

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, August 1, 2012



(visitor photo)

Monday Incidents Keep Yellowstone First Responders Busy

Yellowstone National Park rangers spent the day Monday responding to numerous incidents, including several involving significant injuries to visitors.

Carl Dullmaier, 56, of Gernsheim, Germany, sustained a head injury when he was thrown from a horse near Tower Junction. He later died from his injuries after being lifeflighted to a Billings, Montana, hospital.

A 37-year-old man from Provo, Utah, suffered thermal burns on the Solitary Geyser Trail in the Upper Geyser Basin. He was transported by ambulance to West Yellowstone, Montana, and from there by fixed-wing aircraft to the Salt Lake City, Utah, Burn Center.

A 65-year-old male British national from Bangkok, Thailand, suffered injuries when he was thrown into the air by a bull bison at Mammoth Hot Springs. He was transported to Memorial Hospital in Livingston, Montana.

Visitors are reminded to stay on boardwalks and designated trails while viewing all thermal features in the park. Scalding water underlies thin, breakable crusts; many geyser eruptions are unpredictable, and thermal features are near or above boiling temperatures.

Park visitors are also reminded that intentionally approaching or disturbing animals is dangerous and a violation of park regulations. Park rules require that you stay at least 100 yards away from bears and wolves at all times, and at least 25 yards away from all other animals including elk and bison.

Yellowstone officials respond to an average of 700 emergency medical calls each year.

Fire Update: Please note, Fire Danger currently **VERY HIGH**.

Current Fire Restrictions: None

There are 4 small fires burning in Yellowstone, all of which are less than 1 acre in size. Each of these fires is being managed, and none pose any threat to visitor safety.

Range Fire: 2 miles north of Observation Peak (NW of Canyon Village)

Camera Fire: 1 mile NE of Heart Lake

Dewdrop Fire: NE of Fern Lake

Dewdrop 2 Fire: ¼-mile NW of the Dewdrop Fire

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mammoth Perennial Weed Pull--

Please become a weed whacker! The 5th Perennial Mammoth Weed Pull is **TOMORROW** August 2nd. Festivities will commence at 8:30 at the North District Maintenance Building. There will be a brief introduction to nonnative species in the Mammoth area and tips for identification of target species. Everyone is welcome to participate in this event with permission from their supervisor. The event will be followed by a free lunch sponsored by the Yellowstone Park Foundation and prepared by our amazing chef Denny Barford. Participants are encouraged to bring photos of mystery plants taken in the park and park staff will be available to help identify the plants in the photo. If you have questions, please contact Heidi Anderson at 307-344-2564.

In need of a ride! Anyone headed to Billings **TOMORROW** (2 Aug) afternoon/evening? I've got an early airline departure Friday morning, and don't want to leave a second vehicle at the airport for the week. I'll gladly share expenses. So...if you have room for one, please give me a call at work (x2161) or on my cell (406-848-7323).

Thanks much- Roy Renkin

MCC Concerns: One of our hardworking board members just sent out the following note to our VOLUNTEER BOARD – a board that is working hard on some major improvements and transitions in the MCC building. It's obviously not acceptable – does anyone in the community have any thoughts about how we could prevent this? I think I speak for the board when I say – I'm discouraged by the lack of care of the facility and for our efforts. Charissa Reid board@mammothcommunity.org

Dear Team, I just wanted to update everyone with what has been going on at the gym. I went to use the elliptical this afternoon and this is what I saw:

- * both ropes down
- * all the mats scattered around
- * plastic play toys everywhere
- * a big orange ladder going toward the AV room above the basketball hoop (was this in the boiler room?)
- * deck of cards scattered near the restroom
- * ice packs from the farmer's market people on the ground
- * board games and puzzles all over the little kids reading room (by now I started walking around to look more....)
- * a pack of 20 hot dogs opened and left out on the kitchen counter with knife
- * pitcher with orange juice in the sink and sticky cups everywhere

I put the hotdogs back in the freezer. I am not sure if those were there to begin with? I also pulled the ladder down. I will do a thorough cleaning tomorrow morning. (I had to get back to my apartment by 5 pm.) How do we proceed with this?

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Little People's Learning Center (LPLC) has partnered with Macy's Shop for a Cause! Purchase a shopping pass for \$5 from any parent, board member, or from LPLC directly and save 25% all day on regular, sale and clearance items at any Macy's store on Saturday, August 25, 2012. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card (One winner PER STORE!). LPLC gets to keep 100% of the proceeds so purchase a pass and shop for a cause!

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Employee Recreation:

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* Lunchtime yoga is still happening every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 pm – 12:45 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. It is at a discounted rate of \$5.

Visit our website at www.ycerp.org for information, images, calendars, and more.

To go directly to our updated calendars page: www.ycerp.org/calendar.php

WEATHER**NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 630 AM MDT WED AUG 1 2012

Today: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 73 to 79. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 43 to 49. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening becoming south around 15 mph after midnight.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs 68 to 74. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 38 to 44. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Friday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 62 to 68. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Lows 35 to 41.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 68 to 74.

Saturday Night: Clear. Lows 41 to 47.

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A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, August 2, 2012



Fire Update:

There is a **Red Flag Warning** from 2PM today to 8PM Friday for Southwest and South Central Montana and North Central Wyoming <http://tinyurl.com/79uybr9> There is also a **Red Flag Warning** from Noon to 9PM today the Absarokas, the Shoshone National Forest <http://tinyurl.com/cqp2r9c> and parts of the Tetons <http://tinyurl.com/cjwskq8>

Current Fire Restrictions: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 604 AM MDT THU AUG 2 2012

Today: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Highs 68 to 74. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 39 to 45. West winds 15 to 20 mph until early morning.

Friday: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs 60 to 66. Northwest winds around 15 mph early in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 34 to 40.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs 67 to 73.

Saturday Night: Clear. Lows 41 to 47.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs 73 to 79.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 44 to 50.

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A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, August 3, 2012



Current Fire Restrictions: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Northeast Entrance Road (Lamar River Bridge) - Possible 30-minute delays. Motorcyclists are urged to use caution on gravel by-pass road segment.

Chittenden Road to Tower Junction - NO nighttime closures starting Friday, August 3, and continuing until further notice. Possible 30-minute delays during daylight hours.

Canyon Village Parking Area - One Quadrant closed daily for construction. All services are open.

See park map with locations at: P:\Road Updates\Weekly Const Update 2012

YCC (Youth Conservation Corps) is doing work throughout the park and the youth are having a wonderful time in Yellowstone. There were 22 new high school students in the program from June 10 - July 12th. Another set of 22 new 15-18 year olds, are here until August 16, working, learning, playing and growing in the park. An **YCC blog** is available so you can see some of the work and recreation accomplished by the youth. See <http://yellowstoneycc2012.wordpress.com/>

It is with sadness, we report the **passing of long time Yellowstone seasonal employee Chuck Bolle** early this morning after a short illness. Chuck had been employed in Yellowstone since the summer season of 1982 if records are serving us correctly. Chuck is survived by wife Lou, stepdaughters CJ and Colette, mother, and grandson Morgan, whom all reside in Montana. Chuck had started his time in Yellowstone in Wildland Fire and moved to Special Projects, where he was still working at the time of his illness. Thank you, Randy Baum

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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 319 AM MDT FRI AUG 3 2012

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 59 to 65. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 34 to 40. Northwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs 66 to 72.

Saturday Night: Clear. Lows 38 to 44.

Sunday: Sunny. Highs 73 to 79. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 44 to 50.

Monday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms. Highs 73 to 79. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 43 to 49. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

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Monday, August 6, 2012



Current Fire Restrictions: None



Thursday, August 2, 2012 was the 5th annual Mammoth Weed Pull. Over 65 participants including park staff, interns, volunteers, fire modules and residents participated in this event. Groups of 10-15 worked areas near the Mammoth Terraces, the Mammoth Hotel cabins, and Clematis Creek trail. All together, they pulled 125 garbage bags of invasive plants. These included species such as spotted knapweed, houndstongue, wooly mullein, and bull thistle, to name a few. The manual treatment of invasive weeds today occurred in areas that herbicide application does not work well. The annual weed pull was followed by a community lunch supported by the Yellowstone Park Foundation. The participants of the weed pull deserves a special thanks as Yellowstone National Parks strives to manage invasive vegetation in the Mammoth area. (photo by Jen Baseden)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with sadness, we report the **passing of long time Yellowstone seasonal employee Chuck Bolle** after a short illness. Chuck had been employed in Yellowstone since the summer season of 1982 if records are serving us correctly. Chuck is survived by wife Lou, stepdaughters CJ and Colette, mother, and grandson Morgan, whom all reside in Montana. Chuck had started his time in Yellowstone in Wildland Fire and moved to Special Projects, where he was still working at the time of his illness.

A memorial service has been scheduled August 8, 2012 at 3:00 PM at the Gardiner School, with a pot luck to follow.

The updated size-up on the Dewdrop Fire is 25 acres. Fire behavior is occasional single and group tree torching runs, but primarily burning on the ground.

It has crept off of the steep rocky knob upon which it had been creeping around for the past week, crossed a sparsely-fueled, dry drainage, and is now at the heel of a large expanse of more continuous fuels out to the North and East generally in alignment with the prevailing wind.



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IN THE NEWS

DISCLAIMER: News stories included in YNP@Work are intended solely to inform park staff members about issues involving or impacting Yellowstone National Park and/or the National Park Service, which are currently being covered by the mainstream news media. Their appearance here does not imply any endorsement or agreement with any statements or conclusions contained in these news stories. For current, official information, please consult recent news releases, the nps.gov web site, the latest edition of the Resources and Issues Handbook, or your supervisor or division chief.

Injured hikers rescued, taken to Billings

BILLINGS GAZETTE - SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2012 • BY TOM LUTEY

Hikers injured in a rockslide on Granite Peak were taken to a Billings hospital after an air search and rescue.

Rescue crews recovered Darrell Haag, 60, and Keiler Haag, 18, on Saturday. The two men suffered leg injuries Thursday when their party of six was caught in a Granite Peak rockslide. Another hiker on Granite Peak used a cellular phone to call Park County emergency dispatch for help.

Park County Search and Rescue, with help from a Yellowstone National Park helicopter crew and the U.S. Forest Service, located the injured men, who were found above Aero Lake beneath the summit of Granite Peak at 9:10 a.m. Saturday. Apparently, the two men and four other hikers, all from California, were crossing a gully when the rocks slid. Three women in the group took refuge in an ice cave and were unharmed.

The men were taken to a Forest Service cabin outside Cooke City, where Keiler Haag was transported by helicopter to St. Vincent Hospital. Darrell Haag rode to Billings with family.

Keiler Haag was in fair condition at St. Vincent Hospital on Sunday.

WEATHER

Red Flag Warning from 11AM to 9PM today for Yellowstone NP, Grand Teton NP, and Bridger-Teton NF <http://bit.ly/R7r387>

Red Flag Warning from Noon to Midnight today for SW & SC Montana including Gallatin NF, Beartooth RD of Custer National Forest, Crow Indian Reservation <http://bit.ly/OXt47B>

Red Flag Warning from 11AM to 9PM today for the Shoshone NF <http://bit.ly/R7r1Nt>

Red Flag Warning from Noon to 6PM today for the Targhee NF <http://bit.ly/Pzgg1T>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 26 AM MDT MON AUG 6 2012

Today: Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the morning...then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 70 to 76. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 42 to 48. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 73 to 79.

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Tuesday, August 7, 2012



Yellowstone Implementing Trail Closures And Fire Restrictions

Continued hot, dry conditions and a potential for increased fire activity have prompted Yellowstone National Park to reinstate fire restrictions and close some hiking trails and backcountry campsites.

The Dewdrop Fire, several miles east of Canyon Village, is the largest of five fires actively burning in the park. It is currently estimated at 25 acres. As a precaution, the following backcountry campsites and trail segments north and east of the Dewdrop Fire were closed Monday afternoon:

- Astringent Creek Trail at the junction of the Lower Pelican Creek Trail.
- Upper Pelican Creek Trail at the junction of the Lower Pelican Creek Trail.
- Wapiti Lake Trail East of campsite site 4M2 to Wapiti Lake.
- Fern Lake Trail
- Backcountry campsites 4B1, 4B2, 4B3, 4B4, 4W2, 4W3, 5B1, 5B2, and 5P7.

Yellowstone is under a Red Flag Warning until 9:00 p.m. Monday due to critical fire weather conditions. The fire danger in the park remains Very High.

Because of forecast continued hot and dry conditions, Yellowstone will reinstitute the following fire restrictions, effective noon Wednesday:

- Campfires are allowed only in established fire grates or fire rings in picnic areas or campgrounds. The use of portable charcoal grills is prohibited.
- Any fire which can produce an ash is prohibited in the backcountry.
- You can use portable stoves and lanterns which use propane, white gas, kerosene, or jellied petroleum for fuel anywhere in the park.
- Smoking is prohibited along all trails and anywhere in the backcountry.
- Smoking is allowed in vehicles and along roads, near buildings, and in developed campgrounds or picnic areas if you are standing in an area at least three feet in diameter where nothing on the ground will burn.

The other active fires are the Shoshone, Camera, Range, and Dewdrop 2. The largest of these is just one acre in size.

Other than the listed temporary closures of some backcountry campsites and hiking trails, all park entrances, roads and services are open. None of these fires pose a threat to park visitors.

When actively burning, smoke from the Dewdrop Fire may be visible from park roadways or from the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout Web Cam <http://www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>.

There have been 11 fires reported in Yellowstone this year. Seven were started by lightning, and four were human caused. The largest to-date has been July's 29-acre Blacktail Fire.

Updated information is available 24-hours a day by calling 307-344-2580, or on the web at <http://www.inciweb.org/unit/5382/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With **fire restrictions** going into effect noon tomorrow, a flyer has been created for you to post, as needed. Click on the link for the flyer or locate it in the Parkwide drive under Fires_2012. [Fire restrictions flyer](#)

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A memorial service has been scheduled August 9, 2012 at 3:00 PM at the Gardiner School, with a pot luck to follow.

YCC (Youth Conservation Corps) is doing work throughout the park and the youth are having a wonderful time in Yellowstone. There were 22 new high school students in the program from June 10 - July 12th. Another set of 22 new 15-18 year olds, are here until August 16, working, learning, playing and growing in the park. An **YCC blog** is available so you can see some of the work and recreation accomplished by the youth. See <http://yellowstoneycc2012.wordpress.com/>

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Community Yoga Classes now have a new home! What was once "Classroom 4" in the Mammoth Community Center is now a beautiful, open space dedicated to performing and healing arts. All evening Yoga classes will be held in the MCC beginning Monday, August 13.

Join instructor Amanda Stover in inaugurating this special space with a *FREE* Gentle Hatha Yoga class, Monday, August 13, 6:00pm-7:15pm. No experience necessary. Yoga mats will be provided, just bring a bottle of water and an open mind!

The last class to be held at the Gardiner Community Center will be Wednesday, August 8. Visit amandastover.weebly.com for a complete schedule of classes.

Employee Recreation:

* The Employee Photo Contest is coming up so start taking your pictures now! The photo entry deadline will be Monday, August 13th. Categories are Humor, People, Close-Up, Wildlife and Landscape and you may enter one photo per category. The photo judging dates will be:

- August 21: Finalist Judging: MHS Employee Rec Hall 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- August 22: Finalist Judging: LL Employee Rec Hall 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- August 22: Finalist Judging: CL Employee EDR / Rec Hall 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- August 23: Finalist Judging: OF Employee Rec Hall 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- August 23: Finalist Judging: GV Greyling Dorm Lobby 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

* Don't forget to sign up for the OARS kayaking trips! These adventurous kayaking trips led by the OARS experts put in at the Grant Village Marina on Yellowstone Lake. They are at a *highly* discounted price so you don't want to miss your chance! Check your location activity calendars for dates and times.

* Lunchtime yoga is still happening every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 pm – 12:45 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. It is at a discounted rate of \$5.

Visit our website at www.ycerp.org for information, images, calendars, and more.

To go directly to our updated calendars page: www.ycerp.org/calendar.php

WEATHER

Red Flag Warning from 10 AM until 9PM today for SC & SE Montana and portions of NC WY including Custer National Forest and the Crow Indian Reservation. <http://tinyurl.com/79uybr9>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 219 AM MDT TUE AUG 7 2012

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs 73 to 79.

Tonight: Clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 45 to 51.

Wednesday: Sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 78 to 84. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 49 to 55.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 76 to 82. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 47 to 53. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Friday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs 71 to 77. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows 43 to 49. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, August 8, 2012



Sam Holbrook is celebrating 46 years as a seasonal park ranger with the Division of Resource Education & Youth Programs, having worked his first season at Mammoth and the other 45 at Old Faithful. Sam and staff celebrated his 80th birthday yesterday. Congratulations Sam!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flag Action - In honor of the victims of the tragedy in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, President Barack Obama has directed the United States Flag to be flown at Half-Staff from Monday, August 06, 2012 till sunset on Friday, August 10, 2012.

It is with sadness, we report the **passing of long time Yellowstone seasonal employee Chuck Bolle** after a short illness. Chuck had been employed in Yellowstone since the summer season of 1982 if records are serving us correctly. Chuck is survived by wife Lou, stepdaughters CJ and Colette, mother, and grandson Morgan, whom all reside in Montana. Chuck had started his time in Yellowstone in Wildland Fire and moved to Special Projects, where he was still working at the time of his illness.

A memorial service has been scheduled for tomorrow at 3:00 PM at the Gardiner School, with a pot luck to follow.

With **fire restrictions** going into effect noon TODAY, a flyer has been created for you to post, as needed. Click on the link for the flyer or locate it in the Parkwide drive under Fires_2012. [Fire restrictions flyer](#)

Fire Update

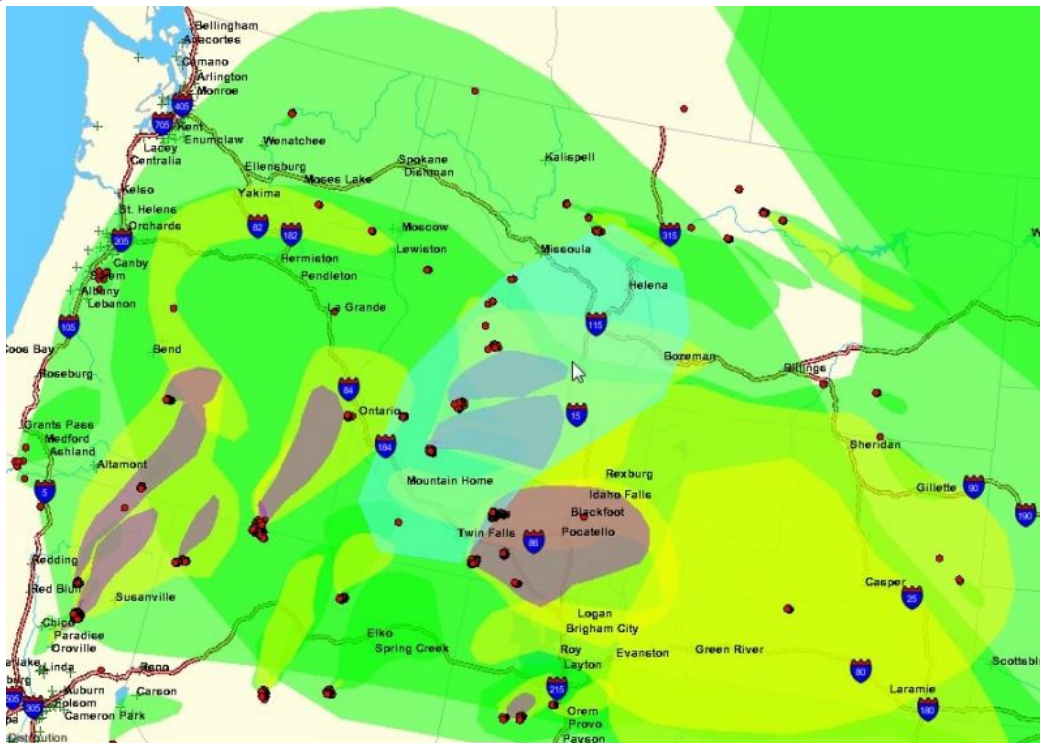
Three new fire starts have been reported in the park.

The Agate Fire is southeast of Tower near backcountry campsite 2Y1 on the east side of the Yellowstone River. It is smoldering on the ground and in two trees struck by lightning. It is estimated at less than ¼ acre. The campsite has been closed.

The West Yellowstone Smokejumper aircraft spotted two single tree fires late yesterday in the northwest corner of the park, a mile southwest of High Lake. Four heli-rappellers from the Gallatin National Forest were inserted to suppress the fires. The Fan 1 Fire is estimated at ½ acre, the Fan 2 Fire was estimated at ¼ acre.

The largest active fire in the park is the Dewdrop Fire, nine miles southeast of Canyon Village. It is estimated at 25 acres. Several backcountry campsites and trail segments in the area have been temporarily closed.

Smoke Map



In answer to the inevitable question: Where is the smoke coming from? You can see from this smoke map that the smoke affecting Yellowstone is coming from fires west and southwest of us.

YCC (Youth Conservation Corps) is doing work throughout the park and the youth are having a wonderful time in Yellowstone. There were 22 new high school students in the program from June 10 - July 12th. Another set of 22 new 15-18 year olds, are here until August 16, working, learning, playing and growing in the park. An **YCC blog** is available so you can see some of the work and recreation accomplished by the youth. See <http://yellowstoneycc2012.wordpress.com/>

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Wolf numbers, impacts stabilizing'

Posted: Monday, August 6, 2012 3:08 pm

['Wolf numbers, impacts stabilizing'](#) By Mark Heinz

Amid ongoing controversy and fascination, wolves are coming into long-term equilibrium with their prey and habitat here, an expert on the predators said.

Meanwhile, the trend of wolves moving out of Yellowstone Park might be reversing itself, at least in the northern part of the park, said Douglas Smith, the head of Yellowstone's Gray Wolf Restoration Project.

Smith, himself a hunter, said he takes a "moderate" position regarding wolf management, and doesn't think a single policy will work in all areas.

"There are areas where wolves could be hunted heavily, and others where they don't need to be," he said.

While also noting that killing more wolves can result in more elk, Smith said he's not sure that's what he always wants as a hunter, because it's more akin to "agriculture" than wildlife management.

Wolves are already hunted in Montana and Idaho.

After a deal struck by Gov. Matt Mead and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar paved the way for delisting wolves here, Wyoming wolf hunts are expected to open in October.

That would include limited quotas in some hunt areas near Cody.

Smith, who has previously spoken about wolves in Cody, gave a presentation Aug. 2 at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

The "first phase" of wolf restoration has ended, he said, and the area is starting to see more permanent trends in terms of wolves and their effect on the surrounding environment, Smith said.

The time from when the first reintroduced wolves were set free in 1995 until about 2010 saw an adjustment period, often marked by dramatic increases in the wolf population, he said.

Since then, the wolf population has adjusted itself to the environment through such factors as a thinning prey base in some areas, disease, wolf migration and wolves killing one another in competition, Smith said.

Typically, the greatest concentration of wolves in Yellowstone has been in the northern part of the park, Smith said.

That's where their numbers thinned out in recent years, and some wolves are now apparently migrating back into that part of Yellowstone, he said.

Within the park, packs tend to be larger, Smith said.

Packs outside the park are smaller primarily because of human-caused mortality, such as wolves being shot for threatening cattle, or stuck by vehicles, he said.

Along with biology and ecology, social changes have shaped the fate of wolves and other predators in the greater Yellowstone area, Smith noted.

The 19th and early 20th centuries saw unmitigated killing of virtually all predator – wolves were eliminated from YNP by 1926, he said.

The only reason bears were spared is they apparently caught the fancy of some park administrators at the time, Smith said.

Since then, social and scientific views have broadened, to include more tolerance of wolves, cougars and other predators, Smith said.

That has led to a generally healthier ecosystem, with a full range of top-tier predators stalking the Yellowstone area, he said.

In turn, that's prompted speculation about whether an ecosystem's health comes from the "bottom up," with plants thriving after getting a break from an over-abundance of grazing and browsing ungulates, Smith said.

Other experts have argued it's more of a "top down" phenomena, resting upon the presence of apex predators.

"It might work both ways," Smith said.

He also doesn't put stock in the idea that the reintroduced wolves are essentially a "non-native" subspecies, and therefore might have a greater effect on game herds.

There are some variations in wolf sub-populations, such as relative size, but those are far less relevant than territorial adaptations in species such as mice, which can't cross natural barriers like rivers.

"There's not a river or mountain range in the world that will stop a wolf," and wolves will travel vast distances in search of a mate or new territory, Smith said.

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Grant Teton National Park News Release

Injured Hiker Rescued from Hanging Canyon in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued an injured hiker today, August 7, after he slipped and tumbled 20 feet on rocky terrain and sustained facial and lower leg injuries. Paul Danes, 23, of Raleigh, North Carolina was scrambling alone and off trail near the mouth of Hanging Canyon at the time of his accident.

Other day hikers who were in the Hanging Canyon area heard cries for help and discovered Danes. They provided basic care for his injuries and placed a cell phone call for help at 12:45 p.m. that was received by Teton Interagency Dispatch Center.

Based upon the call and the relatively close location to the Jenny Lake westshore trail, rangers made preparations to evacuate Danes by a wheeled-litter handled by four rescuers. Upon reaching Danes by foot, rangers determined that a helicopter short-haul evacuation was the more prudent rescue technique. The decision was made because of a combination of Danes' injuries and the rough and rocky terrain over which the wheeled-litter would be hauled to complete an evacuation by ground.

A Teton Interagency contract helicopter was summoned at 3 p.m. and an aerial evacuation of the injured hiker was completed by 4:15 p.m. Danes was transported by park ambulance to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further medical treatment.

Danes is working as a seasonal concession employee in Yellowstone National Park for the summer.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 222 AM MDT WED AUG 8 2012

Today: Sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 78 to 84.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 46 to 52. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 76 to 82. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 46 to 52. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning... Then mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 73 to 79. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Lows 43 to 49. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Highs 71 to 77.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 43 to 49.

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Thursday, August 9, 2012



Congratulations Jim Owens on 35 years!

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A memorial service has been scheduled for TODAY at 3:00 PM at the Gardiner School, with a pot luck to follow.

Jim Sykes will drive the RideShare bus to Chuck Bolle's funeral today. If you plan to go, please consider taking the bus. He will start the route at 2:30 to go to the service and will return back to Mammoth at 5:00 to drop off employees and pick up any regular riders. Schedule as follows:

To the Service:
2:30 - Garage
2:35 - Carpenter Shop
2:40 - Telecom (by concessions side)
2:55 - Gardiner School for Service

He will leave Gardiner at 5:00 to return to Mammoth for the regular evening pick up. Once the bus is back in Gardiner, he will make one additional stop at the Gardiner school to pick up any RiderShare riders who stayed at the reception.

Regular Evening Service plus Additional Stop at Gardiner School (approximate time of departure):
5:25 - Garage
5:30 - Carpenter Shop
5:35 - Telecom (by concessions side)
5:45 - Gardiner - Town Cafe
5:50 - Gardiner School

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Updated **flyers on Fire Restrictions, the Dewdrop Fire and the backcountry closures** associated with the Dewdrop Fire suitable for printing locally and posting are available at [P:\Fires_2012\Fire Flyers](P:\Fires_2012\Fire Flyers)

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"The Wall That Heals" will be coming to the University of Montana- Missoula August 16th to 19th.

The Wall That Heals is a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. (also known as "the Wall") made from the same granite as the wall and bearing all of the names. It is accompanied by a traveling museum and information center and is open 24-hours a day during its exhibition. You can find out more about the Wall That Heals here: <http://www.vvmf.org/twth/> and more information about the Missoula event here: <http://www.vvmf.org/MissoulaMT>

In addition, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is hosting a National Call for Photos. If you have photos of someone whose name is on the wall, they will scan them for you in Missoula (or you can contact their offices directly) and the photo will be added to the Virtual Wall on the official website. The photo will also be included in the exhibits at the new Visitor Education Center to be constructed on the National Mall in 2014.

Anyone who has question about the event, the Wall, or the call for photos can feel free to contact me and I will be happy to refer them to the correct people at VVMF. Thanks, Janine Waller

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Yellowstone winter plan debate heats up as deadline looms

Posted: Thursday, August 9, 2012 12:15 am LAURA LUNDQUIST Chronicle Staff Writer

As the deadline approaches for comments on the Yellowstone National Park winter-use plan, organizations are weighing in on the park's preferred option.

The National Park Service will accept public comments until Aug. 20 on a winter-use proposal released in early July that could increase the number of snowmobiles allowed in the park. Several organizations have finished reading the 400-plus-page document and have issued responses.

On Wednesday, the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees condemned the park's preferred alternative. The retirees said more snow machines could increase air pollution and noise in the park.

Coalition member and former NPS deputy director Deny Galvin cited the fact that few manufacturers have made cleaner or quieter snowmobiles.

“They’ve actually cut production of those that meet the existing environmental standards in the park,” Galvin said.

The coalition said under the Clean Air Act, the air quality in national parks must be “the best possible,” but under the park’s proposal, it would not be.

The coalition supports Alternative 3 in the proposal, which would allow up to 120 snowcoaches with clean, efficient engines by the 2017 season but would phase out all snowmobiles.

The National Parks Conservation Association also opposes the park’s preferred alternative for the same reasons and said the park’s March report of snowmobile emissions didn’t support allowing more snowmobiles.

The emissions report concluded that newer snowcoaches have cleaner emissions than earlier models, but snowmobiles built in 2011 actually had worse emissions than in previous years. The authors acknowledged that they were limited to testing a small number of machines but said manufacturers’ fleet data supported their findings.

Other groups are encouraging their members to support the park’s preferred alternative.

Currently, 318 snowmobiles are allowed in the park each day. The park’s preferred alternative would allow a daily average of 350 snowmobiles over the 90-day season, but some restrictions may keep that number lower. The plan would count one snowcoach or group with an average of seven snowmobiles as a transportation event. Only 110 transportation events would be allowed per day.

The park allows 78 snowcoaches a day. The plan would drop that to 60.

Up to 50 events would be reserved for snowmobiles, but it’s unlikely that every group would contain the maximum number of snowmobiles.

The plan limits the daily number of events allowed through each of the four gates. For example, only 50 events could pass through West Yellowstone. If none pass through another gate, the park can’t shift the events over and allow more to pass through West Yellowstone.

On Monday, the Idaho-based Blue Ribbon Coalition, a motorized-recreation group, encouraged the members of its 27 state associations to insist that snowmobiles be allowed access.

Special projects director Jack Welch said he’d attended almost all the plan’s public meetings in July and was pleased with the preferred alternative.

“It’s a fresh, unique approach with the transportation events, but it’s not perfect,” Welch said. “Alternative 3 is ridiculous since they have only 58 operational snowcoaches now and half belong to the park. It’s going to cost the park \$770,000 to upgrade 22 of them.”

Welch said there would probably never be a day when the maximum 480 snowmobiles allowed by the plan would be reached. It would require 46 commercially guided groups of exactly 10 riders each to pass through the correct gates, plus four noncommercial groups of exactly five riders.

In response to Galvin’s comment about the lack of improvement in snowmobile efficiency, Welch said the industry couldn’t be required to build something customers wouldn’t buy.

“The machines they were making for the park, the Arctic Cat 660, were underpowered – 48 horsepower snowmobiles won’t sell,” Welch said. “Arctic Cat replaced it with the TZ1, which met standards. If you meet standards, there’s no incentive to go further.”

Welch did say that Canada-based Bombardier Recreational Products, which manufactures Ski-Doo and Lynx snowmobiles, has recently built a cleaner-running snowmobile.

“They may have an after-market for it in Canada,” Welch said. “But down here, we need to give the park proposal a chance.”

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/yellowstone_national_park/article_bd8d2494-e1dc-11e1-abba-001a4bcf887a.html

WEATHER

Red Flag Warning from Noon-9PM today for Yellowstone <http://go.usa.gov/GHJ>

Red Flag Warning from Noon-9PM today for Grand Teton NP and Bridger-Teton NF <http://go.usa.gov/G6q>

Red Flag Warning from Noon-9PM for Absaroka Mtns & N. Shoshone NF <http://go.usa.gov/G63>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 231 AM MDT THU AUG 9 2012

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Tonight: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated dry thunderstorms early in the evening...then isolated thunderstorms late in the evening. Isolated rain showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds early in the evening. Lows 45 to 51. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the morning... Then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 71 to 77. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 50 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Lows 43 to 49. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Highs 70 to 76.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 42 to 48. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 72 to 78.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 43 to 49.

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Little People's Learning Center (LPLC) has partnered with Macy's Shop for a Cause! Purchase a shopping pass for \$5 from any parent, board member, or from LPLC directly (or contact Amy Bartlett 344-2013 or Mary Kay Woodin 344-2059) and save 25% all day on regular, sale and clearance items at any Macy's store on Saturday, August 25, 2012. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card (One winner PER STORE!). LPLC gets to keep 100% of the proceeds so purchase a pass and shop for a cause!

Community Yoga Classes now have a new home! What was once "Classroom 4" in the Mammoth Community Center is now a beautiful, open space dedicated to performing and healing arts. All evening Yoga classes will be held in the MCC beginning Monday, August 13.

Join instructor Amanda Stover in inaugurating this special space with a *FREE* Gentle Hatha Yoga class, Monday, August 13, 6:00pm-7:15pm. No experience necessary. Yoga mats will be provided, just bring a bottle of water and an open mind!

Employee Recreation:

This is just a reminder that the employee photo contest deadline is next Monday, August 13! Stop by your location employee recreation office for forms. You may enter one photo in each category - Humor, People, Close-Up, Wildlife and Landscape. Please pass this info on to any employee that does not have access to the newsletter.

Visit our website at www.ycerp.org for information, images, calendars, and more.

To go directly to our updated calendars page: www.ycerp.org/calendar.php

IN THE NEWS

DISCLAIMER: News stories included in YNP@Work are intended solely to inform park staff members about issues involving or impacting Yellowstone National Park and/or the National Park Service, which are currently being covered by the mainstream news media. Their appearance here does not imply any endorsement or agreement with any statements or conclusions contained in these news stories. For current, official information, please consult recent news releases, the nps.gov web site, the latest edition of the Resources and Issues Handbook, or your supervisor or division chief.

Former Yellowstone employee sentenced in embezzlement of entry fees

A former Yellowstone National Park employee was sentenced Thursday in federal court in Maine to one year of probation and ordered to pay restitution and a fine for the embezzlement of cash from entry fee receipts paid by park visitors.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Torresen ordered Danel Nickerson, 45, to repay \$7,429 in cash that Nickerson embezzled from Yellowstone entry fees paid by visitors. She must also pay a \$1,200 fine and a \$100 court assessment. According to sentencing documents, the assessment and restitution have already been paid in full.

Nickerson pleaded guilty in May to one count of embezzlement of government money. She was indicted in January in Casper, Wyo., but the case was transferred to her home state of Maine at Nickerson's request.

Court documents outlining federal prosecutors' version of events and which Nickerson pleaded guilty to state that she stole at least \$7,429 in cash from Yellowstone entry fees paid by visitors. The case against Nickerson apparently included video surveillance footage that would have been used as evidence at trial.

Nickerson worked in the cash-counting office at Yellowstone National Park, but full details about her duties as a Yellowstone employee were not included in court documents.

During the summer of 2007, Nickerson's job "included receiving envelopes containing cash that had been collected at the various entrance booths around Yellowstone," prosecutors state.

Along with other employees, Nickerson was responsible for counting and recording cash receipts from entry gates and depositing the funds into "the appropriate Federal Reserve account," prosecutors state.

On July 21, 2007, while working in the cash-counting office, Nickerson stole \$3,129 in cash "by first concealing the envelope containing the cash among other paperwork on her desk and then by carrying the cash away from the office," documents state.

Three days later, again while carrying out her duties in the cash-counting office, Nickerson stole \$4,300 split between two envelopes.

"She did this by dropping the envelopes containing the cash into a trash can and subsequently removing it from the trash can and taking it away," prosecutors state.

According to court documents, had the case gone to trial, prosecutors would have introduced "accounting evidence showing that the quantities of cash were missing and video recordings from surveillance cameras which were in place in the cash counting office."

Yellowstone spokesman Dan Hottle confirmed in May that Nickerson had been a Yellowstone Park employee, and said the National Park Service initiated the investigation that lead to her conviction.

Conviction in federal court for embezzlement of public funds carries a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/former-yellowstone-employee-sentenced-in-embezzlement-of-entry-fees/article_305f3fbf-a74e-5772-b407-581889f7806d.html#ixzz239WKbryH

Family from Indiana gets red-carpet treatment at Yellowstone

CODY, WYO. — An Indiana boy and his family enjoyed a Yellowstone National Park dream vacation last month thanks to a charity in his home state and the generosity and hospitality of people in the park and a nearby gateway community.

"The trip and everybody involved just far exceeded everything that we expected. Everybody just bent over backwards to do great things for us," said Nathan Bartlett, whose son, Christopher was diagnosed in 2009 with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Christopher, 8, of Whitting, Ind., is doing well now after a tough course of chemotherapy, his father said, so they boy was able to make the most of a family vacation sponsored by the Northwest Indiana chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

For years, the association has sold \$10 raffle tickets to pay for dream trips for seriously and terminally ill children, said Make A Dream program coordinator George Ross.

“We were glad to be able to do something for them,” Ross said. “The people at Yellowstone have been absolutely incredible, and were so good to the family.”

Bartlett said Ross was a bit surprised when he first met with Christopher, asking the boy if he wanted to go to Disneyland.

“He said, ‘Nah, I don’t want to do that. That’s for girls and there’s too much Disney stuff,’” Bartlett recalls his son telling Ross. “He said, ‘I want to go on an adventure and see the woods and mountains and animals.’”

Bartlett said he went online with Christopher and searched for national parks.

“Yellowstone came up at the top of the list, and as soon as Christopher clicked on a link, we saw buffalo and bears and wolves and he was sold,” Bartlett said. “We were going to Yellowstone.”

Yellowstone public affairs officer Dan Hottle learned through connections in Indiana, where he used to live, about Christopher’s trip, and shared the news with others in the park.

Hottle said he thought it was “pretty cool” that Christopher chose Yellowstone over Disneyland, or any other destination.

Word also reached Rick Hoeninghausen, vice president of sales and marketing for Xanterra Parks and Resorts, the main concessioner in Yellowstone.

Hoeninghausen made several phone calls to track down the Bartletts while they were staying at a guest ranch east of Yellowstone, near Cody, Wyo.

“We found out a little bit about Christopher, and learned that he likes the outdoors, he likes to fish, and so we were able to put together a fun itinerary for them,” Hoeninghausen said.

He worked with Park County Travel Council marketing director Claudia Wade to line up a full day of activities in Cody, including river rafting with Wyoming River Trips, a visit to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center and an evening at the Cody Nite Rodeo.

Though she didn’t have time after hearing from Hoeninghausen to work directly through the sponsoring Make A Dream program, Wade said local vendors were happy to do whatever they could for Christopher and his family, no questions asked.

“It felt like the right thing to do,” Wade said, adding that Christopher was “tickled” to go river rafting.

“It doesn’t surprise me when something like that happens,” Hoeninghausen said, “but it’s really cool when a community jumps in and just says, ‘We got it covered.’”

While staying at the Old Faithful Inn, Hoeninghausen arranged for Christopher and his family to join bellman Ed Nabors when he went to the top of the building to take down the flags for the evening. Though the rooftop area was once open to everyone, to preserve the aging wood structure, now only small groups get to go up, typically for the lowering of the flags.

Xanterra gave Christopher the American flag that flew over the inn, as well as a commemorative flag from the hotel's 100th anniversary celebration.

Christopher went fishing on Yellowstone Lake and "caught a bucket full of lake trout," his father said. The family also went on a full-day tour of the park on one of Xanterra's restored historic yellow "jammer" buses.

"That was amazing," Bartlett said. "We were out from 8 in the morning till almost 7 at night. We saw pretty much everything we could possibly see in Yellowstone in one day. Tons of animals — buffalo, elk, bears."

Even Christopher's older sister, who had lobbied hard for the Disneyland trip, was enthralled by Yellowstone, he said.

Ross said Make A Dream trips are often as important for family members as for the sick children. Christopher was joined by his parents, uncle and 9-year-old sister.

"These families deal with the illnesses every day, so it means the world for them to get away from their troubles for a few days," Ross said.

Christopher has responded well to treatment and is "pretty much back to being a normal boy," his father said. He will continue to undergo blood tests for about a year to monitor his health, but he now feels and looks healthy and happy.

Though the trip to Yellowstone was the first one for everyone in the family, it probably won't be the last, Bartlett said.

"I'm pretty sure we'll be back out within the next couple of years," he said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/family-from-indiana-gets-red-carpet-treatment-at-yellowstone/article_4dcb29a2-f008-5f1e-93c7-6d2662c23189.html#ixzz239XovYLJ

Life beyond Earth?

MSU scientists seek evidence of life's origins and ability to thrive in hostile environments like Mars
GAIL SCHONTZLER, Chronicle Staff Writer

Tonight just before midnight, after Olympics fans have turned off their TVs, scientists in Bozeman and around the country will be watching eagerly for news that NASA's latest Mars rover has stuck its landing.

They're hoping that the rover Curiosity survives a never-tried-before landing technique, so that the Mars Science Lab can send back new clues in humanity's search for life on other planets.

Among those watching Curiosity are scientists at Montana State University. For years they have been studying life in extreme environments – from the sulfurous hot pots of Yellowstone National Park to the depths of Antarctica's ice.

Their discoveries may help NASA search for life in the ultimate extreme environments of Mars and outer space. At MSU's Astrobiology Biogeocatalysis Center, researchers from several different fields — biology, geology, chemistry and even philosophy – are asking some big questions.

What are the limits of life environments on Earth? How did life start here? Is there life beyond Earth? And if so, what would that mean to us?

Heading MSU's astrobiology center is John Peters. An affable, down-to-earth biochemist, Peters grew up in Oklahoma, has three kids and likes to fish, run and hike. It was "incredible curiosity," he said, that propelled him to become a scientist.

Peters is proud that MSU has one of just 14 NASA-funded astrobiology centers around the country, including those at prestigious universities like MIT and the University of Washington. MSU competed for and won a five-year, \$6.5 million grant from NASA to support its research. Only a small percentage of research proposals win federal grants, he said.

Participating in this research is a privilege for MSU scientists and a great educational opportunity for students, Peters said. MSU has created a new undergraduate minor in astrobiology, allowing students to do scientific research, as well as consider philosophical questions, such as "Are we alone in the universe?"

This scientific work, Peters has said, is "exploration at its finest."

Going to extremes

For years, MSU scientists have been looking for life in all the wrong places.

Extreme cold, extreme heat and extreme acidity kill the plants and animals familiar to most of us.

Yet MSU scientist John Priscu has discovered microorganisms can thrive under two miles of ice in Antarctica. Bacteria can live in liquid water between solid ice crystals, Priscu has found.

At the other temperature extreme, bacteria and organisms called archaea, which may be the most ancient organisms on Earth, live in Yellowstone National Park's geysers and hot springs, environments as hot as 200 degrees and as toxic as battery acid. Scientists from MSU's Thermal Biology Institute have been studying these organisms since 1999.

"What we do in Yellowstone, what Priscu does — microbiology in extreme environments — we are redefining how we look at life on Earth," Peters said.

Finding simple microbes on Mars may not be as exciting as finding little green men or intelligent life. But then, for most of the Earth's 4.8 billion-year existence, tiny microbes were the only forms of life on our planet.

Eric Boyd, a microbiology research scientist, has been studying how organisms make a living, from the heated geothermal features of Yellowstone and Nevada, to the icy glaciers of Alberta, Canada.

Originally from Iowa, Boyd is a friendly guy, easy to spot with his nonconformist ponytail. He enjoys teaching people – from Livingston Boy Scouts and elementary school teachers to visiting scientists from China – about the colorful organisms living in Yellowstone's hot pots.

Boyd talked about the research from Leon Johnson Hall, where the sixth floor has just been renovated into new laboratories to support the astrobiology program. The center brings together the work of about 30 MSU scientists and three distinct research groups, which focus on cold regions, super-hot environments and the origins of life. “A lot of people think life originated in a hot environment, like Yellowstone,” Boyd said. We look at Mars now, and see a cold, lifeless planet, he said, but “probably it was not always like that.”

Scientists are building a case for the possibility of life on Mars, Boyd said, just as a lawyer might build a court case — one bit of evidence at a time. So far, the evidence is indirect and circumstantial. Scientists find it tantalizing, even though Mars appears to be a dry, rocky desert.

Life as we know it needs water, and several NASA probes over the years have gathered evidence suggesting Mars once had ancient rivers and lakes. NASA’s Phoenix lander in 2008 even kicked up what appear to be chunks of ice.

If Mars, like Earth, is warmer towards its core, there could liquid water below the red planet’s ice where microorganisms could thrive, Boyd said.

Another clue that the \$2.5 billion Curiosity mission is hunting for is methane gas. Three years ago scientists at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland reported detecting in Mars’ atmosphere some plumes of methane gas, which appeared to change over a year.

On Earth, 90 percent of methane is produced by living organisms, Boyd said. It’s given off, for example, by the organisms living within a cow’s gut that help cattle digest grass. Yet methane can also be produced in non-biological ways, by volcanoes and geothermal vents.

So one goal of the Curiosity lab is to confirm methane exists in Mars’ atmosphere. Then it can test the methane, Boyd said, to learn if it contains carbon isotopes like the methane produced on Earth by living organisms, and unlike the methane from volcanoes.

NASA is funding MSU research that’s looking for methane produced by archaea organisms that live beneath glaciers. Boyd and other MSU scientists are studying organisms that can live at temperatures just a hair above freezing.

Instead of needing water, oxygen and say, cheeseburgers, for food, these glacier-loving organisms need water, hydrogen and carbon dioxide. They give off methane as a waste product.

Could there be similar methane-belching life on Mars? On the red planet, the thin atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide. There are ways it could produce hydrogen, and the evidence of methane.

“It’s almost as if all the ingredients are there,” Boyd said. “That’s why we’re excited.”

Rusty planet

Mars is red, like a rusty old car. It’s full of iron.

One focus of Peters' research is trying to understand the connection between iron compounds and how life started.

Nesting within our cells are molecules of iron-sulfide – the same mineral that makes up iron pyrite, or fool's gold. Iron-sulfide acts as a catalyst, speeding up the chemical reactions of metabolism, so we can turn food into energy. "Life doesn't work without catalysts," Peters said.

Peters conducts lab experiments, trying to figure out whether the earliest forms of life learned how to reproduce these mineral compounds by copying iron-sulfur minerals from rock formations.

If so, it would suggest a new way to understand how life formed on Earth roughly 4 billion years ago, and maybe how it could form elsewhere in the universe.

"We've got iron-sulfury stuff in life and in nonlife," Peters said. "They're related by a path. We're trying to understand that path, so we can understand how life started."

Peters said he thinks life started on Earth "in an environment where minerals or modified minerals and water interfaced," perhaps like a hydrothermal vent under the seas.

"This is one of the most profound and challenging scientific problems – the origin of life," Peters said. "The challenge is trying to recreate a puzzle with a lot of pieces missing. It challenges even the best scientists." This basic research also has potential to shed new light on such practical problems as the sustainability of life, and energy and food production, or even about the future of life on Earth.

None of this research is intended as a challenge to traditional Christian or biblical beliefs, the scientists said. "There's a lot of things unexplained" by science, Peters said. "Nothing we're doing at MSU excludes the contribution of some higher-level orchestration."

There are billions and trillions of stars in the galaxies, Boyd said, so "to me it is naïve of us to think there is not life outside of the Earth."

What if NASA's expeditions to Mars find we're not the only life in the universe?

"It might be unsettling to some, and completely amazing to others," Boyd said. "I would personally be excited." Read more: http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/sunday/article_6b5a8c14-dec3-11e1-af88-001a4bcf887a.html

WEATHER

Red Flag Warning in effect until **9PM tonight** for

- ☐ Yellowstone National Park <http://go.usa.gov/GeH>
- ☐ Grand Teton NP and Bridger-Teton NF <http://go.usa.gov/Ge6>
- ☐ the Absaroka Mtns. & N. Shoshone NF <http://go.usa.gov/GeF>

- ☐ E. Wind River Mtns. & S. Shoshone NF <http://go.usa.gov/GtZ>
- ☐ the Caribou-Targhee NF <http://go.usa.gov/GeM>

Red Flag Warning from **Noon to Midnight** for

- ☐ Gallatin National Forest <http://go.usa.gov/Gtj>
- ☐ Beartooth RD of the Custer NF <http://go.usa.gov/GtD>

Red Flag Warning from Noon to 9PM tonight for

- ☐ Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF <http://go.usa.gov/Gee>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 224 AM MDT FRI AUG 10 2012

Today: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated dry thunderstorms in the morning...then scattered dry thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds. Highs 71 to 77. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with scattered dry thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 44 to 50. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Highs 67 to 73.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 43 to 49.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 72 to 78.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 44 to 50.

Monday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 72 to 78.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 43 to 49.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, August 13, 2012



FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The fire danger level in Yellowstone has been lowered to **VERY HIGH**.

The **Fan 1 and Fan 2 Fires** in the northwest corner of the park were declared out Sunday morning, August 12.

The lightning caused **Cygnets Fire** was discovered Friday afternoon about 5 miles southeast of Norris Junction. Firefighters estimate its size at 1/10 of an acre and are continuing to monitor its activity.

The **Dewdrop Fire** is the largest fire currently burning in the park, and remains estimated at 25 acres.

Updated flyers on Fire Restrictions, the Dewdrop Fire and the backcountry closures associated with the Dewdrop Fire suitable for printing locally and posting will be available later today at [P:\Fires_2012\Fire_Flyers](P:\Fires_2012\Fire_Flyers)

This is just a reminder that **the employee photo contest deadline is TODAY!** Stop by your location employee recreation office for forms. You may enter one photo in each category - Humor, People, Close-Up, Wildlife and Landscape. Please pass this info on to any employee that does not have access to the newsletter.

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Do you have a green champion you'd like us to recognize? We'd love to meet with you to hear your great ideas and input. For more information, please contact Bianca Klein at 307-344-2221.

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"The Wall That Heals" will be coming to the University of Montana- Missoula August 16th to 19th.

The Wall That Heals is a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. (also known as "the Wall") made from the same granite as the wall and bearing all of the names.

It is accompanied by a traveling museum and information center and is open 24-hours a day during its exhibition. You can find out more about the Wall That Heals here: <http://www.vvmf.org/twth/> and more information about the Missoula event here: <http://www.vvmf.org/MissoulaMT>

In addition, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is hosting a National Call for Photos. If you have photos of someone whose name is on the wall, they will scan them for you in Missoula (or you can contact their offices directly) and the photo will be added to the Virtual Wall on the official website. The photo will also be included in the exhibits at the new Visitor Education Center to be constructed on the National Mall in 2014.

Anyone who has question about the event, the Wall, or the call for photos can feel free to contact me and I will be happy to refer them to the correct people at VVMF. Thanks, Janine Waller

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Grand Teton National Park - August 12, 2012

Ailing Climber Rescued from Teewinot Mountain

Just before 9 p.m. on Saturday, August 11, Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued a climber from Teewinot Mountain (elevation 12,325 feet) who was exhibiting acute physical distress. A 53-year-old climber, and resident of Rock Island, Illinois, became ill and incapable of completing a descent from Teewinot after he and two male companions successfully summited the Teton peak early Saturday afternoon.

The climbing party summited Teewinot Mountain about 2:15 p.m. on Saturday. They were making their way back down the mountain and had reached an elevation of about 9,700 feet near two features called the Worshipper and Idol when one of the members of the party began to exhibit a debilitating ailment. The climbers placed an emergency call for help around 6:20 p.m. That call was routed from the Teton County Sheriff's Office to Teton Interagency Dispatch Center, and park rangers were notified of the situation at 6:24 p.m.

Through cell phone conversations with the mountaineers, rangers determined that the ailing climber's condition may be serious. They summoned the assistance of a Teton Interagency contract helicopter to conduct an expedient rescue via short-haul before the 'pumpkin hour' and darkness set in. Although helicopters are often used to facilitate rescues in the Tetons, they are required to stop flying 30 minutes after official sunset: a time known as pumpkin hour. On Saturday, August 11, sunset was 8:31 p.m. and pumpkin hour was at 9:03 p.m. The helicopter was able to shut down operations at the Jackson Hole Airport Helibase at 8:57 p.m., within six minutes of the mandatory time.

Two rangers were inserted via short-haul to the climber's location on Teewinot. The Illinois climber was quickly assessed for his physical complaints, placed into an aerial evacuation suit, and connected to the short-haul line for transport from Teewinot. One ranger accompanied the climber during the short flight to the Jenny Lake Rescue Cache at Lupine Meadows (elevation 6,760 feet). The climber was then met by emergency medical technicians and a park ambulance and transported to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming for further treatment. Once the ailing climber was evacuated by helicopter, the second ranger escorted his two companions out of the backcountry and back to their vehicle.

Short-haul is a rescue technique where an individual is suspended below the helicopter on a 100 to 200 foot rope. This method allows a rescuer more direct access to an injured or ailing party, and it is often used in the Teton Range where conditions make it difficult to land a helicopter in the steep and rocky terrain. Patients are typically flown out via short-haul with a ranger attending to them below the helicopter, as was the case for this rescue.

Yellowstone National Park Fire Update for August 12, 2012 - 1:00 p.m.

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/12061b.htm>

WEATHER

Fire Weather Watch today for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF <http://tinyurl.com/9a3hszk>

Fire Weather Watch for Tuesday for SW, SC & SE Montana including the Gallatin NF and the Beartooth RD of the Custer NF <http://tinyurl.com/8abawel>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 751 AM MDT MON AUG 13 2012

Today: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of smoke in the morning. Highs 73 to 79. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 43 to 49.

Tuesday: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Highs 73 to 79. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 42 to 48. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, August 14, 2012



FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Update

We are entering into a Type 3 organization (albeit a small one for now) today for the 6 uncontained fires within Yellowstone Park that we are monitoring.

These six fires and potentially any others that we might absorb along the way to October will be known as the Cygnet Complex.

This is not due to an increase in fire behavior or acreage, but is more from an accountability stand-point, and to honor the potential that these incidents have to grow.

The Cygnet Complex includes the Dewdrop, Dewdrop 2, Agate, Range, Camera, and Cygnet Fires. Camera and Dewdrop 2 are inactive. The other four are smoldering and creeping.

Updated flyers on Fire Restrictions, the Dewdrop Fire and the backcountry closures associated with the Dewdrop Fire suitable for printing locally and posting will be available later today at [P:\Fires_2012\Fire Flyers](P:\Fires_2012\Fire Flyers)

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Renowned geologist Dr. Bob Smith from the University of Utah will present “*Shake and Bake: A 56-year Career of Yellowstone Research and Discoveries*” at **noon on Tuesday, August 21 at the Mammoth Community Center**. All employees are welcome to attend this exciting free program.

New Supervisor's Workbook Available for Review

Are you a new supervisor that has little time or money for training? If so, there is now a resource for you! In an attempt to provide new supervisors with basic information about policy, business acumen, team building, and other valuable topics, a group of supervisors from across the region have developed a **New Supervisor's Workbook** to help get newbies started. The group is looking for a few supervisors or work leaders (new and seasoned) to provide feedback on the workbook. If you are interested, please access the draft workbook on the P Drive at: [P:\New Supervisor's Workbook](#). To help the group make this a useful resource for everyone region-wide, please provide comments to Bianca Klein using track changes or by email by the end of the day, Friday, August 17th. **One lucky commenter will receive a box of Trader Joe's Dark Chocolate Covered Espresso Beans & a copy of the final product - so comment today!**

"The Wall That Heals" will be coming to the University of Montana- Missoula August 16th to 19th.

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Federal bison initiative faces state hurdles

Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer

Just a few weeks remain until federal agencies submit their initial recommendations for relocating Yellowstone National Park bison.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar wrote a May 11 directive asking his agencies to analyze short- and long-term bison relocation on federal or tribal land as part of a national Bison Conservation Initiative. It's an effort to involve more agencies and resources in finding ways to preserve the species.

Salazar set a Sept. 1 deadline for representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify tribal or federal land that could host Yellowstone bison, specifically the roughly 140 residing on media mogul Ted Turner's Green Ranch.

In the letter, Salazar said Gov. Brian Schweitzer requested federal help in relocating some of the bison that have satisfied the three-year quarantine requirement.

Bison must be quarantined to prove they are free of disease, specifically brucellosis, and so can't infect cattle — in spite of the fact that elk are the main carriers of the disease.

Schweitzer said he requested the option to move Yellowstone bison to the FWP National Bison Range near Moiese to provide one more preserve for the wild animals.

The bison in Yellowstone have crossed least with cattle, making them the most direct descendants of the wild herds of the Great Plains.

"I don't want all my eggs in one basket if something happens in Yellowstone," Schweitzer said. "We're trying to launch a successful restoration of a wild species."

The bison that currently inhabit the National Bison Range are less genetically pure, so the Yellowstone bison would have to be kept separate, Schweitzer said.

One of Salazar's instructions was for the FWS to look into the National Bison Range possibility. The National Bison Range is one of seven FWS refuges where bison reside, and the C.M. Russell Wildlife Refuge could be the next, if bison advocates have any say.

CMR project leader Rick Potts was part of the FWS working group tasked with identifying suitable areas for bison. He said if and when Montana had a completed bison management plan that recognized bison as a wildlife species, CMR would consider accepting some.

“FWS is not interested in another herd managed as livestock,” Potts said. “We recognize that bison are under the jurisdiction of the state, and we will not move unilaterally to bring them here.” FWP has just finished a 60-day scoping period for public comment on a highly charged state bison management plan and received nearly 23,000 comments. It was the initial step in a three-year process to find out if the public would support a free-roaming bison herd.

So it will be at least three years before bison could be moved anywhere other than where they currently exist.

Ken McDonald of FWP said he hoped once the Interior Department developed its list, it would involve his department. So far, he hasn’t been part of any discussions.

Turner took 88 bison in 2010 under a five-year contract after Montana was unable to support all the bison it had in quarantine. Turner already owns more than 50,000 bison at several ranches.

Montana kept more than 60 bison in quarantine, which it transferred to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in April.

Salazar’s letter directed Interior officials to consult with all the tribes within the historical range of bison, which would include the Assiniboine and Sioux and Fort Peck. But tribal Fish & Game director Robert Magnan said he had yet to be contacted.

Magnan said the relocated herd, now numbering 82, including calves, was released into a 2,100-acre area two weeks ago after the tribe finished constructing an electric fence. In three more months, Magnan will permanently open the gates to a 4,800-acre parcel.

“We’d be very interested in taking (Turner’s) bison,” Magnan said. “We could probably take 250 head on our land.”

Like Schweitzer, the next governor will probably influence bison management.

Spokesman Brock Lowrance said gubernatorial Republican candidate Rick Hill believes an initiative allowing free-roaming bison is not practical, is potentially dangerous and does not solve the basic problem of disease and overpopulation within Yellowstone’s borders.

Calls to Democratic candidate Steve Bullock’s office were not returned.

If no arrangement in Montana is approved, the Interior Department will also look into the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, where the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes have expressed interest in the animals.

WEATHER

Red Flag Warning from 10AM to 9PM today for SW, SC & SE Montana including the Gallatin National Forest and the Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer National Forest <http://tinyurl.com/6fdb2s>

Red Flag Warning from 11AM to 9PM today for the Absaroka Mtns. & the North Shoshone National Forest <http://tinyurl.com/83ubpop>

Red Flag Warning from Noon to 9PM today for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest <http://tinyurl.com/7nbquyv>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 727 AM MDT TUE AUG 14 2012

Today: Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke in the afternoon. Highs 74 to 80. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of smoke in the evening. Lows 41 to 47. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs 63 to 73. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Wednesday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 33 to 39. North winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs 65 to 71.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 37 to 43.

Friday: Sunny. Highs 67 to 73.

Friday Night: Clear. Lows 39 to 45.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, August 15, 2012



FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT



Tom Miner Fire (photo by Emily Cunningham)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Update

Updated flyers on Fire Restrictions, the Dewdrop Fire and the backcountry closures associated with the Dewdrop Fire suitable for printing locally and posting will be available later today at [P:\Fires_2012\Fire Flyers](P:\Fires_2012\Fire Flyers)

Attention Lake and Grant Staff - the Green Team is coming to you!

TOMORROW, the Green Team will be at the Lake Mess Hall from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, and at the Grant Burger Barn from 1:30 - 3:30 PM to meet with local staff and talk about sustainability projects in your area. Are you interested in what the Green Team is up to? Do you have a suggestion to make recycling better in your area? Do you have a green champion you'd like us to recognize? We'd love to meet with you to hear your great ideas and input. For more information, please contact Bianca Klein at 307-344-2221.

Renowned geologist Dr. Bob Smith from the University of Utah will present "*Shake and Bake: A 56-year Career of Yellowstone Research and Discoveries*" at **noon on Tuesday, August 21 at the Mammoth Community Center**. All employees are welcome to attend this exciting free program.

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Live entertainment with special guest Bridger Creek Boys to benefit Little People's Learning Center in Yellowstone National Park on **September 7, 2012**.

Travel by covered wagon to the cookout site at Yancey's Hole. Check-in begins at 2:45 pm at the Roosevelt Corrals. \$57 Adults, \$46 kids 3-11, free to kids 2 and under.

Price includes wagon ride, dinner, and entertainment. Dinner includes steak, Roosevelt baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, corn, corn muffins, watermelon, fruit crisp, and non-alcoholic beverage.

Reservations: 866-GEYSERLAND (866-439-7375) or 307-344-7311. Guests can use online activity form at <http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/>.

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Fire burning in Gallatin National Forest believed to be human-caused

UPDATE:

After an aggressive initial attack Tuesday afternoon, some resources are being released from the Tom Miner fire, information officer Al Nash said Tuesday evening.

"The fire activity has diminished," Nash said. "We had a lot of firefighters and equipment on the fire right away."

The fire remains estimated at 12-acres. Containment estimates were not available as of 7 p.m.

A wildfire that sparked in the Gallatin National Forest on Tuesday afternoon is believed to be human-caused.

Fire information officer Al Nash said the fire, which is burning in the Tom Miner Basin north of Gardiner, is estimated to have burned 12 acres and is zero percent contained.

"But we have a lot of resources fighting this fire and the incident commander hopes to have the fire contained by tomorrow afternoon," Nash said.

The Gallatin National Forest, Montana Department of Natural Resources, Yellowstone National Park and local resources have responded to the fire with eight smoke jumpers, two helicopters, one air tanker, four heli-rappellers, several firefighters, engines and tenders.

Nash said structures in the area are threatened, but no evacuations have been ordered as of 5:30 p.m.

The fire is burning mostly timber in a drainage and on a southwest facing slope.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/fire-burning-in-gallatin-national-forest-believed-to-be-human/article_038fcbfe-df9a-51f1-89be-4586a2a8ddb0.html#ixzz23ceuSUTc

Park County bison trial underway

Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 2:18 pm · Updated: 9:57 pm, Tue Aug 14, 2012

LIVINGSTON -- Over the next three days, a judge will hear a final presentation of the evidence in a tumultuous wildlife case where county residents and livestock owners are using arguments usually employed by environmentalists.

Tuesday morning, Park County District Judge Wayne E. Phillips heard opening arguments in a case that could affect a multi-agency plan that would allow bison greater movement outside Yellowstone National Park.

In May 2011, the Park County Stock Growers Association sued the state over a change to the Interagency Bison Management Plan that would allow bison to roam a larger area north of the park in the winter

Bison could already migrate out of the park in winter but only in a narrow corridor around Gardiner and west of the Yellowstone River. By May 1, they must be hazed back into the park or killed.

Under an adjustment approved in April 2011, that area was expanded to the west, north and east by 70,000 acres into land that includes private property.

The stock growers association used nine counts to sum up how the state violated the rights of about 300 Park County residents when it agreed to the adjustment.

Violations include the failure to fulfill duties, such as preventing the spread of brucellosis and violating animal containment laws; the failure to involve the public in rule-making; and violating constitutional rights, such as the right to due process and the right to a clean and healthful environment.

“It’s a nuisance, and the state’s actions are damaging to the public’s health, safety and welfare,” said Montana Farm Bureau Federation attorney Hertha Lund. “The state is subjecting (property owners) to diseased bison.”

The Farm Bureau Federation and Park County joined the stock growers in the case against the state departments of Livestock and Fish, Wildlife & Parks along with state veterinarian Martin Zalusky and Gov. Brian Schweitzer.

Lund insisted that the public should have been involved in the decision to expand the area, so the adjustment should have been delayed until an environmental impact statement was conducted under the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

“The state says it’s a minor change, a tweak to the current policy,” Lund said. “We say it’s a reversal.” Department of Livestock attorney Norman Peterson said state veterinarian Zalusky would present evidence on how many herds had been infected with brucellosis and “the probable, if not the exact cause of that being elk, and not bison.”

“Dr. Zalusky will testify that there is nothing out there, in the way of epidemiologically-proven cases in a natural setting, where bison have been linked to brucellosis in cattle,” Peterson said.

Peterson said the IBMP is a plan, not a rule, and therefore it could not be judicially enforced. He went on to say the IBMP is overseen by a partnership of state, tribal and federal agencies so it wasn’t just the state that developed the plan.

Finally, the partnership has regular open meetings so the public had plenty of opportunity to comment on the adjustment, Peterson said.

FWP attorney Rebecca Dockter said the case arose because of coincidence and a misunderstanding.

Consideration of the plan was announced in 2010 just as a severe winter was causing about 1,600 bison to migrate out of the park. The number of animals made it impossible for FWP and deputies to respond to all the calls from residents. Dockter said wardens tried to haze bison away from private property to no avail.

When the adjustment was announced that spring, residents thought the bison problems of that winter were caused by the adjustment, Dockter said.

“It was a perfect storm: the announcement at the same time the bison were there,” Dockter said. “But the AMA was never implemented.”

Peterson said that with the AMA in place, the bison will have other places to go and landowners can use methods such as electric fences to keep bison out.

Four environmental groups sided with the state, including the Greater Yellowstone Coalition of Bozeman and the Natural Resources Defense Council. They are also providing grants to help landowners install electric fences.

The hearing follows arguments where the state requested summary judgment. Phillips eventually denied summary judgment Tuesday because he “wanted to give everyone their day in court.”

Phillips took over on the case after Dockter asked that Judge William Nels Swandal be disqualified.

The state also petitioned the state Supreme Court to disqualify the original stock growers association attorney, John Bloomquist, after Phillips temporarily denied the disqualification motion.

Bloomquist previously represented the state for eight years in bison-related litigation. The state claimed he had been privy to confidential information that the stock growers could use. Bloomquist refused to remove himself.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 210 AM MDT WED AUG 15 2012

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Thursday, August 16, 2012



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Details in this announcement. [WY_regional_announcement_1015_trunk.doc](#)



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<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/WEA/WEA.php#faq1>

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All Employee Safety Picnics

West	Tuesday	8/21	Noon	Horse Shoe Pit Area –Trailer Court
Canyon	Wednesday	8/22	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Lake	Thursday	8/23	Noon	Messhall Area
Old Faithful	Wednesday	8/29	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Grant Village	Thursday	8/30	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Mammoth	Wednesday	9/5	Noon	North District Maintenance Building

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Witnesses testify in Park County bison trial

Aug 15, 6:28 PM EDT

LIVINGSTON, Mont. (AP) -- The Park County undersheriff says his agency received 30 to 40 bison complaints last year when animals left Yellowstone National Park in search of food.

Undersheriff Scott Hamilton described encounters in which bison threatened the health and safety of residents.

The Livingston Enterprise reports that Hamilton was among the witnesses who testified Wednesday in a trial over Montana's policy allowing bison to roam in the Gardiner Basin.

Another was resident Keith Hatfield, who said bison bulls prevented his daughter from getting to a school bus stop and threatened his dogs.

Attorneys representing the state say that bison are no different from other wild animals in the basin.

Under questioning from attorney Timothy Preso, Hatfield acknowledged that bears and mountain lions have also harassed his dogs and threatened his daughter's safety.

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Pilates Class at the Mammoth Community Center (photo by Dan Hottle)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Thank you!

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<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/WEA/WEA.php#faq1>

http://support.verizonwireless.com/faqs/Wireless%20Service/emergency_alerts_faq.html

Renowned geologist Dr. Bob Smith from the University of Utah will present “*Shake and Bake: A 56-year Career of Yellowstone Research and Discoveries*” at **noon on Tuesday, August 21 at the Mammoth Community Center**. All employees are welcome to attend this exciting free program.

New Supervisor's Workbook Available for Review

Are you a new supervisor that has little time or money for training? If so, there is now a resource for you! In an attempt to provide new supervisors with basic information about policy, business acumen, team building, and other valuable topics, a group of supervisors from across the region have developed a **New Supervisor's Workbook** to help get newbies started. The group is looking for a few supervisors or work leaders (new and seasoned) to provide feedback on the workbook. If you are interested, please access the draft workbook on the P Drive at: [P:\New Supervisor's Workbook](#). To help the group make this a useful resource for everyone region-wide, please provide comments to Bianca Klein using track changes or by email by the end of the day **TODAY!**

One lucky commenter will receive a box of Trader Joe's Dark Chocolate Covered Espresso Beans & a copy of the final product - so comment today!

"The Wall That Heals" will be coming to the University of Montana- Missoula through August 19th.

The Wall That Heals is a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. (also known as "the Wall") made from the same granite as the wall and bearing all of the names.

It is accompanied by a traveling museum and information center and is open 24-hours a day during its exhibition. You can find out more about the Wall That Heals here: <http://www.vvmf.org/twth/> and more information about the Missoula event here: <http://www.vvmf.org/MissoulaMT>

In addition, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is hosting a National Call for Photos. If you have photos of someone whose name is on the wall, they will scan them for you in Missoula (or you can contact their offices directly) and the photo will be added to the Virtual Wall on the official website. The photo will also be included in the exhibits at the new Visitor Education Center to be constructed on the National Mall in 2014.

Anyone who has question about the event, the Wall, or the call for photos can feel free to contact me and I will be happy to refer them to the correct people at VVMF. Thanks, Janine Waller

All Employee Safety Picnics

West	Tuesday	8/21	Noon	Horse Shoe Pit Area –Trailer Court
Canyon	Wednesday	8/22	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Lake	Thursday	8/23	Noon	Messhall Area
Old Faithful	Wednesday	8/29	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Grant Village	Thursday	8/30	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Mammoth	Wednesday	9/5	Noon	North District Maintenance Building

Old West Dinner Cookout! Sponsored by Yellowstone National Park Lodges.

Live entertainment with special guest Bridger Creek Boys to benefit Little People's Learning Center in Yellowstone National Park on **September 7, 2012.**

Travel by covered wagon to the cookout site at Yancey's Hole. Check-in begins at 2:45 pm at the Roosevelt Corrals. \$57 Adults, \$46 kids 3-11, free to kids 2 and under.

Price includes wagon ride, dinner, and entertainment. Dinner includes steak, Roosevelt baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, corn, corn muffins, watermelon, fruit crisp, and non-alcoholic beverage.

Reservations: 866-GEYSERLAND (866-439-7375) or 307-344-7311. Guests can use online activity form at <http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/>.

Little People's Learning Center is a non-profit early childhood learning center located in the Mammoth Hot Springs area of Yellowstone National Park, providing a nurturing and educationally enriching environment for

children 6 weeks through school aged. Yellowstone National Park Lodges is operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts and is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service.

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Community Yoga Classes now have a new home! What was once "Classroom 4" in the Mammoth Community Center is now a beautiful, open space dedicated to performing and healing arts. All evening Yoga classes will be held in the MCC.

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Little People's Learning Center (LPLC) has partnered with Macy's Shop for a Cause! Purchase a shopping pass for \$5 from any parent, board member, or from LPLC directly (or contact Amy Bartlett 344-2013 or Mary Kay Woodin 344-2059) and save 25% all day on regular, sale and clearance items at any Macy's store on **Saturday, August 25, 2012**. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card (**One winner PER STORE!**). LPLC gets to keep 100% of the proceeds so purchase a pass and shop for a cause!

IN THE NEWS

DISCLAIMER: News stories included in YNP@Work are intended solely to inform park staff members about issues involving or impacting Yellowstone National Park and/or the National Park Service, which are currently being covered by the mainstream news media. Their appearance here does not imply any endorsement or agreement with any statements or conclusions contained in these news stories. For current, official information, please consult recent news releases, the nps.gov web site, the latest edition of the Resources and Issues Handbook, or your supervisor or division chief.

Park would allow dirtier snowmobiles Sleds are producing more pollution

By Mike Koshmrl

Yellowstone National Park's winter-use plan lacks analysis that compares annual emissions from snow coaches with emissions from snowmobile clusters.

The ratio of seven snowmobiles to one snow coach is the premise of a 400-page supplemental environmental impact statement, released June 29, that would increase snowmobile traffic by 10 percent and reduce snow coach traffic by 23 percent, starting this winter.

Officials propose to manage oversnow vehicles based on "transportation events," defined as a single snow coach or group of snowmobiles that averages seven machines. This is "based on the concept of comparability; that impacts to park resources and the visitor experience resulting from a snow coach or a group of snowmobiles are comparable to each other," the document reads.

With respect to emissions, data included in an appendices of a supplementary environmental report show impacts from the two technologies are not comparable.

Under the maximum allowable levels in the proposal, snowmobiles account for 67 percent of all carbon monoxide, 68 percent of hydrocarbon, 86 percent of nitrous oxide and 87 percent of particulate matter.

But if you run the numbers using season averages, rather than maximum allowable limits, it's a much more even picture, Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said in a phone interview. The analysis that would allow for such a comparison, however, has not been and likely will not be conducted, he said.

Maximum allowable use

“We’re under a requirement to compare maximum allowable use to maximum allowable use under each alternative,” Wenk said. “Critics are using that against us.”

“You could have a day, in theory, where you could have 480 snowmobiles in the park,” he said. “But the average over the season is no more than 342.

That allows the industry to respond to the peak demand times.

“The season average is the more meaningful number when looking at impacts, Wenk said. But emissions projections for the 342-snowmobiles figure have not been prepared, he said.

In the same interview, Wade Vagias, Yellowstone’s management assistant, tried to explain why. “As required by NEPA and the courts, we have to compare apples to apples,” Vagias said. “That’s maximum use.”

A number of conservation groups, including the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, National Parks Conservation Association and Coalition for National Park Service Retirees, have spoken out against snowmobile emissions during the plan’s comment period.

The groups have been reticent about annual emissions scenarios.

“The overarching concern is that snowmobile technology is regressing,” Mark Pearson, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition’s conservation program director, said. “Yet the park is rewarding that with significantly increased quotas for daily use — up to 480 snowmobiles a day. That’s what leaves us scratching our heads.”

Technology getting worse

That snowmobiles have gotten dirtier in recent years is less of a mystery than the machines’ contributions to annual emissions under the park’s proposal. “I think broadly what we’ve seen is a regression in some of the performance aspects,” Vagias said.

Park officials ran two machines, an Arctic Cat TZ1 and a Ski-Doo Bombadier, in emissions tests this March. The results show that the Ski-Doo performed about the same, but the Arctic Cat performed drastically worse than similar models tested in 2006.

Yellowstone data shows that, at cruise speed, 2012 models produced 87 percent more carbon monoxide and 122 percent more nitrous oxide than 2006 models. The analysis blended machines from the two manufacturers, which obscures just how much the Arctic Cat regressed. The 2012 TZ1 produced nearly 23 times more carbon monoxide than the 2006 model of Arctic Cat that was tested.

Jack Welch, a spokesman for the pro-snowmobile BlueRibbon Coalition, which backs the park’s preferred plan, said the reason is that the model changed to a larger machine.

“In the simplest terms, the [Arctic Cat] machines that the park first tested was not successful outside the park from a sales standpoint,” Welch said. “It was discontinued in 2007 or 2008, so they brought in a TZ1, which was larger.”

The Ski-Doo model — the only other park-legal in-production snowmobile — is essentially tailor-made for Yellowstone, Welch said.

"In the Mountain West, its popularity would be very limited," Welch said of the Ski-Doo. "It could be popular in the Midwest, although it's very underpowered."

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association did not respond to an interview request in time to comment for this story.

Republican candidates disagree on water rights in Yellowstone

8 hours ago • By Megan Cassidy Casper Star-Tribune

CASPER — State Senate District 28 incumbent Kit Jennings has made tiny living organisms one of the cornerstones of his campaign, drawing strong opposition from his two opponents.

Jennings will face businessman Jim Anderson and Dr. Tom Radosevich in Tuesday's Republican primary for the central/downtown Casper district.

Jennings fervently believes that the microbes found in Yellowstone National Park's boiling waters should be working for Wyoming, generating royalties to help fund state programs. The notion has received criticism from Anderson and Radosevich.

Anderson contends the federal government dictates what stays in and leaves the park; Radosevich said Jennings' idea is just a bad one.

A federal official conceded there are no set legal answers or boundaries, but that any movement toward monetizing the bugs would inevitably be bogged down in the court system.

The specimens have previously gained enthusiasm among various industries on looking for the next big commercial hit. In the 1960s, scientists found that microbes could be used as a key component in DNA testing — a discovery that gained a pharmaceutical company about \$300 million once it obtained the rights. Recent research has yielded several other promising discoveries in the fields of energy, fuel and agriculture.

However, with Yellowstone designated as a national park, political questions remain over who owns the waters, and, more importantly, any potentially profitable microbes inside the water.

Jennings recently asked the Wyoming attorney general's opinion on the matter, and said he was pleased with the responses.

"When you read the attorney general's opinion, it follows through and says, 'Yes, we do own the water, and, yes, we do own the constituents,'" he said.

Anderson disagreed. He said the wording in the opinion left substantial room for interpretation.

"I think there are quite a few references that the federal government owns all the rights to the property in the parks," he said.

Anderson cited a specific portion: "The state owns water subject to appropriation to beneficial use."

"And where is the opinion of the Interior Department?" Anderson continued. "I think it's questionable and debatable whether Wyoming owns the water."

Radosevich simply refuted the notion that the state should seek monetary gain from Yellowstone microbes in the first place.

"I don't think our national parks are for profiteering, and they're not for supporting industry," Radosevich said. "I think any money produced from our national parks should go to preserving and improving national parks."

Jennings maintains that Wyoming is losing out on a valuable prospect that could fund highways and other programs that residents have become accustomed to. He defended his responsibility as a legislator to be on the lookout for new revenue streams.

"The bottom line is, we have an opportunity here to look at another one of the natural resources that Wyoming has been blessed with and be good stewards," he said.

He argues that the attorney general's statement would hold a substantial amount of weight should a bill be presented to legislators.

"There would be a lot of debate about it, but mostly you'd go back to the attorney general's opinion," he said. "You'd look at the research, and that's how you'd craft the opinion."

Sue Mills, a natural resource specialist for the National Park Service for the U.S. Department of the Interior, said technologies and legal framework involved with bio-prospecting are so new that there are no concrete answers.

Mills noted that microbe research in Yellowstone has slowed in recent years, almost guaranteeing legislative decisions will be sluggish.

"There are no royalties to be gotten," she said. "There are no discoveries that are generating royalties right now. If there were, we'd try to put a sharper pen to paper."

Jennings maintains that Wyoming is sitting on an "enormous bank of microbes" that have yet to be discovered.

"If somebody thinks that everything has to be perfect at this stage of the investigation, they don't understand the process of how we do this," he said.

Mills said the final answer will likely have to be decided in court. U.S. taxpayers protect the area, she said, and Yellowstone has what's called exclusive jurisdiction — where only one federal court has the power to see a case.

"The park predates the state, so it makes it more legally complicated," she said. "This is a very complicated water rights issue."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/republican-candidates-disagree-on-water-rights-in-yellowstone/article_d95ad185-5474-5c7f-a3f3-d81f7befe899.html#ixzz23oTFvq3N

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 219 AM MDT FRI AUG 17 2012

Today: Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 69 to 75.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 43 to 49.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke in the morning. Highs 71 to 77.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 41 to 47.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 72 to 78.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows 44 to 50.

Monday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 68 to 76.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 41 to 47.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

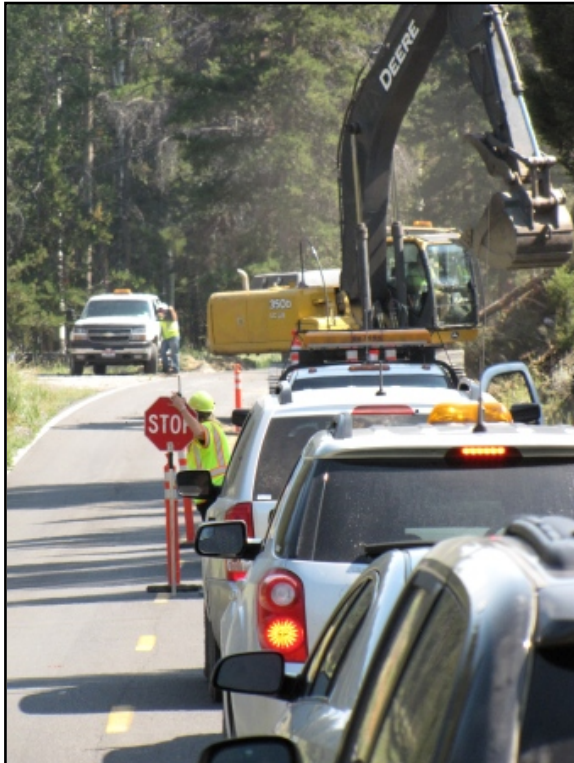
Back issues of the newsletter are available at [P:\YNP@Work Published Issues](#)

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Tuesday, August 21, 2012



Traffic delays of up to 30 minutes can be expected on the Tower Road, so plan your trip accordingly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reminder that the Fire Danger has been elevated to **EXTREME**. Fire restrictions remain in effect. Any fire which can produce an ash is prohibited in the backcountry. Smoking is prohibited along all trails and anywhere in the backcountry. Smoking is allowed in vehicles and along roads, near buildings, and in developed campgrounds or picnic areas if you are standing in an area at least three feet in diameter where nothing on the ground will burn. Campfires are allowed only in established fire grates or fire rings in picnic areas, campgrounds and housing areas. Charcoal grills are okay in these same areas as well. You can use portable stoves and lanterns which use propane, white gas, kerosene, or jellied petroleum for fuel anywhere in the park.

Fall Bull Elk Rutting Season Reminder: The fall season of bull elk rutting activity has begun. During this period, it is not uncommon for bull elk to mock fight with many types of household items found in employee's yards. As a consequence, bull elk often get household items wrapped around their antlers. This can result in bull elk getting tied to each other, or to brush, trees, or other objects and, ultimately

lead to the elk's death. Over the last few years bull elk have had to be captured to remove extension cords, cloths lines, shrubbery baskets, leashes, wire, nets, cloth bags, swings, hammocks, coaxial cable, and badminton nets (complete with poles) from their antlers.

During the fall rut, please make an effort to remove all such items from your yards when not in use. Bull elk are also much more aggressive towards people and vehicles during the breeding season. Please use caution when walking near elk and look around corners before exiting buildings or walking around blind spots.

Please remember that knowingly approaching within 25 yards of elk is prohibited. Park Visitors may think that it is safe to approach closer than 25 yards of elk if they see uniformed NPS or Concession personnel doing so.

Road Projects:

Northeast Entrance Road (Lamar River Bridge) - The week of August 20th the contractor will be preparing for the next week's paving activities. Delays are possible. Motorcyclists should use caution in areas of road construction.

Northeast Entrance Road (Lamar River Bridge) - The contractor will be paving the entire week of August 27th. Expect traffic delays. Motorcyclists should use caution in areas of road construction.

The National Weather Service in Riverton is the first federal agency in our area to use the new **Wireless Emergency Alert** system. If you want to learn more, you can check out the following links:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/WEA/WEA.php#faq1>

http://support.verizonwireless.com/faqs/Wireless%20Service/emergency_alerts_faq.html

All Employee Safety Picnics

Canyon	Wednesday	8/22	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Lake	Thursday	8/23	Noon	Messhall Area
Old Faithful	Wednesday	8/29	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Grant Village	Thursday	8/30	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Mammoth	Wednesday	9/5	Noon	North District Maintenance Building

Old West Dinner Cookout! Sponsored by Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Live entertainment with special guest Bridger Creek Boys to benefit Little People's Learning Center in Yellowstone National Park on **September 7, 2012**.

Travel by covered wagon to the cookout site at Yancey's Hole. Check-in begins at 2:45 pm at the Roosevelt Corrals. \$57 Adults, \$46 kids 3-11, free to kids 2 and under. Price includes wagon ride, dinner, and entertainment. Dinner includes steak, Roosevelt baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, corn, corn muffins, watermelon, fruit crisp, and non-alcoholic beverage. Reservations: 866-GEYSERLAND (866-439-7375) or 307-344-7311. Guests can use online activity form at <http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/>.

Little People's Learning Center is a non-profit early childhood learning center located in the Mammoth Hot Springs area of Yellowstone National Park, providing a nurturing and educationally enriching environment for children 6 weeks through school aged. Yellowstone National Park Lodges is operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts and is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service.

Employee Rec Events:

* The Employee Photo Contest judging will be taking place next week. Times and locations are:

- Tuesday, August 21: Finalist Judging: MHS Employee Rec Hall 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 22: Finalist Judging: LL Employee Rec Hall 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 22: Finalist Judging: CL Employee EDR / Rec Hall 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- Thursday, August 23: Finalist Judging: OF Employee Rec Hall 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Thursday, August 23: Finalist Judging: GV Grayling Dorm Lobby 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

* Yellowstone Jeopardy tournaments are coming to a location near you! These games will be just like the television show with a giant game show screen, electronic scorekeeping and buzzers. The questions are all about Yellowstone National Park. Each game will have a Single, Double and Final Jeopardy round and Daily Doubles. Everyone is welcome to play or just come and cheer on your co-workers! The dates, times and locations for these tournaments are:

- Tuesday, September 4 – 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room
- Wednesday, September 5 – 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall
- Thursday, September 6 – 7:00 pm in the Canyon Recreation Hall

* The Parkwide Cornhole Tournament will be Friday, September 7th at 9:00 pm in the Lake Employee Pub. There will be no preliminary tournaments so anyone is welcome to play!

* Lunchtime yoga is still happening every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 pm – 12:45 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. It is at a discounted rate of \$5.

Visit our website at www.ycerp.org for information, images, calendars, and more.

To go directly to our updated calendars page: www.ycerp.org/calendar.php

Little People's Learning Center (LPLC) has partnered with Macy's Shop for a Cause! Purchase a shopping pass for \$5 from any parent, board member, or from LPLC directly (or contact Amy Bartlett 344-2013 or Mary Kay Woodin 344-2059) and save 25% all day on regular, sale and clearance items at any Macy's store on **Saturday, August 25, 2012**. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card (**One winner PER STORE!**). LPLC gets to keep 100% of the proceeds so purchase a pass and shop for a cause!

ACTING ASSIGNMENTS

Bret DeYoung will be Acting Chief of Administration this week. He can be reached at x2070.

WEATHER**NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 926 AM MDT TUE AUG 21 2012

Rest Of Today: Mostly sunny late in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of smoke through the day.

Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 72 to 78. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Areas of smoke. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds. Lows 43 to 49. Southwest winds around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the morning... Then intermittent sprinkles in the afternoon. Areas of smoke through the day. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds. Highs 68 to 74. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Areas of smoke. Lows 40 to 46. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke in the morning. Highs 68 to 74. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 40 to 46.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, August 22, 2013



Congratulations Paula Tobin on thirty years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Little People's Learning Center in conjunction with Macy's is taking part in **Shop For A Cause**. Purchase a \$5 shopping pass and **save 25%** on regular, sale & clearance items all day on Saturday, August 24, 2013. Save 10% on electrics/electronics, furniture, mattresses, and rugs/floor coverings. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card (one gift card winner per store!). Stop by LPLC or see any LPLC parent, board member, or contact Amy Bartlett (344-2013) for more information or to purchase a pass.

LPLC gets to keep 100% of the proceeds!

The Loons of Yellowstone:

What: An update on the population status and conservation of the isolated Common Loon population within YNP and the Yellowstone Greater Area.

Who: Vincent Spagnuolo, M.L.A

Biodiversity Research Institute

When: Monday August 26, 2013 at Noon (Bring your lunch!)

Where: YCR Conference Room

Why: To get Loony! And more importantly to learn about the ongoing loon research in YNP.

The Yellowstone Association Institute, in partnership with the National Association for Interpretation, will be conducting a [Certified Interpretive Guide](#) October 7-10, 2013 here in Gardiner. This course is a great opportunity for naturalists to hone their skills as interpreters. Students will receive coaching to make their programs enjoyable, relevant, and organized. Tuition, materials, and certification fee: \$370

The Yellowstone Association Institute, in partnership with the Wilderness Medical Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School, will be hosting a **Wilderness First Responder** course at Lamar Buffalo Ranch from November 9-18. This 10-day course is ideal for all professionals operating in remote environments and is a certification required by many outdoor employers. Adult/child CPR and FBAO certification is included. The WFR course is also pre-approved for 70 hours of EMT CEU's by CECBEMS. Tuition, materials, certification fee: \$690

RECENT PRESS RELEASES

It's Our Birthday, But You Get The Present

The National Park Service (NPS) turns 97 on Sunday, August 25. To celebrate, admission to Yellowstone and all national parks are free that day; however, camping and other fees will not be waived.

The NPS is waiving entrance fees on 11 days in 2013 as a way to encourage people to get outdoors and enjoy the remarkable landscapes and historical and cultural sites national parks have to offer.

Other fee free dates still to come this year are National Public Lands Day on September 28, and November 9-11, which is the Veteran's Day holiday weekend.

A seven-day pass to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks is normally \$25 for a private, non-commercial vehicle.

More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>.

National Park Service announces Record of Decision for Winter Use at Yellowstone National Park

National Park Service (NPS) Intermountain Regional Director John Wessels today signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the *Winter Use Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (Plan/SEIS).

The ROD officially completes the Plan/SEIS process, which was developed in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and included extensive public involvement, including a number of opportunities for the public to submit comments on the Plan/SEIS.

"This winter use plan is the product of hundreds of hours of public involvement, is based on sound science, and is a different approach to winter use management. The Plan/SEIS and ROD provide mechanisms to make the park

cleaner and quieter than ever before authorized, allow greater flexibility for commercial tour operators, reward oversnow vehicle innovations and technologies, and permit increases in visitation,” said Yellowstone superintendent Dan Wenk.

Beginning with the 2014/2015 winter season, a fixed maximum number of vehicles allowed in the park each day will be replaced with a new, more flexible concept of managing vehicle access by transportation events, defined as one snowcoach or a group of up to 10 snowmobiles, averaging seven seasonally.

Commercial tour operators will be able to use their allocated transportation events for snowmobiles, snowcoaches, or a mix of both, as long as no more than 50 of the authorized 110 daily transportation events are snowmobile events. By relying upon user demand to determine the best mix of oversnow vehicle (OSV) use and focusing on the impacts of OSV use on park resources, the transportation event concept protects park resources and allows appropriate access.

The plan also allows for one entry a day per entrance for a non-commercially guided group of up to five snowmobiles and will continue to allow for OSV use on the East Entrance road over Sylvan Pass.

The 2013/2014 winter season will be a transition year during which the park will allow OSV under the same conditions in place for the past four winters. The one-season transition period will also allow time for the NPS to advertise and award concession contracts and for commercial tour operators to prepare for the shift to management by transportation events.

Because the Regional Director’s decision will allow OSV use in the park, a regulation must be promulgated before the decision can be implemented. A final regulation is expected to be published in the *Federal Register* in early fall.

Additional information and an electronic copy of the Plan/SEIS and ROD are available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yell>.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone boosts efforts to remove lake trout invaders

9 hours ago • By Brett French

In a wide delta hemmed in by 8,000-foot mountains, the Yellowstone River pours its nourishing waters into the Southeast Arm of Yellowstone Lake.

This is a remote area, seen by few of the 3 million visitors to Yellowstone National Park each year, but these cool, deep waters may be the next battleground for the preservation of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Last week, the commercial netting boat *Northwester* spent two days in the remote area, setting and pulling up mesh nets to capture lake trout. The park’s fisheries biologists were hoping to get an idea of the number of lake trout in the arm, as well as an indication of how many cutthroat trout they were eating.

“The lake trout are staging at the mouth of the Yellowstone and Beaverdam Creek and eating the young cutthroats as they come back into the lake,” said Pat Bigelow, a Yellowstone fisheries biologist who oversaw the netting.

The boat had to get special permission to work in the Southeast Arm, which contains a large nonmotorized zone to protect the wilderness characteristics of the area.

“The thought is that we get these big pulses of cutthroat trout down in here and the lake trout stage in an area where we don’t have a net,” said Todd Koel, Yellowstone’s supervisory fisheries biologist. “It’s kind of a refuge for the lake trout, which I think is going to change.”

Since efforts began in 1998 to remove nonnative lake trout from Yellowstone Lake to protect native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, most of the efforts had been concentrated in the lake’s West Thumb. Those deeper waters were shown to hold the most fish, so targeting that area made sense. And netting in deeper waters avoided a by-catch of cutthroat trout, which tend to live in shallower regions of the lake.

Although that effort has been successful, over time the netting has expanded to include trap nets in shallow areas and concentration at lake trout spawning areas in the fall. This year’s netting operation is being undertaken by three contract boats and one Park Service boat, the most ever.

“The effort is greater than we’ve ever put out here before, by far,” Koel said. “There are 50 miles of net out on any given day.”

To track how lake trout use the 212 square miles of lake, 200 fish have been tagged with monitors that send signals to 50 receivers stationed around the lake to gather data on movement.

This year the venture into the Southeast Arm, as well as plans this fall to use a dredge to suck up lake trout eggs at one of their popular spawning grounds, are being added to the control efforts.

Koel will test the effectiveness of the dredge at Carrington Island, a popular lake trout spawning ground where the fish often move into relatively shallow water to deposit their eggs. An electrically charged blanket that can be anchored to the bottom to kill eggs will also be tested.

“Overall it’s a \$2.3 million program per year with the monitoring,” Koel said.

“There’s a lot of effort out here.”

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/yellowstone-boosts-efforts-to-remove-lake-trout-invaders/article_97329ee5-d6a1-5b0c-9fe5-ef91995d7d34.html#ixzz2ciAVDW4b

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:41 am MDT Aug 22, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 3pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds and heavy rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. South wind 5 to 7 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. West wind around 6 mph becoming light and variable. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 73. South southeast wind 6 to 15 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Friday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind 6 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Light south southeast wind becoming south southwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. South wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Thursday, August 23, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A reminder that the Fire Danger has been elevated to **EXTREME**. Fire restrictions remain in effect. Any fire which can produce an ash is prohibited in the backcountry. Smoking is prohibited along all trails and anywhere in the backcountry. Smoking is allowed in vehicles and along roads, near buildings, and in developed campgrounds or picnic areas if you are standing in an area at least three feet in diameter where nothing on the ground will burn. Campfires are allowed only in established fire grates or fire rings in picnic areas, campgrounds and housing areas. Charcoal grills are okay in these same areas as well. You can use portable stoves and lanterns which use propane, white gas, kerosene, or jellied petroleum for fuel anywhere in the park.

The most recent public updates, flyers and maps regarding current fires in Yellowstone are located on the P: Drive at [P:\Fires 2012\Pao Postings](#). If you are unsure if you have the most recent map or update, don't hesitate to call Dan Hottle in Public Affairs.

Fall Bull Elk Rutting Season Reminder: The fall season of bull elk rutting activity has begun. During this period, it is not uncommon for bull elk to mock fight with many types of household items found in employee's yards. As a consequence, bull elk often get household items wrapped around their antlers. This can result in bull elk getting tied to each other, or to brush, trees, or other objects and, ultimately lead to the elk's death. Over the last few years bull elk have had to be captured to remove extension cords, cloths lines, shrubbery baskets, leashes, wire, nets, cloth bags, swings, hammocks, coaxial cable, and badminton nets (complete with poles) from their antlers.

During the fall rut, please make an effort to remove all such items from your yards when not in use. Bull elk are also much more aggressive towards people and vehicles during the breeding season. Please use caution when walking near elk and look around corners before exiting buildings or walking around blind spots.

Please remember that knowingly approaching within 25 yards of elk is prohibited. Park Visitors may think that it is safe to approach closer than 25 yards of elk if they see uniformed NPS or Concession personnel doing so.

Road Projects:

Northeast Entrance Road (Lamar River Bridge) - The week of August 20th the contractor will be preparing for the next week's paving activities. Delays are possible. Motorcyclists should use caution in areas of road construction.

Northeast Entrance Road (Lamar River Bridge) - The contractor will be paving the entire week of August 27th. Expect traffic delays. Motorcyclists should use caution in areas of road construction.

The National Weather Service in Riverton is the first federal agency in our area to use the new **Wireless Emergency Alert** system. If you want to learn more, you can check out the following links:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/WEA/WEA.php#faq1>

http://support.verizonwireless.com/faqs/Wireless%20Service/emergency_alerts_faq.html



Canyon Area All Employee Safety Picnic

All Employee Safety Picnics

Lake	TODAY	8/23	Noon	Mess hall Area
Old Faithful	Wednesday	8/29	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Grant Village	Thursday	8/30	Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Mammoth	Wednesday	9/12	Noon	North District Maintenance Building

Little People's Learning Center (LPLC) has partnered with Macy's Shop for a Cause! Purchase a shopping pass for **\$5** from any parent, board member, or from LPLC directly (or contact Amy Bartlett 344-2013 or Mary Kay Woodin 344-2059) and **save 25% all day** on regular, sale and clearance items at any Macy's store on

Saturday, August 25, 2012. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card (**One winner PER STORE!**). LPLC gets to keep 100% of the proceeds so purchase a pass and shop for a cause!

- - - -

Employee Rec Events:

* The Employee Photo Contest judging will be taking place next week. Times and locations are:

- **TODAY:** Finalist Judging: OF Employee Rec Hall 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- **TODAY:** Finalist Judging: GV Grayling Dorm Lobby 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

* Yellowstone Jeopardy tournaments are coming to a location near you! These games will be just like the television show with a giant game show screen, electronic scorekeeping and buzzers. The questions are all about Yellowstone National Park. Each game will have a Single, Double and Final Jeopardy round and Daily Doubles. Everyone is welcome to play or just come and cheer on your co-workers! The dates, times and locations for these tournaments are:

- Tuesday, September 4 – 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room
- Wednesday, September 5 – 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall
- Thursday, September 6 – 7:00 pm in the Canyon Recreation Hall

* The Parkwide Cornhole Tournament will be Friday, September 7th at 9:00 pm in the Lake Employee Pub. There will be no preliminary tournaments so anyone is welcome to play!

* Lunchtime yoga is still happening every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 pm – 12:45 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. It is at a discounted rate of \$5.

Visit our website at www.ycerp.org for information, images, calendars, and more.

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Old West Dinner Cookout! Sponsored by Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Live entertainment with special guest Bridger Creek Boys to benefit Little People's Learning Center in Yellowstone National Park on **September 7, 2012.**

Travel by covered wagon to the cookout site at Yancey's Hole. Check-in begins at 2:45 pm at the Roosevelt Corrals. \$57 Adults, \$46 kids 3-11, free to kids 2 and under. Price includes wagon ride, dinner, and entertainment. Dinner includes steak, Roosevelt baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, corn, corn muffins, watermelon, fruit crisp, and non-alcoholic beverage. Reservations: 866-GEYSERLAND (866-439-7375) or 307-344-7311. Guests can use online activity form at <http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/>.

Little People's Learning Center is a non-profit early childhood learning center located in the Mammoth Hot Springs area of Yellowstone National Park, providing a nurturing and educationally enriching environment for children 6 weeks through school aged. Yellowstone National Park Lodges is operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts and is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service.

WEATHER

Fire Weather Watch from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening for Yellowstone NP <http://tinyurl.com/9fmca23>

Fire Weather Watch from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening for the Tetons <http://tinyurl.com/8uhgzjt>

In addition, there are Fire Weather Watches in effect for much of the surrounding areas.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 242 AM MDT THU AUG 23 2012

Today: Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 70 to 76. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Areas of smoke in the evening. Lows 41 to 47. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening becoming southwest around 15 mph after midnight.

Friday: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Highs 66 to 72. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.

Friday Night: Breezy...colder...clear. Lows 34 to 40. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs 65 to 71. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 37 to 43.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs 67 to 73.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 39 to 45.

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YNP@Work

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Friday, August 24, 2012



Smoke from the Cygnet Fire visible near Norris Geyser Basin (Photo by Nicholas Poggioli)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Update: A flight will be made later today to obtain size estimates for both the Cygnet and Range Fires. A fire update will be released later this afternoon.

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Employee Safety Committee**Wellness Newsletter**

The September edition of the Wellness Newsletter is now available for all employees to read. You may either click on the website link below (where you also have access to many other wonderful wellness tools) OR you may go to the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site and read or print a copy. Please feel free to print and share this information with your family. Some topics of focus this month are: **Aerobic Exercise-the heart of the matter; steps to healthy cholesterol; be a wise health care consumer; safety sense-about your back; prostate health-knowledge is power; take the stress out of your commute; grains-the whole truth; and we need more sleep-make it a priority.**

Website:

<http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/Login.aspx?login=yellowstone&password=healthy95&issue=501>

Sharepoint site: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Wellness Program, folder Personal Best Documents, folder September: Personal Best 4 U Newsletter September

Wellness Incentive Program

Remember to submit your club certification forms to Stacey Gunther by **September 5th** (reporting period August 1-31) as part of the YNP Wellness Incentive Program (WIP) for any of 5 clubs that you participated in and met the club goal.

Here's to your health!

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IN THE NEWS

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Groups file to keep Turner's YNP bison calves wild

LAURA LUNDQUIST , Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Friday, August 24, 2012 12:15 am

More than two years after they filed their lawsuit against the state, four wildlife groups outlined their arguments against allowing a famous rancher to keep Yellowstone National Park bison.

The groups are suing Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for a 2010 agreement made with media mogul Ted Turner. In exchange for keeping 86 Yellowstone bison on his Green Ranch near Bozeman, Turner will keep 75 percent of the calves born during the five-year contract.

In a brief filed this week, the plaintiffs — the Gallatin Wildlife Association, the Buffalo Field Campaign, the Yellowstone Buffalo Foundation and the Western Watersheds Project – argue that FWP violated the public trust in allowing wild bison to become privatized. They ask that all offspring be returned as public wildlife.

Under the public trust doctrine, the state has the responsibility to manage and maintain resources such as water or land for public use.

The YNP bison are the most closely related to the historic Great Plains bison. So the plaintiffs argue that allowing Turner to keep the offspring removes potential genetic variability from a wild population that may already suffer inbreeding due to small herd size.

Glenn Hockett of the GWA said FWP originally set rules for transferring quarantined bison that prohibited privatization of the animals. But when Turner stepped in, the payment changed from dollars to wildlife, Hockett said.

“Could they do that with other animals?” Hockett asked. “If the state has the authority to do this, where might it end?”

FWP argues that the public trust has not been violated because bison are still being preserved as a species and the public trust does not apply to individual animals.

FWP ended up having to find homes for the bison after conducting a quarantine feasibility study starting in 2004. Bison can carry brucellosis, and FWP, along with the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, wanted to establish a brucellosis-free herd that could be used to establish free-roaming herds elsewhere.

Once calves reached maturity and had calves themselves, they were to be transferred to another location for an additional five years.

The Wind River Reservation in Wyoming agreed to take the bison in 2008 but then pulled out, unable to find acceptable facilities.

FWP sent out a 2009 call to organizations able to accept the bison. Turner sent one of the seven answering proposals but questioned the non-commercialization requirement. FWP subsequently rewrote its rules, and the contract with Turner was signed in February 2010.

One issue the plaintiffs raised in 2010 was that they couldn't check on the park bison once they were on Turner's ranch. The parties have since worked out a compromise where group representatives are allowed on the ranch to view the herd twice a year.

Both parties have asked for the Gallatin County judge to rule on the issue without trial.

"We probably won't have a decision before the end of the year," said WWP attorney Summer Nelson. "But there are a few more years in the contract so there's time."

Visitor dies from injuries in Yellowstone collision – 17 hours ago

A 62-year-old woman died en route to the hospital after a head-on collision in Yellowstone National Park on Monday that injured eight other people.

Kwai Wan Wuen, 62, of China, died of traumatic injuries incurred in the collision, according to the Bonneville (Idaho) County coroner's office. Wuen was a passenger in one of two vehicles that collided on the road between Bridge Bay and West Thumb, an accident that temporarily closed the road to traffic.

Two other crash victims were flown to the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls; three victims were taken by ambulance to medical centers and three were treated at the scene and released, according to a Yellowstone spokesman.

The death is the fourth this year in the park. A Wyoming motorcyclist was killed in a collision on Aug. 14 between Madison Junction and Gibbon Falls. A German man was killed in a horseback-riding accident on July 30 near Tower Junction, and an 18-year-old female park employee was killed on June 7 in a fall at Inspiration Point.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/visitor-dies-from-injuries-in-yellowstone-collision/article_558a7baa-67ba-5a51-b343-c31ef3478b3d.html#ixzz24TRBLIT3

WEATHER

Red Flag Warnings for the entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem:

- Yellowstone National Park from Noon Friday to 9PM Saturday <http://tinyurl.com/7lwyvy4>
- Grand Teton NP & the Bridger-Teton NF from Noon Friday to 9PM Saturday <http://tinyurl.com/9qnvzka>
- Caribou-Targhee NF from 9AM to Midnight Friday <http://tinyurl.com/73kk654>
- Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF from Noon to 10PM Friday <http://tinyurl.com/72e2arw>
- Absaroka Mtns. & Shoshone NF until 9PM Saturday <http://tinyurl.com/83ubpop>
- SC & SE MT including the Gallatin NF & Custer NF from Noon to Midnight Friday <http://tinyurl.com/6fdb2s>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update 235 AM MDT FRI AUG 24 2012

Today: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 66 to 72. Southwest winds around 15 mph shifting to the west 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 32 to 38. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Saturday: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 66 to 72. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 36 to 42. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Sunday: Areas of smoke in the morning. Sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 69 to 75. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 41 to 47.

Monday: Partly cloudy. Highs 70 to 76.

Monday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 42 to 48.

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Monday, August 27, 2012



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The Cygnet, Range, and Dewdrop fires all were active and grew over the weekend. Look for a Fire Update later this morning.

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Employee Safety Committee

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Website:

<http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/Login.aspx?login=yellowstone&password=healthy95&issue=501>

Sharepoint site: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Wellness Program, folder Personal Best Documents, folder September: Personal Best 4 U Newsletter September

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Here's to your health!

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Hiker's camera offers clues to bear attack

By LISA DEMER

Anchorage Daily News

Published: August 27th, 2012 06:35 AM

Last Modified: August 27th, 2012 06:36 AM

The grizzly bear that killed a lone backpacker Friday in Denali National Park appeared unaware a person was close for nearly the whole time the man was snapping pictures from maybe 40 yards away.

"Certainly too close," chief park ranger Pete Webster said Sunday.

Richard White, a 49-year-old from San Diego who relished hiking and camping alone in the wilderness, was attacked Friday afternoon next to the Toklat River, an area of prime bear habitat about three miles south of the park road.

He took 26 pictures of the bear with his digital camera over a span of 7 1/2 minutes, but the bear seemed to take notice of him only for the last few seconds, according to National Park Service officials who based their assessment on photo time stamps.

It was the first fatal bear mauling in Denali's recorded history, going back more than 90 years. Alaska Wildlife Troopers shot and killed the bear Saturday. Park officials say they are sure it was the one responsible because White's clothing and other material linking it to him was found during an examination of its stomach contents.

"We know for certain the bear we killed is the bear that killed the backpacker," Webster said. "I'm very confident no other bear is involved."

The backpacker's father, Byron White, told a San Diego newspaper that Richard traveled whenever he could take off from work and had been to Denali before. He had worked as a pharmacology director for San Diego's Ferring Pharmaceuticals until last year and was in the process of switching to a new company, Byron White told the U-T San Diego newspaper.

"He had a real zest for seeing the phenomena in the world and interacting with people all over the globe," Byron White said. "He also liked hiking alone in these remote places. He enjoyed being out in the wilderness."

White was married and had a young daughter, the newspaper said.

No Pepper Spray Or Gun

He had been in the Denali National Park and Preserve backcountry for three nights and had two more to go on his backcountry permit, park spokeswoman Kris Fister said. The Park Service wasn't immediately able to confirm that he had backpacked there before. Every year 1,500 to 1,700 backcountry permits are issued for Denali.

On the permit, he indicated he had more than 30 years experience backpacking. He didn't carry bear spray or a gun but did circle that he had a whistle, Webster said. Rangers recommend that backcountry hikers carry bear spray but it isn't required.

On Friday afternoon, White was hiking to a new camping spot in the Denali backcountry. He started shooting photos of a big, male grizzly at 12:58 p.m. Alaska time, Fister said.

"The majority of them were just regular snapshots of a bear foraging, either on vegetation or on berries," Webster said.

Rangers used satellite imagery to estimate that the bear was just over 40 yards away when White started taking pictures with his zoom lens. They haven't yet confirmed the distance with ground estimates or with tracks or other evidence from the scene.

White had taken mandatory "Bear Aware" training before getting his permit. Backcountry travelers are supposed to stay at least one-quarter mile from bears and to leave an area if they happen upon one. If the estimates are right, he was about ten times closer than he should have been.

He took the first bear shots with a wide angle. Then he zoomed in. The last five or so pictures, taken in a span of 13 seconds, are a bit different. The bear lifts its head up, looking away from the camera. Then the bear turns its attention to the photographer. It starts moving in White's direction.

"There were no shots indicative of a charge," Webster said. But the bear did appear agitated in the last couple of photographs, taken just after 1:06 p.m. It had "a definite, focused stare."

First Shots Miss

Park officials are evaluating whether they can, and whether they should, release the photos to the public, Fister said.

Friday afternoon, three hikers on a day trip found White's backpack and evidence of a struggle, including blood and torn clothing. They returned to the Toklat River Rest Area and called park rangers about 5:30 p.m.

By 8:30 p.m. Friday, a helicopter had deposited rangers next to a gravel bar near the braided river's edges. As the helicopter hovered, a bear ran into the brush. Rangers spotted the body in a food cache site, where the bear had buried it, Fister said.

The bear began circling around the rangers. They fired two rifle shots but missed. With darkness closing in, and the bear guarding its cache, the situation had become too dangerous, Fister said. The rangers were able to get back on the helicopter and leave for the night. They returned on Saturday afternoon with wildlife troopers, Fister said. A trooper shot and killed the bear from the helicopter, Webster said.

It's uncertain whether there was one bear or two in the vicinity on Friday evening, Webster. On Saturday, they saw a total of four bears in an area of several miles around the body. But only one was sitting on its cache, the buried body. The bear had fed on the hiker, Fister said.

The bear was estimated at 600 pounds, big for Denali. It was a mature boar, at least 5 years old.

Rangers don't have any evidence that any other bears tried to feed on the hiker.

The park service has a bear-human conflict management plan that calls for destroying bears in situations where they become a threat to people. Sometimes bear attacks can be explained as natural acts: A bear surprised in thick brush. A sow defending her cubs. A bear guarding a dead moose calf cache. Often, a bear runs off after a mauling and there may be no reason to hunt it down or even a way to be sure the right one is found.

For unknown reasons, this bear turned predator, Webster said.

As a precaution, rangers have closed about an area of about 125 square miles around the kill site. They'll monitor the area for a couple of days to make sure no other bears appear to be unusually threatening.

WEATHER

Red Flag Warning from noon to midnight for portions of South central and southeast Montana including the Gallatin National Forest <http://go.usa.gov/rXhh>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 333 AM MDT MON AUG 27 2012

Today: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated dry thunderstorms in the afternoon. Areas of smoke through the day. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 72 to 78. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 41 to 47. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening becoming southwest around 15 mph after midnight.

Tuesday: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 73 to 79. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Tuesday, August 28, 2012



A reminder to take down any hazards from your house/yard as elk move back into the area. (Photo Dave Hallac)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*******FLAG ACTION NOTIFICATION (NATIONAL)*******

DIRECTIVE:

The United States Flag has been directed to be flown at Half-Staff.

TERM:

The flag(s) will be flown at Half-Staff from Friday, August 31, 2012 at sunrise to sunset.

PURPOSE: DEATH OF NEIL ARMSTRONG

A PROCLAMATION

As a mark of respect for the memory of Neil Armstrong, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that on the day of his interment, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

A reminder that the Fire Danger in the park is EXTREME. Fire restrictions remain in effect. Any fire which can produce an ash is prohibited in the backcountry. Smoking is prohibited along all trails and anywhere in the backcountry. Smoking is allowed in vehicles and along roads, near buildings, and in developed campgrounds or picnic areas if you are standing in an area at least three feet in diameter where nothing on the ground will burn. Campfires are allowed only in established fire grates or fire rings in picnic areas, campgrounds and housing areas. Charcoal grills are okay in these same areas as well. You can use portable stoves and lanterns which use propane, white gas, kerosene, or jellied petroleum for fuel anywhere in the park.

And a reminder... the most recent public updates, flyers and maps regarding current fires in Yellowstone are located on the P: Drive at [P:\Fires 2012\Pao Postings](#).

All Employee Safety Picnics

Old Faithful	TOMORROW	8/29 Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Grant Village	Thursday	8/30 Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Mammoth	Wednesday	9/12 Noon	North District Maintenance Building

Attention Canyon Staff - the Green Team is coming to you!

Thursday, September 6, the Green Team will be at the Canyon VC Conference Room from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM to meet with local staff and talk about sustainability projects in your area. Are you interested in what the Green Team is up to? Do you have a suggestion to make recycling better in your area? Do you have a green champion you'd like us to recognize? We'd love to meet with you to hear your great ideas and input. For more information, please contact Becky Wyman at 307-344-2278 or Lynn Chan at 307-344-2622.

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Employee Safety Committee Wellness Newsletter

The September edition of the Wellness Newsletter is now available for all employees to read. You may either click on the website link below (where you also have access to many other wonderful wellness tools) OR you may go to the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site and read or print a copy. Please feel free to print and share this information with your family. Some topics of focus this month are: **Aerobic Exercise-the heart of the matter; steps to healthy cholesterol; be a wise health care consumer; safety sense-about your back; prostate health-knowledge is power; take the stress out of your commute; grains-the whole truth; and we need more sleep-make it a priority.**

Website:

<http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/Login.aspx?login=yellowstone&password=healthy95&issue=501>

Sharepoint site: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Wellness Program, folder Personal Best Documents, folder September: Personal Best 4 U Newsletter September

Wellness Incentive Program

Remember to submit your club certification forms to Stacey Gunther by **September 5th** (reporting period August 1-31) as part of the YNP Wellness Incentive Program (WIP) for any of 5 clubs that you participated in and met the club goal.

Here's to your health!

Old West Dinner Cookout! Sponsored by Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Live entertainment with special guest Bridger Creek Boys to benefit Little People's Learning Center in Yellowstone National Park on **September 7, 2012**.

Travel by covered wagon to the cookout site at Yancey's Hole. Check-in begins at 2:45 pm at the Roosevelt Corrals. \$57 Adults, \$46 kids 3-11, free to kids 2 and under. Price includes wagon ride, dinner, and entertainment. Dinner includes steak, Roosevelt baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, corn, corn muffins, watermelon, fruit crisp, and non-alcoholic beverage. Reservations: 866-GEYSERLAND (866-439-7375) or 307-344-7311. Guests can use online activity form at <http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/>.

Little People's Learning Center is a non-profit early childhood learning center located in the Mammoth Hot Springs area of Yellowstone National Park, providing a nurturing and educationally enriching environment for children 6 weeks through school aged. Yellowstone National Park Lodges is operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts and is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service.

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Everyone is welcome to play or just come and cheer on your co-workers! The dates, times and locations for these tournaments are:

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- Wednesday, September 5 – 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall
- Thursday, September 6 – 7:00 pm in the Canyon Recreation Hall

* The Parkwide Cornhole Tournament will be Friday, September 7th at 9:00 pm in the Lake Employee Pub. There will be no preliminary tournaments so anyone is welcome to play!

* Lunchtime yoga is still happening every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 pm – 12:45 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. It is at a discounted rate of \$5.

Visit our website at www.ycerp.org for information, images, calendars, and more.

To go directly to our updated calendars page: www.ycerp.org/calendar.php

IN THE NEWS

DISCLAIMER: News stories included in YNP@Work are intended solely to inform park staff members about issues involving or impacting Yellowstone National Park and/or the National Park Service, which are currently being covered by the mainstream news media. Their appearance here does not imply any endorsement or agreement with any statements or conclusions contained in these news stories. For current, official information, please consult recent news releases, the nps.gov web site, the latest edition of the Resources and Issues Handbook, or your supervisor or division chief.

Pushing a rescuer's button: Electronic emergency devices not always used properly

8 hours ago • By Brett French

The 64-year-old mountain climber was emphatic about the fact that he had reached the summit of an 11,000-foot peak, a goal he aimed for every year.

But his excitement about the feat was tempered by one of his rescuers. She was not thrilled about the fact that by summoning rescuers on his emergency locator beacon, he had endangered the search team sent to help him.

“People don’t really understand what happens when they hit that button,” said Jon Trapp, leader of the Carbon County Search and Rescue team who led the effort to reach the climber in the Beartooth Mountains.

The man had been spotted by an airplane pilot as he walked back and forth on a ledge. It was a situation that Trapp thinks the man could have rescued himself from had he not had an emergency call button.

The small electronic devices, first made popular by the company SPOT, are able to link with a satellite and can be used to send out an SOS with the person’s GPS coordinates. In the United States, the message is directed to the nearest county’s 911 dispatch center.

In an emergency situation, the beacons can be a great help. But Trapp worries that in some instances they are abused when people could self-rescue, but choose to push the SOS button because it is easier for them or a faster way to end a difficult situation. Either way, Trapp said, his rescuers are put in danger.

“Any time you’re sending people into the wilderness, you’re endangering them,” Trapp said. “They are volunteers who are leaving their family and their jobs to find out why someone hit their button.”

Trapp said the incidence of people calling for help using electronic devices is on the rise in the Carbon County area, as well as across the United States. One article termed the devices “yuppie 911,” saying that too often people with limited skills are finding themselves in tough situations and quickly call for rescue when it’s not needed.

One of the problems is that the emergency locators don’t provide much information.

“We don’t know if they are lost, hurt, if they got attacked by a bear or how many of them there are,” Trapp said. “All we get is an SOS.”

Newer models of the electronic alert devices allow more interaction than simply sending out an SOS. They can be linked with a cellphone to send text messages where there is no cell service to provide rescuers with more information. Carbon County Search and Rescue uses the devices every time they send a team out.

Frustration when a team is sent out when there isn’t a life-threatening emergency can make it hard to retain members on the all-volunteer service, Trapp said. A false alert one time may encourage a team member to sit out on the next call, he said.

In Gallatin County, which sees more search and rescue calls than any county in the state, leader Jason Jarrett said he hasn’t seen the problem that Trapp describes. The few false alarms his crew noted occurred when people accidentally set the devices off in their hotel.

He has seen an increase in the number of calls for rescue, though, as more powerful snowmobiles, ATVs and people’s tendency to push their gear and their bodies to extremes has become more common.

“In the majority of cases, bad things happen to good people,” Jarrett said.

Yellowstone National Park officials also said they’ve had few false reports.

In Grand Teton National Park, spokesman Jackie Skaggs said the park “almost without exception” only gets calls that are genuine emergencies. And she said park rescuers have been able to assist people with information in situations where they were lost or injured and called from a cellphone. Rescuers could then provide first-aid suggestions, simple comfort as well as routes out of the woods.

Yet she agreed with Jarrett that, in Grand Teton anyway, climbers are “going faster and higher and do have a belief that if they get into trouble, Grand Teton rescuers will help them out.”

Trapp would like to see the emergency locator beacons emblazoned with a warning that the users could be charged with the cost of the rescue if the call is deemed unnecessary. He noted that when his crew calls a helicopter out, it costs \$1,200 an hour. Although he’s never billed anyone for a rescue, he said, he has been tempted.

In the incident this summer when the peak-bagging man called for help from the mountain ledge, a helicopter was hailed from Great Falls to pluck him off. Trapp’s team, hustling up the mountain on foot across “insane terrain” on a hot day, was eventually called off.

“If someone really needs rescue, we are more than willing to go,” Trapp said. “But people have a wide range of ideas about what an emergency is.”

WEATHER

Here are the fire weather watches & warnings currently in effect:

Red Flag Warning from noon Tuesday to midnight Wednesday for SC & SE MT including the Gallatin NF & Custer NF <http://go.usa.gov/rNKm>

Red Flag Warning from noon Tuesday to midnight Wednesday for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
<http://go.usa.gov/rNKA>

Fire Weather Watch from Wednesday afternoon through Wednesday evening for Grand Teton NP and part of the Bridger-Teton NF <http://go.usa.gov/rNKJ>

Fire Weather Watch from Wednesday morning through Wednesday evening for the Caribou-Targhee NF
<http://go.usa.gov/rNkQ>

Fire Weather Watch for Wednesday afternoon through Wednesday evening for the Absoroka Mtns. and the Shoshone NF <http://go.usa.gov/rNkY>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 406 AM MDT TUE AUG 28 2012

Today: Sunny. Highs 73 to 79. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Clear. Lows 43 to 49. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening becoming south around 15 mph after midnight.

Wednesday: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Areas of smoke in the afternoon. Highs 70 to 76. Southwest winds around 15 mph increasing to 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Areas of smoke. Lows 38 to 44. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Areas of smoke in the morning. Highs 68 to 74. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 40 to 46.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 69 to 75. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Lows 40 to 46. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Tuesday, August 28, 2012



Groundwork USA came from across the country to work in and explore Yellowstone National Park. These 26 youth and adults came from Yonkers NY, Anacostia DC, Bridgeport CT, Denver, Dallas, and San Diego. YCC staff have lead them: installing bumper logs, completing trail work, constructing buck and rail fence, installing food storage containers (bear boxes), and removing boardwalk. They also spent the weekend touring Yellowstone and camping at Nez Perce cabin. For many it was their first time in a tent. Today is their last day of work.



ANNOUNCEMENTS*******FLAG ACTION NOTIFICATION (NATIONAL)*********DIRECTIVE:**

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TERM:

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BARACK OBAMA

Yellowstone Bookmobile: LOOK FOR US ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM JUNE-SEPTEMBER

Norris	8-8:30	Housing area
Madison	9:30-10:00	Housing area/District Office
Old Faithful	11:00-11:45	Ranger Station
Grant	12:15 Pickup/Dropoff	Visitor's Center
Fishing Bridge	1:30-2:00	Visitor's Center
Canyon	3:00 Pickup/Dropoff	Visitor's Center
Tower	4:00 Pickup/Dropoff	Ranger's Station

Both the Research Library and the Archives have new summer hours. We are now open Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm. Request a book before 4 p.m. on Wednesday and we'll bring it to you. Let us know your subject area and we will bring books for you to browse. NPS-Yellowstone employees and Yellowstone Association members can sign up for a library card at the bookmobile and check out books immediately.

Contact us at (307) 344-2264 or yell_research_library@nps.gov

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Website:

<http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/Login.aspx?login=yellowstone&password=healthy95&issue=501>

Sharepoint site: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Wellness Program, folder Personal Best Documents, folder September: Personal Best 4 U Newsletter September

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Here's to your health!

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

Dear Friends of Jerry Mernin,

Jerry, as you all know, was an extraordinary man who had such a positive impact on so many people that we wanted all who knew him to have the opportunity to come together to honor who he was and what he stood for.

“Mernin’s Rendezvous” will be held in the Lake area on September 8th. Jerry would not have been Jerry without Cindy, who would be delighted by your presence at this rendezvous.

The plan for SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2012

11:00 am to 1:45pm – Open house at Lake Ranger Station

2:00 pm to 3:00pm Formal Ceremony –outside Lake Ranger Station – weather permitting

-Bad weather alternate will be Lake Lodge Rec. Hall

3:00 to 3:45 wrap up ceremony and move over to the Lake Lodge Rec Hall

4:00pm – Rainier Ale Toast at the Lake Lodge Rec. Hall to kick off social gathering including a buffet meal, cash bar, and good conversation.

There is no cost to attend the open house and ceremony. RSVP and payment was already due for the dinner.

A representative of the Yellowstone N.P. Heritage Resource Center will be on hand at the event for anyone who would like to donate pictures, stories and history for consideration to the park archives. Bring copies of photo's, stories or anything you think worthy for consideration. Details to follow later on the website regarding a potential “Jerry Mernin” collection being considered.

As Jerry would say “What a distinct honor” it would be to see you there.

Details & Updates will be posted at www.merninsrendezvous.com and www.facebook.com/MerninsRendezvousMemorialService

Questions? Planning team contacts are listed below and don't forget the website as well:

Alice Siebecker, siebec@imt.net, 406-580-1103, Mail: 6381 Buffaloberry Lane, Bozeman, MT 59718

Ann Marie Chytra at amchytra.3@gmail.com, 406-210-1006, Brad Ross at brad_ross@nps.gov, 307-344-2405

Nick Herring at nick_herring@nps.gov, 307-344-2124

Old West Dinner Cookout! Sponsored by Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Live entertainment with special guest Bridger Creek Boys to benefit Little People's Learning Center in Yellowstone National Park on **September 7, 2012**.

Travel by covered wagon to the cookout site at Yancey's Hole. Check-in begins at 2:45 pm at the Roosevelt Corrals. \$57 Adults, \$46 kids 3-11, free to kids 2 and under. Price includes wagon ride, dinner, and entertainment. Dinner includes steak, Roosevelt baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, corn, corn muffins, watermelon, fruit crisp, and non-alcoholic beverage. Reservations: 866-GEYSERLAND (866-439-7375) or 307-344-7311. Guests can use online activity form at <http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/>.

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WEATHER

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Red Flag Warning from Noon to 9PM Wednesday for Yellowstone National Park
<http://go.usa.gov/rRVd>

Red Flag Warning from Noon to midnight Wednesday for SC & SE MT including the Gallatin NF & Custer NF
<http://go.usa.gov/rRVF>

Red Flag Warning from Noon to 9PM Wednesday for Grand Teton NP and the Bridger-Teton NF
<http://go.usa.gov/rRp3>

Red Flag Warning from Noon to 9PM Wednesday for the Absaroka Mtns. and the Shoshone NF
<http://go.usa.gov/rRpT>

Red Flag Warning until 9PM Wednesday for the Caribou-Targhee NF <http://go.usa.gov/rRp9>

Red Flag Warning until midnight Wednesday for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF <http://go.usa.gov/rRpm>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 320 AM MDT WED AUG 29 2012

Today: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke in the afternoon. Highs 70 to 78. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 38 to 44. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph until early morning.

Thursday: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke in the morning. Highs 70 to 76. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Breezy. Mostly clear. Lows 42 to 48. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 70 to 76. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers after midnight. Lows 39 to 45. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning...then chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 64 to 70. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Lows 36 to 44. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Thursday, August 30, 2012



Cygnet Fire (photo Dan Hottle)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Possible Park Road Closure

As you are aware, there are three fires burning near Canyon Village. The largest of these, the Cygnet Fire, may necessitate the closing of the Norris to Canyon Road because of fire activity.

If you leave the park for the holiday weekend, be aware that the road between Norris and Canyon may be closed upon your return. Please check at the entrance station or call the 24-hour road information number 307-344-2117 for current road closures.

Please use extreme caution when driving near fires or when smoke limits visibility.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday wherever your travels may take you. Dan Wenk

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The flag(s) will be flown at Half-Staff from **TOMORROW** from sunrise to sunset.

PURPOSE: DEATH OF NEIL ARMSTRONG

As a mark of respect for the memory of Neil Armstrong, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that on the day of his interment, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

School has started! Let's keep the children safe. Remember to drive safely on the roads and watch for kids walking on the roads to and from the bus stops and at the bus stops. Thank you!

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Thursday, September 6

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Tower	4:00	Pickup/Drop off Ranger's Station

- Request a book before 4 p.m. on Wednesday and we'll bring it to you
- Let us know your subject area and we will bring books for you to browse

- NPS-Yellowstone employees and Yellowstone Association members can sign up for a library card at the bookmobile and check out books immediately.

Contact us at (307) 344-2264 or yell_research_library@nps.gov

And a reminder... the most recent public updates, flyers and maps regarding current fires in Yellowstone are located on the P: Drive at [P:\Fires 2012\Pao Postings](#).

All Employee Safety Picnics

Grant Village	TODAY	8/30 Noon	Maintenance Shop Area
Mammoth	Wednesday	9/12 Noon	North District Maintenance Building

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SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

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Details & Updates will be posted at www.merninsrendezvous.com and www.facebook.com/MerninsRendezvousMemorialService

Questions? Planning team contacts are listed below and don't forget the website as well:

Alice Siebecker, siebec@imt.net , 406-580-1103, Mail: 6381 Buffaloberry Lane, Bozeman, MT 59718

Ann Marie Chytra at amchytra.3@gmail.com , 406-210-1006, Brad Ross at brad_ross@nps.gov , 307-344-2405

Nick Herring at nick_herring@nps.gov , 307-344-2124

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* Lunchtime yoga is still happening every Tuesday and Thursday from 12 pm – 12:45 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. It is at a discounted rate of \$5.

Visit our website at www.ycerp.org for information, images, calendars, and more.

To go directly to our updated calendars page: www.ycerp.org/calendar.php

IN THE NEWS

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Firefighters continue working on Pine Creek-area fire

Published: Wed, 08/29/2012 - 9:10pm By Camden Easterling - Enterprise Staff Writer

Park County officials are confirming that Wednesday's Pine Creek-area fire has burned homes and consumed roughly 2,500 acres.

The blaze is burning in the Pine Creek area of the Paradise Valley and is making a run toward the top of the mountains in that area.

Officials also continue to evacuate residents in areas that could be impacted by the fire. As of about 8:30 p.m., flames in the Livingston Peak area were visible from Livingston's Main Street.

The fire's cause is unknown, Park County Sheriff's Office Lt. Tom Totland said Wednesday evening. And while the Sheriff's Office has confirmed some residences have burned, the department doesn't yet know exactly how many, Totland said.

Minor injuries to people working on the fire have been reported, he said. Rumors of any other kinds of injuries, though, are simply chatter, Totland said.

"Rumor has it that firefighters have been lost, and that is not true — no firefighters have been lost, none whatsoever," he said.

Resources on the fire include firefighters from multiple agencies plus multiple aircraft and apparatus.

The fire broke out around 2:15 p.m. and was reported to be in the area of Roche Jaune Road, Totland said. An injury was also reported along with the initial fire call, but the Sheriff's Office did not have details on the injury immediately available.

The fire has been moving north/northeast and has been wind driven, Totland said. Flame lengths have been as high as 200 feet, he said.

Impacted areas include Luccock Park, Pine Creek campground, Sunset Trail, Roche Jaune Road, the Pine Creek area, and everything north of Pine Creek over toward the Suce Creek area, Totland said. Residents on the east side of East River Road in those areas have been evacuated, Totland said.

Residents in the Boulder and Swingley areas have also been warned they should be ready to evacuate due to the fire's potential to reach over the Paradise Valley side of the ridgeline and make a run down into those areas, Park County Sheriff Allan Lutes said Wednesday.

A refuge center for displaced residents has been set up at the Livingston Civic Center.

Millie fire expands to 10,000 acres

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer

Wednesday, August 29, 2012 10:26 pm · Updated: 10:06 am, Thu Aug 30, 2012

The Millie fire south of Bozeman expanded to 10,000 acres on Wednesday, making large runs to the northeast in the late afternoon, according to Gallatin National Forest officials.

It is estimated that the lightning-caused fire has moved to Alex Lowe Peak and the upper reaches of the South Cottonwood drainage, burning in heavy dead and downed fuels. The fire is zero percent contained

Sixty more firefighters are scheduled to join the Type I crew, three engines, four smokejumpers and helicopter already on scene. A Type II Incident Management team will take control of the fire Friday morning.

The fire has prompted authorities to close the South Cottonwood Trail, all trails in the Little Bear Wilson Area and the Blackmoore Trail in Hyalite. No ATV access is allowed to the Garnet Cabin or other trails in the drainage, and all trails and roads above the Spire Rock Campground are closed.

Heavy smoke from the Millie fire and others at all points of the compass blotted out views of the mountains surrounding Bozeman on Wednesday.

New wildfires starts across the state during recent extreme temperatures prompted Gov. Brian Schweitzer to declare a statewide fire emergency Wednesday, allowing fire suppression to be financed by the state's general fund.

"This fire season could last through September, maybe longer, and we need to take every precaution until it's over," Schweitzer said.

Although temperatures Wednesday were about 10 degrees lower than on Tuesday, winds were still gusting up to 20 mph. A red flag warning remained in effect through midnight for gusty winds and dry conditions.

In Park County, a fire was reported in the Paradise Valley south of Pine Creek near East River Road. The fire was moving to the northeast, and all residents in the area were encouraged to evacuate.

East River Road was closed from Carters Bridge to Mill Creek and Pine Creek Road was closed. The Park County Sheriff's Office was unable to provide any more information.

In Jefferson County, the 19 Mile fire has burned more than 3,000 acres on the east side of the Highland Mountains near Pipestone Pass.

The 19 Mile fire also started on Tuesday, although the cause is unknown. Structures are threatened, and 100 firefighters are attempting to control the fire in difficult terrain. Two helicopters, two air-tankers and 11 engines were on the scene.

The Jefferson County sheriff has ordered evacuations in two areas and others have been warned.

The American Red Cross has opened a shelter for evacuees at St. Teresa of Avila Parrish at 107 E. Second St. in Whitehall. People needing assistance should call 406-272-6668.

The Bureau of Land Management Butte Field Office is temporarily closing all trails in the Pipestone Off-Highway Vehicle Area south of Interstate 90 and near Homestake Pass.

The fires have caused air quality to be unhealthy in some areas of the state. The heaviest smoke is a sort of “cone,” with a west boundary from the Bitterroot Valley to Cut Bank, and an east boundary from Ennis to Bozeman to Fort Peck Lake, according to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality website. The smoke is taking this general southwest-to-northeast path across the state, and all areas under this “cone” are seeing poor air quality.

Fire agencies ask that the public avoid fire areas if possible to minimize traffic. Do not stop along the road to observe aircraft and remember to use headlights in smoky areas.

Specific information about Montana fires can be found at inciweb.org/state/27. A 24-hour hotline for Millie fire information can be reached at 406-522-2534.

Bison partners tour potential Gallatin habitat

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Thursday, August 30, 2012 12:15 am

BIG SKY – The Taylor Fork area has many of the same wild traits as Yellowstone National Park’s Hayden Valley except for one: there are no bison. But that may change if a collaborative proposal becomes reality.

On Wednesday, about 50 people, including Interagency Bison Management Plan partners and several concerned citizens, toured part of the Taylor Fork valley south of Big Sky to see the potential bison habitat and discuss possible pros and cons of allowing YNP bison to roam in such areas.

The field trip was the first day of a two-day IBMP meeting where a primary topic is the proposal to allow park bison to roam year-round in a limited area north and west of the park.

Public comments from last week’s meetings in West Yellowstone and Gardiner have been tabulated for use in the discussion.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologist Julie Cunningham and Gallatin National Forest ranger Cavan Fitzsimmons shuttled the group up Deadhorse Road to a high point that overlooked Albino Basin and the Taylor Fork.

Pointing out the landmarks, Cunningham tried to explain the extent of the proposed area. It would include the Hebgen Basin, the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife management unit, the Monument Mountain Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness area and the upper Gallatin River corridor. Buck Creek, seven miles south of Big Sky, follows the northern boundary.

The Taylor Fork offers almost perfect habitat because it's mostly National Forest land and cattle don't graze any allotments there. The Forest Service was able to buy out the last permit in the area in 2010 so brucellosis is not a concern.

The rolling area isn't densely wooded and has abundant grasses and other low vegetation, some of which is still green even after a dry summer.

National Park Service bison biologist Rick Wallen said he always looks to see if there are enough wetlands to keep the grasses growing into winter; the area around Albino Lake provides that.

Wallen said one question would be what bison would do during a hard winter, which occur about once a decade.

"In heavy snowfall, I'd expect to see bison move near the highway," Wallen said. "Elk and moose end up down there; I don't see why bison wouldn't."

The area along the Gallatin River isn't all public land. A handful of ranches would be affected by the proposed expansion, including the Elkhorn, the 320 and the Covered Wagon.

The 9 Quarter Circle Ranch owns about 1,000 acres in the Taylor Fork valley and Cameron Kelsey said the ranch has already had bison problems and wants to avoid more. He said he doubted FWP, with its limited resources, could manage bison in a larger area.

A few years ago, a bull wandered out of the park and up the Taylor Fork during winter. Kelsey said the bull fed at the ranch's haystack and ended up goring one of the horses. The bull was killed and its stomach contained mostly pine needles, Kelsey said.

"It was looking for food," Kelsey said.

FWP Region 3 director Pat Flowers said the IBMP discussion would include alternatives as to how the bison would move into the expanded area, whether they would be allowed to migrate on an annual basis and most important, how landowners' problems would be addressed.

“It would be unrealistic to talk about putting bison on the landscape and not deal with how we’ll address management problems,” Flowers said. “It will largely be a property damage-human safety issue, and funding for that has to be one of the alternatives.”

If approved, the expanded area would go into effect next spring.

WEATHER

Red Flag Warning from 9AM-9PM Thursday for the Gallatin National Forest <http://go.usa.gov/rQ2d>

Red Flag Warning until 9PM Thursday for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest <http://go.usa.gov/rQTT>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 259 AM MDT THU AUG 30 2012

Today: Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 69 to 75. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 42 to 48. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning...then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 69 to 75. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers after midnight. Lows 38 to 44. South winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning... Then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 67 to 73. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Lows 36 to 42. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent.

Sunday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 65 to 71.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 35 to 43

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We’re especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual’s email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Friday, August 31, 2012



Grant Village picnic (photo Willie Burkhardt)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Possible Park Road Closure

As you are aware, there are three fires burning near Canyon Village. The largest of these, the Cygnet Fire, may necessitate the closing of the Norris to Canyon Road because of fire activity.

If you leave the park for the holiday weekend, be aware that the road between Norris and Canyon may be closed upon your return. Please check at the entrance station or call the 24-hour road information number 307-344-2117 for current road closures.

Please use extreme caution when driving near fires or when smoke limits visibility.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable holiday wherever your travels may take you. Dan Wenk

There has been a **recall on the Flag Action** that was sent out on Tuesday August 28. It was estimated that Neil Armstrong's date of internment would be today, but that is not the case. We will let you know when we hear the new date for internment. Thank you.

School has started! Let's keep the children safe. Remember to drive safely on the roads and watch for kids walking on the roads to and from the bus stops and at the bus stops. Thank you!

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9th Circuit upholds Yellowstone bison slaughter

Aug 31, 8:31 AM EDT

HELENA, Mont. (AP) -- An appeals court has upheld the federal government's ability to slaughter hundreds of wild bison that are captured after they leave Yellowstone National Park.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday that the National Park Service has the discretion to manage the Yellowstone bison population at levels that can be accommodated, and that culling the herd does not violate federal laws.

The court also ruled the government isn't required to prepare a new environmental impact statement of the Interagency Bison Management Plan used to manage Yellowstone bison since 2000.

The court upheld U.S. District Judge Charles Lovell's ruling last year in a lawsuit filed by nine individuals and conservation groups. Lovell wrote that slaughter is a "time-honored" method of controlling a disease carried by many of the animals.

Purebred Yellowstone bison born at zoo in New York

By Colleen Slevin Aug 30, 6:29 PM EDT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) -- A purebred Yellowstone bison is growing up at the Bronx Zoo after scientists were able to successfully implant a genetically pure embryo into a commercial bison.

The zoo and Colorado State University announced Thursday that the surrogate bison gave birth to a healthy male calf at the zoo on June 20.

In October 2011, a team led by reproductive physiologist Jennifer Barfield took embryos from Yellowstone bison kept at a federal facility at the university, washed them free of disease and implanted them in a group of surrogates. An ultrasound two months later revealed that one was pregnant and that bison was taken to the zoo in New York City, along with the other bison, in April.

While many bison have been bred with cattle, Yellowstone National Park has one of the world's largest and most genetically pure bison herds. However, about 40 percent test positive for exposure to brucellosis, which can cause pregnant animals to miscarry. Concern about the disease has prevented the animals from being taken out of the park to reproduce.

The zoo and Barfield both said it was the first time a genetically pure bison has been born as a result of an embryo transfer.

"It gives us an avenue to bring some of their valuable genes out of the Yellowstone population," Barfield said of the technique.

The zoo has long been interested in establishing a breeding herd of genetically pure bison that can help establish herds at other zoos. The new calf however will not go on exhibit.

"The Bronx Zoo played an important historical role in the recovery of the American bison. By establishing a pure herd the zoo will be, in essence, returning to its roots," Pat Thomas, the zoo's general curator and associate director and the vice president of the Wildlife Conservation Society, said in a statement. Another round of embryo transfers is planned for the fall.

Five homes and eight other structures damaged in Pine Creek fire

By Camden Easterling - Enterprise Staff Writer

Thursday morning's smoke inversion in the Paradise Valley means crews haven't yet flown over the Pine Creek fire to get an updated acreage estimate or determine where the blaze headed overnight.

Local, state and federal fire crews are working on the blaze, which started about 13 miles south of Livingston on the east side of the Yellowstone River.

More resources are on their way, Park County Sheriff Allan Lutes said late Thursday morning. A Type 1 fire management crew will arrive in Park County Friday, Park County Rural Fire District No. 1 Chief Dann Babcox said Thursday.

In the meantime, crews plan to fly over the fire as soon as the smoke lifts enough to make it safe to do so, Babcox said. Once information from the fire is gathered, officials will have a better idea of what the fire's perimeters are, where it headed overnight and what the management plan will be, he said.

Minor injuries have been reported for firefighters and members of the public, Lt. Tom Totland said Wednesday. Despite rumors to the contrary, no firefighters have been killed, Totland said.

Wednesday evening, the blaze was making a run toward the ridgeline northeast of Pine Creek. As of about 8:30 p.m., flames near the top of the ridgeline on the mountains south of Livingston were visible from Livingston's Main Street. According to InciWeb.org, Pine Creek fire is estimated to be 5,000 acres. The site is a national database maintained by federal agencies for information about incidents such as fires.

Officials are still working on the number of homes and structures damaged by the fire.

"We're still in the process of double confirming that, triple confirming that because we don't want to tell somebody they lost their house when they didn't," Babcox said.

As of early Thursday morning, information gathered showed five residences and eight other structures have been damaged by the fire, but details of the amount of damage to each was not immediately available, Park County Attorney Brett Linneweber said, conveying information from the Sheriff's Office.

Pine Creek Café and Pine Creek church had some external damage from flames, Babcox said. He said he did not have details on the extent of the damage. Pine Creek School is fine, he said.

The fire started around 2:15 p.m. in the Rocky Hollow Trail area, Babcox said. The road is just south of Pine Creek, on the west side of East River Road.

According to Park County 911 Dispatch Center records, at the time of the fire's roughly 2:15 p.m. Wednesday start, a man called from Rocky Hollow Trail in the Pine Creek area to report that he'd started a fire and that he'd suffered burns. However, as of Thursday morning the cause is still under investigation, Babcox said.

Around 2:45 p.m., as Sheriff's Office deputies and an ambulance crew with Livingston Fire & Rescue were stationed on Sunset Trail just south of Pine Creek Café, flames from the south licked through dry grass toward houses. Emergency workers stopped people trying to enter the area, saying it was unsafe for the public.

One man drove up and argued with emergency responders when he was told he couldn't enter.

"I think my wife and son are down there trying to get horses out!" he said. After a heated exchange, the man drove on toward where he thought his family was, and emergency responders didn't try to stop him.

A few minutes later, a woman was walking quickly down the road when she came upon the roadblock and was told she wasn't to pass it.

"That's my house, that's my house!" she said, pointing to a nearby home as she moved past a deputy. Not long later, farther south on East River Road, flames reached a home just off the road.

"Jesus, look at that!" a firefighter working on creating fire lines by a nearby home said as he watched the house burning not far in the distance. Within less than 30 minutes, the home was burned at least to its frame.

Some distance away, Gill Deans of Pray stood off to the side of East River Road watching the blaze. Deans said he'd come over to help friends in the area move their horses.

"They were in the direct line of the fire. There was ash falling on us," he said.

Also in the same area watching the fire was Ed Manion, who has a home on Sunset Trail. Manion sat on the back bumper of his vehicle, accompanied by a friend and his two Brittany spaniels. Manion said Wednesday afternoon that he expects his house would survive the fire due to the expanse of green grass around it.

"I'm sure I've got a ton of smoke damage," he said.

Manion said a neighbor with an all-terrain vehicle drove him to his house so he could retrieve his dogs.

"If it burns the house down, that's fine," Manion said, referring to what he said he told his neighbor. "But I don't want those dogs to go."

Throughout Wednesday afternoon and evening, people gathered at various vantage points throughout Paradise Valley to watch the fire, particularly the massive smoke plume that mushroomed up.

Some people had pets and belongings with them, indicating they had evacuated the area. Others had cameras and were snapping away. Others fielded cellphone calls about friends' whereabouts and updates on impacted properties or read Internet updates on smart phones.

The fire on Wednesday rapidly spread mostly north and east, officials have said.

"It didn't take long at all and it was crossing Pine Creek Road," Babcox said.

Emergency workers on Wednesday evacuated residences east of East River Road from Suce Creek Road south to Pine Creek campground, according to a Wednesday night Sheriff's Office news release.

A refuge center for evacuees has been set up at the Livingston Civic Center.

Impacted areas included the town of Pine Creek, Pine Creek campground, Luccock Park Church Camp, the Pine Creek KOA, Pool Creek and Deep Creek.

On Wednesday evening, emergency workers warned residents in the Boulder and Swingley areas that they should be ready to evacuate due to the fire's potential to reach over the Paradise Valley side of the ridgeline and make a run down into those areas, Lutes said Wednesday.

Some residents of areas impacted by the blaze have not yet been allowed back in due to hazards, including burned trees that could fall across roads, as well as the unpredictable nature of the fire given the wind and the hot, dry

conditions, Babcox said.

“I know a lot of people are upset about that,” he said of limited access to the area, “but it’s gotta be that way for safety.”

Some residents impacted by the fire have lost power, and Park Electric Cooperative is working to restore service, Babcox said Thursday.

The current incident commander of the Pine Creek fire is Joe Fowler, who is a member of Rural Fire and Park County deputy fire warden, Babcox said.

Fowler is a former Yellowstone National Park fire management officer, Babcox said.

Once the Type 1 team arrives Friday, Park County will turn over incident command duties to that team, he said.

Gallatin wildfire becomes greater safety concern

By Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Friday, August 31, 2012 1:00 am

The Millie fire may come closer to some Gallatin County homes, but county and Gallatin National Forest departments are prepared.

That was the ultimate message for more than 100 residents who attended Thursday night’s community meeting addressing issues associated with the Millie fire.

“There’s been a plan in place for the last 10 years preparing for this,” said Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin. “Our folks are trained on it – we have it open, we have it ready to go.”

The decades-long preparation was in anticipation of such a wildfire as the Millie fire.

The fire grew 10 times its size Wednesday night, expanding to almost 10,000 acres in the Storm Castle Creek drainage.

Smokejumper Dan Cottrell said the fire didn’t progress much farther north and east Thursday after being stopped by a ridgeline.

Fire commanders tried to drop fire retardant at the ridgeline but it was too smoky to use tankers. Helicopters dropped water in an attempt to hold the fire, Cottrell said.

Past that ridge lies the Hyalite basin, and Cottrell said keeping the fire out of the basin would be the priority of the incoming Type 2 Incident Command Team, which takes over Friday morning.

If the fire manages to make a run into the Hyalite basin, retardant may be used. Commanders will weigh concerns about retardant contamination in Bozeman’s water with possible sediment fouling due to runoff after the fire is out. Cottrell said all options are still on the table.

An additional 20-person crew arrived Thursday, so 60 firefighters and 10 to 12 engines were working the fire, which still is not contained. Firefighters were able to hold the fire at Blanchard Ranch.

The explosive growth caused forest managers to close several areas and roads Thursday to ensure people didn't wander into danger unknowingly, said ranger Lisa Stoeffler.

Storm Castle, Swan Creek and Moose Creek roads are closed. The Little Bear area and Hyalite and Leverich Canyons are closed, including cabins and campgrounds.

Some fire had extended into the top reach of South Cottonwood Canyon Thursday morning so an evacuation warning was issued for residents in that canyon. The sheriff's office was also helping the Forest Service evacuate the Hyalite area.

An evacuation warning is notification that an evacuation may be needed. If conditions worsen, an evacuation notice will be issued. Residents should evacuate at that time, but no one will be forced to leave their homes, Gootkin said.

County 911 Director Kerry O'Connell suggested that residents ensure they can be reached by reverse-911. Reverse-911 immediately sends out recorded notifications, such as evacuation notices, to county residents who either have a landline or who have registered their cellphone numbers.

Many people asked if firefighters could predict the fire's behavior: when the fire might threaten homes or when it might be contained.

Cottrell said he couldn't predict anything but the weather forecast wasn't favorable in the near future. Weather plays a part in fire behavior but so do terrain and available fuels.

"For projecting how long this fire would go, we were signed up for a 14-day assignment so that tells us that that's the probability," said incident commander Tom Suwyn.

Community meetings will continue every night at 6 in Hope Lutheran Church until the fire is contained. For information on the fire, go to <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3215>.

WEATHER

Red Flag Warnings for all of Southern Montana and far eastern Idaho today:

Red Flag Warning from Noon Friday to 9PM Saturday SC & SW Montana including the Gallatin & Custer National Forests <http://go.usa.gov/rUfe>

Red Flag Warning from Noon to 9PM Friday for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest <http://go.usa.gov/rUGx>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 229 AM MDT FRI AUG 31 2012

Today: Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Areas of smoke through the day. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds. Highs 69 to 75. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Areas of smoke through the night. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds. Lows 42 to 48. South winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday: Areas of smoke in the morning. Cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds. Highs 61 to 67. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds. Lows 38 to 44. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 64 to 70. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 37 to 43.

Labor Day: Sunny. Highs 67 to 73.

Monday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 36 to 44.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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