

YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 5, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

More than a half inch of rain quieted three lightning caused fires in the central portion of Yellowstone National Park. None of the fires has grown since Thursday night. Although the fire danger may rebound, it has dropped to Very High. The rainfall has also prompted the park to remove fire restrictions.

Last Yellowstone Bookmobile:

TOMORROW, September 6

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

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

TOMORROW, 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.

Survey: Do you remember a favorite children's book from your youth? Or do you have children who like to be read to? For my school project it is my goal to survey local residents on what makes a good nature book. Adult and children survey forms are available. Please e-mail Mudblossum@hotmail.com for an electronic form. All help is greatly appreciated! Dana Jordan

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/>.

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:

Congratulations to all the winners of the employee photo contest! You can now view the winning photos on both the network and our website at http://www.ycerp.org/photo_contest_summer_12_gallery.php.

* 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:

- **TODAY** – 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!

* Archeology seminars will be in September. The seminars, presented by Yellowstone Archeologists, will feature pictures of actual digs in the Park, incredible finds at these sites, real artifacts recovered, shipwrecks, cabin ruins and more. The first will be on Monday, September 17th at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room. The second will be on Tuesday, September 18th at 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall.

* 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 until 8PM Thursday night for portions of the Tetons and the southern portion of the Shoshone National Forest <http://tinyurl.com/76ytt4z>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 210 AM MDT WED SEP 5 2012

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs 63 to 69. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 41. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Thursday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 60 to 66. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 29 to 35. North winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Friday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 61 to 67.

Friday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 31 to 39.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 65 to 71.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 36 to 42.

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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Thursday, September 6, 2012



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Want to eat a **great meal** in a **beautiful setting** while listening to a **2 hour concert by The Bridger Creek Boys**? There are only a few seats left for the **Old West Dinner Cookout!** Sponsored by Yellowstone National Park Lodges. Enjoy a 2 hour concert with special guest Bridger Creek Boys to benefit Little People's Learning Center **TOMORROW September 7, 2012.**

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VERY soon, we will be switching mail systems from Lotus Notes to Google Gmail.

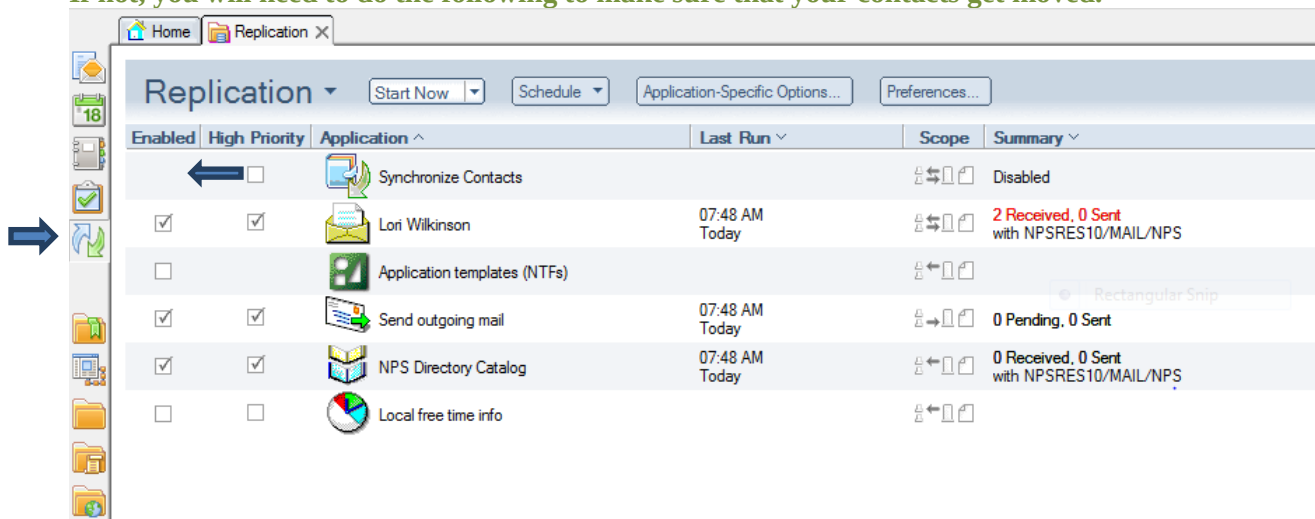
Estimated time of the switch is **November 10**, plus or minus a couple weeks.

If you are a Notes Client User (Permanent and Term), there are a couple things you need to do to get ready for the switch.

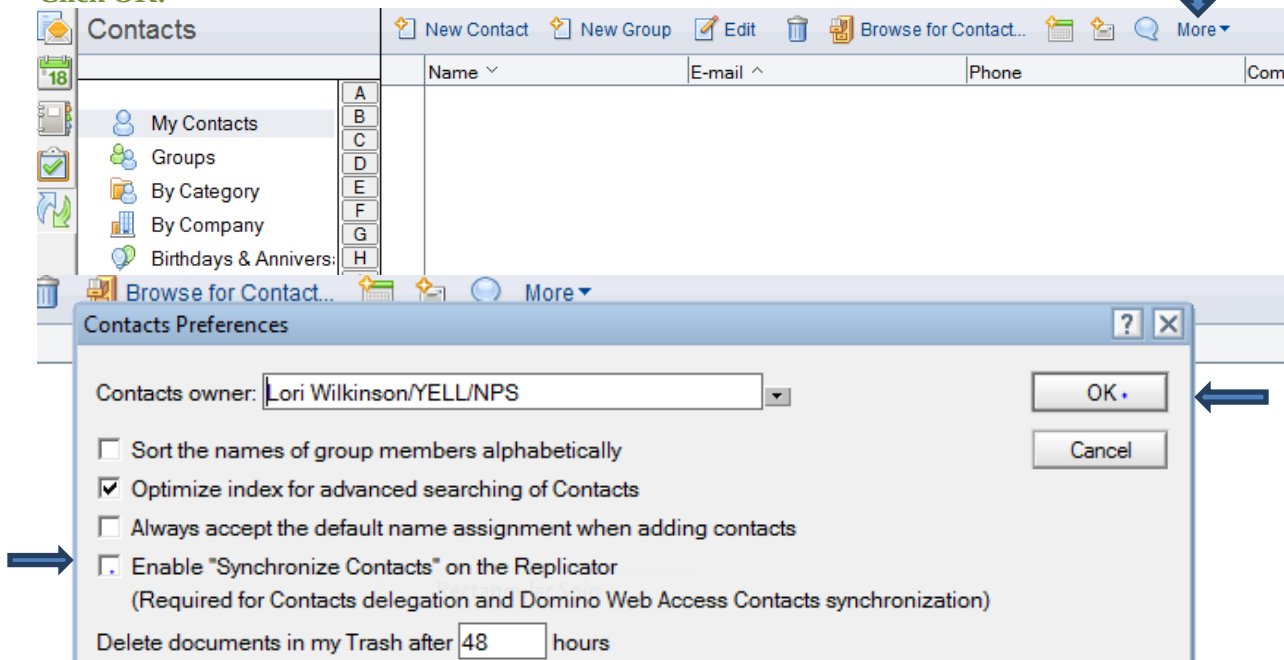
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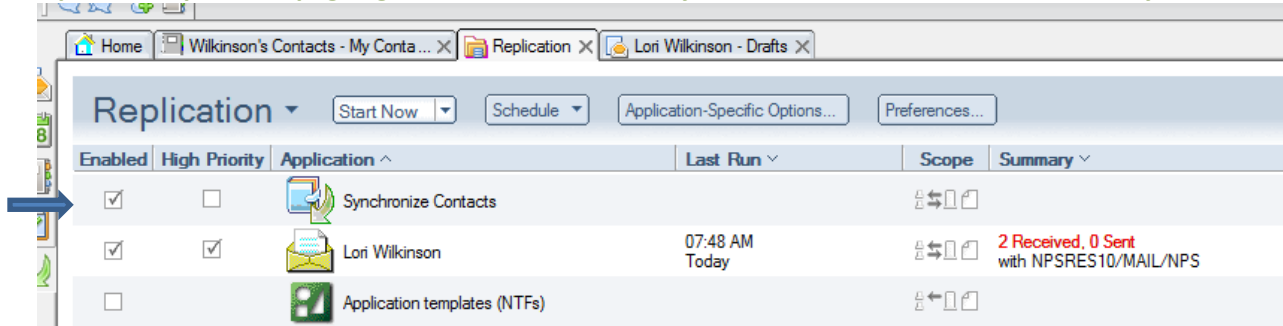
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If you have questions, Call us in CSS. 2461, 2062, 2064.

For more Information - <http://oneinterior.doi.net/oneinterior/ittransformation/Email.cfm>

Training will soon be available on the site listed above.

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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.

PRESS RELEASE

University of Utah Seismograph Stations

Released: September 05, 2012 05:45 PM MDT

The University of Utah Seismograph Stations reports that a minor earthquake of magnitude 3.7 occurred at 04:52 PM on September 05, 2012 (MDT). The epicenter of the shock was located in Yellowstone National Park, 12 miles NE of the town of West Yellowstone, Montana. A total of 49 earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or greater have occurred within 16 miles of the epicenter of this event since 1962. The largest of these events was a magnitude 4.2 on November 23, 2000, 2 miles NNW of Norris Junction, Wyoming.

Anyone who felt the earthquake is encouraged to fill out a survey form either on the Seismograph Stations web site: www.quake.utah.edu or the US Geological Survey website: earthquake.usgs.gov.

WEATHER

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NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 447 AM MDT THU SEP 6 2012

Today: Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Areas of smoke in the morning. Highs 60 to 66. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the evening... Then isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 30 to 36. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday: Mostly sunny. Highs 60 to 66.

Friday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 38.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 64 to 70.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 37 to 43.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 68 to 74.

Sunday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers. Lows 38 to 44.

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YNP@Work

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Friday, September 7, 2012



Hydrologist Jim Fahey (pictured at right) of NOAA presented the park with a certificate from the National Weather Service acknowledging 125 years of weather observations from the Mammoth weather station. The Mammoth station is the longest-running COOP station in Wyoming, with daily observations beginning in 1887. Accepting the certificate on behalf of the park are FMO Joe Krish and Fire Dispatcher Ed Foltz. (Photo by Roy Renkin).

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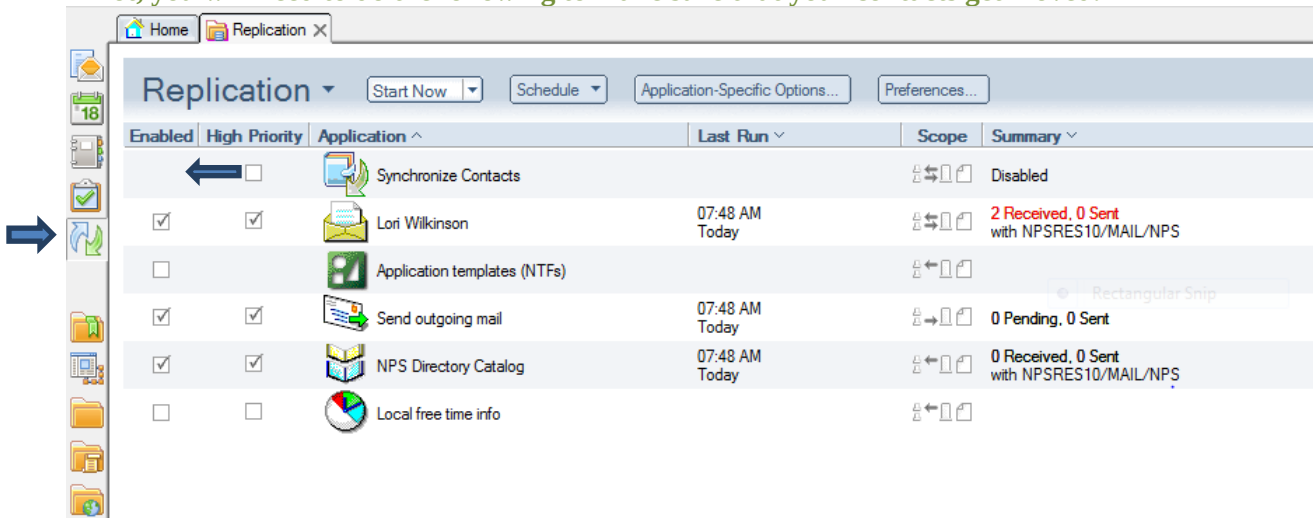
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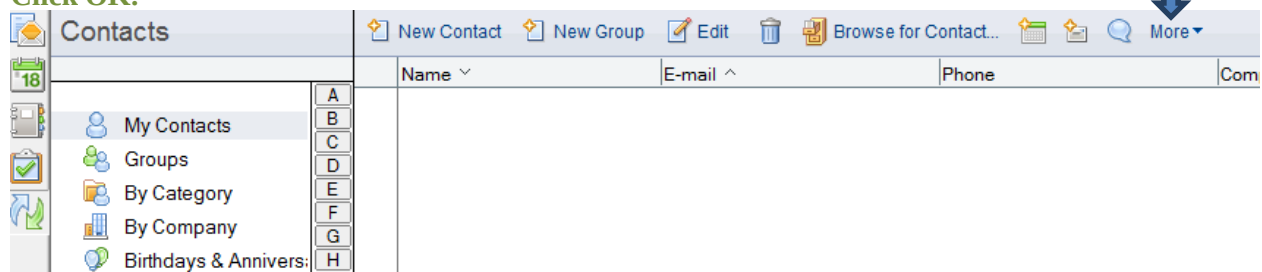
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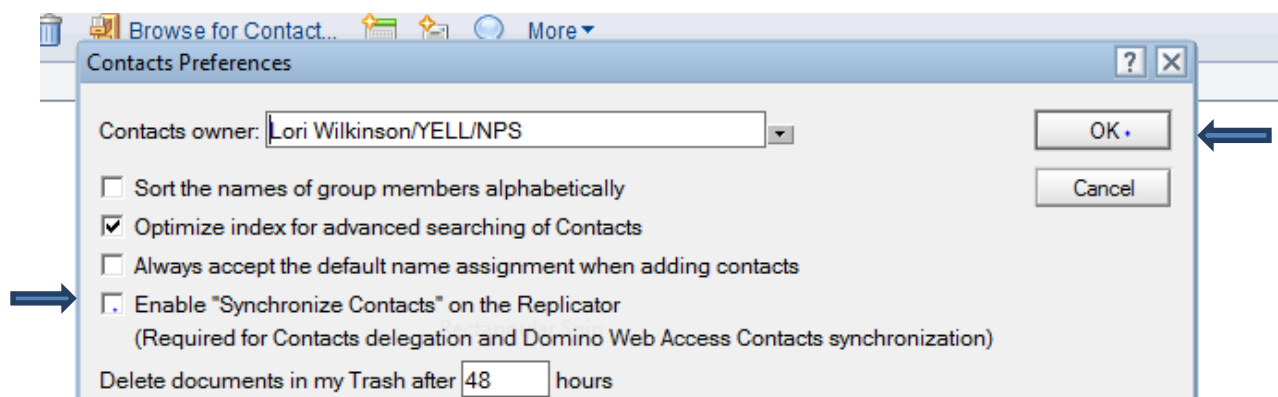
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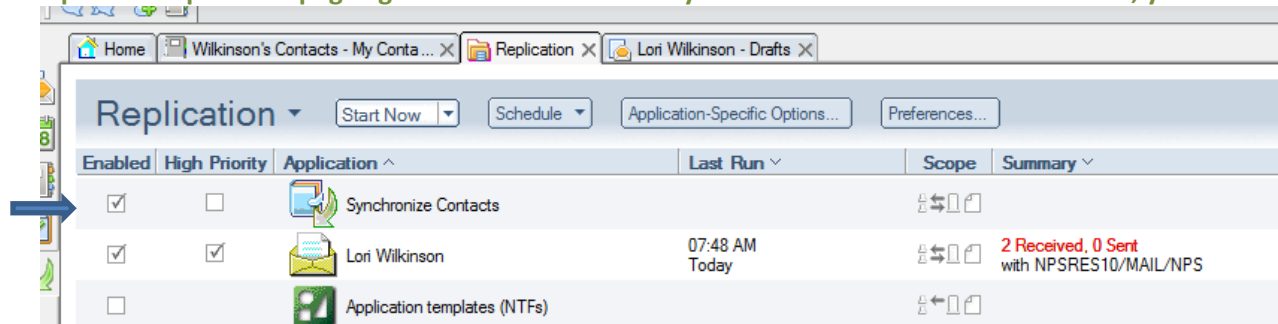


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Pine Needle Stampede 2012! September 29th. Half Marathon, 10K Run, 5K Run, 5K Stroller Division, and Kid’s 2K Run. Come enjoy some West Yellowstone fun. More information from Freeheel and Wheel (406) 646-7744 or www.rendezvousskitrails.com/schedule.html or register at www.athlete360.com.

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WEATHER

Fire Weather Watch from Sunday afternoon through Tuesday evening for South Central Montana including the Gallatin National Forest and the Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer National Forest

<http://tinyurl.com/8abawel>

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Last Update: 224 AM MDT FRI SEP 7 2012

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Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 40.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 65 to 71.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 35 to 43.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 67 to 73. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 39 to 45. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Monday: Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 64 to 70. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Monday Night: Breezy...colder. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 32 to 38.

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Each summer we ask general ranger and entrance station staff to nominate their peers for the "**Sharon Moore Award**". Sharon Moore who passed away in January, 2007 balanced a teaching career in Newark, Ohio with 37 summers visiting and working in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. In Yellowstone, she worked primarily at the Lake Ranger Station. She was well known for her dedication to providing excellent customer service to visitors of all ages. In addition to providing great customer service, Sharon's enthusiasm and work ethic were contagious among her co-workers. No matter how stressful or tiring the situation, she was ready to go, her positive energy reaching out to all.

The following staff were recognized by supervisors and coworkers:

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All Employee Safety Picnics

Mammoth	Wednesday	9/12 Noon	North District Maintenance Building
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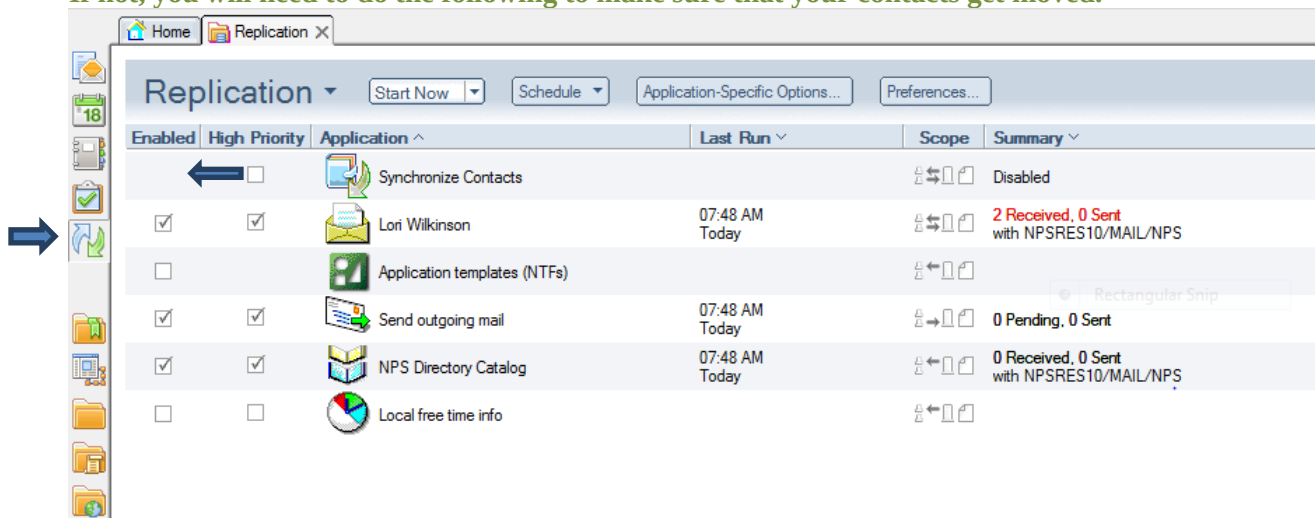
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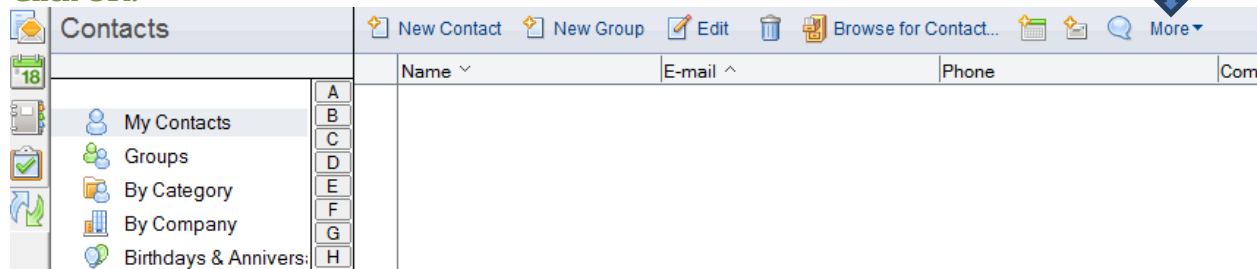
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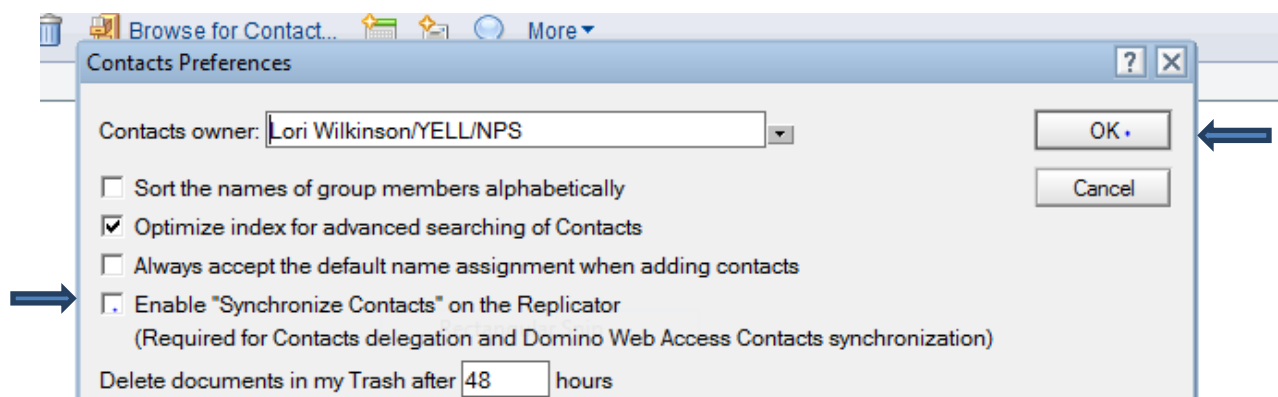
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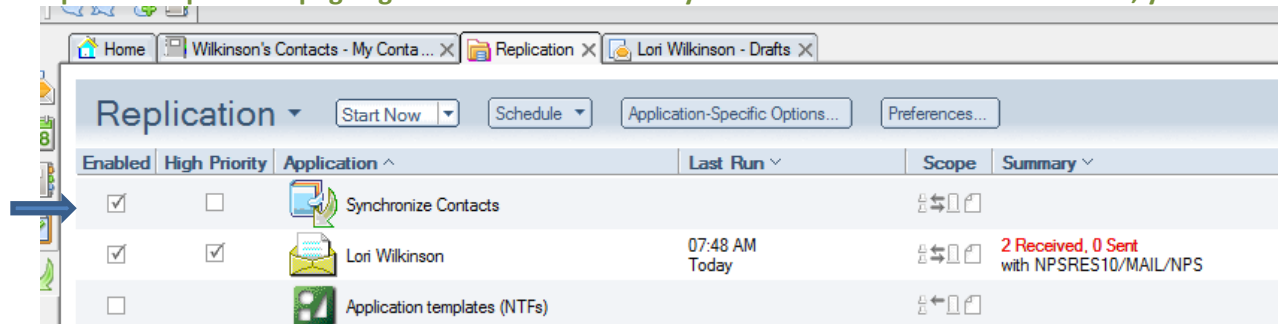


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WEATHER

There is a **Red Flag Warning** in effect today and tonight for Yellowstone and all areas surrounding the park due to critical fire weather conditions <http://tinyurl.com/8zk3aka>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 206 AM MDT MON SEP 10 2012

Today: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Isolated dry thunderstorms in the morning. Patchy smoke through the day. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the morning. Highs 63 to 71. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.

Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Patchy smoke. Lows 30 to 36. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening.

Tuesday: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Patchy smoke in the morning. Highs 56 to 62. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 11, 2012



Snow in Yellowstone – September 11, 1988. Thanks to Roy Renkin for supplying this photo copied from Jim Peaco's archives.

"On September 11, 1988, a quarter-inch of precipitation did what 11,000 firefighters, 200-plus pumper engines, 175 aircraft, and \$120 million could not do. That relatively minor storm took the wind out of the sails, so to speak — but that's our arrogance and hubris."

— John D. Varley, 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Mammoth	TOMORROW	9/12 Noon	North District Maintenance Building
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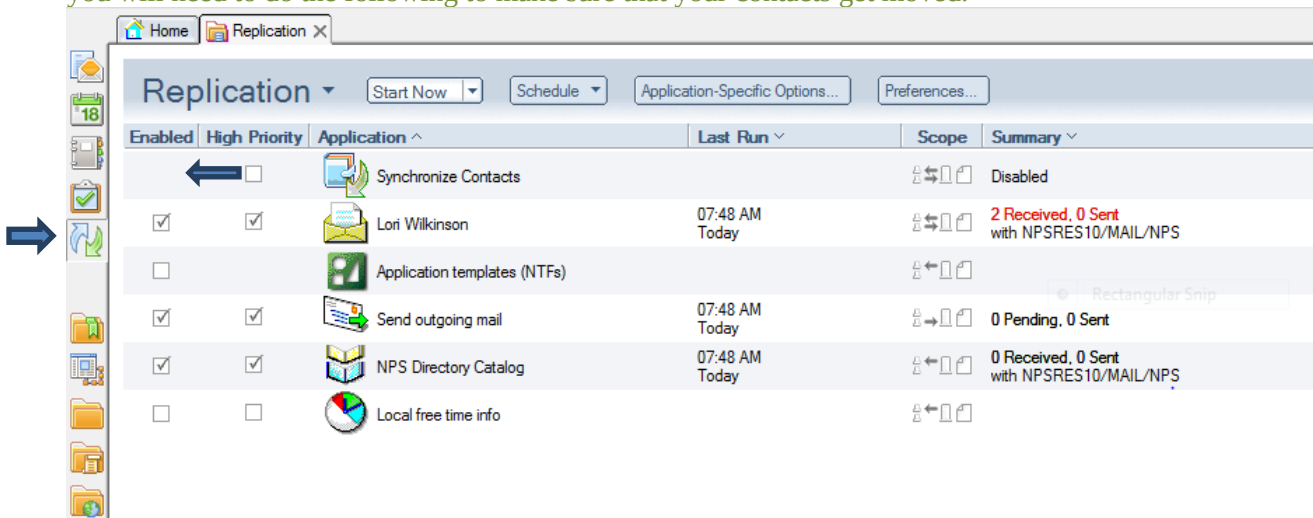
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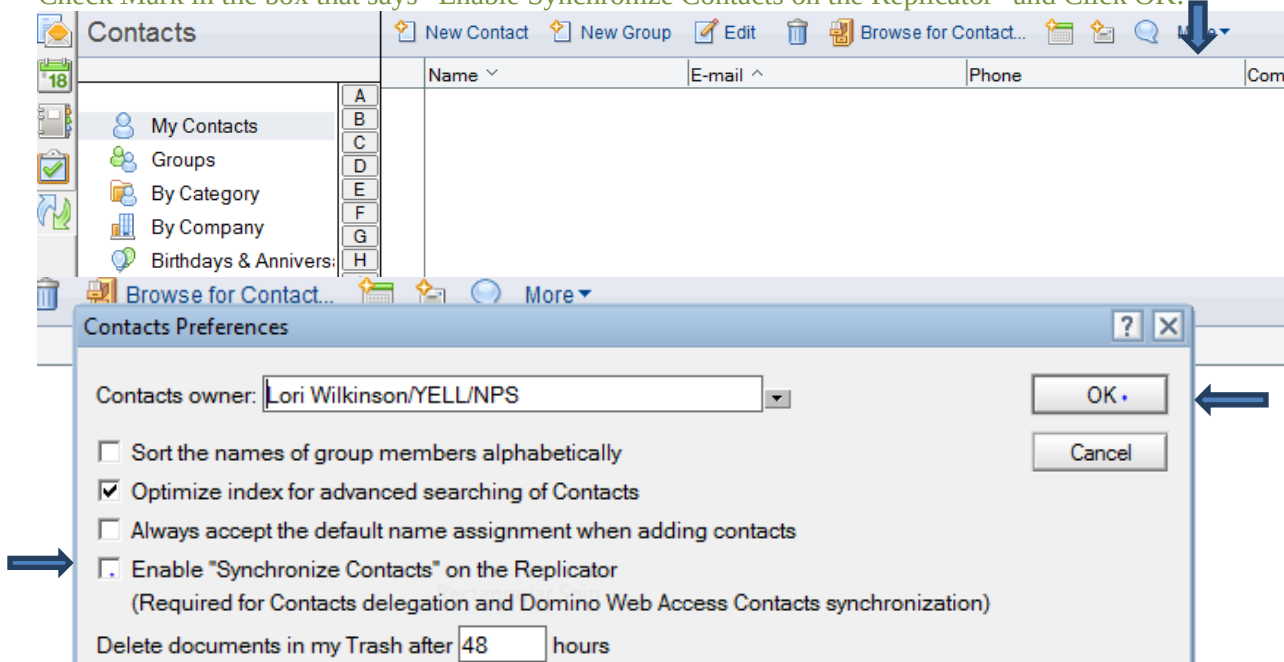
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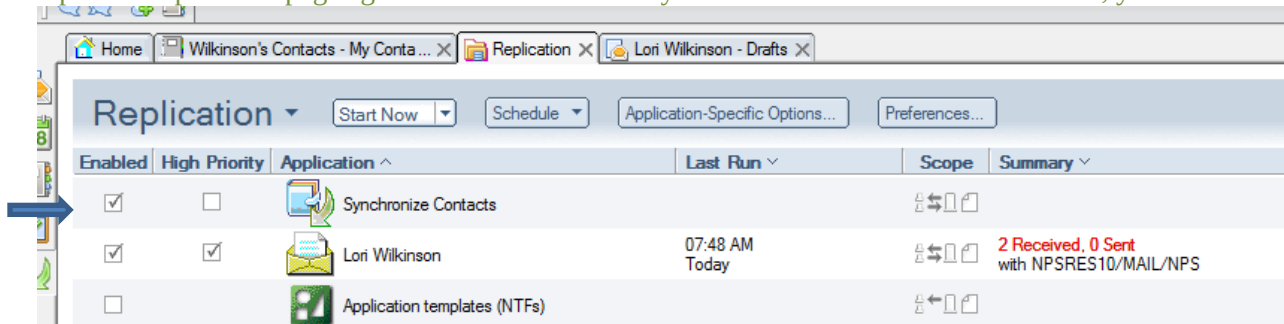
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WEATHER

Red Flag Warning remains in effect until midnight tonight for South Central Montana including the Gallatin National Forest and the Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer National Forest <http://tinyurl.com/6fdb2s>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 235 AM MDT TUE SEP 11 2012

Today: Mostly sunny. Patchy smoke in the morning. Highs 57 to 63. West winds around 15 mph late in the

afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 28 to 34. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday: Sunny. Highs 55 to 61. Northwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Clear. Lows 22 to 28.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs 60 to 66.

Thursday Night: Clear. Lows 29 to 37.

Friday: Sunny. Highs 66 to 72.

Friday Night: Clear. Lows 33 to 41.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 12, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

- **Northeast Entrance Road (Lamar River Bridge)** - Although traffic is utilizing the new bridge, minor traffic delays are still possible. Be aware of construction equipment and construction workers.
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Updates with map can be found at <P:\Road Updates\Weekly Const Update 2012>

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Mammoth	TODAY	Noon	North District Maintenance Building
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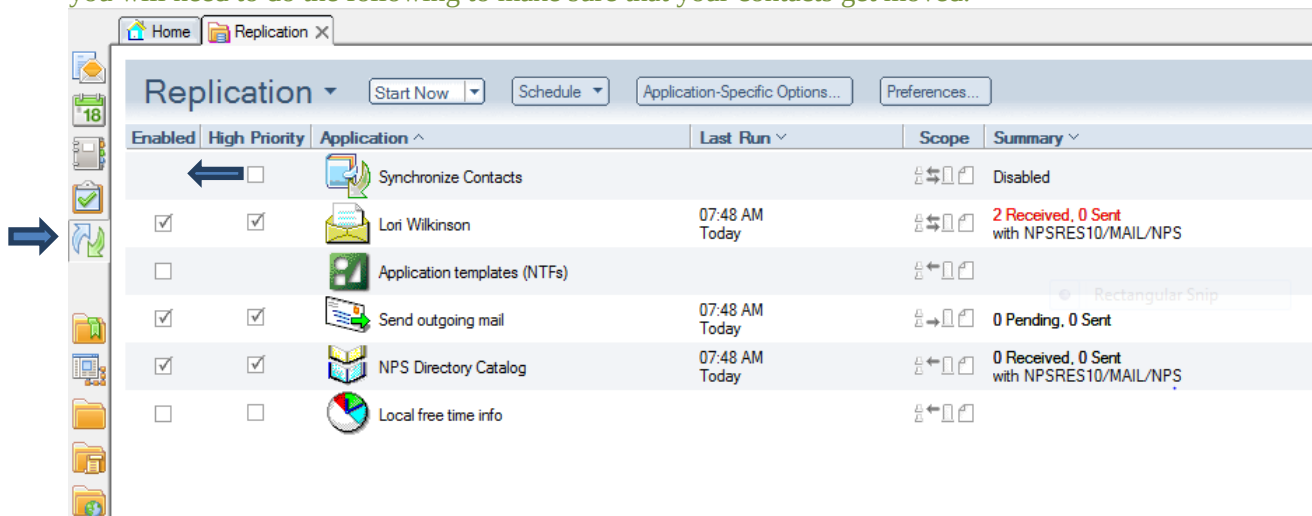
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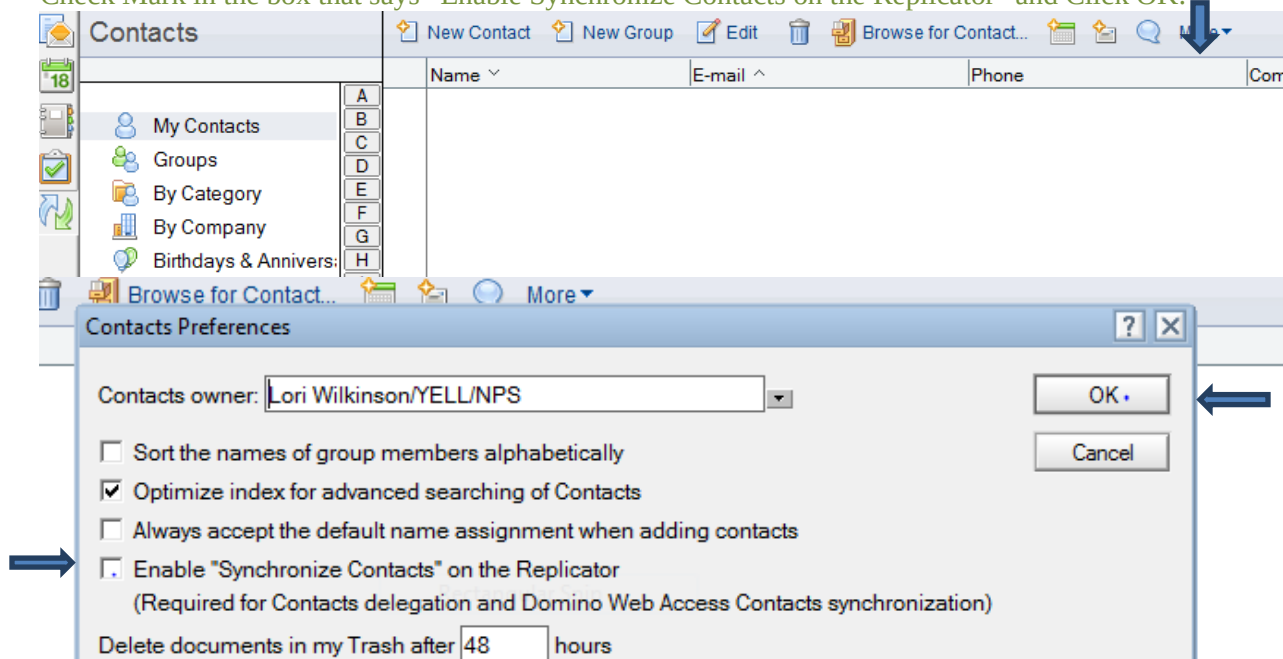
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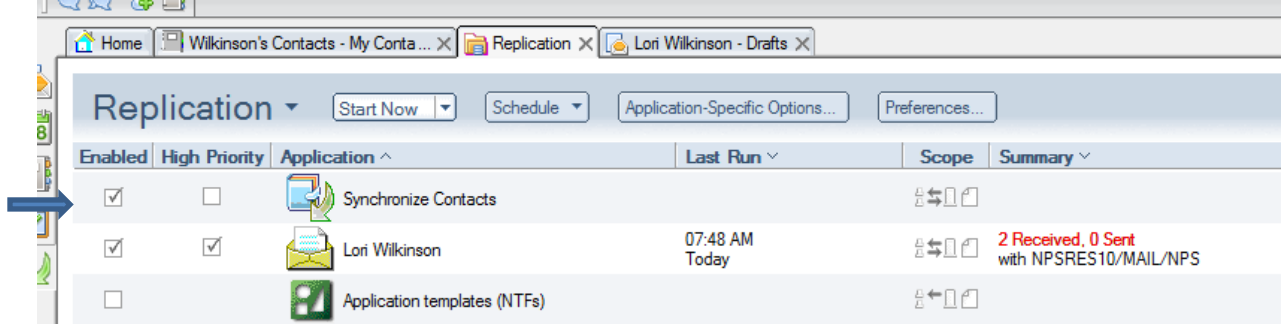
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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 240 AM MDT WED SEP 12 2012

Today: Sunny. Highs 54 to 60.

Tonight: Clear. Lows 23 to 31.

Thursday: Warmer...sunny. Highs 62 to 68.

Thursday Night: Clear. Lows 30 to 38.

Friday: Sunny. Highs 66 to 72. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Clear. Lows 34 to 42.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 65 to 71.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 13, 2012



Today's Fire Danger Rating has been elevated to **EXTREME**, due to warming temps, low humidity and gusty winds. There are currently no fire restrictions, but please be careful with your fires.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flag Action Notification

The Flag will be flown at Half-Staff from sunrise until sunset tomorrow, Sept. 14, 2012, on the Day of Internment for astronaut Neil Armstrong.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Photos and video of **Jerry Mernin's** event have been put onto the P:drive under "Mernin's Rendezvous."

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Updates with map can be found at <P:\Road Updates\Weekly Const Update 2012>

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness



All are welcome to attend the Employee Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for **10:00 am Wednesday September 19** at the Lake Mess Hall.

Agendas and minutes can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc>.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via conference call, use the following toll free number and participant code:

Toll free number (888) 930-9220
Participant Code 1885448

FYI-The **employee lane at the north entrance** is expected to be back in action during the morning hours at the beginning of October. Thanks for your inquiry Becky Wyman!

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PARK NEWS RELEASES

September 13, 2012

Hunters Reminded of Yellowstone Regulations

With the opening of hunting seasons on lands surrounding Yellowstone National Park, hunters are reminded that hunting is not permitted within the park. Though most of the park boundary is well marked, it is the responsibility of the hunters to ensure they do not hunt within the park.

The Lacey Act and the Code of Federal Regulations strictly prohibit the killing or removal of any animal, living or dead, from inside Yellowstone. This includes animals shot legally outside the park that cross into and die within the park boundary. Taking and removing any animal parts, including shed antlers, is also prohibited.

Violators are investigated and aggressively prosecuted, and are subject to penalties including fines, restitution, and the forfeiture of vehicles, equipment and personal property associated with the violations.

Federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess and carry firearms in Yellowstone National Park, though discharge of firearms remains prohibited. The carry or use of other weapons such as bows, swords, and pellet or BB guns is prohibited. Additional details are available on the web at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

Continuing this year is a restriction on the transport of heads and spinal cords of deer, elk, or moose that were taken in states known to have chronic wasting disease in wildlife. Complete details can be found on page 16 of the 2010 Superintendent's Compendium, which is available online at http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/upload/supt_compendium.pdf.

Game animal carcasses or parts may be transported through Yellowstone by motor vehicle on park roads only if they are covered or stored out of sight, accompanied by a transport permit from the National Park Service, and are bearing a valid state tag as evidence that the animal was taken legally outside of the park.

Transport permits must be secured before entering the park, and can be obtained at any park entrance station or by calling (307) 344-7381, and arranging to meet with a park ranger.

Game animals cannot be transported on backcountry trails or stored overnight anywhere in the park, including campgrounds, parking lots, or at concession facilities. Stock users are reminded that proof of a current, negative Coggins test is required for all horses and mules being transported into or through the park.

Visitors or hunters who observe illegal hunting activity within the park should call the NPS tip line at (307) 344-2132. In some cases a cash reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally using firearms in the park or illegally killing or transporting wildlife in the park.

IN THE NEWS

2 bison killed as wildfire rips through Fort Peck pasture

Associated Press, September 12, 2012

A tribal official says two bison are dead after a fast-moving wildfire burned through a pasture on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation where a small herd of the animals had been relocated from Yellowstone National Park.

Fort Peck Fish and Game Director Robert Magnan said on Wednesday that the animals were in the path of a human-caused wildfire that Magnan says has consumed an estimated 15-1/2 square miles since it ignited Tuesday.

Magnan says a calf burned to death and an adult female was put down after her eyes were burned. Six other bison from the 80-animal herd suffered lesser burns and are expected to survive.

Authorities say one house and a commercial property are threatened by the fire, which is burning in grass and wheat stubble about 23 miles North of Highway 212.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 234 AM MDT THU SEP 13 2012

Today: Sunny. Highs 63 to 69.

Tonight: Clear. Lows 29 to 37.

Friday: Sunny. Highs 67 to 73. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 40.

Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 65 to 71. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 41.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 58 to 64.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 28 to 36.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 14, 2012



Today's Fire Danger Rating has been elevated to **EXTREME**, due to warming temps, low humidity and gusty winds. There are currently no fire restrictions, but please be careful with your fires.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flag Action Notification

The Flag will be flown at Half-Staff from sunrise until sunset **TODAY**, on the Day of Internment for astronaut Neil Armstrong.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Photos and video of **Jerry Mernin's** event have been put onto the P:drive under "Mernin's Rendezvous."

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

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Employee Rec Events:

* Archeology seminars will be in September. The seminars, presented by Yellowstone Archeologists, will feature pictures of actual digs in the Park, incredible finds at these sites, real artifacts recovered, shipwrecks, cabin ruins and more. The first will be on Monday, September 17th at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room. The second will be on Tuesday, September 18th at 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall.

* 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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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.

Wyoming tribes seek Yellowstone Park bison from Montana

Associated Press

American Indian tribes on Wyoming's Wind River Reservation are petitioning the state of Montana to give them a group of bison captured from Yellowstone National Park.

Leaders of the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes said in a resolution signed this week that bison are an important icon for their people that the tribe can help preserve.

Approximately 168 bison are being held on a private ranch owned by media mogul and philanthropist Ted Turner.

They were spared potential slaughter when they migrated from the park several years ago. That came under a program to repopulate public and tribal lands with a species that once numbered in the tens of millions in the western U.S.

Ranchers and other opponents of relocating the animals worry they will spread disease.

WEATHER

Red Flag Warning from noon to midnight Friday for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF
<http://tinyurl.com/7nbquyv>

Fire Weather Watch for Saturday for Yellowstone, most of the Tetons, the Absaroka Mtns. and the N. Shoshone NF <http://tinyurl.com/9fmca23>

Fire Weather Watch for Saturday for the Wind Rivers, the East Zone Bridger-Teton NF, and the S. Shoshone NF <http://tinyurl.com/9k8v3nr>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 201 AM MDT FRI SEP 14 2012

Today: Sunny. Highs 67 to 73. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 43. Southwest winds around 15 mph until early morning.

Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 65 to 71. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 41. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 58 to 64.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 28 to 34.

Monday: Mostly sunny. Highs 58 to 64.

Monday Night: Clear. Lows 29 to 37.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, September 17, 2012



*It was a close 4th quarter, but the **Mammoth Bulls** managed to pull ahead of the visiting SUVs 1-0 in Saturday's rematch as this hefty linebacker snuck in a nice last-minute hole punch on an unsuspecting would-be defender as stunned spectators looked on. The Bulls are looking up the ante in the next few days.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Open 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:30 to 1:00 pm on Fridays

From June 1 to September 30: Open 8:30 am to 5:00 pm 7 days per week.

No after hours call out.

MD on duty all day Monday through Thursday and Friday mornings

Physician Assistant on duty Friday afternoons and weekends

Appointments requested/required unless an emergency condition or new work injury

Lake Clinic 307-242-7241

Open 8:30 am to 8:30 pm from May 18 to September 15

Open 10:00 am to 6:30 pm from September 16 to September 24

Staffed with one Physician Assistant and two nurses

No appointments required or taken; available for drug screens

After hours call out for emergencies through 911, as determined by Rangers

Old Faithful Clinic 307-545-7325

Open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm from May 15 to September 22

Open 8:30 to 5:00 pm from September 23 to October 7

Staffed with one Physician Assistant and two nurses

No appointments required or taken; available for drug screens

After hours call out for emergencies through 911, as determined by Rangers

There will be a **National Drug Take-Back day on Sept 29th, 2012 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the Yellowstone Association Building in Gardiner, MT. You can turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal - prescription or OTC (over the counter) - people or pet meds! No needles please...Contact Bonnie Schwartz or Boone Vandzura with any questions.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

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PARK NEWS RELEASES

September 14, 2012

Updated Fire Management Plan for Yellowstone Open For Public Review

An updated plan and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) to guide fire management in Yellowstone National Park has been released for public review.

The new plan is an update to the park's 2004 Fire Management Plan and it includes updated information on the environment, information on new fire management policy, and it establishes a one-quarter mile fire suppression zone around all major park developed areas as a way to manage and mitigate fire risk.

The EA analyzes the plan's impact on a variety of relevant issues including visitor use, socioeconomic impacts, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, air and water quality, geology, and wilderness management.

The EA and an electronic form to submit comments on the internet can be found online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ynpfireplan>. A hard copy can also be requested by calling (307) 344-2017, or by writing to Compliance Office, Attention: Fire Management EA, National Park Service, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.

Written comments may be submitted through the web site, in person or by mail, and must be received or postmarked by midnight, October 19, 2012. Comments will not be accepted by phone, fax, or e-mail, and submitted responses may be made publicly available at any time.

Once comments are analyzed, the National Park Service will prepare a decision document that states the decision on which alternative is chosen for the final plan. For this project, it is anticipated that a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) containing details of the decision would be signed by the Regional Director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 218 AM MDT MON SEP 17 2012

Today: Mostly sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 57 to 63. Northwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight: Clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 30 to 38. Northwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Tuesday: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 63 to 69. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 33 to 41. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Wednesday: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 63 to 69.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 32 to 40.

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A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 18, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Staffed with one Physician Assistant and two nurses

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After hours call out for emergencies through 911, as determined by Rangers

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Open 8:30 to 5:00 pm from September 23 to October 7

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No appointments required or taken; available for drug screens

After hours call out for emergencies through 911, as determined by Rangers

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There will be a **National Drug Take-Back day on Sept 29th, 2012 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the Yellowstone Association Building in Gardiner, MT. You can turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal - prescription or OTC (over the counter) - people or pet meds! No needles please...Contact Bonnie Schwartz or Boone Vandzura with any questions.

- - - -

Volunteer Supervisors:

Thank you for hosting volunteers this year. Of course it takes a little time to supervise volunteers but in the end, in most cases, it is well worth your time and effort.

1. Please be sure to send in volunteer hours logs by the end of the month so that I can include them in the annual volunteer report. The number of hours and the number of volunteers equates to funding for Yellowstone's Volunteer Program which in turn is distributed parkwide.
2. The America the Beautiful Pass can be awarded to volunteers with over 250 hours of service to the government (previously 500 hours). Pass holders can access all US Fee Areas for free! This is a great award for your volunteers. If volunteers already hold a Golden Age Pass, there is no need to award this pass.

Please contact me with any questions. Thanks for all you do to support volunteers in Yellowstone! Bob Fuhrmann, Yellowstone Volunteer Coordinator, 344-2256

- - - -

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Please join in on the following Ranger-led programs in the month of September!

Hayden Valley Hawkwatch, Saturday, September 22, 9:00 am
Fishing Bridge Visitor Center - 45-minute presentation on raptor identification.

11 am – 2 pm Hawkwatch, Meet at the turnout 6.6 mi. south of Canyon Junction (9 mi. north of Fishing Bridge Junction). Bring binoculars, water, snacks, and a lawn chair for comfortable viewing of raptors.

For more information, please call Katy Duffy at 307-344-2296.

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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 153 AM MDT TUE SEP 18 2012

Today: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 62 to 70. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight: Clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 33 to 41.

Wednesday: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 63 to 69.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 33 to 41.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs 63 to 69.

Thursday Night: Clear. Lows 31 to 39.

Friday: Sunny. Highs 64 to 70.

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Come join some of our own in house bike aficionados on September 26th for a 1 hour **bicycle maintenance clinic**. The clinic will be held from noon-1pm at the North District Maintenance Shop in Mammoth.

Clinic topics: how to change a flat tire and adjusting your derailleur.

Bring your bike along if you like and come learn some basic bike maintenance tips to help keep you out on the trails or roads.

Get out and ride! Here's to your health.

There will be a **National Drug Take-Back day on Sept 29th, 2012 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the Yellowstone Association Building in Gardiner, MT. You can turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal - prescription or OTC (over the counter) - people or pet meds! No needles please...Contact Bonnie Schwartz or Boone Vandzura with any questions.

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IN THE NEWS

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/spots-seem-to-have-most-potential-for-volcanic-activity-in/article_521fe7b6-9d43-591f-b117-75448166169f.html#ixzz26veMO6je

3 spots seem to have most potential for volcanic activity in Yellowstone

BY BRETT FRENCH – The Billings Gazette

Three areas in Yellowstone National Park's caldera seem to have the highest probability for volcanism, according to a recently published study.

The faults are near the western rim of the caldera south of West Yellowstone, one in the central region extending south from Norris to about Grant Village, and the third near the northeastern edge of the ancient volcano's rim extending from about Canyon Village south past Lake.

The information was collected in a study done by Guillaume Girard and John Stix. They both worked at the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at McGill University in Montreal at the time, but Girard has since relocated to the University of Iowa.

"Those guys have done a good job," said Bob Smith, a University of Utah researcher who has long studied the geodynamics of Yellowstone.

Smith said he couldn't comment on their geochemistry, since he's not a volcanologist, but Girard and Stix came to the same conclusions that Smith has about the northwest-trending faults that are zones of weakness in the caldera.

The scientists based their predictions on studies they made of two of Yellowstone's youngest magma flows — the western and central faults — as well as the region in the northeast that has seen “notable geophysical unrest.”

“It's a nice synthesis of what we know about Yellowstone's volcanic history and prospects for future activity,” said Jacob Lowenstern, scientist-in-charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, in an email. “Most is based on previous work by others, but the article puts it together in an easy-to-read format.”

Molten rock lies very near the surface in Yellowstone, only a few miles underground. All of that heat is what powers the park's many geothermal features, including mudpots, fumeroles and geysers like Old Faithful.

With magma so close to the surface, Yellowstone's volcano has erupted many times, leaving a trail of giant craters between present-day Nevada and Wyoming as the surface of the earth moved southwest across the hot spot. The last large eruption, the third in a series at Yellowstone, was about 640,000 years ago and created the park's massive caldera, or crater. About 150,000 years ago, a smaller eruption created a caldera located at the West Thumb of Yellowstone Lake.

Although no scientists are predicting any massive eruptions of the Yellowstone volcano anytime soon, if the magma reservoir were to become active Stix and Girard said in their paper that the “eruptions would most likely be focused along the two fault lines” to the west. The third parallel fault line in the northeast, “while not hosting volcanism in the last half million years, focuses the most intense caldera unrest and is underlain by the magma reservoir,” they write in their research.

These days any activity of the volcano is picked up by the extensive monitoring network that the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory has set up across the caldera.

“We've probably got one of the most modern monitoring networks in the world, and it covers the entire Yellowstone Plateau,” Smith said. “So we're recording an enormous amount of data.”

Any intrusion of magma into the upper crust in Yellowstone as a precursor to a volcanic eruption would likely trigger seismic activity days, weeks or months before any eruption, Smith added.

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http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/climate-study-says-western-wildfires-burning-bigger-season-lasting-longer/article_d8643265-00d8-5f49-84e5-73571c54832d.html#ixzz26vfTQaCu

Climate study says western wildfires burning bigger, season lasting longer

By ROB CHANEY of the Missoulian

The number of wildfires larger than a thousand acres has doubled across much of the West since the 1970s and the trend doesn't show any signs of slowing, according to a new climate study.

Over the past decade, the average annual burn has been at least 2 million acres on U.S. Forest Service land, according to records studied by the research group Climate Central. That's a scar the size of Yellowstone National Park. In addition, the West's forest fire season has extended by 75 days compared to 40 years ago.

“We’re seeing a clear change, with bigger fires starting earlier, showing longer fire durations,” Jennifer Marlon of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies said in a conference call arranged by Climate Central.

“The scientific community is actively searching the ‘why.’ But the mechanics connecting climates and fire are quite clear. Warmer temperatures, especially in the spring, lead to early snow melt, a wider window for fuels to dry out and a longer window for ignitions to start.”

“The Age of Western Wildfires” study published Tuesday reviews forest fire records of the past 42 years in 11 Western states, including Montana. It found that compared to the 1970s, there were seven times as many fires that burned at least 10,000 acres annually and five times as many that grew beyond 25,000 acres. Where the ’70s averaged fewer than 50 fires larger than 1,000 acres a year, those Western states had more than 100 on average between 2002 and 2011.

“The overall trend we should expect for coming decades is a slow but relentless trend of earlier snowmelt and more fires,” said University of Montana climate researcher Steve Running, who participated in a conference call about the report Tuesday. “I don’t think we want to overstate every single year will be like this into the future. But the probabilities will tilt for these to be more common than they have been in the past.”

Both Marlon and Running’s research was cited in the report, although it was authored by staff at Climate Central.

The nonprofit organization is based in Princeton, N.J., and Palo Alto, Calif.

According to the latest version of the International Panel on Climate Change, summer temperatures could increase between 3.6 and 9 degrees in the Western United States by 2050. One result will be significantly earlier snowpack runoff, which triggers earlier fire seasons. The researchers claimed for every 1.8 degrees of temperature rise, the amount of land burned in forest fires could quadruple.

That will present challenges for future forest management. While Forest Service Region 1 Forester Faye Krueger recently stated the agency wants to build more resiliency to fire into the landscape, the researchers doubted such efforts would do much to bend the trend.

“It sounds odd to me to be able to fireproof landscapes,” Marlon said. “They are built to burn. They need to burn. Fires provide a cleaning, regenerative process. What’s needed is education about keeping defensible space around houses, and using proper building materials. We need to do a much better job of that, especially in fire-prone forests. You can’t fireproof the landscape.”

Marlon said more than a century of grazing and logging on public lands, combined with a long-standing policy of active fire suppression in the 20th century, has produced forests that contain historically large amounts of burnable fuel. Running added that the already dry Western climate leads to slow decomposition of dead and downed timber, compared to moister parts of the United States.

Running predicted that would lead to the Forest Service allowing more fires to burn in the backcountry. “What they want to avoid are real holocausts, where everybody has to run for their lives,” he said. “We can’t stop these ignitions from starting. The only part of the fire equation we can have much chance to manipulate is the flammable fuel continuity on the landscape.”

But that also means places far from fire fronts will have to endure longer seasons of smoke-filled skies, the researchers agreed.

“Right now in Missoula, our visibility is maybe four or five miles,” Running said. “It’s Sept. 18, and historically this was the time of year we’d be getting our first frost of fall. Instead, we’re full into fire season. We’ve got fires

going on all around us. The valleys are full of smoke, and the forecast for the next week is no relief in sight. It's a clear illustration of the longer fire seasons we now have."

WEATHER

No relief in sight for smoke and drought until early October

from KBZK.com (Bozeman) by Meteorologist Mike Heard

No relief in sight through the next 3 weeks. The Climate Prediction Center's 8 to 14 day forecast is calling for more of the same across Montana: below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.

This weather pattern will keep skies smoky and air quality issues will continue through the remainder of September and possibly into early October and fire danger will remain high and no real drought relief in sight.

GFS computer models this morning is projecting a cut off low pressure system along the Washington coast to move inland and drop southward early next week. The projected storm path will take this system into northern California, northern Nevada and into southern Idaho. If we are lucky far southern areas of SW Montana could see some rain from this system Monday night into Tuesday morning of next week.

The next storm system on the GFS weather model develops around the 3rd of October. A deep trough forms from the Gulf of Alaska down along the west coast of the US. This will produce a strong SW flow aloft for Montana which in turn will likely keep temperatures above normal, however, several storms will drop down into the trough and roll into the pacific NW and hopefully swing into Montana after the 5th of October. This is not a guarantee, but right now it does look encouraging for possible moisture to move into western Montana and into Idaho which in turn should put a little water on top of the large complex fires. This data is subject to change before then.

I'll continue to monitor the long range forecast models over the next couple of weeks to keep you informed on when conditions will improve with regard to the smoke and drought.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 218 AM MDT WED SEP 19 2012

Today: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 63 to 69.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Areas of smoke. Lows 32 to 40.

Thursday: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 64 to 70.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 20, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Yellowstone Compost Facility Tour - Wednesday, October 3, 2012

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ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

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- **Chittenden Road to Tower Junction** - Currently, up to 30 minute delays expected. **Starting September 22 at 8:00 a.m. - CLOSED to all traffic** from the Chittenden Road to Tower Junction (Roosevelt Corral) barricades. This closure remains in effect the remainder of the fall season.
- **Canyon Village Parking Area** - As the parking area nears completion, watch for construction to move into the plaza area (walkways, etc.) Most services remain open. Check locally for fall closure dates.
- **Indian Creek Campground Road (Obsidian Creek Bridge)** - **CLOSED to all traffic**. This road is closed the remainder of the fall season.

Updates with map can be found at <P:\Road Updates\Weekly Const Update 2012>

There will be a **National Drug Take-Back day on Sept 29th, 2012 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the Yellowstone Association Building in Gardiner, MT. You can turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal - prescription or OTC (over the counter) - people or pet meds! No needles please...Contact Bonnie Schwartz or Boone Vandzura with any questions.

Please note the following **changes in hours of operation for Yellowstone's clinics:**

Mammoth Clinic 307-344-7965

Open 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:30 to 1:00 pm on Fridays

From June 1 to September 30: Open 8:30 am to 5:00 pm 7 days per week.

No after hours call out.

MD on duty all day Monday through Thurs and Friday mornings

Physician Assistant on duty Friday afternoons and weekends

Appointments requested/required unless an emergency condition or new work injury

Lake Clinic 307-242-7241

Open 8:30 am to 8:30 pm from May 18 to September 15

Open 10:00 am to 6:30 pm from September 16 to September 24

Staffed with one Physician Assistant and two nurses

No appointments required or taken; available for drug screens

After hours call out for emergencies through 911, as determined by Rangers

Old Faithful Clinic 307-545-7325

Open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm from May 15 to September 22

Open 8:30 to 5:00 pm from September 23 to October 7

Staffed with one Physician Assistant and two nurses

No appointments required or taken; available for drug screens

After hours call out for emergencies through 911, as determined by Rangers

Volunteer Supervisors:

Thank you for hosting volunteers this year. Of course it takes a little time to supervise volunteers but in the end, in most cases, it is well worth your time and effort.

1. Please be sure to send in volunteer hours logs by the end of the month so that I can include them in the annual volunteer report. The number of hours and the number of volunteers equates to funding for Yellowstone's Volunteer Program which in turn is distributed parkwide.
2. The America the Beautiful Pass can be awarded to volunteers with over 250 hours of service to the government (previously 500 hours). Pass holders can access all US Fee Areas for free! This is a great award for your volunteers. If volunteers already hold a Golden Age Pass, there is no need to award this pass.

Please contact me with any questions. Thanks for all you do to support volunteers in Yellowstone! Bob Fuhrmann, Yellowstone Volunteer Coordinator, 344-2256

Please join in on the following Ranger-led programs in the month of September!

Hayden Valley Hawkwatch, Saturday, September 22, 9:00 am Fishing Bridge Visitor Center - 45-minute presentation on raptor identification.

11 am – 2 pm Hawkwatch, Meet at the turnout 6.6 mi. south of Canyon Junction (9 mi. north of Fishing Bridge Junction). Bring binoculars, water, snacks, and a lawn chair for comfortable viewing of raptors.

For more information, please call Katy Duffy at 307-344-2296.

WEATHER

Another sunny but smoky day with afternoon highs mainly in the 60s in the mountains and the 70s at lower elevations, afternoon RHs in the teens and 20s, and winds becoming west to northwest from 5 to 15 mph with occasional gusts. Friday will be much the same, with even lighter winds forecast for Northwest Wyoming. Our next chance of rainfall is forecast to occur early next week. Extended forecasts predict that above normal temps and below normal rainfall are likely through the end of the month.

The latest **U.S. Drought Monitor** report was released this morning. As previously noted, ALL of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is Abnormally Dry or in Moderate Drought. <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

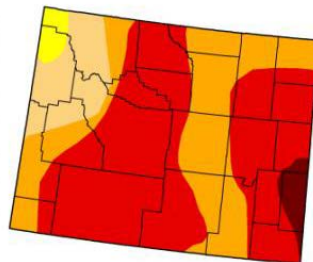
U.S. Drought Monitor Wyoming

September 18, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.92	87.30	58.35	2.70
Last Week (09/11/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	97.89	87.25	58.48	2.70
3 Months Ago (06/19/2012 map)	8.64	91.36	55.86	15.12	3.95	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	99.84	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	98.26	1.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (09/13/2011 map)	95.76	4.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe D3 Drought - Extreme
D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

USDA
Released Thursday, September 20, 2012
David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

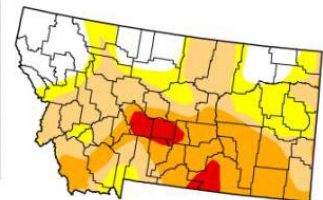
U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

September 18, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	19.76	80.24	60.46	29.07	4.16	0.00
Last Week (09/11/2012 map)	19.75	80.25	60.24	28.97	4.16	0.00
3 Months Ago (06/19/2012 map)	56.02	43.98	4.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	93.74	6.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	51.78	48.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (09/13/2011 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 217 AM MDT THU SEP 20 2012

Today: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 64 to 70.

Tonight: Clear. Areas of smoke after midnight. Lows 32 to 40.

Friday: Sunny. Areas of smoke. Highs 64 to 70.

Friday Night: Clear. Lows 32 to 40.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs 66 to 72.

Saturday Night: Clear. Lows 32 to 40.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs 66 to 72.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 35 to 43.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 21, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

At times during the next week, NorthWestern Energy will be cutting off power to the Bunsen Peak power line as they make the connection to the Mammoth micro-hydro project near the Mammoth Water Treatment Plant. As a result, there will be interruptions to the FM radio transmissions for KEMC (104.9) and KMMS (105.5). The transmissions for KXLB (106.3), KGLT (107.1), and KEMC (103.9), which originate from the Elk Plaza cell tower site should not be interrupted.

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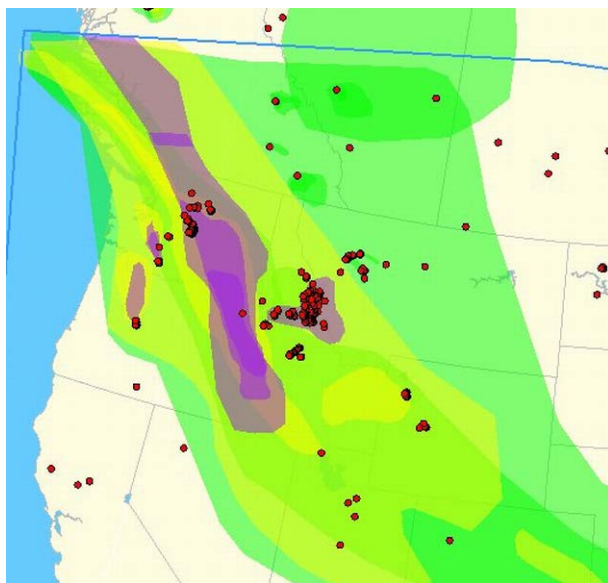
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FIRE UPDATE



To the left is the Smoke Distribution Map from earlier today, showing the fire activity to our west which is bringing a significant amount of smoke to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

A continued pattern of mostly sunny skies, seasonal to above normal afternoon high temperatures, and abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions keep breathing life into three fires in Central Yellowstone which were started by lightning several weeks ago. Isolated areas within the 2,800 acre perimeter of the Cygnet Fire are actively burning, especially during the afternoon and early evening.

To our south, Teton Interagency Fire managers have elevated the fire danger rating for the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park and Teton County to **Extreme** effective today.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 304 AM MDT FRI SEP 21 2012

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Tonight: Clear. Areas of smoke after midnight. Lows 33 to 41.

Saturday: Sunny. Areas of smoke in the morning. Highs 66 to 72.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Areas of smoke after midnight. Lows 35 to 43.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of smoke in the morning. Highs 66 to 74.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 35 to 43.

Monday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 56 to 64. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

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Monday, September 24, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tower Road Closure NOTE: There have been reports that visitors have been told by staff that they can still access the Tower Fall area to view the fall beyond the road closure at Tower Junction. Please note the closure for the remainder of the season is at the hard barricade near the Roosevelt Corrals, and that there is no access to the fall.

At times this week, NorthWestern Energy will be cutting off power to the Bunsen Peak power line as they make the connection to the Mammoth micro-hydro project near the Mammoth Water Treatment Plant. As a result, there will be interruptions to the FM radio transmissions for KEMC (104.9) and KMMS (105.5). The transmissions for KXLB (106.3), KGLT (107.1), and KEMC (103.9), which originate from the Elk Plaza cell tower site should not be interrupted.

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Employee Recreation offices will be closing soon so be sure to buy your 2012 Yellowstone summer staff t-shirt or koozie before it's too late. The last day for location recreation offices will be:

Canyon Recreation Office	Monday, September 24 th
Grant Recreation Office	Friday, September 28 th
Lake Recreation Office	Friday, September 28 th
Mammoth Recreation Office	Friday, October 5 th
Old Faithful Recreation Office	Friday, October 5 th

**All of the offices will stay open until 9 pm on their last day.*

IN THE NEWS

More cutthroat counted, more lake trout netted this summer at Yellowstone Lake

Brett French, Billings Gazette, September 24, 2012

http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/more-cutthroat-counted-more-lake-trout-netted-this-summer-at/article_d530a96b-cc67-59c9-82a0-5eb75ac5e441.html#ixzz27PJkBFb9

Yellowstone National Park's fisheries staff has seen a "big spike" in the number of two key year classes of cutthroat trout in Yellowstone Lake this summer, while also netting a record number of invasive lake trout.

Todd Koel, Yellowstone's supervisory fisheries biologist, said the numbers are proof that the park's aggressive methods are showing returns.

"Age 2 and age 3 fish represent a large percentage of the cutthroat population, which we haven't seen in around a decade," he said. The fish spawn when 3 to 4 years old. "We haven't necessarily won the battle, but it's a good sign."

The netting operations this summer have so far removed 275,000 lake trout from Yellowstone Lake with another three weeks of work yet to go. That compares to 224,000 netted last year and 150,000 in 2010.

Although the catch rates of lake trout have gone up year to year, mainly because of more intensive netting efforts, Koel said he thinks the numbers may finally be ready to crash.

"We killed a greater number of lake trout this year than recruited to the fishable population," he said. "That's what we need to get to, and the modeling suggests that's where we're at. If we repeat that year after year, you suppress them."

Nonnative Lake trout, which were illegally planted into Yellowstone Lake and were first detected in 1994, are responsible, along with drought and whirling disease, for a catastrophic decline in what was once the Yellowstone

cutthroat trout's stronghold. The population of native cutthroat is estimated to have once numbered around 4 million. Large spawning runs of the fish in spring fed bears, raptors and other animals in the ecosystem.

The decline was noted at the park's monitoring station on Clear Creek, a favored spawning tributary, which saw cutthroat numbers plummet from almost 55,000 fish in 1988 to barely more than 500 in 2007.

Flooding in 2008 took out the fish weir and trap at Clear Creek, which this summer was replaced with a new sonar-imaging system similar to those used to count salmon in Alaskan streams. A nearby building will contain the solar-powered batteries and computer from which the data can be downloaded.

Tracking trout

The imaging system isn't the only new high-tech weapon in the Park Service's arsenal. They are also tracking 200 tagged lake trout from 50 receivers set up on buoys across the lake to find new areas where the fish may be hiding out.

"It's interesting to see how far an individual lake trout will move in a day – sometimes 20 miles in a day," he said. The tags also record the fish's depth and the temperature of the water at that depth.

This winter, the park is hoping to hire an analyst to crunch the data from the transmitters to help the fisheries staff understand the fishes' movements to guide netting operations next spring.

The tags were first implanted last August. From a sample of information collected, Koel said half of the fish went to Carrington Island in the fall. Lake trout spawn on rocky shoals in October, and Carrington Island seems to be a favored spot for lake trout in Yellowstone Lake.

"We're looking to apply some new technology to that island," Koel said.

A mesh would be lowered over the spawning site, which he said is no larger than a football field. The mesh can then be electrified to kill any eggs that spawning lake trout deposit.

"So over time that whole population should be gone," Koel said. "That's the idea long term to avoid gill netting forever."

More nets

Until then, the Park Service plans to beef up its netting operations next year with the addition of another boat from their contractor, Hickey Brothers Fisheries of Bailey Harbor, Wis. That will raise the number of boats to four — three running gill nets and the fourth overseeing the trap nets set up in shallower water to live-trap bigger fish.

Koel praised the Yellowstone Park Foundation for helping fund the additional work and gadgets that the fisheries staff has deployed in the past year. The foundation matched \$1 million put up by the park for its native fisheries program.

"It's really the reason we're able to implement this high level of activity," he said. "It wouldn't happen without it."

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Wolf Man

by David McKay Wilson, *Michigan Tech Magazine*

<http://www.mtu.edu/umc/services/pr-news/magazine/fall12/stories/wolf-man/>

Eco-tourists are lined up on a roadside in Yellowstone National Park's Lamar Canyon to witness two wolf packs jockeying for territory, and wildlife biologist Doug Smith '88 is nearby with a TV crew shooting footage of the predator that has captivated mankind for eons.



It's been seventeen years since Smith helped launch the effort to restore wolves to the 2 million-acre park. Today, an estimated ninety-eight wolves in ten packs thrive in Yellowstone. On this crisp February morning, the lanky Smith, dressed in his green wool Park Service uniform with a pair of Nikon binoculars dangling from his neck, talks about how wolves have reacted to the decline in the park's elk herd, their prime prey.

"The wolves and elk are coming into equilibrium as the park's getting restored to its natural condition," says Smith, 51, project leader of the Yellowstone Gray Wolf Restoration Project. "Initially, we had an overpopulation of elk and a surplus of food for the wolves. We now have a leaner, meaner elk herd, and the wolves are having a harder time of it."

Wolves were eradicated from the park, and much of the West, in the early twentieth century. The restoration of wolves to Yellowstone is viewed by wildlife experts as one of America's greatest successes in wildlife management, with the gray wolf off the endangered species list and the Yellowstone ecosystem more like it was before Europeans settled the continent five centuries ago.

Smith's success, however, has run up against virulent anti-wolf sentiment throughout the West, which remains a potent force in policy debates on the state and federal levels. Smith often speaks at community meetings and addresses the deep-seated antipathy many have toward the predator, which has a history of occasionally killing cattle and sheep. Smith counters with scientific studies that show that wolves rarely dine on domesticated animals.

"It can be exceedingly unpleasant," says Smith. "They tell me I've ruined their lives, and I get the feeling that they hate me. It's a true clash of values. And the most frustrating thing is that facts don't seem to matter." Smith gets to know the wolves up close and in person when he goes out to collar them as part of the Yellowstone research team's study. The radiotransmitter collars, which last about three years, provide extensive data on wolves' natural lives in the park.

But collaring a wolf is not for the faint-hearted.

To do so, Smith, who has handled and collared more than 400 wolves, goes up with a pilot in a helicopter, strapped in a harness, with the door off, aiming a rifle loaded with tranquilizing darts. They'll spot a pack and fly in low to chase the wolves, which can run 35 miles an hour.

"They juke and jive to avoid us," says Smith. "Some will stop dead in their tracks to avoid us as we fly over. The females are the hardest to catch. They are faster than the males. It can be very hard to re-collar. There was one female I couldn't get for two years. But we finally collared her in the third year. She was getting old."

Smith, who lives in Bozeman, Montana, with his wife, Christine, and sons, Hawken, 6, and Sawyer, 8, says studying wolves for so long has also taught him about child rearing. Wolves, he says, are infinitely patient with the pups, tending to their every need and never reprimanding them.

Smith's fascination with all things wild dates back to his own childhood in northeastern Ohio, where his parents ran a summer camp with 100 horses. In high school he discovered his love for wolves while volunteering in a Purdue University study of captive wolves in northern Indiana. He helped raise four pups, caring for them around the clock—feeding, cleaning up, even sleeping with them.

That experience led him to Rolf Peterson, the Michigan Tech wildlife biologist leading the wolfmoose study on Isle Royale National Park.

Peterson recalls receiving a letter from Smith, then a high school student, looking for an internship. Smith was hired as a research assistant and joined Peterson on the Lake Superior island, where scientists have been studying the relationship between wolves and moose since 1958.

Smith headed to the University of Idaho for his undergraduate studies, but over the next fifteen years he returned annually to Isle Royale, leading several weeklong backpacking trips with volunteers collecting evidence in the wolf-moose study. And he returned to Michigan Tech to earn a master's degree in biological sciences under Peterson's instruction, focusing his research on the beavers of Voyageurs National Park, in Minnesota.

Smith and Peterson still keep in touch, both on their research and the politics swirling around it.

"Doug has done an outstanding job in a very difficult position," says Peterson. "He has to deal with the bureaucracy of Yellowstone, which is huge, and deal with the external influence, which is negative, while keeping the science going at a time of funding challenges."

In Smith's office, located in a building that once housed the military on America's western frontier, you catch a glimpse of his ongoing connection to Michigan Tech. On the wall behind his desk, a poster celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Isle Royale study hangs next to a map of Yellowstone marked up with boundaries of the territories controlled by each of the packs. A pair of cross-country skis stands in one corner, and a wolf skull from No. 27—the Yellowstone wolves get numbers, not names—reminds him of the incorrigible female who was killed by authorities after she'd wandered outside the park a second time and killed several sheep. On the bookshelf is a copy of his gripping 2005 book, *Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone*.

Still, Smith is a wildlife biologist, and he'd rather be out of doors. He savors those days on his horse, Joker, riding up into Yellowstone's Mirror Plateau, where elk and bison roam and wolves may be lurking.

"There are no trails, it's just wild country, but Joker knows the way," says Smith. "We've ridden there so many times."

"You develop an emotional connection with the wolves out there," he says. "It's seductive. They draw you in. They are the pure definition of wildness."

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Wardens start search for wounded grizzly bear near Yellowstone Park

Billings Gazette, Sept. 24, 2012

BOISE, Idaho — Wildlife officials in eastern Idaho on Sunday morning began searching for a bear wounded by elk hunters a day earlier as they tried to retrieve an elk carcass in the Island Park area west of Yellowstone National Park.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/wardens-start-search-for-wounded-grizzly-bear-near-yellowstone-park/article_b996d93d-83f6-511a-9702-5f37e6804193.html#ixzz27PKfyvQA

Montana, Wyoming investigate plummeting moose populations

Billings Gazette, Sept. 19, 2012

In the past 30 years, the population of Shiras moose in northwestern Wyoming has declined, in some places precipitously.

http://ravallirepublic.com/lifestyles/recreation/article_81b376a5-3a41-593b-93f3-e05a73353413.html

WEATHER

Partly to mostly cloudy skies, cooler temps, and higher RH's across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem today. Most of the GYE can also expect scattered showers and isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms. Winds will be light to moderate. However, thunderstorms can cause gusty outflow winds miles away from any storm. Most of the region has a forecast Lightning Activity Level of 2, with an LAL of 3 for the Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer National Forest.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 304 AM MDT FRI SEP 21 2012



Rest Of Today: Cloudy. Areas of smoke late in the morning. Scattered rain showers late in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 56 to 62. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered snow showers and isolated rain showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 33 to 39. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Tuesday: Cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 56 to 62. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Lows 33 to 39. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning... Then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 56 to 62. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Lows 31 to 39. Chance of showers 20 percent.

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

Tuesday, September 25, 2012



Who Knew???:

- Stacey Gunther, our Employee Safety Committee chairperson, also coaches the Gardiner High School Cross Country Running Team! She encourages their lifelong health and wellness habits.
- And Lori Wilkinson, who's skilled with computers, is also a skilled photographer!

(Have an employee or co-worker with super-amazing-never-known-to-the-general-public-before-now talents?? Send it along and we'll embarrass the heck outta them -- umm, we mean give them due credit they so richly deserve, right here in YNP@Work!)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tower Road Closure NOTE: There have been reports that visitors have been told by staff that they can still access the Tower Fall area to view the fall beyond the road closure at Tower Junction. Please note the closure for the remainder of the season is at the hard barricade near the Roosevelt Corrals, and that there is no access to the fall.

Vehicle Recall Info: Chevrolet has issued a recall due to the functionality of the ignition key cylinder lock in the HHR vehicle. Fleet Maintenance will send out an email with more information to the responsible parties for any vehicles that are currently being affected by this recall campaign.

HHR drivers may experience the inability to shut off the engine and remove the key from the ignition. The key will turn but the engine will not shut off and the key cannot be removed. There have been two incidences of this occurring in Yellowstone already. If you should experience this and are close to a fleet maintenance garage, drive the vehicle to the garage for assistance. If you should experience this and cannot go to the garage, ensure the vehicle is safely parked, and then pull the number 19 fuse (fuel pump fuse). It will take approximately 1-2 minutes for the engine to quit running.

If you have any questions or need to report any issues, please contact Andy Nickerson at the Mammoth Garage at (307) 344-2326.

West Yellowstone Compost Facility Tour - Wednesday, October 3, 2012

All park employees, concessioners and partners are invited to take a tour of the West Yellowstone Compost Facility on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 10:00 AM. A van will be leaving from behind the Admin Building in Mammoth at 8:15 AM for the tour. If you are interested in car-pooling, please email Molly Nelson at Molly_Nelson@partner.nps.gov, or call 307-344-2311. Everyone is invited to attend and can meet the group in front of the facility at 10:00 AM. Come see the composting process and learn more about sorting your waste to make better "Yellowstone gold" (compost)!

Come join some of our own in house bike aficionados **TOMORROW** for a 1 hour **bicycle maintenance clinic**. The clinic will be held from noon-1pm at the North District Maintenance Shop in Mammoth. Clinic topics: how to change a flat tire and adjusting your derailleur. Bring your bike along if you like and come learn some basic bike maintenance tips to help keep you out on the trails or roads. Get out and ride! Here's to your health.

There will be a **National Drug Take-Back day on Sept 29th, 2012 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the Yellowstone Association Building in Gardiner, MT. You can turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal - prescription or OTC (over the counter) - people or pet meds! No needles please...Contact Bonnie Schwartz or Boone Vandzura with any questions.

Employee Recreation offices will be closing soon so be sure to buy your 2012 Yellowstone summer staff t-shirt or koozie before it's too late. The last day for location recreation offices will be:

Grant Recreation Office	Friday, September 28 th
Lake Recreation Office	Friday, September 28 th
Mammoth Recreation Office	Friday, October 5 th
Old Faithful Recreation Office	Friday, October 5 th

**All of the offices will stay open until 9 pm on their last day.*

IN THE NEWS**Underwater war: Killing lake trout to save cutthroat in Yellowstone**

By Kelsey Dayton, WYOFIELD, Sept. 25, 2012

The fall foliage in Yellowstone National Park is changing. Bright yellows mark aspen trees and burnt oranges transform brush. Visitors crane from cars in early morning light, straining to glimpse a bear or wolf.

<http://wyofile.com/2012/09/underwater-war-killing-lake-trout-to-save-cutthroat-in-yellowstone/>

WEATHER

Partly sunny to cloudy skies, light winds, and seasonal high temperatures are expected across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem again today. Look for scattered showers and isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms, mainly over the southwest two-thirds of the GYE. Gusty outflow winds can develop miles away from any thunderstorm activity. With overall dry fuel conditions, lightning brings the possibility of new fire starts. Scattered showers are expected to continue overnight and on into Wednesday.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 241 AM MDT TUE SEP 25 2012

Today: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 56 to 62. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the evening. Lows 34 to 40. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning... Then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 57 to 63. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 34 to 40. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Thursday: Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs 59 to 65.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 40.

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 26, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Yellowstone Research Library** is switching over to winter hours. They are **changing and extending** the hours they had last year. Starting October 1st, the Library and Archives will be open M-F, 9am-4pm, *except* Wednesdays, when they will be open from 9am - 12pm.

Mon 9am-4pm
Tues 9am-4pm
Wed 9am-12pm
Thurs 9am-4pm
Fri 9am-4pm

Happy Banned Books Week!

http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/embed/51787/5539538727/#!date=2000-04-05_09:56:48!

11th Biennial Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, October 8-10

All conference registrants: Please email any changes to your registration to yell_conference@nps.gov by COB Monday, OCTOBER 1. If you are unable to attend a portion of the conference that you are registered for, please email us so we may redistribute available portions of registration including meal tickets to other employees who would like to attend.

Invitation Keynote Address by NPS Director Jarvis: Director Jarvis is delivering the opening keynote presentation at the conference from 7:30 to 8:30 pm on October 8 in the Rec Hall behind the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel. NPS employees are invited to listen to this talk, even if you are not registered for the conference. **We expect a full house, so this may be standing room only. We ask that you give seating preference to paid attendees.** Following the address, the Montana State University School of Film will present student films related to Yellowstone from 9 to 10 pm. You are welcome to stay and view the films. Again, paid attendees have seating preference.

Uniforms at the conference are optional.

Questions about the conference? Contact Emily Yost, yell_conference@nps.gov.

Meeting minutes from the **Employee Safety Committee Meeting** held Sept. 19 at Lake along with other useful information can be found on the Sharepoint site at: <http://inpyellshare/emsc>

As a reminder, employees are encouraged bring any safety related issues forward to their division or district EmSC representatives to be shared at monthly meetings. A current roster of all representatives can be found on the Sharepoint site. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 11th and will be held in Mammoth.

Vehicle Recall Info: Chevrolet has issued a recall due to the functionality of the ignition key cylinder lock in the HHR vehicle. Fleet Maintenance will send out an email with more information to the responsible parties for any vehicles that are currently being affected by this recall campaign.

HHR drivers may experience the inability to shut off the engine and remove the key from the ignition. The key will turn but the engine will not shut off and the key cannot be removed. There have been two incidences of this occurring in Yellowstone already. If you should experience this and are close to a fleet maintenance garage, drive the vehicle to the garage for assistance. If you should experience this and cannot go to the garage, ensure the vehicle is safely parked, and then pull the number 19 fuse (fuel pump fuse). It will take approximately 1-2 minutes for the engine to quit running.

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IN THE NEWS**Battle of the lakers****On Yellowstone Lake, biologists fight to save cutthroat, ecosystem, from exotic lake trout.**

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole News and Guide, September 26, 2012

http://jhnewsandguide.com/print.php?art_id=9059&pid=news

Ten years after netting operations began, fisheries biologists are finally reaching kill levels necessary to effectively suppress Yellowstone Lake's lake trout population.

The netting, which is expected to remove 300,000 fish this year, is an integral part of the effort to restore populations of native cutthroat trout. About 500,000 catchable-sized lake trout, invasive and illegally introduced in the early 1990s, are believed to swarm the waters of the 139-square-mile high-elevation lake.

Boats netted and killed around 224,000 fish in 2011. But the total kill in the entire decade before was just 500,000.

"We want to get to where we're removing more than half of the fish each year," said Todd Koel, Yellowstone National Park's fisheries supervisor.

That level of netting "will eventually drive the population to its knees," Koel said.

Last week, Koel and Dave Hallac, chief of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, revealed the park's lake trout operations up close.

The biologists started off at a diminutive two-foot wide creek that fed into the big lake. Historically, 60 such streams were destinations for cutthroat in the spring, when they run to spawn.

"We counted 8,000 cutthroat in a similar stream 12 years ago," Koel said. "The other year it was just one.

"The ecological side of it can be devastating," he said.

Because they run upriver and make themselves available to predators, cutthroat were once an important food source for grizzly bears, bald eagles, ospreys and river otters. Lake trout, conversely, spawn in the lakes and oftentimes in deep water — they've been documented at 100 feet down.

"The lake trout impact has been holistic — it's been system-wide," Koel said.

A large lake trout, Koel said, will devour 50 of the smaller cutthroat in a year.

Using Park Service and donated funds, Yellowstone has commissioned both gill netting and trap netting to kill one trout species in hopes of bringing back another.

Although the trap nets are responsible for just 7 percent of the total kill, they keep fish alive and allow contracted commercial fisherman to operate in waters where lake trout and cutthroat coexist. The majority of trap nets are set in Yellowstone Lake's West Thumb.

"Today you're getting a real look at the heroic efforts society is willing to take to restore an ecosystem," Hallac said en route to a trap netting boat in the Thumb.

The biologist's boat stopped when it reached the vessel of the Hickey Brothers, contracted commercial fisherman out of Door County, Wis. They usually net in Lake Michigan for whitefish and chubs.

Andy Stuth and Jake Junio, the fisherman aboard, were moving toward a trap net off of the single-treed Carrington Island.

Based on fish movement estimates, about a quarter million lake trout head to waters near the island each fall to spawn.

"Not bad for two nights," Stuth said, pulling in a net that contained perhaps 150 to 200 fish including several cutthroat.

After the biologist's boat departed, the fisherman would sex and measure the lake trout before slitting the swim bladders and tossing them back to rot.

Six fisherman, including volunteers and park employees, were working the National Park Service's gill netting boat, the Freedom, last week. The Freedom crew was mechanically hoisting a monofilament gill net six feet tall and 300 feet long when Koel and Hallac's boat pulled up.

The gill nets, set in clusters of three to six nets off of humps on the lake bottom, are tended seven days a week, said Pat Bigelow, a Park Service fisheries biologist. Twenty-five "gangs" of the nets were set around the lake last week.

Most of the fish tangled within the Freedom's gill net were dead.

Bigelow said that the cutthroat catch was up this year, which is something of a mixed blessing.

"Most years, it's about four cutthroat per 100 lake trout," she said. "This year, it's double that."

Approximately half the cutthroat can be released and end up surviving, Bigelow said.

One mid-sized laker the Freedom pulled up last Wednesday afternoon had a red tag extending out of its back. The marker indicated the fish was equipped with transmitter, embedded by a surgeon, that's used to track its movements.

Some 220 fish are currently affixed with the \$400 transmitters.

"We don't catch them very often — not every day," Bigelow said. "We had one fish that we caught three different times."

Because Yellowstone Lake is so big, the lake trout will never be eradicated, Koel said.

Rather, in the initial phase, Yellowstone plans to aggressively net the waters for the next five to six years and then transition to a lower-cost alternative treatment.

"We hope we can get to a maintenance level where we can spend less money and less effort," Hallac said.

Yellowstone spent \$2 million this year on cutthroat restoration initiatives and has \$2.3 million budgeted for fiscal year 2013. That budget pays for six full-time and 14 seasonal employees working under Koel and also the contracted fishing boats.

"We hope we can get to a maintenance level where we can spend less money and less effort," Hallac said.

A lower-cost treatment could harness data from the tagged fish, colloquially called “Judas fish.”

Data from the transmitters will be used to map lake trout spawning beds around Yellowstone Lake, said U.S. Geological Survey research biologist Robert Gresswell.

Fifty-two acoustic receivers distributed around the lake triangulate the location of each tagged fish, said Gresswell, who leads the effort to map lake trout movements.

“If a fish moves north, we know it,” Gresswell said, “if a fish moves west, we know it.”

Gresswell, aboard the Hickey Brothers fishing boat, said he had been amassing fine-scale data for four years.

Treatment options at the spawning beds, believed to number about a dozen, are still up for discussion and have to be approved by the Park Service, Gresswell said.

“Right now, it looks like perhaps electricity is probably the most promising,” he said. “Really, what we’re talking about is something that can affect the embryos in the substrate.

“CO2 also works, but how we apply that is a big issue,” Gresswell added.

Fish poisons such as rotenone are also a possibility, he said.

Gresswell, known regionally as an expert on cutthroat, said that spawning bed treatments — although relatively unproven — hold promise to maintain Yellowstone Lake’s lake trout population at a low level.

“We’re in the process of hiring a full-time person to process the data,” Gresswell said. “We had over nine million detections over the winter, and those data have not hardly been analyzed at all.

“By winter, we will put visuals of where fish are moving online,” he said.

Next year, tentatively, the data will be put to use, Gresswell said.

WEATHER

Partly sunny to mostly cloudy skies and seasonal temps are forecast across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem again today. Scattered morning showers give way to a chance of isolated showers or thunderstorms this afternoon and evening, with the best chance of measurable rainfall over Northwest Wyoming. Aside from any gusty outflow winds associated with any thunderstorm activity, surface and ridgetop winds are forecast to be fairly light.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 901 AM MDT WED SEP 26 2012

Rest Of Today: Areas of fog early in the morning. Cloudy with isolated rain showers early in the morning...then partly cloudy with chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 55 to 61. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in

the evening. Lows 35 to 41. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 58 to 64. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 34 to 40.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 59 to 65. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

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

Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 59 to 65.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 33 to 39.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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YNP@Work

A Daily Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 27, 2012

Recent scattered precipitation has lowered the parkwide
Fire Danger Level to **VERY HIGH**



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Amy Bartlett, Public Affairs Assistant, gave birth yesterday to a 10-lb.-1 oz. baby boy! Congrats, Amy!! Now get back in here so you can put this newsletter together!! -Just kidding!
-YNP@Work staff!



A big thanks to our Carpenter Shop for their hard work reroofing both the Administration Building and the Grant Maintenance Shop this summer! They worked on very hot days and in sometimes scary scaffolding conditions :-) to do a very professional job of reroofing these two large buildings. We certainly appreciate their craftsmanship!

The **Yellowstone Research Library** is switching over to winter hours. They are **changing and extending** the hours they had last year. Starting October 1st, the Library and Archives will be open M-F, 9am-4pm, *except* Wednesdays, when they will be open from 9am - 12pm. Happy Banned Books Week!

Mon 9am-4pm
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Wed 9am-12pm
Thurs 9am-4pm
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http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/embed/51787/5539538727/#!date=2000-04-05_09:56:48!

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11th Biennial Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, October 8-10

All conference registrants: Please email any changes to your registration to yell_conference@nps.gov by COB Monday, OCTOBER 1. If you are unable to attend a portion of the conference that you are registered for, please email us so we may redistribute available portions of registration including meal tickets to other employees who would like to attend.

Invitation Keynote Address by NPS Director Jarvis: Director Jarvis is delivering the opening keynote presentation at the conference from 7:30 to 8:30 pm on October 8 in the Rec Hall behind the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel. NPS employees are invited to listen to this talk, even if you are not registered for the conference. **We expect a full house, so this may be standing room only. We ask that you give seating preference to paid attendees.** Following the address, the Montana State University School of Film will present student films related to Yellowstone from 9 to 10 pm. You are welcome to stay and view the films. Again, paid attendees have seating preference.

Uniforms at the conference are optional.

Questions about the conference? Contact Emily Yost, yell_conference@nps.gov.

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Employee Safety Committee: Wellness Newsletter

The October edition of the Wellness Newsletter is now available for ALL EMPLOYEES. 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. Topics of focus this month are: **National Depression Screening Day is October 11-free confidential program; October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month; How's your Smile-dental health; What to do to fight the flu; MICRO decisions that ADD up to weight LOSS; Safety after Dark; the danger of third hand smoke; and Sight Savers.**

Website:

<http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/Login.aspx?login=yellowstone&password=healthy95&issue=514>

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

Wellness Incentive Program

Remember to submit your club certification forms to Stacey Gunther by **October 5th** (reporting period September 1-30) 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!!

Vehicle Recall Info: Chevrolet has issued a recall due to the functionality of the ignition key cylinder lock in the HHR vehicle. Fleet Maintenance will send out an email with more information to the responsible parties for any vehicles that are currently being affected by this recall campaign.

HHR drivers may experience the inability to shut off the engine and remove the key from the ignition. The key will turn but the engine will not shut off and the key cannot be removed. There have been two incidences of this occurring in Yellowstone already. If you should experience this and are close to a fleet maintenance garage, drive the vehicle to the garage for assistance. If you should experience this and cannot go to the garage, ensure the vehicle is safely parked, and then pull the number 19 fuse (fuel pump fuse). It will take approximately 1-2 minutes for the engine to quit running.

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**All of the offices will stay open until 9 pm on their last day.*

WEATHER

Mostly sunny to mostly cloudy skies, light winds, and seasonal to above normal temperatures are expected again today across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Scattered rain showers and isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms are also in our forecast. Thunderstorms can be accompanied by lightning, and can cause gusty outflow winds miles away from the storm. Friday's forecast is expected to echo today's weather.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 1003 AM MDT THU SEP 27 2012

Rest Of Today: Mostly cloudy. Patchy fog late in the morning. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 58 to 64. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 34 to 40.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 59 to 65. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 34 to 40.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 58 to 64. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 32 to 40.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs 62 to 68.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 41.

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The Maintenance Staff is proud to announce the digitalization of the **Building 70 calendar**. You are now able to independently check apartment availability and double check your reservations here: <http://inpyellshare/Calendars/Lists/YELLApartments/Bookings.aspx>. Alternately go to YELL's Intranet Site --> Sharepoint --> Calendars --> Building 70 Calendar.

Please note, you can check availability yourself online but you must still call Maintenance to make a reservation! To make a reservation, please contact CMO staff. The primary contact is Debby Young (Debby_Young@nps.gov, 344-2301).

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Questions about the conference? Contact Emily Yost, yell_conference@nps.gov.

Employee Safety Committee: Wellness Newsletter

The October edition of the Wellness Newsletter is now available for ALL EMPLOYEES. 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. Topics of focus this month are: **National Depression Screening Day is October 11-free confidential program; October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month; How's your Smile-dental health; What to do to fight the flu; MICRO decisions that ADD up to weight LOSS; Safety after Dark; the danger of third hand smoke; and Sight Savers.**

Website:

<http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/Login.aspx?login=yellowstone&password=healthy95&issue=514>

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

Wellness Incentive Program

Remember to submit your club certification forms to Stacey Gunther by **October 5th** (reporting period September 1-30) 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!!

West Yellowstone Compost Facility Tour - Wednesday, October 3, 2012

All park employees, concessioners and partners are invited to take a tour of the West Yellowstone Compost Facility on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 10:00 AM. A van will be leaving from behind the Admin Building in Mammoth at 8:15 AM for the tour. If you are interested in car-pooling, please email Molly Nelson at Molly_Nelson@partner.nps.gov, or call 307-344-2311. Everyone is invited to attend and can meet the group in front of the facility at 10:00 AM. Come see the composting process and learn more about sorting your waste to make better "Yellowstone gold" (compost)!

Employee Recreation offices will be closing soon so be sure to buy your 2012 Yellowstone summer staff t-shirt or koozie before it's too late. The last day for location recreation offices will be:

Grant Recreation Office	Friday, September 28 th
Lake Recreation Office	Friday, September 28 th
Mammoth Recreation Office	Friday, October 5 th
Old Faithful Recreation Office	Friday, October 5 th

**All of the offices will stay open until 9 pm on their last day.*

IN THE NEWS

Citing dangerous conditions, Montana extends wildfire season indefinitely

Kim Briggeman, The Missoulian, Sept. 27, 2012

MISSOULA — Citing lingering drought, high fire danger and continued occurrences of human-caused fires across Montana, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has extended the legal wildfire season into October.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/citing-dangerous-conditions-montana-extends-wildfire-season-indefinitely/article_9d2f6a96-b5c4-5ea1-b60b-34ed587fb7c9.html

WEATHER

Mostly sunny to partly cloudy skies with seasonal to above normal temperatures and mostly light winds are forecast across the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as we end this last work week of September. Scattered showers and isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms with light measurable rainfall are forecast across our region. The lightning activity level for most of NW Wyoming is a “3” this afternoon, with a “2” for Montana portions of the GYE. Saturday is forecast to begin much the same way, with a drier pattern heading our way late Saturday or Sunday.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 218 AM MDT FRI SEP 28 2012

Today: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 59 to 65. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 34 to 42.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning... Then isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 57 to 63. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 32 to 40.

Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs 60 to 66.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 32 to 40.

Monday: Sunny. Highs 62 to 68.

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](#)