

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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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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.

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April 18 & 19, 2012 - interior location To Be Determined

May 16 & 17, 2012 - interior location To Be Determined

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Please sign up at the following link: <P:\Safety Office\Operational Leadership Training>

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Work Continues On A Long-Term Winter Use Plan For Yellowstone

The National Park Service (NPS) continues working on a long-term plan to guide winter use in Yellowstone National Park.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12005.htm>

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone Park seeks overseas tourists

Mark Heinz, Cody Enterprise, January 30, 2012

Marketing to specific nations could bolster international tourism to Yellowstone Park and other U.S. destinations, President Obama said.

Still, while any boost to tourism is a good one, it's difficult to say exactly where Yellowstone's international traffic is coming from, park spokesman Al Nash said.

Federal policy changes to make it easier for tourists to enter the U.S. could translate into more traffic here, said Park County Travel Council Marketing Director Claudia Wade.

"I have heard that the difficulty of getting here can be prohibitive to the plans of some travelers," she said. To promote travel and tourism, the U.S. should take advantage of the growing economies in other nations, specifically China and Brazil, Obama said during a speech Jan. 19 at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

He mentioned Yellowstone by name during the speech, and said the "natural wonders" in America's national parks and other areas are one of our country's strong selling points.

As part of a travel and tourism initiative, the White House is requesting that the State Department this year accelerate the process of granting travel visas for visitors from Brazil and China.

Those nations have "fast growing middle classes," that are starting to enjoy significant disposable income, Obama said.

Vacations to the U.S. could be a tantalizing way for them to spend that money, he said.

"Expediting the visa process has been an ongoing issue within the travel industry for some time," Wade said. "It's good to see it getting some federal attention."

Opening up for tourists should not come at the expense of making things easier for those who might have nefarious purposes, she added.

"They (tourists) are coming anyway. I think if there's a way there could be easier entrance into the U.S. for them, we could benefit from that," she said.

"But I can't stress enough, it has to be consistent with national security requirements," Wade added. Yellowstone doesn't specifically track where most visitors come from, Nash said. The last visitor survey, in 2006, indicated about 10 percent of the park's tourists are international travelers.

"That's significant," he said. "International visitors are an important component. Why would anybody come to the U.S. and not want to see Yellowstone?"

Canadians made up about 25 percent of international respondents to the 2006 survey, Nash said.

The Netherlands and Germany also were strongly represented, he added.

"Brazil is not a large market for us, yet we do get some visitors from there, and some from China," Wade said. To attract and accommodate international travelers, Yellowstone puts out "limited printed material" in several languages, some of which include Spanish, French, German and Mandarin, Nash said.

"Our goal is to be welcoming to visitors, whether they come halfway across the state, or halfway around the world," Nash said.

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Drunk Yellowstone Park bus driver sentenced

JODI HAUSEN, Bozeman Chronicle, January 31, 2012

Federal Judge Stephen E. Cole on Tuesday sentenced a Bozeman man who drove a bus load of Bozeman school children into Yellowstone National Park while drunk to 180 days in jail.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/crime/article_d1592c40-4c52-11e1-a783-001871e3ce6c.html

See Yellowstone from the comfort of a captain's chair

BY KIP SIKORA West Yellowstone News, January 27, 2012

Snowcoaches slog over the frozen terrain of Yellowstone National Park with the agility of a blue whale on ice skates.

http://www.westyellowstonenews.com/news/article_63b59706-490e-11e1-af66-0019bb2963f4.html

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 224 AM MST WED FEB 1 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Today...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 afternoon. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Tonight...Snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation around 2 inches. Lows 11 to 17. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then scattered snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 23 to 29. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Thursday Night...Colder. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Isolated snow showers. Lows 4 to 10. Chance of snow 20 percent.

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

INQUIRING MINDS!

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Thursday, February 2, 2012

This just in...



"As I look at the crowd on Gobbler's Knob, many shadows do I see. Six more weeks of winter it must be."
-Punxsutawney Phil, Feb. 2, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations! To Gardiner students Rose Cote, Anna Gruber, Jay Bueter, Alex Herring, Anna Reid, Becca Brown, Paul Krish, Taylor Perius, Betsy Story, Olivia Cretella, Ruth Stooker, Megan Zapata, Courtney Loeffelholz and Julia Porzner for their outstanding performances at the state Class B-C Speech and Drama Tournament at Montana State University Billings, Jan. 27-28. (See full story below)

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ACTING ASSIGNMENTS

Claude Long will be acting Supervisor for the Plumbing Shop from February 2-21. He can be reached at x2333.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Yellowstone Releases Lake Area Plan For Public Review**

A plan to chart the future of the Lake area of Yellowstone National Park has been released for public review.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12006.htm>

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Work Continues On A Long-Term Winter Use Plan For Yellowstone

The National Park Service (NPS) continues working on a long-term plan to guide winter use in Yellowstone National Park.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12005.htm>

IN THE NEWS**Baker/Pleva, Loyola, Gardiner win top honors in state B-C speech tourney**

Billings Gazette, February 1, 2012

Dozens of high school students earned awards at in the state Class B-C Speech and Drama Tournament at Montana State University Billings on Jan. 27-28.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/baker-pleva-loyola-gardiner-win-top-honors-in-state-b/article_a67ee0af-62bf-59aa-8858-87a0f8685af3.html

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A Yellowstone Charrette

Written By Todd Wilkinson, Western Art and Architecture

An innovative collaboration has captured the attention of the National Park Service.

<http://www.westernartandarchitecture.com/articles/western-art-and-architecture/fall-winter-2011/154/a-yellowstone-charrette.html>

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Bus driver who drove kids after drinking jailed

Associated Press The Billings Gazette | Wednesday, February 1, 2012

BOZEMAN — A former charter bus driver who took a group of Bozeman middle schoolers on a field trip to Yellowstone National Park with a trace amount of alcohol in his system has been sentenced to two weeks in jail and fined \$500.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/bus-driver-who-drove-kids-after-drinking-jailed/article_9eccc97b-e953-59e2-a664-289621ff13fd.html

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 339 AM MST THU FEB 2 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Today...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 25 to 31.

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Friday, February 3, 2012

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Thought you'd be interested in this shot - **the Gardiner school bus hit an eagle** in Yankee Jim Canyon yesterday (Wednesday) and apparently it was quite dramatic to have the bird **INSIDE** the bus.

Congrats to the bus driver for his quick thinking and ability to keep the bus on the road! Yikes!

-- Charissa Olson Reid

Please recall the email I sent out around the Holidays describing our objectives and details of the wolf capture and collaring program. After waiting out bad weather and helicopter scheduling issues, it appears over the next several days we will have adequate conditions to begin operations. We will work park-wide and through the Fire Cache or Comm Center should there be questions. We are not able to give detailed plans on where we will be working each day, as that will depend on where the wolves are for that day. Thank you and we appreciate all of the involvement and help we have received with this program over the years.

-- Doug Smith, Yellowstone Wolf Project

CSS Lost & Found -- In an old laptop computer in CSS we found the soundtrack to the movie Dumb & Dumber. Anyone wanting to claim this CD should call, email, show up, or report to Aspen, CO for pickup. We will do our best not to judge.

North Entrance Food Farm, in conjunction with the Gardiner School's Seventh Grade Class, will kick-off an environmental project that will focus on **keeping one use bags out of our landfills**. Our seventh graders will be selling, for a buck, canvas bags that they have purchased and decorated. All proceeds will return to the class. NEFF will credit customers a nickel for every personal bag used. We will support this project through Earth Day, April 22nd. Please join us in our efforts for a cleaner more sustainable environment.

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January 31, 2012

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<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12005.htm>

IN THE NEWS

Grand Teton National Park issues permit for latest Tarantino film

Associated Press Posted: Friday, February 3, 2012 6:15 am

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/grand-teton-national-park-issues-permit-for-latest-tarantino-film/article_21b1faa6-1c01-528d-a11f-7d34dbbfb1b6.html#ixzz1lKlxdPJT

JACKSON, Wyo. — Grand Teton National Park officials say director Quentin Tarantino plans on shooting some scenes for his latest film in Jackson Hole within the next couple of weeks.

Park spokeswoman Jackie Skaggs says the National Park Service issued a permit to Tarantino's production company last week.

A publicist with the project has said a brief part of "Django Unchained" that calls for snow would be filmed in the Jackson area. The film is about a bounty-hunting slave.

Most of the filming by the director of "Pulp Fiction" and "Kill Bill" will be taking place in New Orleans. Skaggs declined to say what location the production company had been scouting or applied to use within the park.

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Congratulations! The Yellowstone Park Foundation has committed \$ 1.45 M to fund eight projects in Yellowstone National Park for 2012. The projects awarded grant funding include:

\$ 1 million	Native Fish Conservation Program
\$ 100,000	Wildlife and Visitor Safety
\$ 50,000	Wildlife Health
\$ 85,000	Raptor Study
\$ 50,000	Restoring Roadside Kiosks (phase I)
\$ 100,000	Norris Geyser Basin Access (phase I)
\$ 40,000	Ranger Stock Replacement
\$ 25,000	New Tack for Corrals

On behalf of the Yellowstone Park Foundation and our Board of Directors, we wish you success in your continued efforts to protect and preserve our nation's first national park. Thank you both for your help and support during this grant cycle.

Please welcome **Angela Boyers** as the new Snake River District Ranger. Angela was officially offered and accepted the job yesterday. She is currently acting in the assignment and will transition into the position as soon as possible. Congratulations Angela!

Help is being sought for setup after 5:00 p.m. for the **Spotlight sledding** event tomorrow evening at the Mammoth Community Center (See announcement under CALENDAR). Contact Charissa Reid for information at x2260.

The **YCC residential program** provides young people ages 15-18 with a variety of work, recreational, and educational experiences in Yellowstone National Park. The camp operates 2 month-long sessions between mid-June and mid-August. Throughout the program's 23-year history, enrollees have worked on a variety of projects that preserved resources or improved the visitor experiences. To see a list of projects YCC completed last summer, visit P:/YCC/2011 YCC Completed Project list. YCC Project Requests are needed for this summer. Contact Bob Fuhrmann at x2256 for more information.

The potential severity of the upcoming **fire season** is already being speculated upon. The maps in the below links represent precipitation for the water year (since Oct. 1st.) and snow pack levels in the region. While there is lots of talk about this being a dismal snow year, there appears to be near or above normal precipitation.

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/wy_wytdprecpcnormal_update.pdf
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/westsnow.pl>

Bottom line: Let's see what these look like in May, and when the rain spigot shuts off this spring. The Fire Cache will generate a soup to nuts fire season outlook for the park around the first week of May.

–John Cataldo, Assistant Fire Management Officer.

North Entrance Food Farm, in conjunction with the Gardiner School's Seventh Grade Class, will kick-off an environmental project that will focus on **keeping one use bags out of our landfills**. Our seventh graders will be selling, for a buck, canvas bags that they have purchased and decorated. All proceeds will return to the class. NEFF will credit customers a nickel for every personal bag used. We will support this project through Earth Day, April 22nd. Please join us in our efforts for a cleaner more sustainable environment.

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Employee Safety Committee Meeting will be held 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 8 at the Superintendent's Conference Room in Mammoth. Agendas and minutes can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc>. If you would like to listen to the meeting via conference call, call toll free 888-930-9220, Participant Code 1885448.

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ACTING ASSIGNMENTS

Claude Long will be acting Supervisor for the Plumbing Shop from February 2-21. He can be reached at x2333.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone bison slaughter planned if change in weather prompts migration outside park

Associated Press, Billings Gazette, February 4, 2012

BILLINGS, Mont. — Yellowstone National Park administrators plan to capture and ship to slaughter potentially hundreds of wild bison if they migrate into Montana this winter in a bid to reduce disease and control the population of the animals.

The captures could begin as soon as mid-February, park officials said.

The effort comes as neighboring Montana is proposing to let bison roam more freely in the 70,000-acre Gardiner Basin north of the park despite resistance from local officials and some cattle ranchers.

Although the moves by the state and park appear contradictory, officials say keeping bison numbers under control is key to increasing public tolerance for the animals.

A mild winter so far has slowed the bison migration. That could scuttle the slaughter plans if conditions persist.

But about 570 bison are close enough to Yellowstone's northern boundary that a significant winter storm could trigger them to move toward the Montana line, park and state officials said.

"We would still estimate 300 to 500 animals to be at the north boundary before the end of winter," said Yellowstone bison biologist Rick Wallen.

The slaughter would target female animals that test positive for exposure to the livestock disease brucellosis. About 50 bison would be diverted to an animal contraception research program.

The park's goal is to remove up to 330 bison from the population this winter to work toward a long-term objective of about 3,000 of the animals. The most recent population count tallied 3,720 bison

Bison advocates criticized the slaughter plan when it was unveiled late last year. They want bison — North America's largest animals — to have unfettered access to their historic winter grazing grounds at lower elevations in Montana.

The slaughter proposal also met with a tepid reception from Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer. The Democrat has been sparring with the park's parent agency, the Department of Interior, over a wide range of wildlife management issues and in December issued an executive order prohibiting any wildlife shipments by Interior without prior state approval.

A similar order last winter blocked bison slaughter shipments just days before they were slated to begin.

Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said he hoped to develop a cooperative process that will let the shipments proceed if the migration occurs.

"My understanding is that with appropriate notice and appropriate protocols in place, we will be allowed to ship bison to slaughter," he said.

Meat from slaughtered bison would be distributed to American Indian tribes. Many tribes have a strong cultural attachment to the animals and relied on them historically as a primary source of protein.

Park and state officials said hunting in parts of Montana bordering the park remains the preferred method of bison population control. But this year's harvest has been low: state and tribal hunters had killed only 17 bison through Thursday.

The state-sponsored hunt is scheduled to end Feb. 15. Hunts by the Nez Perce, Confederated Salish and Kootenai and other tribes could continue after that date.

But the expectations are low compared to last year, when a tough winter prompted an estimated 1,400 bison to exit Yellowstone and state and tribal hunters killed more than 200.

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Comprehensive plan would guide Lake area development in Yellowstone

BRETT FRENCH, The Billings Gazette | February 6, 2012

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/comprehensive-plan-would-guide-lake-area-development-in-yellowstone/article_f8f0d6ba-0dfe-50ce-80af-6e2021dabae2.html

When the Lake Hotel was built by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1891 in Yellowstone National Park, there was likely little thought given to the long-range future.

One hundred and twenty-one years later, the National Park Service is looking closely at how best to maintain and improve the oldest operating hotel in the National Park Service, as well as the surrounding area, for present needs and into the future.

"It's a long-range plan," said Eleanor Williams Clark, chief of comprehensive planning for Yellowstone. She noted that some of the most recent planning documents for the Lake area are 30 years old. The plan also covers the nearby Fishing Bridge and Bridge Bay areas.

In its Lake Area Comprehensive Plan environmental assessment released last week for public review, Yellowstone officials have outlined some possible improvements to the much-loved Lake Hotel, including a more dramatic entrance at the rear (parking lot side) of the structure, stabilization of the foundation to withstand seismic events and easier pedestrian access to the lake in front of the hotel.

"We want to enhance the visitor experience," Clark said. "We're trying to make things better."

At Fishing Bridge, a 70-year-old water line, which crosses the Yellowstone River attached to the bridge, would be buried beneath the streambed. A buried line wouldn't have to be drained every winter, allowing facilities in Fishing Bridge to maintain fire sprinklers year-round. The Fishing Bridge RV site would also be altered to allow for bigger RVs, although the campground's area would not be enlarged.

At Bridge Bay, dredging at the mouth has been proposed since 1993, but the work has never been done. With the water only 4 feet deep at the mouth, deep-draft boats can't use the bay's marina. Also proposed in the plan are showers at the campground and marina. The only showers now are at the Fishing Bridge Campground. At each area, old employee and concessionaire housing is also proposed for demolition or upgrading.

"One of the things we struggle with is Yellowstone is a big place but all of the development covers only 2 percent of the park, which leads to congestion," Clark said. "We need to showcase the resources of the park without doing damage."

In all, the Park Service's preferred alternative B would rehabilitate historic structures throughout the area. Alternative A would remove 129 buildings.

No cost estimates or possible funding sources are considered in the report. Traditionally, the park has relied on a mix of federal and private money to pay for construction work.

Previous plans for the Lake area were written in 1988 and 1993. Much has changed since then, Clark noted. The perceived need for employee housing is not so great. And a lot more is known about bear behavior in the area. "This is looking at what is an appropriate amount of use," she said.

The Park Service received help on what to change and how from the public during meetings held across the region in 2010 as well as from Montana State University architecture students and professional architectural firms.

The comprehensive plan is the fourth that Yellowstone staff have worked on. The first, which has been completed, was for Tower-Roosevelt. One for Old Faithful is almost done and one for Mammoth Hot Springs is still in the works.

"It's just good business to have a plan that looks into the future," Clark said. "So by doing these plans, we're thinking ahead and being proactive."

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Wyoming House Press Release, February 3, 2012

State Representative Keith Gingery of Jackson announced today that he has filed a bill as the primary sponsor to improve infrastructure within Yellowstone National Park. Rep. Gingery has been joined by co-sponsors:

Senators Dockstader, Christensen, and Coe and Representative Krone. Both Coe and Krone represent the northern portion of Yellowstone and Christensen and Gingery represent the southern half of Yellowstone.

Earlier this summer, the Yellowstone Caucus, comprising the members of the Wyoming Legislature that represent Yellowstone: Coe, Christensen, Krone and Gingery; met with the Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk. The Superintendent expressed concern that with major budget shortfalls he is having difficulty maintaining basic infrastructure in Yellowstone National Park. Teton and Park counties both collect sales tax in Yellowstone, but none of the money gets spent back in Yellowstone. There was a suggestion to perhaps implement a special sales tax for the use of improving infrastructure in Yellowstone. Throughout the remainder of the year a bill was drafted and discussions held with federal officials on how the tax might be implemented.

The bill would create a 1 cent sales tax that would be added to the already existing sales tax being imposed by Park and Teton counties in Yellowstone. The revenue collected would then be turned over to Yellowstone National Park and could only be used within the Wyoming portion of Yellowstone National Park and could only be used for roads, sewers, water supply, trails and bike paths. The funds could not be used by concessionaires of the park.

The American Society of Civil Engineers announced earlier this year that there is a backlog of over \$7 billion of deferred maintenance in our national parks. State Representative Keith Gingery stated "I am hopeful that this bill might be a way for the State of Wyoming to partner with Yellowstone National Park to assist them with their infrastructure needs. I see this as a user fee. The people paying the tax will be the people buying goods and services within Yellowstone National Park, so it is a tax that the user pays to help build the infrastructure that is desperately needed in Yellowstone. Discussing sewer systems and roads may not be what most people think of when they think of Yellowstone, but these are extremely important issues that need to be addressed."

Gingery went on to state, "I had been bugging the current Superintendent and past Superintendent about bike paths along certain roads and in more developed areas, that would not impact the environment adversely, and both of them responded that they had no funds to look at bike paths. I am hopeful that these funds will not only assist with basic infrastructure but also provide funds for improved hiking trails and new bike paths in already developed areas."

The Yellowstone Infrastructure bill be introduced at the upcoming Wyoming Legislative Session beginning on February 13.

State Representative Keith Gingery – Jackson Hole/Dubois
Speaker Pro Tempore – Wyoming House of Representatives

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 509 AM MST FRI FEB 3 2012

Today...Sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 24 to 30. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero in the morning.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Lows zero to 6 above zero.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 23 to 29.

Tuesday Night...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows zero to 6 above 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, February 7, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPOTLIGHT SLEDDING & CHILI COOK-OFF NIGHT. TONIGHT 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. **Help is being sought for setup after 5:00 p.m. Contact Charissa Reid for information at x2260.**

Congratulations! The Yellowstone Park Foundation has committed \$ 1.45 M to fund eight projects in Yellowstone National Park for 2012. The projects awarded grant funding include:

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\$ 100,000	Wildlife and Visitor Safety
\$ 50,000	Wildlife Health
\$ 85,000	Raptor Study
\$ 50,000	Restoring Roadside Kiosks (phase I)
\$ 100,000	Norris Geyser Basin Access (phase I)
\$ 40,000	Ranger Stock Replacement
\$ 25,000	New Tack for Corrals

On behalf of the Yellowstone Park Foundation and our Board of Directors, we wish you success in your continued efforts to protect and preserve our nation's first national park. Thank you both for your help and support during this grant cycle.

The **YCC residential program** provides young people ages 15-18 with a variety of work, recreational, and educational experiences in Yellowstone National Park. The camp operates 2 month-long sessions between mid-June and mid-August. Throughout the program's 23-year history, enrollees have worked on a variety of projects that preserved resources or improved the visitor experiences. To see a list of projects YCC completed last summer, visit [P:/YCC/2011 YCC Completed Project list](#). YCC Project Requests are needed for this summer. Contact Bob Fuhrmann at x2256 for more information.

The potential severity of the upcoming **fire season** is already being speculated upon. The maps in the below links represent precipitation for the water year (since Oct. 1st.) and snow pack levels in the region. While there is lots of talk about this being a dismal snow year, there appears to be near or above normal precipitation.

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/wy_wytdprecpcnormal_update.pdf
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/westsnow.pl>

Bottom line: Let's see what these look like in May, and when the rain spigot shuts off this spring. The Fire Cache will generate a soup to nuts fire season outlook for the park around the first week of May.

–John Cataldo, Assistant Fire Management Officer.

North Entrance Food Farm, in conjunction with the Gardiner School's Seventh Grade Class, will kick-off an environmental project that will focus on **keeping one use bags out of our landfills**. Our seventh graders will be selling, for a buck, canvas bags that they have purchased and decorated. All proceeds will return to the class. NEFF will credit customers a nickel for every personal bag used. We will support this project through Earth Day, April 22nd. Please join us in our efforts for a cleaner more sustainable environment.

Tear It Up of Bozeman has a new truck and is now capable of taking care of a large amount of our shredding needs. He will be in Mammoth on February 14, in the back of the Supply Center, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. He will have the capacity to shred approximately 200, 8-1/2 x 11 copy paper-sized boxes on this trip. A sign-up sheet has been posted at P:\SHREDDING SIGN UP. He will take the first 200 boxes, more if he has room. Each division will be required to pay for their own shredding, so you will need to bring a charge card.

CALENDAR

Employee Safety Committee Meeting will be held 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 8 at the Superintendent's Conference Room in Mammoth. Agendas and minutes can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc>. If you would like to listen to the meeting via conference call, call toll free 888-930-9220, Participant Code 1885448.

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ACTING ASSIGNMENTS

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 622 AM MST TUE FEB 7 2012**Today...**Partly cloudy. Highs 22 to 28. Lowest wind chill readings 14 below to 24 below zero in the morning.**Tonight...**Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 5 below to 5 above zero.**Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 25 to 31. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero in the morning.**Wednesday Night...**Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 1 to 9.

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

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to everyone who joined us on the sledding hill at the **Mammoth Community Center** for our first annual Spotlight Sledding Potluck/Chili Competition! The winner of the chili competition was Dana Jordan who promises to reveal her secret sweet and spicy curry chili recipe. It was a tough competition among the 10 entrants, and we greatly appreciated all those who cooked up some great chili. Many thanks to everyone in the community that made the event possible - Karin Schwartz, the Yellowstone Fire Department, Yellowstone Maintenance, and everyone who came early to help with set-up! Don't miss our next St. Patrick's Day themed Potluck on Wednesday, March 7th at 5:45 PM. Bring the kids for a night of crafts, Irish music, and maybe even a little dancing! Feel free to bring your own projects to show off your craftiness!

Congratulations! The Yellowstone Park Foundation has committed \$ 1.45 M to fund eight projects in Yellowstone National Park for 2012. The projects awarded grant funding include:

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IN THE NEWS

Wyoming lawmaker pitches 1-cent sales tax in Yellowstone National Park

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

By Kevin Huelsmann, Jackson Hole News and Guide, February 6, 2012

Rep. Keith Gingery, R-Jackson, said he filed a bill last week that will create a new, 1-cent sales tax in Yellowstone National Park.

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=8209

Yellowstone sales tax could set precedent, probably legal

By Kevin Huelsmann and Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole News and Guide, February 8, 2012

A 1-cent tax on Yellowstone National Park concessionaire sales proposed by Wyoming legislators to pay for park infrastructure projects likely would be the first of its kind, National Park Service officials say.

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=8224

A Yellowstone park sales tax?

CJ Baker, Powell Tribune, February 7, 2012

It takes a lot of money to keep Yellowstone National Park's sewers, water lines, roads and bridges in working condition for the millions of people who visit the park each year. That's why a Teton County legislator is sponsoring a bill that would put an additional 1 cent on purchases made in Yellowstone.

<http://www.powelltribune.com/news/item/9291-yellowstone-park-tax>

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 826 AM MST WED FEB 8 2012

Rest Of Today...Partly cloudy. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Lowest wind chill readings 12 below to 22 below zero late in the morning.

Tonight...Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the evening... Then mostly cloudy with chance of snow after midnight. Lows 3 to 9. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32.

Thursday Night...Partly cloudy. Lows 7 to 13.

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

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Thursday, February 9, 2012

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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone in Winter

David Koch, Bighorn Radio Network, February 8, 2012

Recently I traveled with Terry Dolan of Garey Fales Rimrock Outfitters I brought back this story in three parts about the sights, experiences , and politics of Winter Travel through Yellowstone's East Entrance.

<http://www.mybighornbasin.com/12202131>

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 935 AM MST THU FEB 9 2012

Rest Of Today...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32.

Tonight...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 10 to 16.

Friday...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 27 to 33.

Friday Night...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 14 to 20.

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YNP@Work

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Friday, February 10, 2012

Feb. 10 is Umbrella Day, in honor of one of the day, we are sure glad that someone was increasingly popular to use umbrellas to radiation, and the heat of the sun.

Umbrellas come in all sorts of Businesses and organizations use them fit inside a purse or glove compartment. Golf lawn and beach umbrellas. There's one (or two)

Celebrate Umbrella Day in a couple of ways. First, or walk around with it. If you don't have an umbrella,



world's most invaluable inventions. On a rainy, smart enough to invent it. It's also shade ourselves from harmful UV

sizes, colors, shapes, and, designs. for advertising. The smallest umbrellas umbrellas are popular sizes. Then, there are made just for you.

make sure your umbrella is handy. Second, use it, isn't it time to get one?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“BLACK-OUT”-BERRY: The DOI Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is shutting down the Enterprise Services Network on Saturday, February 11, 2012 beginning at 6 am. There will be no NPS email or blackberry access during this time. Also, during this time customers can expect access to the Internet and VPN to be sporadic. We are expecting the DOI OCIO to restore full service by 9am Sunday, February 12, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Pittleman, Chief, Wide Area Network Management Division at (202) 641-1941 or Cheryl Little, NPS Messaging Team at (202) 341-0159.

The **Employee Safety Committee** reminds all employees to be vigilant when driving in and around administrative areas throughout the park, to follow speed limits and to be alert to blind spots.

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Minutes from the February 8 Employee Safety Committee Meeting have been posted to the Sharepoint site at: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> You will find them located under Documents-Agendas and Minutes, folder Meeting Minutes, folder 2012 Meeting Minutes, pdf document Employee Safety Committee Meeting Minutes 2-8-12

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\$ 25,000	New Tack for Corrals

On behalf of the Yellowstone Park Foundation and our Board of Directors, we wish you success in your continued efforts to protect and preserve our nation's first national park. Thank you both for your help and support during this grant cycle.

The **YCC residential program** provides young people ages 15-18 with a variety of work, recreational, and educational experiences in Yellowstone National Park. The camp operates 2 month-long sessions between mid-June and mid-August. Throughout the program's 23-year history, enrollees have worked on a variety of projects that preserved resources or improved the visitor experiences. To see a list of projects YCC completed last summer, visit P:/YCC/2011 YCC Completed Project list. YCC Project Requests are needed for this summer. Contact Bob Fuhrmann at x2256 for more information.

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CALENDAR

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.

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS

Claude Long will be acting Supervisor for the Plumbing Shop from February 2-21. He can be reached at x2333.

IN THE NEWS

Lane Baker Named Superintendent Of Southeast Arizona Units

Intermountain Region News Release, February 9, 2012

Lane Baker, a 25-year veteran of the federal government, has been named superintendent of the National Park Service's Southeast Arizona units -- Coronado National Memorial, Chiricahua National Monument, and Fort Bowie National Historic Site. She will assume her new duties on March 25th.

"Lane brings a lifetime of law enforcement and partnership building experience to her new position and will be an asset for the NPS and the local communities," said Intermountain Region Director John Wessels, who announced her appointment.



"I am honored to take on this new assignment in the Intermountain Region with the Southeast Arizona Group," Baker said. "Overseeing our stewardship of these three unique and varied parks is an exciting opportunity. I am really looking forward to working with the parks' staffs and our NPS partners, as well as with state and federal agencies and all our local communities."

Baker now serves as chief of Law Enforcement, Security and Emergency Services (LESES) at Park Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. In this position, she has provided national leadership and program direction in all aspects of law enforcement, security and emergency policy, including investigative services, professional responsibility, intelligence, stress management in critical incidents, firearms and commissioning of personnel. She manages a program with a budget of more than \$10 million and about 60 employees. The program sets policy and standards for more than 1,500 protection rangers and special agents throughout the NPS.

During her time in the Washington office, Baker revised and maintained the NPS law enforcement reference manual, updated the NPS continuation of operations plan, restructured protocols and procedures for emergency medical services, developed an all-hazards response plan, reorganized the Investigative Services Branch, and established a policy office for internal affairs. She oversaw major growth in NPS security and intelligence through partnerships with the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and the Department of the Interior. A partnership with Georgetown University in Washington has built the NPS workforce by recruiting interns for the Washington office.

In addition, LESES under Baker has partnered with the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration for traffic safety projects in the parks, with the National Park Foundation for the Harry Yount ranger recognition award, and with the Center for Park Management to review and revamp the NPS's staffing tool for visitor and resource protection. Her division also has worked with the Department of Justice to fund a national victim assistance program, and with the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the National Marijuana Initiative to fight the illegal cultivation of pot on public lands.

Before joining the Washington office, Baker worked in a variety of field assignments. She was deputy chief ranger of Yellowstone National Park, district ranger at Old Faithful in Yellowstone, sub-district ranger at Everglades National Park, and supervisory ranger at Yosemite National Park. While at Yellowstone, she volunteered with the Gardiner, Montana, ambulance department. She also is a member of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department in suburban Washington.

Baker, who has 25 years' experience in visitor and resource protection, taught high school biology and physical sciences in California public schools for five years before joining the NPS. She also coached softball and basketball.

She earned a bachelor of science degree in environmental biology from California Polytechnic State University and a master of science degree in biology from the University of the Pacific, both in Southern California.

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 234 AM MST FRI FEB 10 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook **Special Weather Statement**

Today...Snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 26 to 32. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Tonight...Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 6 inches. Lows 15 to 21. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 28 to 34.

Saturday Night...Cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 12 to 18. Chance of snow 50 percent.

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

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YNP@Work

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Monday, February 13, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Claude Long will be acting Supervisor for the Plumbing Shop from February 2-21. He can be reached at x2333.

IN THE NEWS

As Gray Wolves Return, So Does Debate Over Hunting

February 12, 2012

by ELIZABETH SHOGREN, NPR News

Gray wolves were taken off the endangered species list in Idaho and Montana last year and put under state control. But they're still on the list in neighboring Wyoming. That's because Wyoming has been the most aggressive about wanting to kill wolves.

Gray Wolf's Range In The Northern Rockies

The gray wolf was once a dominant fixture on the American landscape. Although the animals were all but eliminated by the early 20th century, packs have started to reassert themselves in the Northern Rockies. Today, wolf packs roam across thousands of acres.

Prior to colonial expansion, the gray wolf roamed most of the American West including prairies, forests, mountains and wetlands.

Wyoming has finally struck a deal with the federal government regarding how wolves will be treated once the state takes over. But environmentalists believe the agreement denies wolves an important refuge.

There weren't any wolves in Wyoming until the federal government reintroduced them in the 1990s. Now there are at least 329 in the state. But the state is eager to shrink the population because wolves kill livestock and game.

"My personal opinion is they need to be hunted wherever and whenever they occur, because wolves are extremely secretive creatures; they're extremely intelligent," says Joe Tilden, a county commissioner in Wyoming and the founder of a hunting advocacy group.

Under the new deal, wolves in the northwestern part of Wyoming could be managed as trophy animals unless they're in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

But conservationists worry hunting will be allowed on a stretch of national parkland that connects Yellowstone to Grand Teton. It's called the John D. Rockefeller Parkway.

"Wolves use that area extensively traveling through the two parks, and it's a very wild area," says Sharon Mader, who represents the National Parks Conservation Association. She says this corridor is essential for maintaining viable populations. "Unique and iconic wildlife, such as wolves, that are just coming off the endangered species list deserve the ultimate protection that national parks offer."

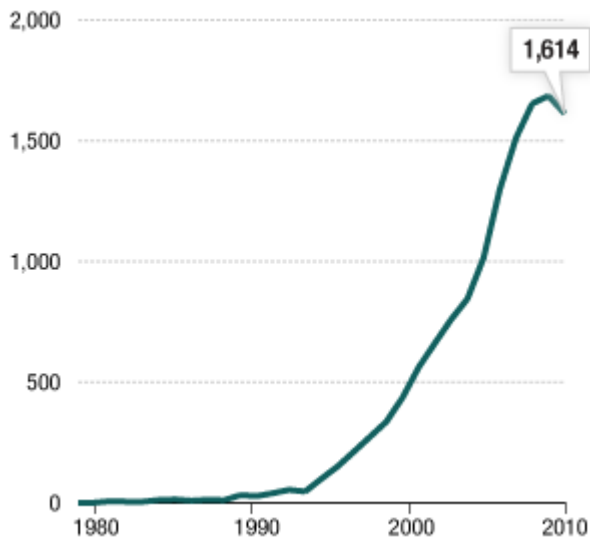
She says it's especially important for the parks to provide this sanctuary for wolves in Wyoming because they will be hunted on other federal lands there. If they wander out of the state's northwest corner, they will be considered predators and could be shot on sight.

The National Park Service is against hunting wolves on the Rockefeller Parkway, too.

"Visitors come to Yellowstone, they come to Tetons, they come to the parkway just to see wolves, so we want to manage the park so that people can enjoy wildlife viewing," says Herbert Frost, an associate director of the Park Service. He says his agency has the authority to ban wolf hunts on parkland, but he's not picking that fight with the state ... yet.

Gray Wolf Recovery

The number of gray wolves in the Northern Rockies has rebounded after near extinction in the 1930s. The wolves were protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and a concerted recovery program began in 1990.



Source: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Credit: Melanie Taube / NPR

"We haven't ceded anything. We're just working with the state so that we can work together, as opposed to working at odds with each other," he says.

Most national parks forbid hunting, but the legislation creating the Rockefeller Parkway allows for some hunting. Scott Talbott, who heads the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, says his agency manages hunts of other animals in the parkway, and it wants to keep its options open to hold wolf hunts there, too.

"As we move forward, it may be fairly important for the department to move forward with wolf hunting in the JDR [Parkway]," Talbott says.

For instance, if the population gets out of hand, hunters like Tilden may be needed.

"When you're hunting a predator, you're not only out to enjoy the sport, but you're out to control the number of predators," he says.

The wolf in Wyoming is expected to come off the endangered species list by early autumn. Conservationists hope there's a hunting ban in the Rockefeller Parkway by then.

Food for the Parks: Local Food in America's National Parks

by Alli Condra | Feb 13, 2012

A recent initiative within the National Park Service seeks to bring its food offerings in line with its mission of environmental preservation.

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/02/food-for-the-parks-sustainable-food-in-americas-national-parks/>

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 826 AM MST MON FEB 13 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

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Tonight...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 12 to 18.

Tuesday...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27.

Tuesday Night...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 8 to 14.

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YNP@Work

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Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Happy Valentine's Day!!



“Hug-A-Bison Day” courtesy of the Yellowstone Park Foundation:

<http://www.yvpf.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=6198>

Yellowstone V-Day “couples” tribute courtesy of Beth Pratt:

<http://www.bethpratt.com/life-in-yellowstone/2011/2/13/happy-valentines-day-yellowstone-wildlife-lamour.html>

Valentine's Day Dinner February 14, 2012

Take your Valentine out to dinner! Enjoy our regular menu plus enchanting dinner specials at the Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Mammoth Community Center** Board is looking for new members! If you are looking for a small way to make our community a better place to live - please consider joining us at our February meeting **this Thursday 2/16/2012 at noon in the YCR conference room.**

Designated by the YNP superintendent as a community gathering space, the MCC board is open to all Yellowstone, Gardiner, and Paradise Valley community members. NPS board members have been authorized to use up to two hours of administrative leave per month to attend board meetings and conduct MCC business. If you have questions, please contact Bianca Klein at x2221 or Charissa Reid at x2260. For more information about MCC, visit our website at www.mammothcommunity.org

Special thanks for outgoing board members who, in this capacity and in many others, have dedicated their time and energy into the community we all share. Thanks to Gretchen Bilton, Bianca Klein, and Lisa Dean.

The 11th Biennial **Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone** Ecosystem is pleased to announce the next conference in this series, Greater Yellowstone in Transition: Linking Science and Decision Making. The conference will be held on October 8–10, 2012 in Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

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Please visit the conference website at <http://gyesciconf.greateryellowstonescience.org/> for additional information or to subscribe to our mailing list. You may also email yell_conference@nps.gov.

Tentative Schedule:

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IN THE NEWS**Gov. Matt Mead wants Wyoming to pass wolf plan**

Billings Gazette, February 13, 2012

CHEYENNE, Wyo. -- Gov. Matt Mead is calling on Wyoming lawmakers to endorse a wolf management plan that would designate the animals as predators that could be shot on sight in most of the state.

Mead and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar last year agreed on a plan to end federal protections for wolves in Wyoming. The federal government already has turned over wolf management to state governments in Idaho and Montana.

Under the Wyoming proposal, wolves would be subject to controlled hunting in a flexible area in the northwest corner of the state, generally around Yellowstone National Park. They would be left unprotected elsewhere. Wolves were reintroduced in Yellowstone and other areas in the mid-1990s. There are now more than 1,600 in the Northern Rockies, including more than 300 in Wyoming.

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Exploring the myths of the Yellowstone supervolcano

By Tor Haugen, University of Montana Press Blog, February 14, 2012

When bestselling alternative-history writer Harry Turtledove published a recent novel, *Supervolcano: Eruption*, that described a devastating explosion of the Yellowstone supervolcano, he brought to life the fantasies of a subset of geologic doomsdayers.

<http://www.hcn.org/hcn/blogs/range/exploring-the-myths-of-the-yellowstone-supervolcano>

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Debate bubbles over the origin of life

Could life have originated in geothermal ponds?

Brian Switek, Nature.com, February 13, 2012

<http://www.nature.com/news/debate-bubbles-over-the-origin-of-life-1.10024>

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Saying goodbye to Yellowstone National Park (commentary, w/scenic photos)

(CAPITOL COMMENTARY conservative political blog [SAN FRANCISCO])

<http://capitolcommentary.com/2012/02/11/saying-goodbye-to-yellowstone-national-park/>

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Food for the Parks: Local Food in America's National Parks

by Alli Condra | Feb 13, 2012

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Last Update: 846 AM MST TUE FEB 14 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

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Tonight...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 to 11. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27.

Wednesday Night...Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the evening...then mostly cloudy with occasional flurries after midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 2 to 8. Chance of snow 20 percent.

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Wednesday, February 15, 2012

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IN THE NEWS

Parks budget remains slender

By Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole Daily News, February 14, 2012

President Obama has proposed a moratorium on new National Park Service construction that could stymie efforts to reduce multimillion-dollar maintenance backlogs in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar underscored the president's budget choices in a teleconference Monday as he unveiled his own Interior Department's spending plan for fiscal year 2013. The \$11.5 billion Interior budget is essentially even with last year's.

The budget includes some "painful" cuts to existing programs, Salazar said, but also creates new sources of income.

"Interior's budget is a tough-choices budget," Salazar said.

A freeze on new National Park Service construction was one of those tough choices, Salazar said. Such a freeze could have an effect on a backlog of maintenance, estimated at \$750 million in Yellowstone and nearly \$193 million in Grand Teton and the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway.

The total National Park Service maintenance backlog is estimated at nearly \$11 billion.

"The fact is, it will impact maintenance because we already have a huge backlog," Salazar said. "What we're doing here is we're deferring projects. We'll only be able to maintain the highest needs that we have and keep the backlog from growing any further."

Park officials from both Grand Teton and Yellowstone have said deferred maintenance projects include plans to improve water and wastewater systems, repair roads and other critical infrastructure.

The proposed budget includes \$5.1 billion for programs in the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative. The initiative recognizes that outdoor pursuits are important to the "nation's economy, competitiveness and health," Interior Department officials said in a statement.

The total proposed Park Service budget is \$2.6 billion, only \$1 million less than the amount approved by Congress in 2012.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service budget proposal is \$1.5 billion, an increase of \$72 million over the 2012 enacted level. The U.S. Geological Survey budget would increase \$35 million to \$1.1 billion.

Part of the additional USGS money will go toward studies to determine the impacts of hydraulic fracturing, Salazar said. Hydraulic fracturing is used to increase production in gas fields and the Environmental Protection Agency has pointed to the practice as a possible cause of water well contamination in Pavillion.

Hydraulic fracturing has been used extensively in Sublette County and is proposed for a gas field in Noble Basin, a part of the Wyoming Range that is the headwaters for the Hoback River.

“We need to make sure Americans have full confidence ... that we can develop this resource safely and responsibly,” Salazar said.

President Obama is also proposing a fee for oil and gas developers who postpone the development of existing leases. The fee, \$4 an acre, is expected to generate more than \$780 million over the next 10 years and \$13 million in 2013.

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'Sound events' could govern oversnow travel limits in Yellowstone

Billings Gazette, February 14, 2012

CODY, Wyo. -- The National Park Service opened a new scoping period here Monday night, gathering public input on a supplemental plan to regulate motorized winter use in Yellowstone National Park.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/sound-events-could-govern-oversnow-travel-limits-in-yellowstone/article_51c52811-fff3-5327-8b42-ce3cb0066820.html

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Fungus research at MSU could help biofuels production

JASON BACAJ, Chronicle Staff Writer

Yellowstone's hot springs are a haven for researchers interested in the prevalence of life in some of the world's harshest environments.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/montana_state_university/article_d4e208d8-43e6-11e1-91e3-0019bb2963f4.html

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Yellowstone bacteria could help produce cheaper ethanol

Bacteria found in the Yellowstone National Park's hot springs could one day help produce cheaper ethanol fuel.

<http://www.thegreencarwebsite.co.uk/blog/index.php/2012/02/15/yellowstone-bacteria-could-help-produce-cheaper-ethanol/>

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Exploring the myths of the Yellowstone supervolcano

By Tor Haugen, University of Montana Press Blog, February 14, 2012

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Brian Switek, Nature.com, February 13, 2012

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 829 AM MST WED FEB 15 2012

Rest Of Today...Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow late in the morning... Then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 21 to 27. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 2 below to 6 above zero.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Occasional flurries through the day. Highs 22 to 28.

Thursday Night...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 to 12.

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Thursday, February 16, 2012

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Take advantage of the **Employee Assistance Program's Tax Services!** This discount is a new opportunity for us through the Employee Assistance Program. (Remember, it isn't a discount on our taxes, just the service to prepare the forms!) Your EAP offers this service at a discount of 25%* which extends to any of the H & R Block paid federal online tax products included in this program, such as Basic + Efile, Deluxe + Efile, and Premium + Efile. Additionally, for those with less complex returns, H & R Block offers a free version. Online payment is due from users of the service at the point of printing or e-filing their returns. The site will present the retail prices along with the discount so that participants can view the 25%* savings. *Discount applies only when you access the H&R Block link located on FOH4You.com.

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The **Yellowstone Research Library's** membership in the Wyoming Library Consortium grants the library access to online databases including EBSCO, Agricola, and Heritage Quest. They also have OneClick downloadable audiobooks and a new ebook service: "Library Ideas" has made our Freading site available at <http://gowyld.freading.com> Freading offers simultaneous access to a wide variety of books from small and independent publishers. Over 20,000 titles are available, and more will be added weekly. Users log in with their library card number (numbers only, no spaces) and PIN and have full access to the entire collection. Each user is allotted a set number of tokens per week, which are used to exchange for eBook checkouts. Checkouts of Freading eBook titles are for two weeks. Books can be renewed and can be returned early. Online instructions will lead you through the process. Most popular eReading devices will work with Freading with the exception of the standard Amazon Kindle (the Fire *does* work). The company is working to achieve Kindle compatibility, but no one is speculating on when it might be available.

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The **Mammoth Community Center** Board is looking for new members! If you are looking for a small way to make our community a better place to live - please consider joining us at our February meeting **this Thursday 2/16/2012 at noon in the YCR conference room.**

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Claude Long will be acting Supervisor for the Plumbing Shop from February 2-21. He can be reached at x2333.

IN THE NEWS

Helicopter crash kills rescuer

Jackson Hole News, February 15, 2012

Teton County Coroner Kiley Campbell identified the rescuer killed Wednesday in a helicopter crash as Ray Shriver, a member of Teton County Search and Rescue for many years.

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=8251

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Yellowstone considers 'personal' sledding

By MARK HEINZ Cody Enterprise, February 15, 2012

Proposals for winter use in Yellowstone Park are too vague, and biased against snowmobiling, according to some local people.

"They've destroyed the winter economy," Pahaska Tepee owner Bob Coe said of Yellowstone managers. "They're managing for non-use, not use."

He was among about 40 people who attended an open house in Cody on Monday regarding the Park Service's scoping process for a new winter use plan.

An interim plan, allowing for some guided sledding and snowcoaches, is in place this winter, but expires in March.

The Park Service hopes to have a new plan in place by fall.

A draft plan should be ready in April, allowing for public comment through June and finalization this fall.

Public comment is also being gathered during scoping meetings, like the one in Cody, Superintendent Dan Wenk said.

After a similar process last year, the Park Service had drawn up a preferred alternative - which would have set daily limits of guided sleds and snowcoaches.

But that idea was met with so many negative comments, the Park Service decided to scrap it and essentially start over, said David Jacob of the agency's Denver-based environmental quality division.

About 59,000 written comments were received, overwhelmingly in favor of restricting or eliminating motorized use, Jacob said.

When pressed by the audience about the origin of some of the comments, Jacob said the Park Service does not accept "bulk comments" from organizations.

But that would still not prevent members of environmental groups or other organizations from filing comments as individuals, he said.

Most of the comments against sledding came from states or areas distant from Yellowstone, he said.

Closer to the park, residents have lobbied for non-commercial sledding in Yellowstone.

Wyoming's congressional delegation and Gov. Matt Mead also have lobbied for more access and non-commercial snowmobiling.

Wenk said the Park Service has included consideration of that in some of its new proposals. One idea would be to allow people living near Yellowstone to qualify as "guides" so they could take friends and family into Yellowstone without hiring a commercial guide.

But people at the hearing balked at the suggested numbers of non-commercial users - as few as only five per day.

"We're frustrated and we're angry," Carol Armstrong of Cody said. "We're tired of regulations and we're tired of being shut out of Yellowstone."

Cody chamber director Scott Balyo said they support keeping Sylvan Pass open in the winter. The chamber suggests that 25 percent of any daily snowmobile limit should be for noncommercial riders, he said.

Armstrong and others recalled that access over Sylvan Pass and local snowmobiling into Yellowstone used to be virtually unrestricted, and questioned if that truly hurt the park or stressed wildlife, as sledding opponents have claimed.

But since then, snowmobile access to the park has been whittled away, they said.

County commissioner Tim French said county and state officials have tried for years to work out a compromise with the Park Service.

"Good god, how long are we going to beat this poor dead horse? This is year 12 for me, and it was going on before I came along," he added.

Some people also questioned standards based on "sound events" from machines that might disturb wildlife or other visitors.

Jacob said the Park Service is obligated to consider the effects of noise on the winter experience in the park - and many comments from the public nationally reflect this concern.

But some at the meeting said concerns about sound are too arbitrary, and just another way for the Park Service to limit public access.

Air quality and safety on Sylvan Pass also continue to be issues that must be taken into account, Wenk said. More information on the winter use proposals and comment process is available at parkplanning.nps.gov/yell. Click on the link to "2012 supplemental winter use plan EIS."

Snowmobile trip over Sylvan Pass offers adventurous loop through Yellowstone Park

By Ruffin Prevost, Yellowstone Gate, February 15, 2012

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Even before snowmobile guide Terry Dolan enters Yellowstone National Park, he is standing on his sled's running boards, craning his neck to catch a glimpse of the river below. <http://www.yellowstonegate.com/2012/02/snowmobile-tour-over-sylvan-pass-offers-adventurous-loop-past-major-yellowstone-attractions/>

'Sound events' could govern oversnow travel limits in Yellowstone

Billings Gazette, February 14, 2012

CODY, Wyo. -- The National Park Service opened a new scoping period here Monday night, gathering public input on a supplemental plan to regulate motorized winter use in Yellowstone National Park.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/sound-events-could-govern-oversnow-travel-limits-in-yellowstone/article_51c52811-fff3-5327-8b42-ce3cb0066820.html

Yellowstone wolf packs learning how to hunt bison

KTVQ News, February 15, 2012

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - Wolf experts are all abuzz about new wolf dynamics taking place this winter in the park's backcountry.

Douglas Smith, project leader for the Yellowstone Wolf Project says wildlife biologists now confirm at least two of Yellowstone's ten wolf packs have now learned how to hunt bison.

<http://www.ktvq.com/news/yellowstone-wolf-packs-learning-how-to-hunt-bison/>

Editorial: Bison hunt would be better than slaughter

Bozeman Chronicle, February 15, 2012

Montanans have every right to be angry and frustrated.

After decades of watching wandering Yellowstone National Park bison slaughtered in the name of their state, and years of policy development aimed at ending that slaughter, the National Park Service has announced that it will continue the practice beginning as early as this week.

Park officials say they plan to round up and send to slaughter 300 to 500 animals that are expected to roam out of the park soon. And this comes after monumental efforts on the part of Montana officials to set the stage for tolerating bison outside the park.

Some 70,000 acres of land in the Gardiner Basin north of the park has been set aside for bison winter ranger. Park County officials and some local landowners are resisting that designation, but the proposal stands, and there's no reason it shouldn't be implemented this winter.

There are an estimated 3,700 bison in the park. Wildlife managers have set a goal of sustaining a herd of 3,000. They plan to capture hundreds of bison and send them to slaughter in order to get closer to that goal. But park officials need to start talking to Montana game managers.

The state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is set up to conduct public hunts of the bison in the Gardner Basin. This method of removal would be preferable to shooting the bison in a pen and sending them to the slaughterhouse.

The arguments against tolerating bison outside the park have long been debunked. Though some test positive for the disease brucellosis, which can cause livestock to abort their calves, there have been no cases of transmission between park bison and cattle. In those few cases around the park when brucellosis has been found in cattle, elk have proven to be the culprits.

Capturing and slaughtering bison solves nothing and sullies Montana's reputation around the nation, where there is no justification seen for penning and killing this national icon.

And yet here we are about to start doing it again.

Bison numbers need to be controlled, but it's time to enter a new era. Some bison can be tolerated outside the park. And when there is a need to reduce their numbers, let's do it with a sport hunt.

Ancient Yellowstone Eruptions Not from Supervolcano

Discovery News, Wed Feb 15, 2012 02:42 PM ET

Ancient giant eruptions in the Pacific Northwest may actually have been caused by the tearing of a titanic slab of rock and not the supervolcano underlying Yellowstone National Park, scientists now suggest.

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/supervolcano-not-guilty-120215.html>

Fungus research at MSU could help biofuels production

JASON BACAJ, Chronicle Staff Writer

Yellowstone's hot springs are a haven for researchers interested in the prevalence of life in some of the world's harshest environments.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/montana_state_university/article_d4e208d8-43e6-11e1-91e3-0019bb2963f4.html

Yellowstone bacteria could help produce cheaper ethanol

Bacteria found in the Yellowstone National Park's hot springs could one day help produce cheaper ethanol fuel.
<http://www.thegreencarwebsite.co.uk/blog/index.php/2012/02/15/yellowstone-bacteria-could-help-produce-cheaper-ethanol/>

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 743 AM MST THU FEB 16 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Rest Of Today...Partly cloudy early in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Patchy fog early in the morning. Occasional flurries through the day. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight...Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 7 to 13. Southwest winds around 15 mph until early morning. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32.

Friday Night...Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then occasional flurries after midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 6 to 12. Chance of snow 20 percent.

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YNP@Work

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Friday, February 17, 2012

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IN THE NEWS

Montana to allow hunters to shoot wandering Yellowstone bison

By MATT VOLZ Associated Press missoulian.com | February 16, 2012

HELENA - Montana's wildlife commission voted Thursday to authorize hunters to shoot bison that stray beyond extended "tolerance areas" north of Yellowstone National Park, an attempt by officials to ease resistance to bison roaming in more parts of the state.

The authorization also applies to areas outside the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Indian reservations, where state and tribal officials are negotiating terms for the transfer of 68 Yellowstone bison that are part of a disease quarantine program.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials say that allowing hunters to enforce those tolerance areas is an adjustment to an Interagency Bison Management Plan change that expands the boundaries where bison can wander. It would allow hunters to shoot bison that stray beyond designated areas during or outside of the bison hunting season.

The authorization is meant to be a tool to complement other bison management efforts, such as hazing the animals back to the park, and not all situations may require the use hunters, FWP officials said.

It's not an authorization for hunters to shoot any bison that wanders outside the park, and the terms of the agreements with the tribes would come first before lethal force is used to remove bison that escape their land, commissioners said.

The plan was approved in a 4-1 vote. Commissioner A.T. "Rusty" Stafne, a former Fort Peck tribal chairman, voted against the measure, saying the agreements with the tribes should be in place first.

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

Two lawsuits are pending over allowing bison to leave Yellowstone in search of food at lower elevations in the winter. A third lawsuit aims to block the relocation of the 68 bison to Fort Peck and Fort Belknap.

The proposed tolerance area north of Yellowstone park, which FWP officials say would be an expansion of 75,000 acres, would keep bison south of the divide between the Gardiner Basin and Paradise Valley on the east side of the Yellowstone River, and south of the divide between the Tom Miner Basin and the Gardiner Basin on the west side of the river

Commissioner Ron Moody, who last month opposed the proposal in a preliminary vote, said he changed his mind after taking a tour of the boundary area. The mountainous terrain is so rugged that a bison has a chance to escape any hunter, easing Moody's concerns that the plan would violate fair-chase hunt principles.

"That was my concern, that it would be a firing line," Moody said. But, he said, the terrain is such that "anybody who shoots one there is going to earn that" kill.

Because of mild weather, bison have yet to leave Yellowstone National Park in significant numbers this winter, according to park administrators.

Along the park's border with Montana, a capture facility has been set up as part of a plan to reduce the 3,700-bison population by up to 330 animals this winter. Captured animals could be shipped to slaughter, transferred to a research program or held for later release.

Yellowstone Chief Ranger Tim Reid said state, federal and tribal agencies are still working out details on whether bison that attempt to migrate into Montana will be captured or allowed to pass into areas where they can be hunted.

"We would sit down with our partners including the tribes to figure out how that's going to work and what's the balance on that," Reid said.

Associated Press writer Matthew Brown in Billings contributed to this report.

Planners discuss snowmobiles, 'sound events' at Yellowstone winter use meetings

By Ruffin Prevost, Yellowstone Gate, February 16, 2012

CODY, Wyo. — Planners and managers from Yellowstone National Park, including Superintendent Dan Wenk, have been visiting gateway communities this week to host meetings about their ongoing efforts to develop a long-term winter-use plan for the park.

<http://www.yellowstonegate.com/2012/02/planners-discuss-snowmobiles-sound-events-at-yellowstone-winter-use-meetings/>

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Yellowstone wolf packs learning how to hunt bison

KTVQ News, February 15, 2012

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - Wolf experts are all abuzz about new wolf dynamics taking place this winter in the park's backcountry.

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Saturday...Patchy fog in the morning. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

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Tuesday, February 21, 2012

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IN THE NEWS

Wolverine research moves toward management strategies

By MARTIN KIDSTON The Billings Gazette | Monday, February 20, 2012

CODY, WYO. -- What breeds every other year, claims 300 square miles of terrain, lives at 9,000 feet elevation in harsh winter conditions, and fends off grizzly bears for scraps of spoiled meat?

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wolverine-research-moves-toward-management-strategies/article_172a648a-1741-5738-b755-152274404d48.html

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Prettyman: Yellowstone coalition protecting wild region for future

By Brett Prettyman, The Salt Lake Tribune, February 20, 2012

It all started in the early 1980s while playing the license plate game during a family vacation in Yellowstone National Park. You know the game — see how many different states' plates you can spot while touring the park.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/outdoors/53531120-117/yellowstone-utah-gyc-park.html.csp>

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“Hot Pot” Bacteria Could Make One-Pot Biofuel

By Tina Casey, CleanTechnica.com, February 21, 2012

The search for a cheap, simple one-pot process for making biofuel is taking researchers to some mighty strange places. In the latest development, scientists from Oak Ridge National Laboratory have been scouring the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park on the lookout for bacteria that could help break down biomass for biofuel naturally, and now they think they have found their man – er, make that microorganism.

<http://cleantechnica.com/2012/02/21/bacteria-from-yellowstone-hot-spring-could-make-biofuel/>

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 835 AM MST TUE FEB 21 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook **Winter Storm Warning**

Rest Of Today...Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. New snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight...Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 7 inches. Lows 20 to 26. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Wednesday...Very windy. Snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 6 inches. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 50 mph increasing to 35 to 40 mph with gusts to around 55 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Wednesday Night...Very windy. Colder...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 6 to 12. West winds 30 to 40 mph decreasing to 20 to 25 mph after midnight. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

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Visiting photographer John Tangney of Portland Oregon, recently captured this amazing image of wolves chasing a bull elk in the Lamar Valley on February 5, 2012. Even though seriously injured, the elk managed to fight off the pack and escape.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sylvan Pass will likely be opening and closing over the next few days as weather conditions bring large amounts of wind and snowfall to the area and increase avalanche danger. Howitzer mission #4 of the season was completed on Sylvan Pass yesterday morning. Nearly two feet of snow with two inches of water had fallen on Sylvan Pass in the past 10 days. This, coupled with high winds over the past 24 hours, raised the avalanche hazard to the point of needing control work. Results were good with 9 slide paths hitting the road, some with good speed and leaving large debris piles. Debris on the road was up to 15 feet in spots and over 70 feet wide. Most of the slides involved new snow (the top 40-50 cm) sliding on an older sun crust from our warm sunny days a couple weeks ago. Snow was moved on nearly all of the slide paths, so there are no areas of concern at this time. This is especially important with the incoming weather. With heavy snowfall and high winds forecasted for the next 36 hours, conditions and the avalanche hazard may worsen quickly.

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Dr. Joseph Keel, **Mammoth Clinic**, will become a preferred provider in the Government Employees Health Association (GEHA) physician's network, effective April 1, 2012. For more information on accepted insurances, contact the clinic at 307-344-7965. For families residing in Mammoth and surrounding communities, you may not be aware that Dr. Keel is also a licensed pediatrician.

Take advantage of the **Employee Assistance Program's Tax Services!** This discount is a new opportunity for us through the Employee Assistance Program. (Remember, it isn't a discount on our taxes, just the service to prepare the forms!) Your EAP offers this service at a discount of 25%* which extends to any of the H & R Block paid federal online tax products included in this program, such as Basic + Efile, Deluxe + Efile, and Premium + Efile. Additionally, for those with less complex returns, H & R Block offers a free version. Online payment is due from users of the service at the point of printing or e-filing their returns. The site will present the retail prices along with the discount so that participants can view the 25%* savings. *Discount applies only when you access the H&R Block link located on FOH4You.com.

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IN THE NEWS

Park service ignored written comments commissioners say

Park County takes issue with snowmobile aspects of park winter plan

By MARTIN KIDSTON, The Billings Gazette | Tuesday, February 21, 2012

CODY, Wyo. — Park County commissioners remain at odds with the National Park Service over its new proposals to regulate winter use in Yellowstone Park.

At their weekly meeting Tuesday, commissioners accused the agency of ignoring their comments when writing its new winter-use plan, saying little in the draft document reflects concerns they shared with the agency last year. As in past years, snowmobile access — guided and unguided — lies at the center of the debate. Commissioners believe the Park Service is “chipping away” at motorized winter use with the intent of discontinuing it altogether in the future.

“Every alternative in this plan will eventually phase out winter use in Yellowstone,” said Commissioner Joe Tilden. “Each alternative takes us one step closer to having no winter access.”

The Park Service launched a new scoping effort last week to gather input on its supplemental plan to regulate motorized winter use in Yellowstone.

The new plan offers seven alternatives to manage motorized use in Yellowstone, starting next season.

Commissioners remain dissatisfied with each of the seven alternatives. They believe they have the support of Gov. Matt Mead and his staff, whom they met with last week in Cheyenne to discuss the issue.

“They suggested we reject the new alternatives and ask (the Park Service) to re-look at what we want them to have — develop a new alternative based on what we asked for,” said Commissioner Loren Grosskopf.

Among the proposed alternatives, two would regulate motorized entry by measuring “sound events,” or the noise created by one snow coach or a single group of snowmobiles.

Commissioners remained critical of the sound-event proposal, saying it left too many uncertainties and was too hard to understand for businesses and vacationers.

They also believe the recommended number of sound events was too low.

“If you want people to come from out of state to plan a vacation, you can’t have it where it’s variable by day and people can’t plan ahead,” Grosskopf said.

“Concessionaires need to know how to budget, how many riders are we going to have each day, and what the requirements are for best available technology (BAT).”

The Park Service received more than 59,000 comments on its proposed 2011 winter plan for Yellowstone. Most of those, park officials have said, favored limiting motorized use in the park over the winter season.

Park officials also have said that they launched the supplemental planning process in response to the comments received.

The agency eliminated two alternatives from its 2011 winter plan and is working to address other issues raised in the last round of comments, such as best available technology for snow coaches, sound impacts and air quality inside the park.

The agency hopes to implement its new winter use rules by next season. A failure to do so could leave the park without a winter use plan, meaning that oversnow travel could be restricted next year.

"If they can't decide what to do before December, we need to ask that they allow the snowmobile program to be the same next year as it is this year," Grosskopf said. "So we don't get to October or November and they can't decide so they shut down Yellowstone altogether."

Bert Miller, vice president of the Wyoming State Snowmobile Association, said his club also remains critical of the proposed rules.

He said the new plan fails to reflect the concerns that his club passed on to the Park Service in the last planning process.

"We, too, are very dissatisfied with what we see here," Miller said. "We'll be asking (the Park Service) to look at our original comments and we're going to look at these new alternatives closely and list the reasons why they will not work."

Grosskopf, who is a member of the state snowmobile group, said at last week's meeting with the Park Service that his membership in the club and his votes as a commissioner in favor of the club's goals were not a conflict of interest.

At Tuesday's meeting, however, he offered to recuse himself from the county's commenting process if the other commissioners thought that was appropriate.

"I'm a member of the snowmobile club and I'm also a county commissioner, so I'll leave it up to the other four members of the commission whether that constitutes a conflict of interest," Grosskopf said.

The other commissioners said they don't view Grosskopf's membership in the organization and his efforts to sway the plan in favor of motorized use as a conflict.

"I don't see it," Commissioner Tim French said.

Commissioners said they will wait for Mead to issue his own comments to the Park Service and build upon them before resubmitting comments from the county.

Guest column: What are public lands for, anyway?

By Scott Brennan, Bozeman Chronicle guest columnist, February 21, 2012

When any candidate for national office says he doesn't know what our federal public lands are for, or why they should belong to all Americans - as one such candidate recently did - all of us who hunt, fish, ski, hike, mountain bike, snowmobile or ride motorcycles on public lands should be worried.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/opinions/article_817195e0-5cca-11e1-9a09-0019bb2963f4.html

Wolverine research moves toward management strategies

By MARTIN KIDSTON The Billings Gazette | Monday, February 20, 2012

CODY, WYO. -- What breeds every other year, claims 300 square miles of terrain, lives at 9,000 feet elevation in harsh winter conditions, and fends off grizzly bears for scraps of spoiled meat?

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wolverine-research-moves-toward-management-strategies/article_172a648a-1741-5738-b755-152274404d48.html

Prettyman: Yellowstone coalition protecting wild region for future

By Brett Prettyman, The Salt Lake Tribune, February 20, 2012

It all started in the early 1980s while playing the license plate game during a family vacation in Yellowstone National Park. You know the game — see how many different states' plates you can spot while touring the park. <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/outdoors/53531120-117/yellowstone-utah-gyc-park.html.csp>

“Hot Pot” Bacteria Could Make One-Pot Biofuel

By Tina Casey, CleanTechnica.com, February 21, 2012

The search for a cheap, simple one-pot process for making biofuel is taking researchers to some mighty strange places. In the latest development, scientists from Oak Ridge National Laboratory have been scouring the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park on the lookout for bacteria that could help break down biomass for biofuel naturally, and now they think they have found their man – er, make that microorganism.

<http://cleantechnica.com/2012/02/21/bacteria-from-yellowstone-hot-spring-could-make-biofuel/>

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 421 AM MST WED FEB 22 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook
Winter Storm Warning

Today...Windy. Snow in the morning...then snow and rain in the afternoon. Areas of blowing snow through the day. Snow accumulation of 4 to 6 inches. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 50 mph. Chance of precipitation near 100 percent.

Tonight...Windy. Snow showers in the evening...then snow after midnight. Areas of blowing snow through the night. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Lows 5 to 11. West winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 55 mph decreasing to 20 to 25 mph after midnight. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Thursday...Breezy...colder. Snow likely in the morning...then numerous snow showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 7 to 16 inches. Highs 19 to 25. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday Night...Breezy...colder. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 2 below to 4 above zero. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent. Wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero.

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

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YNP@Work

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Thursday, February 23, 2012

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Keel consults or refers patients to neurologist, orthopedist as well as pediatricians and other specialty providers in the area. He is an Associate Clinical Professor with the University of Washington School of Medicine and has been a faculty at the Montana Family Medicine Residency in Billings. He is now full-time, year-round at Mammoth Clinic and still maintains his ties with the residency program. During the summer, residents do month long training rotations at the clinic.

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IN THE NEWS

Snowmobiler killed in avalanche at Daisy Pass

The Billings Gazette | Wednesday, February 22, 2012

An avalanche killed one snowmobiler Wednesday afternoon on Daisy Pass north of Cooke City, according to a press release from Park County Sheriff M. Allan Lutes.

Park County Search and Rescue's Cooke City hasty team responded at 12:35 p.m. to an avalanche that overcame four snowmobile riders, burying three and partially burying another, according to the release.

Two of the three rescued were taken by Yellowstone National Park Ambulance to Livingston Memorial Hospital.

The names of the victims have not been released.

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 835 AM MST THU FEB 23 2012

Hazardous Weather Outlook

Today...Breezy. Snow showers likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 20 to 26. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 2 below to 6 above zero. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Friday...Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero in the morning.

Friday Night...Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 8 to 14. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

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

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Friday, February 24, 2012

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Winter Lecture Series. February 28, 2012, 7:00 p.m. A celebration of 116 years of the Mammoth General Store. With guest speakers Park Historian Lee Whittlesey, Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst and Concessions Manager George Helfrich. This event is open to the public and free of charge. Those attending may tour the General Store after the presentation. Wine tasting and finger foods provided. For more information, contact the store at 307-344-7702.

Mammoth Irrigation - Brown Bag Lunch - February 28, 2012, 12:00 p.m. - YCR Conference Room

Kentucky bluegrass is a fixture in the Fort Yellowstone - Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District and may be the most celebrated invasive species in Yellowstone National Park. Join Molly Nelson, the Green Team's Georgia

Tech Intern, for a brown bag lunch presentation on Tuesday, February 28th from 12:00 - 12:30 in the YCR Conference Room. You'll learn more about:

- The history of the lawn and irrigation in Mammoth
- The current irrigation system in Mammoth
- Possible effects of irrigation on geology and wildlife
- Proposed ways to reduce irrigation water use

Did you know? The first irrigation system was installed in 1903. Each year approximately 22 million gallons of treated water are used to irrigate the Mammoth lawns! Come see what great water saving projects Molly and the Maintenance Staff propose for the coming year!

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Livingston Enterprise, February 15, 2012

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http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/charles-chic-ralph-hepburn?cookie_check=1

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IN THE NEWS

Meeting touches on the future of winter use in Yellowstone

By ABBIE TUMBLESON West Yellowstone News, February 23, 2012

The National Park Service held a series of public scoping meetings last week as they begin work on a Supplemental Winter Use Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

http://www.westyellowstonenews.com/news/article_bc129318-5f16-11e1-9d22-001871e3ce6c.html

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 1003 AM MST FRI FEB 24 2012

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GRAND TETON NEWS RELEASE

February 26, 2012

Winter Storm Strands Numerous Travelers Overnight in Grand Teton National Park and Hampers Search for Lost Snowboarder in Granite Canyon

A severe winter storm forced the closure of Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park on Saturday afternoon, February 25, stranding approximately 160 travelers between Moran Junction and Flagg Ranch near the south gate of Yellowstone National Park. Due to whiteout conditions caused by high winds and blowing and drifting snow, Grand Teton snowplow operators were unable to keep open a 22-mile stretch of highway between the Jackson Hole Airport and Moran Junction, 30 miles north of Jackson, Wyoming. Out of concern for traveler safety, park rangers closed the main highway at 1:45 p.m. Marooned travelers were provided emergency shelter, food, and makeshift accommodations at Signal Mountain Lodge, Flagg Ranch, and the Moran Elementary School.

As the blizzard worsened—and it became apparent that motorists could not safely travel south beyond Moran Junction during the nighttime hours—rangers and Teton Interagency fire personnel mobilized to make arrangements for overnight accommodations between Moran Junction and Flagg Ranch Resort, located 55 miles north of Jackson. Flagg Ranch provides partial winter services, but it does not currently offer winter lodging; nevertheless, about 120 people were given shelter to see them through the night. Although not open to the public during winter, Signal Mountain Lodge harbored about 25 of the stranded travelers. In addition, a dozen people used the Moran School as a temporary safe haven until the road reopened early Sunday morning. Teton Interagency fire staff gathered emergency gear, cots, and sleeping bags from the Colter Bay fire cache and Moran Fire Station to provide some level of comfort to the stranded people. Park rangers staffed highway barricades throughout the stormy night and rerouted motorists to the provisional shelters. Rangers at the Jackson Hole Airport Junction barricade advised travelers to return to Jackson, eight miles south, for overnight lodging. As conditions improved slightly, the highway closure shifted about 7:30 p.m. from the airport junction to Moose Junction, twelve miles north of Jackson, making it possible for some residents of the Moose area to return to their homes.

Grand Teton snowplow drivers and rotary equipment operators began working at 4 a.m. on Sunday, February 26, in an attempt to open a single travel lane. Using that single lane, rangers escorted vehicles southbound from Moran Junction about 6:30 a.m. and then reclosed the highway until both lanes could be fully plowed. Highway 26/89/191 reopened at 7 a.m. and two-way travel resumed without restriction.

In the midst of the intense blizzard and resulting highway closure, park rangers also received word of a snowboarder who had become separated from his party of six skiers and snowboarders as they exited an out-of-

bounds gate at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and headed toward Rock Springs Bowl Saturday afternoon. Sam Hoerr, age 31, of Dunlap, Illinois mistakenly turned right and entered Granite Canyon in the backcountry of Grand Teton National Park. Hoerr sent a text message to his companions at 2:30 p.m. and explained that he had reached a creek and was going to follow it out; however, it was clear that he had gone astray. His companions notified Jackson Hole Mountain Resort's ski patrol. Given the high avalanche danger and late hour of the day, a rescue effort was launched. High winds and poor visibility closed the upper mountain at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort about 2:30 p.m. and these same conditions prevented use of a helicopter-assisted search for the lost snowboarder. Additionally, the highway closure prevented park rangers from responding out of rescue facilities located at park headquarters in Moose, Wyoming. Consequently, rangers requested help from Teton County Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers, and a unified command post was established at the Jackson Hole ski patrol's mountain operations building from which park rangers, ski patrollers and Teton County rescuers mobilized a search. Considerable avalanche danger made it unsafe to direct rescue personnel into Granite Canyon from the Mountain Resort's out-of-bounds gate. Ultimately, thirteen rescuers accessed Granite Canyon from Teton Village and begin to ski into Granite Canyon from the trailhead off the Moose-Wilson Road. Rescuers made contact with Hoerr via cell phone at 7:30 p.m. and directed him to continue down canyon following the creek. Rescuers located Hoerr at approximately 8 p.m. and provided him with a "split board" so that he could more easily travel out of the backcountry canyon on his own. He was then escorted out of Granite Canyon by rescuers; all returned safely to the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort around 10 p.m.

Because Hoerr was unprepared to spend a night in the backcountry—and he crossed numerous avalanche-prone areas during stormy conditions that were wind loading slopes—this situation could have become life-threatening or worse. Hoerr and most of his companions did not carry avalanche equipment with them when they exited the out-of-bounds gate. Park rangers remind skiers and snowboarders to consider weather conditions and time of day before making a decision to enter backcountry areas. Rangers also strongly advise skiers and snowboarders to be prepared before embarking on a backcountry excursion by carrying appropriate avalanche gear and emergency equipment, and using good route-finding skills. It is essential for backcountry users to have basic knowledge of backcountry areas in which they plan to travel.

Grand Teton National Park rangers thank the Teton County SAR volunteers and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort ski patrol who conducted the operation as a coordinated agency-assist mission.

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WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 241 AM MST MON FEB 27 2012

Today...Mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 25 to 31. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero in the morning.

Tonight...Cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 9 to 15. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday...Chance of snow in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 4 inches. Highs 23 to 29. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow near 100 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, February 28, 2012

[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
[Special Weather Statement](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring is approaching!

March 1 (Thursday), 9:00 PM - East Entrance to Lake Butte closes
March 4 (Sunday), 9:00 PM - Mammoth to Norris Junction closes
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Contractors are at work rehab'ing the **Supply Center freight elevator**. Today their work will include some periods where hearing protection will be required for anyone in the Warehouse. In order to protect everyone's hearing, we may be closing for short periods during the day. If the work requires temporary restriction of building access, the warehouse staff will post information at the door and assist you to get any supplies you need. Feel free to call ahead for information by contacting, Hank, Jane, Scott, or Barb at x2081, x2083, x2084 or x2085. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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Winter Lecture Series. TODAY at 7:00 p.m. A celebration of 116 years of the Mammoth General Store. With guest speakers Park Historian Lee Whittlesey, Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst and Concessions Manager George Helfrich. This event is open to the public and free of charge. Those attending may tour the General Store after the presentation. Wine tasting and finger foods provided. For more information, contact the store at 307-344-7702.

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(LOCATION CHANGE) Mammoth Irrigation - Brown Bag Lunch – Today Noon – Now in Superintendent's Conference Room

Kentucky bluegrass is a fixture in the Fort Yellowstone - Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District and may be the most celebrated invasive species in Yellowstone National Park. Join Molly Nelson, the Green Team's Georgia Tech Intern, for a brown bag lunch presentation on Tuesday, February 28th from 12:00 - 12:30 in the YCR Conference Room. You'll learn more about:

- The history of the lawn and irrigation in Mammoth
- The current irrigation system in Mammoth
- Possible effects of irrigation on geology and wildlife
- Proposed ways to reduce irrigation water use

Did you know? The first irrigation system was installed in 1903. Each year approximately 22 million gallons of treated water are used to irrigate the Mammoth lawns! Come see what great water saving projects Molly and the Maintenance Staff propose for the coming year!

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IN THE NEWS

Park paving paradise, green group charges

By Cory Hatch, Jackson Hole DailyNews, February 25, 2012

Yellowstone National Park's plan to add 7 acres of pavement to a Fishing Bridge campground is "bizarre," a conservation group asserts.

The park proposes paving treed land in the Fishing Bridge RV campground to accommodate bus-sized recreational vehicles. The Lake Area Comprehensive Plan would add 121,000 square feet of buildings and a total of almost 10 acres of pavement at Lake Village, Fishing Bridge and Bridge Bay.

"It's bizarre that they want to pave the park to accommodate the largest RVs known to mankind," said Mark Pearson, conservation program manager for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. "They don't necessarily need to size all their infrastructure to accommodate the biggest things in existence."

Pearson said these "Greyhound bus-sized" campers can find accommodations just outside the park. Owners of large RVs often tow smaller vehicles that could be used to tour Yellowstone, he said.

The Park Service removed a tent campground and hundreds of guest cabins in the Fishing Bridge area in the 1980s to reduce human-grizzly bear conflicts. At the time, spawning Yellowstone cutthroat trout would move up tributaries at the Fishing Bridge area, attracting bears in need of protein. Since then, the introduction of non-native mackinaw trout into Yellowstone Lake has drastically reduced cutthroat spawning runs. Park officials hope to remove mackinaw so cutthroat populations can rebuild.

Removing trees and paving cleared areas within the Fishing Bridge RV campground would reduce the chances of grizzly bear conflicts, said Eleanor Clark, Yellowstone's chief of comprehensive planning and design. Treed areas within the campground may actually attract grizzly bears, she said.

Conflicts between grizzlies and humans at the Fishing Bridge area have been rare in recent years, and the campground is not considered important habitat for the animals, Clark said.

The RV park was built from 1963 to 1964, Clark said.

“It’s nearly 50 years old,” she said. “It hasn’t been substantially renovated in that period of time. There are things like electrical and water deficiencies in that RV park.”

“It is the only place in the entire park where we provide full hookups for those vehicles,” Clark continued. “There are no other RV [campgrounds] in the park.”

Clark said she realizes that super-sized RVs are controversial, but said they’re not prohibited in Yellowstone.

Building new spaces for the RVs decreases the potential number of vehicles in campgrounds, Clark said.

“The sites are longer, but they actually accommodate [fewer] vehicles,” she said.

The plan seems to contradict Park Service values, Pearson said.

“Going farther down that path of big expanses of pavement seems like the wrong direction for Yellowstone,” he said.

The Park Service plans 12.7 acres of new buildings, roads and parking lots for the Lake Area, Fishing Bridge and Bridge Bay. Projects include a pedestrian path from Lake Hotel to the Lake General Store and moving the Lake Lodge cabins away from Lodge Creek.

Plans call for expanding the Fishing Bridge repair garage and 58,000 square feet of employee housing, maintenance and storage facilities, a garbage and recycling building and a recreation center.

Park officials also plan an 11,800-square-foot addition to the Lake Lodge and a 3,600-square-foot addition to the Lake Hotel.

The lake shore area would see 13,000 square feet of new buildings, including bathrooms and renovated Lake Ranger Station offices. Officials have proposed a new road behind the ranger station.

The Environmental Assessment and an electronic comments form can be found at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lakecompplan>.

To get a paper copy of the report, write Lake Comprehensive Plan EA, National Park Service, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

Park Service officials will hold a meeting on the plan at 6 p.m. Feb. 16 in Jackson at The Lexington, 285 N. Cache. Public comments are due by midnight March 2.

Montana gubernatorial candidates mix it up in Great Falls

Great Falls Tribune, February 28, 2012

Nine gubernatorial hopefuls squared off Monday at a well-attended Cascade County Farm Bureau Federation forum at Montana ExpoPark.

The candidates answered a wide-range of questions about issues important to the state's agriculture community, from how they would keep Montana agriculture relevant in a global economy to how they would deal with bison coming out of Yellowstone National Park.

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20120228/NEWS01/202280304>

WEATHER

NWS Zone Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park, WY

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 755 AM MST TUE FEB 28 2012

Rest Of Today...Chance of snow early in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 3 inches. Highs 24 to 30. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight...Breezy. Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 to 12. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday...Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Wednesday Night...Breezy. Snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 4 to 10. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph decreasing to around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

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

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The **BLM Colorado State Office** is looking for an effective leader to join our team at the Colorado State Office in Lakewood, Colorado. Please help to spread the word about this great opportunity before it closes on March 19th. Click here for more details: [Branch Chief, Planning & Assessment, GS-301-13](#)

United Blood Services will once again be hosting their blood drive next Wednesday, March 7, 2012 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM in the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #3. At this time they WILL NOT be needing AB Positive or AB Negative blood. So, if this is your blood type, please keep it on reserve until it is needed!! United Blood Services did mail out some postcards stating information on this drive, but it erroneously put the Mammoth Community Center Gym as the place....Correct building, just the wrong room. You can also donate snacks. Contact Kathleen Cunningham at x245 for more information or to schedule a time slot. Thank you in advance for giving the Gift of Life!!

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Information. In conjunction with the Fit in Fitness 2012 Calendars that were distributed to all employees late last year, there is also an on-line supplement with monthly updates. Check in out here: www.personalbest.com/2012calendar. Also, please go to the EmSC Sharepoint site at: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Wellness Program, folder Personal Best Documents, folder March where you will find wonderful information provided by Personal Best to celebrate National Nutrition Month in March. Topics include: Nutrition, Fitness, Health Tracks and a great healthy recipe for avocado wraps.

Celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** early at the Mammoth Community Center Potluck and Family Craft Night! Wed. March 7, 2012. Potluck starts at 5:45 p.m. Green Beer, Irish tunes, kids' crafts and cupcakes. Adults: bring a craft you are working on.



Thanks to everyone who attended the **25th Annual Jardine Ski Run** on February 26, 2012. Results and more photos from the race are located at: www.BearCreekCouncil.org

Thanks to everyone who attended the **Mammoth Irrigation Brown Bag Lunch** on Tuesday, February 28th. It was standing room only for late-comers! For anyone that missed it, the presentation is available as a PDF on the park's Green Team SharePoint site at the following link:

<http://inpyellshare/EnvMgt/Presentations/Forms/AllItems.aspx> Many thanks to Molly and the Mammoth irrigation maintenance crew for all your hard work!

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS

Rick Sendra will be filling in for Harold Anderson the Electric Shop, February 29-March 1. Rick can be reached at x2332.

IN THE NEWS

Wyoming outdoors: More money needed to save Yellowstone cutthroat trout

BOB KRUMM For The Billings Gazette | Thursday, February 23, 2012

Did you fish Yellowstone National Park, more specifically the Yellowstone River from the upper falls through the lake and into the Thoroughfare, in the time period between 1960 and 1990? If so, what was your recollection? Did you see lots of cutthroat trout? How many did you catch?

Have you fished the same area since 2000? Did you see any cutthroat trout? How many did you catch?

Dave Sweet, Trout Unlimited's 2011 Distinguished Service Award winner, asked the above questions of the people who attended his talk Feb. 16 in Sheridan, Wyo. Sweet has been spearheading the "Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Campaign" and has been telling his message as fervently as an old-fashioned revival preacher.

He has managed to marshal the Trout Unlimited state councils of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana to join in the fight. Along with TU are the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and the National Parks Conservation Association. Individual TU chapters, such as the Little Bighorn Chapter, have helped out, too.

The Yellowstone cutthroat trout once numbered 3.5 to 4 million in the waters above the upper falls of the Yellowstone River. Nowadays, the number of cutthroat trout has plunged to less than 10 percent of what it was in the halcyon days of the 1950s and '60s. A weir was installed on Clear Creek back in the 1940s so that National Park Service biologists could count the number of trout spawning in the stream. In the 1970s the counts averaged 50,000; in the last three years 500! That's a 99 percent decline.

The introduction of lake trout into Yellowstone Lake is the No. 1 cause of the decline, although whirling disease and extended drought have had some impacts, too.

The first documented report of a lake trout in Yellowstone Lake was July 30, 1994, but there were undocumented reports from earlier years.

How the lake trout entered Yellowstone Lake is a matter of conjecture. One possible cause could be the illegal planting of lake trout by some nimrod. A second theory is that the lakers might have been uploaded by helicopter bucket loads while fighting the infamous 1988 fires. The lake trout from such a "plant" could have come from Lewis Lake.

Regardless, the lake trout have decimated the Yellowstone cutthroat trout population. A lake trout can consume up to 41 cutthroat trout a year. The latest population estimate of lake trout was upwards of 400,000.

Yellowstone Lake is huge, and it is ideal habitat for lake trout, so controlling them seems to be an insurmountable task. The National Park Service first sought to gill net the lake trout and had some success, but gill netting also caught cutthroats.

In 2011, Yellowstone contracted a commercial fishing company, Hickey Brothers from Wisconsin, to double the efforts in Yellowstone Lake with two commercial boats. (The NPS ran 11 miles of gill nets in 2009 and 2010 using two boats).

The Hickey Brothers managed to catch 120,000 lake trout in 2011. In conjunction with the NPS, the total haul was 220,000. If the lake trout population estimate is correct, then this catch amounts to more than half the estimated population.

One of the tools that the Hickey Brothers used was a trap net. The trap net utilizes wing structures that are up to 300 meters long that direct the trout into a central enclosed net with a funnel opening. The trout are trapped live so that any cutthroat trout can be released alive.

The main advantage of the trap net is that it can be employed in shallower waters where the cutthroats are and where the lake trout venture in search of the cutts.

Another development in the battle has been technological. In order to locate where the lake trout are in the lake, biologists have been implanting transmitters into some lake trout. These “Judas” trout are released back into Yellowstone Lake. A grid of receivers has been placed in the lake that can record the individual lake trout as it swims past the receiver.

With this information, researchers are hoping to be able to pinpoint where lake trout spawn. Unlike cutthroat, brown, brook, rainbow and golden trout, lake trout don’t spawn in pairs; they spawn in swarms. Their spawning areas are underwater reefs and gravel bars in shallow waters. The spawning areas are quite compact — some are only the size of two regular meeting tables.

Knowing where the lake trout spawn will enable the netting efforts to be more efficient. Also, it will enable park personnel to try to destroy the eggs.

This technological battle has drawn Dave Sweet into the fray. The transmitters are fairly costly — \$400. The receivers are \$700 apiece. Through Sweet’s efforts and those of the East Yellowstone Trout Unlimited chapter, \$27,000 has been raised for 73 tags and the NPS raised \$25,000 for an additional 68 tags.

The transmitters and receivers were placed in the lake in August. There are 141 transmitters and 40 receivers now in Yellowstone Lake. The main problem is that there is a wealth of data that needs to be analyzed. The Park Service has come up with \$100,000 for analysis of the data. The study will go on for three more years.

More transmitters and receivers are needed so that a comprehensive grid can be placed in the lake. According to Sweet, at least 300 tagged fish are needed along with 52 receivers. A different type of transmitter that can also indicate depth is needed, but it costs \$750.

While lake trout suppression will go on for many years, there is already hope that the Yellowstone cutthroat can be saved. One encouraging sign is that the lake trout that have been netted in the past two years seldom have cutthroat trout in their stomachs; scuds have become the primary forage. Another sign is that there are some large cutthroat trout (six to seven pounds) showing up in the trap nets. Also, the spawning redd counts have started to increase in the tributary streams. Finally, if continued netting efforts show a removal rate of 50 percent or more, then the lake trout population can be suppressed.

The campaign to save the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout needs your help. They are about halfway to their goal of \$85,000. If you can, please donate to: Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat; c/o East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 3008, Cody, WY 82414.

Former bus driver convicted of drunken driving in Yellowstone appeals federal ruling

JODI HAUSEN, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer | Wednesday, February 29, 2012

A Bozeman man serving six months in jail after a Wyoming federal judge found him guilty of driving a busload of Bozeman schoolchildren into Yellowstone National Park while intoxicated plans to appeal his conviction.

Jack Kane Parrent Jr. filed a notice of appeal in U.S. District Court in Cheyenne, Wyo., earlier this month through his attorney Christopher Leigh of Jackson, Wyo.

Parrent and another Karst Stage bus driver, Kevin Leon Stark, were charged with misdemeanors when they both tested positive for alcohol on June 3, after Yellowstone rangers stopped the two buses they were driving full of Sacajawea Middle School students.

Stark testified against Parrent at his December trial, saying the two spent the previous evening drinking and gambling in Gardiner.

Stark's blood-alcohol level tested at 0.05 after a Yellowstone ranger saw Parrent's bus cross the centerline. That's below the legal limit of 0.08 for passenger vehicles in Montana and Wyoming, but there is zero tolerance for commercial drivers in federal jurisdictions.

Stark pleaded guilty to misdemeanor operating a commercial vehicle with a detectable amount of alcohol and was sentenced to two weeks in jail and ordered to pay a \$500 fine.

Parrent's blood alcohol measured 0.12 in an initial test after being stopped and 0.091 a few hours later, according to court records.

Judge Stephen E. Cole found Parrent guilty of drunken driving and operating a motor vehicle with a detectable amount of alcohol, both misdemeanors.

Though the basis for Parrent's appeal has not been filed, his Livingston attorney Jami Rebsom argued during the Mammoth Hot Springs trial in December that evidence of his blood-alcohol level should be tossed.

Arguing on the basis of Montana and Wyoming state law requiring law enforcement agents to inform a suspect of his right to refuse alcohol tests, Rebsom told Cole that refusing the test suspends the defendant's driver's license.

But the federal prosecutor countered that officers in federal jurisdictions like Yellowstone National Park are not required to advise drivers of that right.

Parrent's appeal was assigned to U.S. District Judge Nancy D. Freudenthal in Cheyenne.

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Great Falls Tribune, February 28, 2012

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<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/article/20120228/NEWS01/202280304>

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 504 AM MST WED FEB 29 2012

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Tonight...Breezy. Areas of blowing snow in the evening. Snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 6 to 12. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Thursday...Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 10 inches. Highs 18 to 24. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday Night...Colder. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 4 below to 6 above zero. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent.

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