial firing line-style bison hunts of the late-1980s, that gave the state a serious black eye and ended the hunts.

"Wild bison need habitat immediately in Montana, and throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem," said BFC Policy Coordinator Josh Osher. "Bison are an ecologically extinct wildlife species and the only thing that the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission should be considering is how to naturally restore this treasured and ecologically significant animal."

The wild bison of the Yellowstone region are the last population to retain their identity as a wildlife species. Wild bison are ecologically extinct throughout their native North American range and efforts are underway to gain Endangered Species Act protection for this last continuously wild population.

Buffalo Field Campaign is a non-profit public interest organization founded in 1997 to stop the slaughter of Yellowstone's wild bison, protect the natural habitat of wild free-roaming bison and other native wildlife, and to work with people of all Nations to honor the sacredness of the wild bison.

Buffalo Field Campaign has its headquarters in West Yellowstone, Montana, and is supported by volunteers and participants around the world who value America's native wildlife and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

For more information visit <http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org>

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Through the frozen forest: Yellowstone on skis

By MATT VOLZ

Associated Press, Jan 18, 2012

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) -- I took a deep breath, positioned my skis and shot down the hillside, whizzing through a forest of trees covered with thick, feathered layers of ice.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_TRAVEL_TRIP_YELLOWSTONE_CROSS_COUNTRY_SKIING_MTOL-?SITE=VARIT&SECTION=US&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 204 AM MST FRI JAN 20 2012

Avalanche Warning**Hazardous Weather Outlook**

Today...Breezy. Snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Tonight...Breezy. Snow likely in the evening...then snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 4 inches. Lows 17 to 23. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Saturday...Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Saturday Night...Breezy...colder. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 6 to 19 inches. Lows 8 to 14. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, January 23, 2012

TRAVEL

As of the weekend, all parks roads are open for travel. Before you go, check the Morning Report for updated road information or call the road line. For Admin travel information, call 307-344-7115. The public road condition report line is 344-2117.

Lest we forget the challenges our colleagues in other parts of the park face when conditions in our own area seem tame:



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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 234 AM MST MON JAN 23 2012

Today...Chance of snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight...Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 6 inches. Lows 5 to 11. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the morning. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night...Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 10 to 16. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

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Mountain Mobil Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage on January 26, 2012. If you are in need of glass work on a Government Vehicle please call Randy Froelich at x2321 or Tom Monroe at x2322 to set up an appointment. If you need personal work please call Randy Stands at 406-220-7891.

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 756 AM MST TUE JAN 24 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

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

Tonight...Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 10 to 16. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 35 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Wednesday...Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Wednesday Night...Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 17 to 23. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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IN THE NEWS**Yellowstone Bison Begin Yearly Migration**

By Katherine Mozzone, KTVM, January 23, 2012

<http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/30283300/detail.html>

GARDINER, Mont. -- It happens every year. Yellowstone bison migrate to Gardiner basin in search of food. This year, a mild winter has kept the animals in the park but locals say that's about to change.

"I saw about 50 last night come off. Then this morning, they were right there on the old shooting range there, above Gardiner," says Gardiner landowner Bill Hoppe.

Hoppe is a Montana native. He owns cattle in the Gardiner basin and says bison can mean brucellosis and destruction to his property.

"Last year, I had probably \$300, \$400 worth of sprinkler pipe tore up by the buffalo," says Hoppe. Yet, more than danger to his property is the risk he says they pose to people.

"When they turn these buffalo and let them down on this highway. Somebody's going to get killed. I mean, they hit two of them. On kid hit one right here on the highway and then they hit another one down the highway a little further last year. Just lucky people don't get killed," says Hoppe.

Anna Holloway works at Tumbleweed Bookstore and Café and lives in Gardiner. She says she understands concerns of ranchers like Bill.

"I do understand problems that people are having with them and some of the issues that effect other people, not me personally, such as damage to property, fields, eating the grass instead of the horses being able to," says Holloway.

However, she says she likes seeing the animals in the basin come wintertime.

"I enjoy it. It's a little novelty. Just like having the deer and the elk roaming around and even the occasional wolf or coyote. It's good for winter tourism," says Holloway.

There's no doubt Yellowstone bison are a controversial topic in the Gardiner basin but some locals say that's just the way it is.

"That's the story from here, you know. It's just the same old story, year after year. It's a great big to-do about it when they come out of the park, then on years like this when there's no buffalos out of the park, everybody forgets about it, I guess," says Hoppe.

Architect Jim McDonald fulfills lifelong dream restoring Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone

KIM BRIGGEMAN, Missoulian, January 14, 2012

Jim McDonald was just another ranch kid visiting Yellowstone National Park with his family in the 1950s. Like most of the tens of millions of tourists in Yellowstone over the years, the McDonalds of Cascade placed Old Faithful geyser near the top of their list of attractions and, afterward, their memories. But for young Jim, there was also the Crow's Nest.

http://missoulian.com/news/local/architect-jim-mcdonald-fulfills-lifelong-dream-restoring-old-faithful-inn/article_b117152a-3f3a-11e1-9211-001871e3ce6c.html?mode=story

Kathie Lynch's winter Yellowstone wolf update

(THE WILDLIFE NEWS [WOLF RECOVERY FOUNDATION, POCA TELLO, ID])

<http://www.thewildlifeneews.com/2012/01/24/kathie-lynchs-winter-yellowstone-wolf-update-3/>

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 234 AM MST WED JAN 25 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Today...Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 3 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight...Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph.

Thursday...Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday Night...Colder...cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 6 inches. Lows 6 to 12. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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IN THE NEWS

With winter underway, battle over bison management rages on

CARLY FLANDRO, Bozeman Chronicle | Thursday, January 26, 2012

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/wildlife/article_ecd6ed8e-47d6-11e1-85b9-0019bb2963f4.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Each winter when snow drives bison out of Yellowstone National Park, conservationists, ranchers and others disagree over how the wild animals should be managed.

This year will likely be just as tense as several controversial issues surrounding bison unfold.

Efforts to allow bison on land outside the park — throughout the Gardiner Basin and on two reservations in northern Montana — face litigation from local groups that fear the spread of an animal disease and threats to private property.

If bison are allowed on those state and tribal lands, it would symbolize growing tolerance for the animals.

A mild winter so far has enabled bison to mostly stay inside the park, but once they leave, it remains unclear how they'll be managed. They could be left to roam, hazed, fenced, shot or sent to slaughter.

Last spring, groups and agencies responsible for managing the animals announced a plan to let bison roam the Gardiner Basin north of the park, where they migrate each winter season.

The bison create controversy when they move onto Montana lands because some may carry the disease brucellosis, which causes pregnant animals to miscarry. Ranchers fear the sickness could spread to cattle.

There are also concerns about bison damaging property or creating public safety issues.

Park County and the Park County Stockgrowers Association filed lawsuits over the decision to let bison roam the basin, and hearings will be held for those cases at the beginning of March.

Until then, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is working to review the approximately 5,000 public comments it received on its plan to let bison roam the Gardiner Basin. By the end of next week, the agency should announce whether bison will be allowed throughout that area, according to FWP spokeswoman Andrea Jones.

FWP is also working on an agreement to move quarantined, disease-free bison from Corwin Springs to the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations. Citizens for Balanced Use filed a lawsuit earlier this month against the relocation, citing concerns for private property.

FWP has not yet been issued the lawsuit, according to Rebecca Jakes Dockter, an attorney for the agency.

This week, the Montana Stockgrowers Association named bison management as a top priority for 2012. Walter “Watty” Taylor, president of the group, said it is “incredibly important that ranchers are included in these discussions.”

“We have ongoing concerns about private property rights, the spread of brucellosis, and public safety,” he said. “No meaningful, lasting progress can be made on this issue without the involvement of the ranching community.”

Another group of diverse stakeholders, such as ranchers and conservationists, is continuing its effort to create a usable plan for managing bison that all can agree upon.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 156 AM MST THU JAN 26 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook **Winter Weather Advisory**

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Tonight...Breezy...cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 to 9 inches. Lows 2 to 8. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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Friday Night...Partly cloudy. Lows zero to 6 above zero. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

January 26, 2012

Old Faithful Visitor Lodging Improvement Plan Out For Public Review

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12004.htm>

A proposal to return some cabin units in the Old Faithful area back to visitor use has been released for public review and comment.

The preferred alternative in the Old Faithful Cabin Repurposing and Dormitory Construction Plan Environmental Assessment would result in an increase in summer lodging in the Old Faithful area, and would amend a decision from the 1985 Old Faithful Development Concept Plan that called for the removal of all cabins from the area.

Under the plan, 67 lodge cabin units would return to their original historic use as visitor accommodations, after having served as concessioner employee lodging for about a decade. This also represents a commitment to properly preserve these historic cabins. A new dormitory would be built in the Old Faithful Administrative Area to accommodate the displaced employees.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and an electronic form to submit comments on the internet can be found on the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yell>.

A hard copy of the EA is available upon request by calling (307) 344-2221, or by writing to the Old Faithful Cabin Repurposing Plan EA, National Park Service, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.

Written comments may be submitted through the PEPC web site, in person, or by mail. Comments will not be accepted by phone, fax, or e-mail. All public comments must be received or postmarked by midnight, February 26, 2012.

Once comments are analyzed, the National Park Service will make a decision on the final plan. Details of the decision would be contained in the decision document signed by the Regional Director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service. The decision document would be made available on the previously mentioned website.

IN THE NEWS

Friday, January 27, 2012

Smokies draws most in visitor spending among national parks

By Morgan Simmons

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2012/jan/27/smokies-draws-most-in-visitor-spending-among/?print=1>

A new study by Michigan State University reaffirms Great Smoky Mountains National Park's position as the top national park in the U.S. for visitor spending.

The "Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation and Payroll" estimates that in 2010 the park's 9 million visitors spent over \$818 million in neighboring communities — double the \$415 million generated by Grand Canyon National Park, the second-ranked park in the study.

California's Yosemite National Park ranked third in visitor spending with \$354 million; **Yellowstone National Park ranked fourth with \$334 million;** and the Blue Ridge Parkway ranked fifth with \$299 million.

The study also estimates that visitor spending in the Smokies supported 11,367 jobs in communities within a 60-mile radius of the park.

In 2009 the same study found visitor spending around the Smokies to be \$799.6 million with 11,112 local jobs created — both slightly below 2010, but still way ahead of other national parks.

According to the 2010 study, the national park system as a whole received 281 million recreational visits, and park visitors injected \$12.13 billion into local economies.

Half of the nationwide park spending was for lodging and meals; 19 percent was for gas and local transportation; 10 percent was for amusement; 8 percent was for groceries; and 13 percent was for retail purchases.

Also in 2010, the national park system generated 43,160 jobs in restaurants; 32,000 jobs in lodging sectors; 23,000 jobs in retail and wholesale trades; and 18,560 jobs in amusement, according to the study.

Last year the Smokies barely cleared the 9 million mark in visitation, but that was still way ahead of Grand Canyon National Park, the second most-visited park with 4.2 million visitors, and Yellowstone National Park, which had 3.4 million visitors in 2011.

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 817 AM MST FRI JAN 27 2012

Today...Partly cloudy. Highs 14 to 20. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight...Breezy. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows zero to 6 above zero. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero.

Saturday...Breezy. Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 18 to 24. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero in the morning.

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Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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INQUIRING MINDS!

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, January 30, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submissions for the **Mammoth community newsletter** are needed. Please send them to Charissa Reid before the end of January. Items for Sale/Free to a Good Home, Help Needed, Community Events or Announcements - are all welcome! X2260 or Charissa_Redi@nps.gov

Tom Schwartz has accepted a promotion as the Lamar River Deputy District Ranger. He will EOD after Colette Daigle-Berg retires at the end of March, and will reside at Tower. Congratulations Tom!

Yellowstone **Green Team's** monthly meeting is every first Thursday at 9:00 am in the YCR conference room. Meetings are open to all employees. The next meeting February 2nd.

CALENDAR

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IN THE NEWS

Cody more than 'stop' on Yellowstone trip

Mark Heinz, Cody Enterprise, January 23, 2012

The overwhelming majority of tourists who come to Cody also visit Yellowstone Park, and favor motel rooms instead of camping, according to a recent survey.

http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article_84305cca-4614-11e1-9278-0019bb2963f4.html

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 308 AM MST MON JAN 30 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Today...Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tonight...Breezy...cloudy. Snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 5 inches. Lows 10 to 16. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tuesday...Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Tuesday Night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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Tuesday, January 31, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Currently there is an on-line **GSA auction** in session for 17 lots of surplus government property and these lots are tentatively set to close on Saturday February 4th. The website is www.gsaauctions.gov. Contact Supply at x2085 for more info.

The latest edition of the **Mammoth Community newsletter** is hot off the presses. Get yours at www.mammothcommunity.org. Congrats to Beth Taylor who won the \$5 gift certificate at the Tumbleweed Bookstore! This month's give away is a \$5 gift certificate at The Yellowstone Perk.

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY
Last Update: 316 AM MST TUE JAN 31 2012

Today...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 9 to 15. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday...Cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and early afternoon. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Wednesday Night...Colder. Snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 3 to 4 inches. Lows 2 to 8. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Avalanche information at: <http://mtavalanche.com/node>

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