

# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, February 1, 2013



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Robert W. Flather**, former backcountry ranger and long-time volunteer, passed away on Sunday, January 27, in Santa Barbara, CA. He began working summers in Yellowstone in 1974 and, after retiring, continued to return each summer to volunteer for various programs and projects, including the Fire Cache, GIS, Archeology and the Archives, Library and Museum Collections at the HRC. Bob willed his estate to The Nature Conservancy and, in recognition of his long-time service to Yellowstone, we thought it would be very fitting to collect contributions from interested park staff and make a donation in Bob's name to The Nature Conservancy. If you are interested in contributing, please send a check to Colleen Curry at the HRC (you can make the check out to either her or The Nature Conservancy) by Friday, February 8.

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**The Yellowstone Bird Program** would like to extend a warm **thank you** to everyone who participated in the 2013 Mid-winter Bald and Golden Eagle Survey on January 12th and 19th. During the count, 28 volunteers surveyed 220 miles of riparian habitat in and around Yellowstone observing eagles and other raptors. In all, volunteers counted 53 eagles (35 bald eagles; 15 golden eagles; 3 unidentified eagles). Six of the bald eagles were observed in the park. They were found along the Madison R., Lamar/Soda Butte area, and Gibbon Meadows. The remaining 29 bald eagles were observed north of the park, mainly in the Paradise Valley. Four of the golden eagles were observed in the park between Mammoth and Cooke City and one at Old Faithful. A northern harrier was spotted in Lamar Valley. In the Paradise Valley, several rough-legged hawks, a red-tailed hawk and American kestrel were noted. Fewer bald eagles were observed in the park this year than in the past, but similar numbers of golden eagles were seen in the park. Variability from year to year is expected since this survey is typically done on just one day during the winter. Only with long-term surveys will we be able to determine trends in Yellowstone's winter eagle population.

Thanks again to all who participated:

Shawn Bawden, Eric Bindseil, John Cataldo, Dyane Catford, Beth Coombs, Eleanor Clark, Dennis Clark, Katy Duffy, David Gilbert & Boy Scouts, Temia Keel, Joe Keel, Bianca Klein, Leif Kopietz, Woody Martyn, Molly Moore, Matt Nagel, Barbara O'Grady, Bill Price, Brian Suderman, Jo Suderman, Ginger Townsend, Laurie Tuohy, Darl Williams.

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Six Weeks, February 20-March 27.

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### **Employee Safety Committee-February Wellness Newsletter**

Topics of interest this month: DASH Diet Decoded-dietary approaches to stop hypertension (high blood pressure); LOVE your HEART-at every age (20's-60's); The Skinny on Belly Fat; Top Dollar-Is it time to Refinance?; QuikQuiz: Stress-Myth or Facts?; Better-for-You FATS; Easy Recipe: Salmon-Spinach Frittata; Health Fraud: Get in the know!; Too late for a flu shot?

Employees may access the February edition of the Wellness Newsletter by clicking on the website link below OR by going to the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site where this and all previous editions are saved as pdf documents. Please print and share this information with your family.

Website:<http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/Login.aspx?login=yellowstone&password=healthy95&issue=549>

Sharepoint site: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Health and Wellness Information, folder Personal Best Documents, folder 2013: Personal Best 4 U Newsletter February 2013

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Here's to your health!

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The 2012-13 Winter Employee Photo Contest is coming up! Categories are Scenic, Wildlife and People and you may only turn one picture in for each category. The deadline to turn your photos in is Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Photos will be displayed for employee judging in the Mammoth EDR and the Old Faithful Employee Pub. Those dates will be announced later. Blank entry forms are in an envelope outside the Parkwide Recreation Office

2012-13 Winter Staff Shirt Sales will be starting Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and will go through Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. You can order a shirt from the Parkwide Recreation Office or you can call Leigh Ann at 344-5225.

There are two more Canyon Coach Trips coming up – one on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and one on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Signups for these trips will begin Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Spaces for non-Xanterra employees are extremely limited!

The BIG GAME will be shown on the BIG SCREEN in the Mammoth Employee Pub on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Watch the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers battle it out for the championship. Pre-game will begin at 3:30 pm.

We have more historical seminars for you! The first will be: *Dashing Through the Snow: A History of Motorized Winter Travel in Yellowstone* presented by Leslie Quinn on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Rec Hall. The second will be: *Yellowstone Then, Yellowstone Now* also presented by Leslie Quinn on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room.

Weekly BINGO continues every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm in the Aspen Upstairs Lobby. It is \$.25/card for each game. Don't miss out on the fun!

Check your location activity calendars posted in the rec hall for more activities.

## **IN THE PRESS**

### **Tribes, bison advocates oppose bison management bill**

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Chronicle, February 1, 2013

[http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/politics/article\\_c036952a-6c2b-11e2-83b3-0019bb2963f4.html?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=bozchron](http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/politics/article_c036952a-6c2b-11e2-83b3-0019bb2963f4.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=bozchron)

HELENA – A Montana Senate bill that would change bison management to allow year-round hunting had wildlife advocates and members of Montana's tribes hinting at legal war if it passed.

On Thursday, Sen. John Brenden, R-Scobey, proposed his third anti-bison bill in as many legislative sessions, and the resistance was as strong as it was in 2009.

Senate Bill 143 would establish a year-round hunting season for bison, allow hunters to buy three bison licenses and prohibit the transportation of bison to any other refuges.

“(Yellowstone National Park) has too many buffalo, and something has to be done,” Brenden told the Senate Fish and Game committee. “You can take the worst rancher and put him in charge of Yellowstone Park and it would be the best-managed because he'd manage for numbers.”

Many of the seven proponents of the bill were familiar to those who followed the recent bison trial in Park County, where a district judge ruled that bison could roam farther outside the park in the winter.

Bill Hoppie, Frank Rigler and Joe Sperano all fought the bison area expansion in Park County and appeared in Helena on Thursday to support Brenden's bill.

“I'm supporting this because I want the right to protect myself. Until politics are taken out of it and the disease is eradicated from Yellowstone,” Hoppie said.

Agriculture groups such as the Montana Stockgrowers Association and the Montana Farm Bureau Federation also supported the bill because cattlemen fear the spread of brucellosis. Bison can carry brucellosis, but in Montana, elk have been responsible for infecting cattle.

But agriculture's support for the bill was not complete.

Department of Livestock director Christian MacKay testified that parts of the bill might put Montana at odds with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, such as a line removing the coordination that Montana maintains with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

“The brucellosis management plan is funded through APHIS, so we could lose money if this bill goes through,” MacKay said.

The majority of the 34 opponents were members of Montana’s Indian tribes who are guaranteed the right to hunt bison under treaties.

McCoy Oatman of the Nez Perce has participated on the Integrated Bison Management Plan and pointed out that the bill is incompatible with the 12-year-old plan.

“This would unravel all our achievements,” Oatman said.

FWP Region 3 director Pat Flowers, another IBMP partner, said the bill would move Montana backward.

He said Montana had a bison hunt like what the bill proposes in the late ‘80s. But public outcry, both national and international, prompted the 1991 Legislature to take away FWP’s authority to offer the hunt.

“This would be a step back toward what we walked away from,” Flowers said. “The IBMP is meeting its goals – don’t erode the steps we have made.”

The chairman gaveled down Bozeman resident Glenn Monahan, but not before Monahan described all the work that the Citizen’s Bison Working Group had done to build a compromise.

“This bill is a slap in the face of 40 Montanans who invested a lot of energy to come up with an equitable plan,” Monahan said.

Robert Magnan, Fort Peck Fish and Game director, invited Brenden, who represents part of Fort Peck, to work something out with the tribe instead of writing laws.

Magnan manages the only wild bison to be transferred out of Yellowstone National Park and would like to be able to get more than the 63 bison that were shipped last year.

“With all the fears, nothing has happened. We didn’t need a wall of China,” Magnan said.

In 2011, Brendan’s bill passed the Senate but died in the House Fish and Wildlife Committee. This year, because Brenden is the chair of the Senate Fish and Game Committee, it may again pass out of committee and through the Senate.

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### **Federal officials propose endangered species protection for wolverine**

Associated Press, February 1, 2013

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/federal-officials-propose-endangered-species-protection-for-wolverine/article\\_ce7190a2-62f5-5749-84c0-a2ed790a8260.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/federal-officials-propose-endangered-species-protection-for-wolverine/article_ce7190a2-62f5-5749-84c0-a2ed790a8260.html)

The tenacious wolverine, a snow-loving carnivore sometimes called the "mountain devil," is being added to the list of species threatened by climate change — a dubious distinction that puts it in the ranks of the polar bear and several other animals that could see their habitats shrink drastically due to warming temperatures.

Federal wildlife officials on Friday will propose Endangered Species Act protections for the wolverine in the lower 48 states, a step twice denied under the Bush administration.

The Associated Press obtained details of the government's long-awaited ruling on the rare and elusive animal in advance of Friday's announcement.

There are only 250 to 300 wolverines in the contiguous U.S., clustered into small, isolated groups primarily in the Northern Rockies of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington. Larger populations persist in Alaska and Canada.

Maxing out at 40 pounds and tough enough to stand up to grizzly bears, the animals will be no match for anticipated declines in deep mountain snows that female wolverines need to establish dens and raise their young, scientists said.

Yet because that habitat loss could take decades to unfold, federal wildlife officials said there's still time to bolster the population, including by reintroducing them to the high mountains of Colorado.

Wildlife advocates, who sued to force the government to act on the issue, said they hope the animal's plight will be used by the Obama administration to leverage tighter restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions. As with the polar bear, the government could sidestep that thorny proposition by not addressing threats outside the wolverine's immediate range.

But a special rule proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service would allow Colorado's wildlife agency to reintroduce an experimental population of the animals that eventually could spill into neighboring portions of New Mexico and Wyoming.

Federal officials also want to shut down wolverine trapping in Montana, the only one of the lower 48 states where the practice is still allowed.

In recent years, Montana wildlife officials have waged court battles against environmentalists who want to stop trapping. If Friday's proposal goes through after a public comment period, wolverine trapping would be banned.

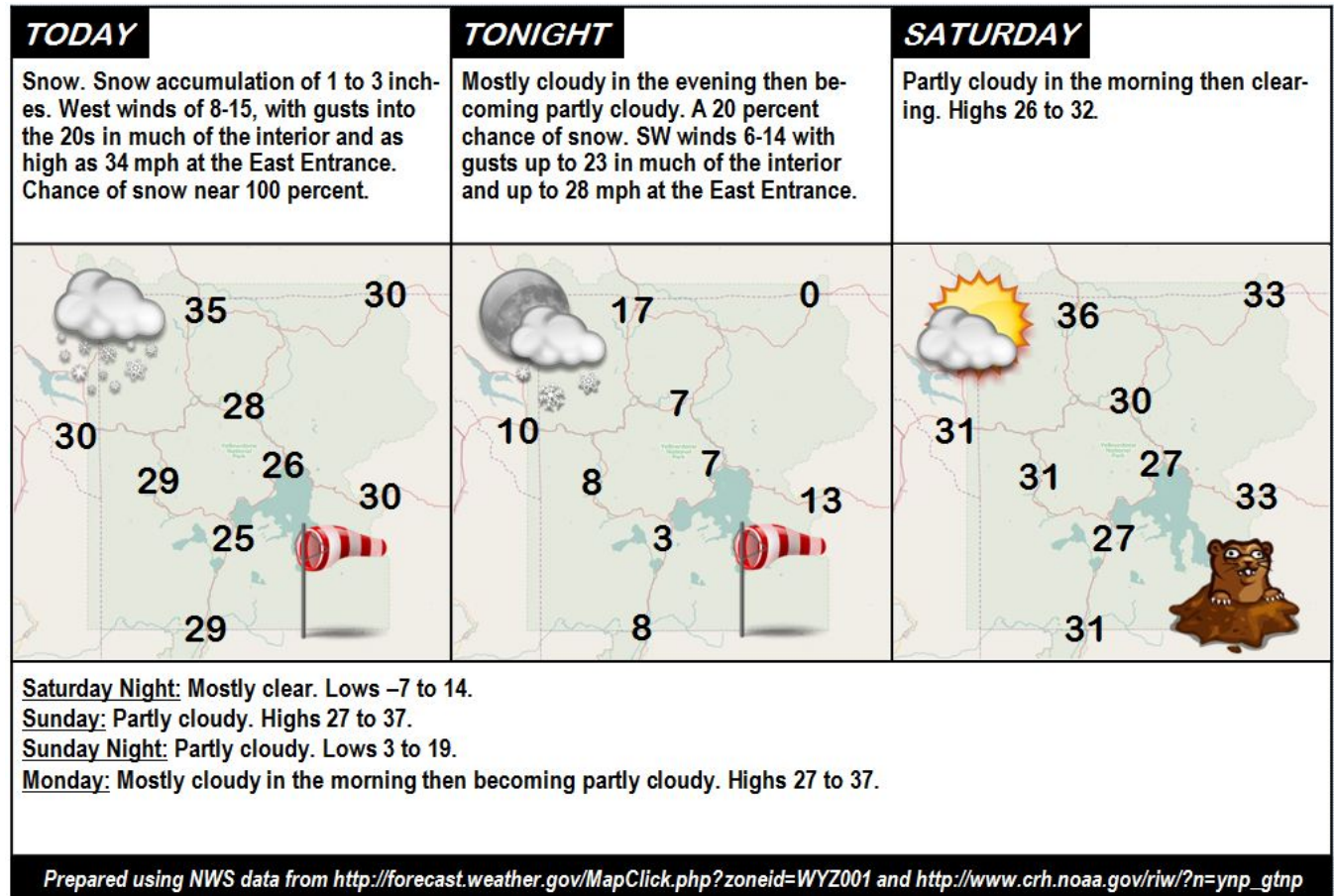
Federal officials said other human activities — from snowmobiling and skiing to infrastructure development and transportation corridors — are not significant threats to wolverines and would not be curtailed under Friday's proposal.

Once found throughout the Rocky Mountains and in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range, wolverines were wiped out across the Lower 48 by the 1930s due to unregulated trapping and poisoning campaigns, said Bob Inman, a wolverine researcher with the Wildlife Conservation Society.

In the decades since, they've largely recovered in the Northern Rockies but not in other parts of their historical range, he said.

## **WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**



## **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](mailto: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>

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Monday, February 4, 2013



**Gardiner High School's Speech, Drama & Debate Team takes First in State**

Led by Christina Cote and Paul Condon with assistance from Jesse Haas, Kate Curtis and Jack McAllister.

Individual results:

Rose Cote & Anna Gruber  
Laura Brown  
Taylor Perius  
Anna Reid  
Elizabeth Curtis & Nick Johnson  
Alex Herring & Jay Bueter  
Rhiana Peck  
Paul Helfrich & Zac Macy  
Megan Zapata & Cara Cunningham  
Mazzy Chase & Elizabeth Hecker  
Tristan Rhodes  
Gabriella Gilbert  
Drew Bierle  
Celesta Kneeland & Emalee Leafy  
Taylor Swainson & Olivia Reid  
Olivia Cretella

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Policy Debate            | STATE CHAMPIONS |
| Original Oratory         | STATE CHAMPION  |
| Pantomime                | STATE CHAMPION  |
| Lincoln-Douglas Debate   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Classical Duo            | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Policy Debate            | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Extemporaneous           | 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| Classical Duo            | 7 <sup>th</sup> |
| Serious Duo              | 7 <sup>th</sup> |
| Serious Duo              | 8 <sup>th</sup> |
| Expository               | Semi Finals     |
| Memorized Public Address | Semi Finals     |
| Lincoln Douglas Debate   | 2 Wins          |
| Classical Duo            |                 |
| Policy Debate            |                 |
| Serious Solo             |                 |

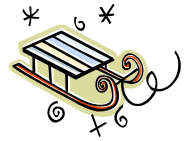
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### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spotlight Sledding & Chili Cook-off** **Tomorrow** at 6 p.m. at the Mammoth Community Center/Dude Hill



Last year this event was a huge hit! An NPS fire engine will light up Dude Hill. Enter the chili contest for \$5 and have a chance to WIN a Carl Sheehan original! We will provide s'more fixin's to roast over 2 bonfires! Kids, bring hotdogs, a roasting stick, and your fastest sled.

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**Partner Yoga Workshop!**

Friday, February 15, 2013

6-8pm at the Studio at Lower Mammoth

\$18/single or \$30/couple

All levels welcome! Mats provided.

Please visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for more information!

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**IN THE PRESS****Looming sequestration threatens national parks budget**

1 hour ago • By KYLE ROERINK Star-Tribune staff writer

[http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/looming-sequestration-threatens-national-parks-budget/article\\_1ea87315-2906-5e92-93d0-45c7cbc3c546.html](http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/looming-sequestration-threatens-national-parks-budget/article_1ea87315-2906-5e92-93d0-45c7cbc3c546.html)

The things people love about Wyoming's national parks — recreation for folks, tourism dollars for businesses and sales tax revenue for state and local governments — are in jeopardy because of the pending federal budget sequestration.

A 5 percent across-the-board budget cut for the country's national parks is an increasing reality as a result of Congress' inability to enact a meaningful deal since the recent 'fiscal cliff' crisis. Due to the inaction, the \$1.2 trillion in cuts known as sequestration are likely to occur March 1. It will mean a \$160 million bite out of the total national parks budget.

Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and Devils Tower National Monument, for example, would be affected. Staff size would decrease, park seasons would shorten and the natural resources preserved by parks would be in jeopardy, said Joan Anzelmo, former superintendent of the Colorado Monument and "member of the coalition of the national park service retirees."

"The mood in the parks is that employees are scared," she said. "They may be furloughed for a long period of time."

The fiscal cliff deal on Jan. 1 and Congress' decision last week to raise the debt ceiling as a means for Republicans to leverage deep cuts were disappointing, said John Garder, budget and appropriations legislative representative for the National Parks Conservation Association. The group lobbies on behalf of the country's national parks.

"We knew there would be more threats to Park Service funding and the debt ceiling deal last week put increased pressure on cuts," he said. "Now we're looking at the likelihood of a sequester starting March 1."

Cutting funding to national parks won't help increase economic growth either, Garder said Friday on his way to a meeting at the White House.

"Part of the importance of deficit reduction is the importance of bolstering the economy and ensuring the economic recovery," he said. "So these kind of mindless across-the-board cuts are going to have a very real impact on jobs."

Garder said Congress gets quite a bang for its buck with the park system. The budget is \$2 billion and the nation receives a \$31 billion annual return on its investment along with 258,000 jobs per year.

National parks are the economic engine for northwest Wyoming, said Jeff Golightly, executive director of the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce. With 88 percent of people driving through Jackson as a way to get to Yellowstone or Grand Teton national parks, every day counts, he said.

"If a season is 20 weeks, and one week is lost, that equates to a loss of 5 percent of revenue," he said.

#### Money at stake

In 2012, 8.67 million overnight visitors spent \$3.1 billion on food, gas, hotels and other goods in Wyoming, said Diane Shober, director of the Wyoming Office of Tourism.

Tourism is the state's No. 2 revenue earner, Shober said.

“The numbers were up 7.6 percent in 2011,” she said. “We were back where we were in 2008 [before the Great Recession] and we exceeded it.”

But with the threat of sequestration looming, Shober is less optimistic about 2013.

“If they sequester, it will definitely affect what happens in Wyoming,” she said.

The threat of losing park funding puts the Wyoming congressional delegation in a tricky position. Eliminating the drivers of the nation’s debt is the goal of Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo. And reaching a deal that reduces the debt will require some tough decisions on her behalf.

“If sequestration goes into effect then I will evaluate the competing demands of federal funding for parks, the military and otherwise vs. the fiscal and moral crisis that is our \$16 trillion dollar debt,” Lummis said in a statement to the Star-Tribune.

Lummis was sure that the \$1.2 trillion in cuts would occur after Congress increased the borrowing limit more than a week ago.

“When they start cutting an agency like the National Park Service, they don’t realize they’re cutting a revenue generator,” Anzelmo, the former national park superintendent, said. “To do the across-the-board slashing without the careful evaluation of a ripple effect is staggering. The private sector is going to be incredibly affected by the National Park Service.”

Money already lost

Sequestration has already cost the parks money. Anzelmo estimates that the speculative planning for sequestration has cost the nation’s 325 national parks more than \$3 million.

“It could go higher depending on what’s required of the parks in the coming weeks,” she said.

A deal to avert sequestration is the only chance of avoiding the cuts, Garder said. And with the recent history of the back-door, last-minute deals between some members of Congress and President Barack Obama, he said he doesn’t hold out much hope. Many in Washington are pondering whether there will be a government shutdown similar to the one in 1995-1996.

“The issue over sequestration and spending cuts are worthy of criticism,” Daniel Patrick Head, spokesman for Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., said in a statement to the Star-Tribune. “They are the result of a few people behind closed doors making decisions for the 500-plus members of Congress. If bills went through the committee process and followed regular order, there would be less deal-making and more legislating, allowing every member to have their voice heard.”

To make matters more complicated, the National Park Service is under a gag order. No one is sure whether it came from the Department of the Interior or from the Office of Budget and Management. Many superintendents and other park officials want to speak out, but can’t.

Yellowstone became the first national park in 1872.

“If we were depending on today’s Congress, they would not have the foresight to see this incredible, inherent value in the parks,” Anzelmo said. “The resources the park set aside to protect will be at high risk if sequestration goes through.”

### **THREATENED, OR NOT?**

#### **Researchers seek more data on role of whitebark pine in grizzly country**

February 02, 2013 12:00 am • [YellowstoneGate.com](http://YellowstoneGate.com)

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/researchers-seek-more-data-on-role-of-whitebark-pine-in/article\\_247bc92b-76d7-5316-827e-bba128922be0.html#ixzz2Jwf1AZqD](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/researchers-seek-more-data-on-role-of-whitebark-pine-in/article_247bc92b-76d7-5316-827e-bba128922be0.html#ixzz2Jwf1AZqD)

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. — In the ongoing deliberations over federal protections for Yellowstone-area grizzly bears, debate often focuses on a fixed number of total bears living in the region.

Counting bears — or more appropriately, estimating grizzly bear populations—is essential to helping determine when government recovery goals have been met. But just as important is tracking trends in population changes, and trying to determine the causes of those changes.

It’s the latter part of that task — figuring out why growth in grizzly bear populations is slowing or has flattened — that will prove critical in addressing concerns raised by environmentalists and federal courts the next time wildlife managers seek to remove grizzlies as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

“One of the issues that remains to be resolved is the potential impact of whitebark pine on populations,” said Frank T. van Manen, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Federal courts have ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not fully consider dwindling whitebark pine numbers when the agency sought to drop grizzlies from the threatened list. Whitebark pine trees are dying at alarming rates across the region, and bears rely on their seeds as an important late-season food.

“You can’t look at whitebark pine in isolation. There are a lot of other important resources that bears use,” van Manen said in October during the Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

A recent study by van Manen and other members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team looked at why growth in overall grizzly populations is slowing, or even has stalled in some areas. The slowing growth rate has generally coincided with rising mountain pine beetle infestations and whitebark pine losses. But it also has aligned with rising grizzly population densities inside the core recovery zone.

“Is this resource-driven or are there also density-dependent effects going on?” van Amen said.

Researchers compared changes in bear populations from 1983 to 2001 against the same metrics from 2002 to 2011. They focused on where the bears lived, how many cubs were produced and the causes of bear mortality.

In the 1980s and 1990s, most of the growth in grizzly populations came outside of Yellowstone National Park, but inside the recovery zone, an adjacent area where management efforts focus on mitigating bear-human conflicts and protecting critical habitat.

In more recent years, growth rates outside the recovery zone are catching up, “so things have equalized across the system,” van Amen said.

“There simply are a lot more bears spending time outside the recovery zone,” van Amen said. “Bears are now occupying a lot of the suitable habitat in the ecosystem. There’s probably still some room for expansion in the Wind River and Wyoming Range, but it’s getting to the point where the ecosystem is becoming saturated.”

Bears outside of the park and recovery zone are still much more likely to die from human-related causes like vehicle accidents or shootings, but the overall proportion of females producing cubs hasn’t changed drastically between the two study periods, van Amen said.

“We were unable to provide conclusive evidence for either density dependence or resource decline because effects on grizzly bear vital rates would be much the same under both scenarios,” van Amen writes in summarizing his results.

Another study in the works will gather more data on the role of whitebark pine seeds as a food source. But what van Amen calls the “ecological plasticity of grizzly bears” — the trait that makes them so surprisingly adaptable in their approach to diet and habitat — also makes them so challenging to study, especially when looking to link cause and effect.

### **Wonderland grandeur: Touring the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone**

By ABBIE TUMBLESON Posted: Friday, February 1, 2013 12:21 pm West Yellowstone News

The grandeur of Yellowstone National Park has long-attracted travelers, photographers, scientists, wanderers and explorers.

Yellowstone takes on a magical appearance during winter with swirly steam rising up from snow-covered thermal features and fumerals, geysers erupting throughout the park and ice and snow-covered bison making their way slowly down the road next to oversnow vehicles.

Visitors can take guided snowmobile or snowcoach tours into Yellowstone through March 15 this season for a unique experience of Wonderland in winter.

Many tour groups visit Old Faithful and the stops along the way. But, visitors can also venture to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone to view this natural creation. The canyon carves its way through the park for about 20 miles.

Out of the hundreds of waterfalls in the park, three are highlighted on the tour to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

At Gibbon Falls, the 84-foot waterfall tumbles over what remains of the Yellowstone Caldera rim. Visitors can take a short walk from their snowcoach or snowmobile to get a closer view of the snow-covered falls. The rushing waters shape piles of snow along the river.

At 308 feet, the Lower Falls is the tallest waterfall in all of Yellowstone National Park. Lookout Point at the

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is a wonderful spot to view the rushing waters of the Yellowstone River. Visitors have been taking in views of the canyon at this spot since the 1800s.

It's truly an experience all its own to see majestic ice and snow formations and the large cone that forms at the base of the falls.

The shapes created by the flowing river, the green speckles of trees under the stark white blanket of snow and the colorful paint-like markings of the canyon walls take on an entirely different appearance.

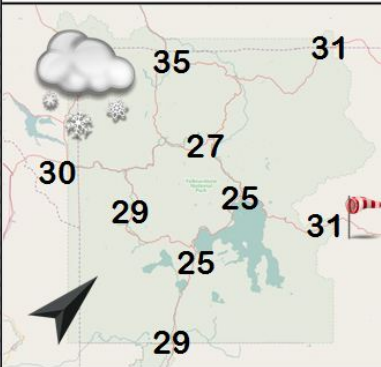
At 108 feet, the smaller Upper Falls is the last of the waterfalls showcased on the tour.

According to the National Park Service, this waterfall was called the "upper falls" for the first time by members of the 1869 Folsom party, who estimated its height at 115 feet.

Wildlife watching is another great part of any tour in the park. Highlights of the Canyon tour can often include otters playing along the Yellowstone River, elk grazing in the meadows and a stop at Norris Geyser Basin. Norris Geyser Basin features breathtaking views of Porcelain Basin and snow ghosts swaying in the wind along the boardwalk.

## **WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

| <b>TODAY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>TONIGHT</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>TUESDAY</b>                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. SW winds 9-16 with gusts as high as 31mph at the East Entrance. Chance of snow 30 percent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. SW winds 6-16 mph in the evening with gust up to 28 mph at the East Entrance. Chance of snow 30 percent. | Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. SW winds 8-16 mph in the afternoon with gusts up to 31 mph at the East Entrance. Chance of snow 20 percent. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                  |                                                                   |
| <p><b>Tuesday Night:</b> Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers. Lows 9 to 20. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.</p> <p><b>Wednesday:</b> Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 23 to 33. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 30 percent.</p> <p><b>Wednesday Night:</b> Colder. Partly cloudy. Lows 1 to 17.</p> <p><b>Thursday:</b> Partly cloudy. Highs 20 to 34.</p> |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                       |
| Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riv/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riv/?n=ynp_gtnp</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                       |

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

**Tuesday, February 5, 2013**

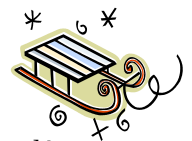
A raccoon is spending the winter on Alum Creek in Hayden Valley. A guided group used a spotting scope to determine what the raccoon is eating: freshwater mussels, which must be the western pearlshell (*Margaritifera falcata*), as it is the only mussel species in the park and it has been found in that area. Guides have also spotted two other raccoons, rarely seen in the park in winter, on the Madison River along the West Entrance road. Photo courtesy of Terry Dolan. (kd)



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spotlight Sledding & Chili Cook-off**  
**TONIGHT** at 6 p.m. at the Mammoth Community Center/Dude Hill



Last year this event was a huge hit! An NPS fire engine will light up Dude Hill. Enter the chili contest for \$5 and have a chance to WIN a Carl Sheehan original! We will provide s'more fixin's to roast over 2 bonfires! Kids, bring hotdogs, a roasting stick, and your fastest sled.

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**FOUND!** A pair of woman's glasses were found at Harold Anderson's retirement party. If they belong to you, please claim them through VSO ext. 2107.

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**Robert W. Flather**, former backcountry ranger and long-time volunteer, passed away on Sunday, January 27, in Santa Barbara, CA. He began working summers in Yellowstone in 1974 and, after retiring, continued to return each summer to volunteer for various programs and projects, including the Fire Cache, GIS, Archeology and the Archives, Library and Museum Collections at the HRC. Bob willed his estate to The Nature Conservancy and, in recognition of his long-time service to Yellowstone, we thought it would be very fitting to collect contributions from interested park staff and make a donation in Bob's name to The Nature Conservancy. If you are interested in contributing, please send a check to Colleen Curry at the HRC (you can make the check out to either her or The Nature Conservancy) by Friday, February 8.

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### **Employee Safety Committee-February Wellness Newsletter**

Topics of interest this month: DASH Diet Decoded-dietary approaches to stop hypertension (high blood pressure); LOVE your HEART-at every age (20's-60's); The Skinny on Belly Fat; Top Dollar-Is it time to Refinance?; QuikQuiz: Stress-Myth or Facts?; Better-for-You FATS; Easy Recipe: Salmon-Spinach Frittata; Health Fraud: Get in the know!; Too late for a flu shot?

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Sharepoint site: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Health and Wellness Information, folder Personal Best Documents, folder 2013: Personal Best 4 U Newsletter February 2013

### **YNP Wellness Incentive Program**

Keep those club certification forms coming in to Stacey Gunther (EmSC Chair). The certification forms are due by **February 5th** for the reporting period of January 1-31 for any employee who participated in any or all of the 5 clubs and met the club goal. Five participants will earn a \$25.00 gift card!!

Here's to your health!

-----

### **Partner Yoga Workshop!**

Friday, February 15, 2013

6-8pm at the Studio at Lower Mammoth

\$18/single or \$30/couple

All levels welcome! Mats provided.

Please visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for more information!

-----

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Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45pm at the Studio in Lower Mammoth

Six Weeks, February 20-March 27.

Cost is \$10 for an individual class or \$55 for all six.

No previous dance experience required. Please dress comfortably in clothing that allows for movement. Ballet slipper or socks are acceptable. Ladies, please make sure that your hair is pulled back off of the neck and out of the face!

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### **Winter Activities Update from the Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Program**

The 2012-13 Winter Employee Photo Contest is coming up! Categories are Scenic, Wildlife and People and you may only turn one picture in for each category. The deadline to turn your photos in is Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Photos will be displayed for employee judging in the Mammoth EDR and the Old Faithful Employee Pub. Those dates will be announced later. Blank entry forms are in an envelope outside the Parkwide Recreation Office

2012-13 Winter Staff Shirt Sales will go through Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. You can order a shirt from the Parkwide Recreation Office or you can call Leigh Ann at 344-5225.

There are two more Canyon Coach Trips coming up – one on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and one on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Spaces for non-Xanterra employees are extremely limited!

We have more historical seminars for you! The first will be: *Dashing Through the Snow: A History of Motorized Winter Travel in Yellowstone* presented by Leslie Quinn on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Rec Hall. The second will be: *Yellowstone Then, Yellowstone Now* also presented by Leslie Quinn on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room.

Weekly BINGO continues every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm in the Aspen Upstairs Lobby. It is \$.25/card for each game. Don't miss out on the fun!

Check your location activity calendars posted in the rec hall for more activities.

### **WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 210 AM MST TUE FEB 5 2013

**Today:** Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Lows 14 to 20.

Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 22 to 28. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 30 percent.

**Wednesday Night:** Colder. Partly cloudy. Lows 5 to 11.

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows 8 to 14.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, February 6, 2013



Sean Heath and his winning platter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



The **MCC 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off** was a toot, I mean a **HOOT!** Congratulations to Sean Heath for his prized chili! Sean won the desired Carl Sheehan original from Firehole Pottery. Dr. Joe Keel won the raffle of a \$75 gift card from Mountain Khaki's. Many thanks to our own Mammoth Fire who lit up the scene with a massive array of lights and everyone who came out for a wonderful evening of community spirit!

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- Be prepared on the scheduled date/time as vendor works fast & can complete the process in a matter of minutes;
- Make sure to have your purchase charge cardholder on-site to provide their card to the vendor to complete the transaction.

This is a wonderful opportunity to clean your stored files with 6 year, 3 month retention requirements (FY06 files now that December is behind us).

-----

HR is pleased to announce that **Rogelio (Roy) Herrera** will be joining the Yellowstone HR Office as a **Recruiting and Staffing Specialist**. Roy has an extensive HR background, having worked over 21 years in the National Park Service at Big Bend, Carlsbad Caverns, and Bandelier National Monument. Additionally, he has several years of experience at the Department of Energy and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Roy possesses a broad range of technical expertise, including recruiting and staffing, classification, position management, employee relations, processing, and workers' compensation.

His first day at Yellowstone will be March 18.

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## **IN THE PRESS**

### **Wildlife bills take aim at bison, wolves**

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Wednesday, February 6, 2013 12:15 am

Bison and wolves will face a little more pressure from hunters if bills by two local legislators are successful. In the House Fish and Game Committee, Rep. Ted Washburn, R-Bozeman, introduced House Bill 328, which would allow Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologists to provide hunters with the general location of bison.

In Montana, hunters can kill bison in two hunting districts: one to the northwest and one to the north of Yellowstone National Park. FWP offers 44 permits annually, with an additional 100 cow permits if warranted by numbers and location.

Washburn said biologists regularly provide such information to hunters for every game species, but a law written in 2003 prohibits it for bison.

"This bill gets the department out of an area where they don't want to be," Washburn said. As a proponent, FWP chief Ken McDonald agreed.

McDonald explained that bison hunts in the late '80s had attracted such negative attention that the Legislature shut them down.

When hunts were again allowed, laws, such as the one Washburn's bill would change, were passed to avoid criticism and ethical concerns with fair chase hunting.

"We're now in our eighth year of hunting bison, and we know they can move two to five miles daily," McDonald said. "There's no ethical reason not to provide their general location. We're not taking hunters to bison and saying, 'Here they are.'"

One of two opponents, Patrick Dougherty of the Bear Creek Council in Gardiner, said hunters shouldn't need such information because bison are big and slow moving.

"If you can't find a bison, you shouldn't need a gun," Dougherty said.

Meanwhile, over in the Senate Fish and Game Committee, Rep. Kelly Flynn, R-Bozeman, had the satisfaction of watching the committee quickly pass his wolf-hunting bill, HB 73.

Flynn carried the bill for the FWP, which had requested adding the use of electronic wolf calls, a reduction in the cost of nonresident wolf licenses and allowing hunters to buy more than one license.

The bill was amended to prohibit the FWP Commission from closing hunting in areas around national parks unless they established a quota for those areas.

With that change, the bill passed the House on Jan. 24 with only three votes opposed.

Flynn made those points to the Senate committee and pointed out it was a bipartisan bill and proposed that a Democrat present the bill on the Senate floor.

“This is a bill that has been supported on both sides as something that will work in the middle,” Flynn said. “It retains the wolf as a valued animal but it gives us the tools to manage it.”

Before the vote, Sen. Fred Thomas, R-Stevensville, said snaring should be added as a tool, but other members said the bill should be passed as is.

With that, they passed the bill unanimously.

Flynn said Sen. Mike Phillips, D-Bozeman, had agreed to carry the bill, but Chair John Brenden insisted that he would carry the bill to the floor this week.

### **Teton wolverine study key in move to protect**

#### **Research confirmed low numbers of elusive high-altitude mammal**

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyo. February 6, 2013

A decadelong study on Teton Range wolverines helped provide the groundwork for U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s proposal to grant the mustelid Endangered Species Act protection.

For years, biologists and conservationists fighting to establish federal protection for wolverines were stymied by a lack of basic knowledge about the elusive member of the weasel family. Information on home range size, movements, social structure, population density and dispersal tendencies was absent or minimal, said Bob Inman, a carnivore biologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The paucity of data was particularly acute in the Lower 48, inhabited by just 250 to 300 wolverines. A study Inman headed that focused on animals in the Teton and Madison ranges of Wyoming and Montana filled in many of those blanks.

“People had done studies in Alaska and the far north,” Inman said, “but, we really didn’t know whether wolverines were doing something differently down here.”

On Friday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended listing wolverines as “threatened.” There’s a 90-day comment period before the agency will make a decision.

Climate change a danger

The proposal cites the species' low population density and climate change's potential impacts to its high-elevation habitat as threats. Scientists have found that by 2085, warming and reduced snowpack will cut suitable wolverine habitat in the Lower 48 by nearly two-thirds.

"We certainly learned through the study that this is a species that seems to occupy cold, unproductive habitat," Inman said. "They eke out a living at higher elevations, where there's not a lot of food and deep snow conditions for most of the year."

Researchers participating in the study captured and collared 30 wolverines between January 2001 and February 2008. They found just four adults — two females and two males — regularly inhabiting the Tetons.

"The population is probably between four and seven individuals, depending on whether there's young that year," Inman said.

The biologists also learned about the extreme distances over which wolverines disperse and how they move around their massive home ranges. Home ranges for females studied averaged 117 square miles, and males averaged 308 square miles, the study said.

Inman told a story about a young male wolverine collared near Jackson in 2002.

"We put a GPS collar on him and released him there in the Tetons, and he just disappeared," he said. "Eventually, he came back to the Tetons and dropped his collar, and we found it. He went down to Pocatello, Idaho, and back to the Tetons in three weeks. It really opened our eyes to how these animals can travel unbelievable distances in a short amount of time."

Later in its life, the same male wandered into the Wind and Salt river ranges, Inman said. In 2009, another male Inman's team collared near Togwotee Pass ventured all the way to Colorado. The species hadn't been documented in that state in almost a century, he said.

Wolverines were extirpated from Wyoming and most of the contiguous United States by the 1930s.

#### Species reoccupying range

Despite some individuals' prolific travels, the tenacious 17- to 40-pound mustelid is just now reoccupying much of its former range. The southern edge of the reoccupation of the Rockies is unknown but likely in the realm of Jackson Hole, Inman said.

"If all of the Greater Yellowstone Area was occupied, we might have maybe 100 wolverines," he said. "But, that's not enough to be a viable population."

A separate Fish and Wildlife proposal announced Friday allows Colorado's wildlife agency to transplant an experimental population of wolverines. Colorado has enough high-mountain terrain to support up to 100 animals, the proposal said.

Although modeling suggests that prime habitat exists, wolverine occupation of the Wind River, Gros Ventre, Wyoming, Salt, Bighorn and Absaroka ranges is unknown, Inman said.

Wyoming officials are not considering similar efforts to speed re-establishment of wolverines in former haunts, said Bob Lanka, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's supervisor of biological services.

"We have observations of wolverines in the Big Horns, but not breeding populations," Lanka said. "We have not

had any specific conversations about possibly reintroducing them, but that may be something that we consider in the future.”

Game and Fish is reviewing the federal proposal and will submit formal comments, Lanka said. Wolverines’ potential “threatened” status would likely not have much impact on hunting regulations, oil and gas development or recreational access, he said.

“This species is extremely low density,” he said. “Because of their extreme habitat ... these are places where we’re not doing a whole lot of exploration for oil and gas.”

## **WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 230 AM MST WED FEB 6 2013

**Today:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 4 to 10. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening becoming south around 15 mph early in the morning.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows 7 to 13. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 24 to 30.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, February 7, 2013



**Nick Ricardi** of the Mammoth Carpenter Shop, received his **30-Year Length of Service** award from Superintendent Wenk at Tuesday's Squad meeting. **Congratulations Nick!**

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**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 212 AM MST THU FEB 7 2013

**Today:** Partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32. South winds around 15 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 8 to 14.

**Friday:** Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 27 to 33. Chance of snow 40 percent.

**Friday Night:** Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 9 to 15. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of snow. Lows 4 to 10.

## **WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, February 8, 2013

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Ladies:** watch this short, entertaining and (most importantly) **INFORMATIVE** video about the signs and symptoms of a heart attack.

<http://www.surreywellness.com/chiropractic/go-for-red>

From the Employee Safety Committee

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**FOUND!** A pair of woman's glasses were found at Harold Anderson's retirement party. If they belong to you, please claim them through VSO ext. 2107.

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**DON'T FORGET!** Today is the last day to donate in the memory of **Robert W. Flather** to The Nature Conservancy. If you are interested in contributing, please send a check to Colleen Curry at the HRC (you can make the check out to either her or The Nature Conservancy) by **TODAY**, February 8.

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**Employee Safety Committee-February Wellness Newsletter**

Topics of interest this month: DASH Diet Decoded-dietary approaches to stop hypertension (high blood pressure); LOVE your HEART-at every age (20's-60's); The Skinny on Belly Fat; Top Dollar-Is it time to Refinance?; QuikQuiz: Stress-Myth or Facts?; Better-for-You FATS; Easy Recipe: Salmon-Spinach Frittata; Health Fraud: Get in the know!; Too late for a flu shot?

Employees may access the February edition of the Wellness Newsletter by clicking on the website link below OR by going to the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site where this and all previous editions are saved as pdf documents. Please print and share this information with your family.

Website:<http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/Login.aspx?login=yellowstone&password=healthy95&issue=549>

Sharepoint site: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Health and Wellness Information, folder Personal Best Documents, folder 2013: Personal Best 4 U Newsletter February 2013

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Friday, February 15, 2013

6-8pm at the Studio at Lower Mammoth

\$18/single or \$30/couple

All levels welcome! Mats provided.

Please visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for more information!

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Six Weeks, February 20-March 27.

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**WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

| TODAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | TONIGHT                                                                                                                                                                                | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Chance of snow 40 percent. Accumulation of less than one inch.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Breezy. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow with accumulation of one-half inch or less. Northeast winds 6 to 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph in the late evening and overnight.</p> | <p>Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow with less than one-half inch accumulation. Northeast winds around 15 mph and gusts into the 20s until late afternoon.</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                      |                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Saturday Night:</b> Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 to 15. North winds around 15 mph in the evening.</p> <p><b>Sunday:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 15 to 25.</p> <p><b>Sunday Night:</b> Colder. Partly cloudy. Lows 14 below to 3 above zero.</p> <p><b>Monday:</b> Partly cloudy. Highs 17 to 26.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp</a></p>                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                             |

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Recycling Program

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**Employee Safety Committee-Wellness**

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the month of January. Names have been drawn from among those who participated in each of the 5 clubs. The following employees will receive a \$25.00 gift card (or non-monetary award for VIP's) for their participation.

Club #1 (Aerobic Exercise): John Cataldo, RVP

Club #2 (Strength Training/Flexibility): Molly Moore, REYP

Club #3 (Healthy Stress Reduction): Phil Doepke, YCR

Club #4 (Healthy Nutrition): Amy Bartlett, Supt. Division

Club #5 (Lifestyle Choices): Phil Doepke, YCR

All employees are encouraged to participate in the Wellness Incentive Program (WIP). Full program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. Certification forms for the month of February are due to Stacey Gunther by March 5th.

Ever wonder **how many steps Jane Olson** takes in a **DAY** keeping Supply Center up and running? Well, she averages around 17,000 steps a day. The most steps she took in one day in January: **26,509!** Nice work Jane and thanks for participating in the Wellness Incentive Program.

Here's to your health!

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## **IN THE PRESS**

### **Yellowstone Association teaches in nature's classroom**

February 10, 2013 8:00 am • By Martin Kidston [Missoulia](#)

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK** — The drama plays out over a distance of miles under a veil of gray winter light, out in a vast and frozen landscape near the confluence of Hellroaring Creek and the Yellowstone River.

The alpha female of the Junction Butte wolf pack has collapsed in the snow. A crowd of visitors from around the world studies her up-and-down struggles through Bushnell spotting scopes and faraway stares.

“It’s kind of sad,” said Conley Armstrong, a student from Casper, Wyo., along for an educational tour with the Yellowstone Association. “But it’s cool to see how the packs live and if a wolf gets sick, what happens to them.”

Even for a well-equipped photographer sporting a telephoto lens with an extender, the pack and its interactions with its wounded leader prove too distant to capture on film. The plight of the alpha female and the future of her pack would spread across the park’s northern tier like a winter squall — nature unfolding in the moment.

Tracey Heath and Maria Bisso of the Yellowstone Association leave the wolves and the crowded Hellroaring overlook for quieter vistas. Travel through Yellowstone by wheeled vehicle is limited this time of year, but there’s plenty to experience in the park’s northern valleys and their yawning sagebrush steppes.

Heath drives past Tower Junction and heads north into a rocky canyon, looking for eagles and moose. But it’s a coyote that catches her eye. It’s neck-deep in the frozen carcass of a bull elk, and it’s tugging mightily at scraps of flesh.

The elk met its end among these polished rocks over the weekend, Heath said. All antlers and hide and protruding ribs, the carcass serves as an easy feast for ravens, magpies and that hungry coyote.

“I saw him sitting here two days ago,” Heath said of the elk. “It was Saturday and he was lying down in the sun. It’s where he died.”

When her van is full of clients from distant countries and American cities, Heath describes this region as the Serengeti of North America. Those who frequent Yellowstone National Park know the reasons why — the ecological balance, the abundance of wildlife roaming free in a landscape larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined.

Spanning more than 3,472 square miles, Yellowstone is hailed as the United States’ first national park – a system often lauded as America’s best idea. The park is home to 67 mammalian species, 16 different fish, six reptiles, four amphibians and 322 species of birds.

The region also claims a rich human history reaching back 12,000 years. Among them were the Sheepeaters, a group of Shoshone who preferred dogs over horses when navigating Yellowstone's rugged landscape. Twenty-six tribes claim some historic connection to the park. The Nez Perce crossed these hills and valleys on their flight from the U.S. Army in the 1870s.

Today at least, the February sun breaks in golden patches over the Lamar Valley, but the river is frozen and covered in snow, creating a stark white tundra sweeping uninterrupted to the mountains above.

It's easy to imagine the West as looking much like this before the arrival of European settlers and the industrial age – back when the Sheepeaters lived in harmony with the land. Outside of Montana and Wyoming, in the lower 48 states, there are few places as pristine as Lamar, where nature plays out free from mankind's meddling hand and ever-changing politics.

It was here in the vicinity of the Lamar Valley in 1995 that scientists released 14 Canadian wolves, marking a triumphant moment in the Northern Rockies and one that punctuated 25 years of research, planning and debate.

Wolves had vanished from the region by the 1920s under an aggressive extermination effort. They've made a comeback to the delight of visitors, some who cross oceans to catch a glimpse of a wolf roaming its natural environment.

But lesser known to visitors, Heath believes, was the plight of the park's bison and their own remarkable comeback. They were hunted to near extinction and faced a future as uncertain as the wolf before reintroduction efforts began more than a century ago to restore their population.

Heath recounts the bison's complicated history while pulling into the Buffalo Ranch, where an effort to restore the population began in 1907. When the operation opened that year, the North American bison had been cut from 60 million animals to fewer than 1,000. Only 23 bison remained in Yellowstone by 1907, and most of them were in the Pelican Valley.

Bonnie Quinn, the Yellowstone Association's campus manager at the Buffalo Ranch, greets Heath and Bisso at the historic bunkhouse. She might be described as the local wrangler who keeps people and classes running on schedule.

"The park's bison population was down to two dozen animals by the early 1900s," Quinn said. "A project to bring them back was started over in Mammoth, but it grew too large, so they moved it over here."

From 1907 to 1952, the Buffalo Ranch operated much like a domestic cattle ranch. Animals were shipped in from Texas and northern Montana – bison of the same species, Quinn said.

The new arrivals bred with Yellowstone's remaining bison. By 1936, animals from the Lamar herd were moved to the Firehole River region and the Hayden Valley. More than 1,400 bison roamed the park by the late 1950s, a tribute to the program's success.

While controversy still follows the bison each winter when the animals leave the snowbound park for greener pastures near Gardiner, their namesake ranch has found a different mission, one rooted in history and education.

"The bunkhouse was built in late 1920s, and the cabin was at Soda Butte Creek and used as a patrol cabin before it was brought on site," Quinn said. "The other cabin was the original buffalo keeper's building."

One historic cabin now houses the backcountry ranger. The windshield wipers of a truck parked out front are raised to keep them from freezing to the glass, a testament to the park's unpredictable winter weather.

Inside the bunkhouse, volunteers with the Yellowstone Association tend to guests sitting for a well-deserved lunch. It's warm in here, out of the cold and wind. The smaller, newer cabins scattered along the corral serve as overnight quarters, and the Lamar Valley serves as their classroom.

"We have a four-month summer and five-month winter schedule, and when we're not here, the National Park Service runs a kids' program for fourth- to eighth-graders," Quinn said. "This ranch is used year-round as a residential educational facility."

The Yellowstone Association has served as the park's official educational partner since 1933, connecting visitors from around the world with Yellowstone's natural wonders. The programs include youth outings, private tours and field seminars, with topics ranging from wildlife studies to nature writing and geology.

Back in Gardiner, where the association is based in the shadows of Roosevelt Arch, Daniel Bierschwale pulls on a jacket and speaks proudly of the organization's nonprofit status. With 35,000 members worldwide, the association has provided more than \$31 million in aid to Yellowstone over the last 80 years.

"Fifteen percent of our gross proceeds from the sale of educational materials and course offerings goes back to support the Park Service and its educational mission," said Bierschwale, who serves as the association's director of sales and marketing. "We also help fund research projects through the Yellowstone Center for Resources."

In recent years, much of the association's support has gone to produce new exhibits and interpretive displays at the Canyon and Albright visitor education centers. A new film on Yellowstone's history is under way, and roadside markers are being updated with new and current park information.

On the research side, more than 18,000 slides in the park's photo files will be converted to digital format, allowing for web-based study. Bierschwale said funding also supports the Yellowstone Research Library and its 10,000 titles, which include rare books, documents and historic photos.

But it's out in the field where the coyote dines, where the Junction Butte pack searches for direction and where the bison graze in vast numbers, that the association has built its name and places its reputation.

The winter and summer courses offered by the association rival those at large universities. Noted naturalists, artists and biologists, including noted wolf biologist Doug Smith, log roughly 7,000 contact hours each year to help visitors understand the complicated nuances of the park and the creatures that call it home.

"If it has to do with Yellowstone, we teach a class on it," Bierschwale said. "We really believe that through education, we can help inspire visitors to Yellowstone National Park, and hopefully build an emotional connection to the resource."

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-association-teaches-in-nature-s-classroom/article\\_7f9a2f95-0e74-5df8-b551-c97fc2976aa6.html#ixzz2KbwD2T74](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-association-teaches-in-nature-s-classroom/article_7f9a2f95-0e74-5df8-b551-c97fc2976aa6.html#ixzz2KbwD2T74)

**Sale of fixed-up former Yellowstone soldier cabin attracts widespread interest**

February 09, 2013 12:00 am • By Ruffin Prevost YellowstoneGate.com

When soldiers from the U.S. Army were assigned to protect the wildlife and resources of Yellowstone National Park in the late 1800s, many stayed in primitive cabins that could hardly be considered glamorous — or even quaint. But now one of those cabins is up for sale and attracting widespread interest for its historic charms.

A cabin formerly used by soldiers in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyo., was listed for sale online at an asking price of \$37,500, drawing more than 15,000 views in just a few days.

“As you can imagine, I’ve been inundated,” said Livingston, Mont., real estate broker Bruce Ray, who is selling the cabin for his client, a local craftsman who lovingly rehabilitated the 224-square-foot building.

Unfortunately for Ray, the ad wasn’t entirely clear at first that only the structure was for sale, and that it had to be moved at the buyer’s expense from its current location.

After fielding calls from a nationwide flood of dreamers and Yellowstone fanatics who had wrongly assumed the structure was part of a park-adjacent land parcel, Ray was frustrated but still optimistic that the right buyer would come along soon.

“The gentleman who restored it really did a fabulous job,” Ray said. “It’s so charming. You go in and sit on the porch, and you just feel something about times past that immediately comes over you.”

Those “times past” were before the creation of the National Park Service in 1916, when the Army patrolled Yellowstone to crack down on poachers. In areas like Mammoth and in more remote spots, soldiers built simple, rustic and functional cabins to use during patrols or as regular living quarters.

The structure Ray is selling has been fixed up but not meticulously restored to its original state, he said. Though it is equipped with solar power, the cabin has no plumbing.

The cabin is listed on a website that specializes in so-called “tiny houses,” a modern craftsman movement aimed at building functional, comfortable living spaces in the smallest footprint possible.

“It’s the quintessential Yellowstone take on the tiny house,” he said.

The cabin would hardly seem out of place on any Montana or Idaho ranch, he said, because many old soldier cabins from Yellowstone can still be spotted today in Livingston and the surrounding area.

In fact, three-dozen historic cabins built before the 1940s still stand in Yellowstone Park today, and many are regularly used by park rangers, researchers and others doing work in the backcountry, said Tom Porter, corporate relations manager for the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

Porter said that rehabilitating those historic Yellowstone cabins has been a major initiative over the past four years for the foundation, the park’s official fundraising partner.

“The cabins are an integral part of helping the park execute its mission,” Porter said. “Many people don’t realize the extent to which rangers still use these cabins. And other than the high-tech lithium ion batteries in a ranger’s radio, the technology in the cabins hasn’t evolved much since the early 1900s.”

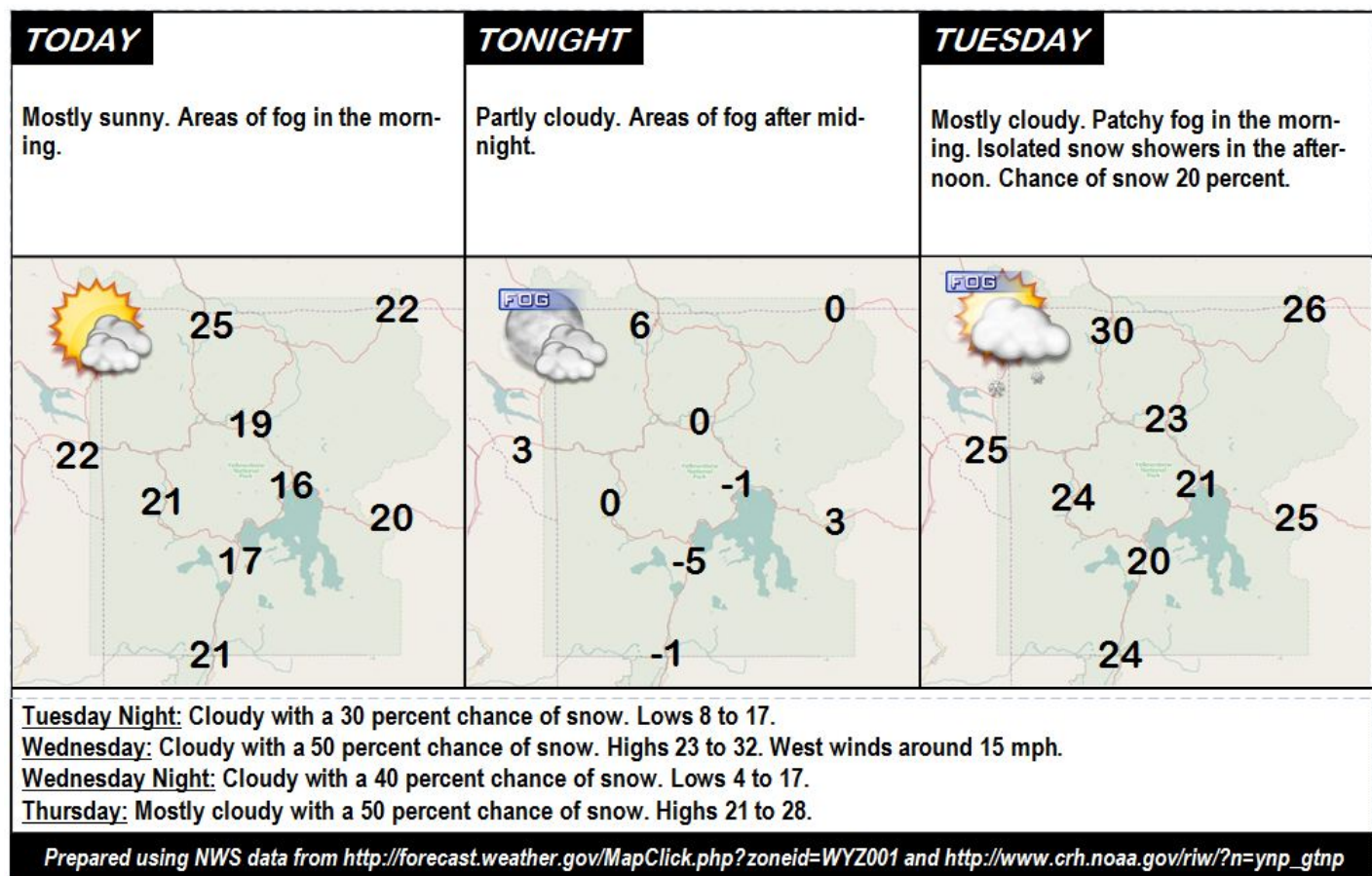
The goal is not to restore the cabins to a state of archaeological accuracy, but to rehabilitate them so they can be maintained regularly and affordably by the National Park Service as part of normal operations, Porter said. But the fix-ups can be costly when work must be done by hand tools, sometimes requiring a pack string or helicopter to move heavy gear to remote spots.

Through an adopt-a-cabin program and other efforts, YPF is currently focusing on funding the rehabilitation of four historic ranger patrol cabins identified by the Park Service. Among those four is the Harebell Patrol Cabin, built along the park's southern boundary by the Army between 1912 and 1920. Another is the Thorofare Patrol Cabin, near the southeast border, one of the most remote occupied dwellings in the contiguous U.S.

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/sale-of-fixed-up-former-yellowstone-soldier-cabin-attracts-widespread/article\\_026c59a8-185d-5033-9aeb-a4603a8a7d1a.html#ixzz2KbxqnyUH](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/sale-of-fixed-up-former-yellowstone-soldier-cabin-attracts-widespread/article_026c59a8-185d-5033-9aeb-a4603a8a7d1a.html#ixzz2KbxqnyUH)

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Tuesday, February 12, 2013

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**Andrea Hannon** will be leaving Yellowstone for her new position as Supervisory Contract Specialist in Glacier, and **Al Barrie** will be taking on a new role in Yellowstone as our new MABO Lead. In celebration of their new endeavors, the Contracting Office will be serving refreshments from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. TODAY. Please join us in congratulating both Andrea and Al on their new positions.

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**Safety Services** are working to put together a power point show for next season's snowmobile training. We are looking for any photos of snowmobile activities within the Park. Your name will be added to the credits at the end of the PPS for your photos if they are used. Please note location where the photo was taken and who the masked employees are as well. Contact the Safety Office for more details.

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The **YFEA coffee pots** are missing from the Canteen kitchen! If you borrowed them, please return them ASAP! Someone else needs to use them.

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- - - - -

**Employee Recreation:** Just a reminder that the Winter Employee Photo Contest Judging will be in the Mammoth Xanterra Employee Dining Room from 11 am – 1 pm on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Stop by to vote for your favorites.

The deadline to buy your 2012-13 Winter Staff Shirts is Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office or call 344-5225 for more information or to order your shirt.

## **IN THE PRESS**

### **Project to improve access to Yellowstone Park through Gardiner entrance**

Martin Kidston, Missoulian, February 12, 2013



GARDINER — Traffic woes and crowding at the first official gateway to the world's original national park could be resolved over the next three years, setting the stage for an anticipated celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.

Designed to streamline access into Yellowstone National Park and its north gate, the project is contingent upon a \$10 million grant from the Federal Lands Access Program.

But the alliance behind the project includes a convincing list of federal, state and local entities, and that has backers feeling optimistic that the Gardiner Gateway Project could become a reality.

"It's a planned and integrated approach on both the Yellowstone side and the Gardiner side to get this done," said Daniel Bierschwale, president of the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce. "There's a bottleneck that occurs here during peak season, and as a community, we want to work with the National Park Service to leverage that work."

As designed by CTA Architects and Engineers, the project would streamline traffic through Gardiner while adding downtown parking, making it easier for visitors to access local businesses. Public restrooms are in the plans, along with sidewalks and signage welcoming visitors to Yellowstone.

On the park side, improvements would include a new road bypassing Roosevelt Arch to keep traffic moving. Additional parking would be included along the original route for those looking to snap an iconic photo of the arch. Improvements to the north entrance fee station also are planned to help handle increased traffic.

"We have all recognized that the current situation doesn't do as good a job as we would like at protecting the resources in that area," said Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash. "It was never designed for the type and amount of traffic we see during peak season. The resulting congestion, confusion and safety concerns warrant a coordinated approach to getting this done."

It was on Yellowstone's north edge, just outside Gardiner, where President Teddy Roosevelt laid the cornerstone for Roosevelt Arch in 1903. President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Act into law 13 years later, preserving a system of parks across the country for "the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

The arch keeps that promise engraved in stone. The words greet tens of thousands of visitors each year as they enter Yellowstone's north gate. But most visitors don't realize that by the time they reach the arch, they've already entered Yellowstone Park.

"The Park Street businesses here in Gardiner literally sit on Yellowstone's northern boundary," said Bierschwale, speaking of the community's downtown row of saddle shops, galleries, bars and cafes. "The boundary runs along this sidewalk, so you have this unique situation where if you step into a business, you step into Montana, but when you walk out the door, you're in Yellowstone."

Bierschwale notes the geological survey marker pinning the park's boundary. Officially surveyed in 1902 – long after Yellowstone was founded in 1872 and James McCartney settled here in 1879 – the marker sits hidden by a concrete sidewalk and a rugged wooden fence outside a local business.

Roosevelt arch rises down the street and the fee station is a distant shadow half a mile down North Entrance Road. It's an arrangement that Cody, West Yellowstone, Jackson and Cooke City – gateway communities in their own right – don't have.

"The town of Gardiner was built in response to the establishment of the park – it didn't predate the park," Nash explained. "Gardiner grew up to serve the mining operations in Jardine and the population that was in the park at the time – the U.S. Army. It was a true frontier town."

In these winter months, Gardiner still resembles a frontier town. Yellowstone's north gate is the park's only gate open to wheeled vehicles arriving from the outside world, and traffic is sparse.

That changes dramatically in May when the snowfields retreat and traffic picks up. Over the past few years, Yellowstone has seen visitation surge to new heights, topping 3.4 million in 2012. More than 648,000 visitors arrived through Gardiner and the north gate last year, the bulk of them between June and September.

Such crowds were never envisioned by early park superintendents, or Gardiner's natal business community. Horses and buggies reigned supreme in Yellowstone's early days, when visitors arrived in Gardiner by train on a Northern Pacific rail cutting south from Livingston.

Motor homes, campers and buses now rule the summer road. The congestion has created conservation worries for park managers and headaches for local entrepreneurs and residents, who have seen traffic back up for a mile outside the north gate as visitors wait to get in.

"That's a visitor experience problem," said Bierschwale. "You have all these people arriving to the world's first national park and the first gateway, and that's what they're arriving to."

Yellowstone set an all-time visitation record of more than 3.6 million people in 2010, equal to the combined populations of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and North Dakota. That year, park officials realized the time for action had come. They began holding public meetings and seeking solutions to resolve the north gate's congestion.

During the process, Gardiner residents and business owners sensed an opportunity to address needed improvements of their own. As the community forged ahead on its Gardiner Gateway Project, the park completed its own North Entrance-Park Street Environmental Assessment Act.

The stars had aligned and last June, roughly 14 stakeholders, including the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Federal Highway Administration and the Montana Governor's Office, among others, formally signed a memorandum of understanding to address the problems.

Gov. Brian Schweitzer said at the time that the project would bring economic benefits to the community. National Park Service architect Joe Regula said the improvements would preserve the gateway's historic atmosphere, taking cues from Roosevelt Arch and other historic buildings.

"We all recognize there are benefits to this," Nash said. "For us, there's a feeling and experience one gets when coming through the park's north entrance, and that's important for us to preserve."

When signing the memorandum, Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk also looked to the years ahead, primarily 2016, when the National Park Service celebrates its 100th year.

Bierschwale said it's not impossible to imagine a "high-ranking" political official stopping in Gardiner and using Roosevelt Arch as a backdrop – as Roosevelt did – to mark the anniversary.

The historic date is on the mind of Gardiner residents and Yellowstone officials alike. Yellowstone was the world's first national park, they proudly note, and it launched a worldwide movement. More than 100 nations contain an estimated 1,200 national parks or equivalent preserves, an idea that started here.

"Yellowstone embodies so much of the history of the National Park Service," said Nash. "This is one of the places where the National Park Service evolved and developed."

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### **Yellowstone Association Offering Full-Tuition Scholarships For Teachers To Attend Field Seminars**

National Parks Traveler, February 12, 2013

Teachers interested in field programs in Yellowstone National Park are being encouraged to apply for full-tuition scholarships to attend Yellowstone Association seminars.

The association's board of directors has approved the use of operating funds to provide full-tuition scholarships for Institute Field Seminars for approximately 50 teachers in 2013.

Teachers made up a significant portion of the seminar audience into the late 1980s and 1990s, said YA Director of Education Jenny Golding. "Then funding for their participation in programs like ours sharply declined. We still feel that field seminars are a great resource for teachers, so we've implemented the new scholarship program to make it possible for them to attend again," she said.

The in-depth information shared in Institute Field Seminars can be incorporated into most subject areas. It's especially beneficial for teachers of biology, geology, history, and art. The Association will provide letters of completion for teachers pursuing continuing education credit, and also plans to offer college credit in the future.

In 2011, the National Park Service issued a **Call to Action** that asked park partner organizations to work alongside NPS staff to ensure that parks are relevant for future generations.

"People have to care about parks in order to protect them," Ms. Golding said. "Unfortunately, younger generations are increasingly disconnected from not only parks but from the natural world. This could become a crisis for the natural places we care about. Providing teacher scholarships is an incredibly efficient use of funds to help connect young people to parks.

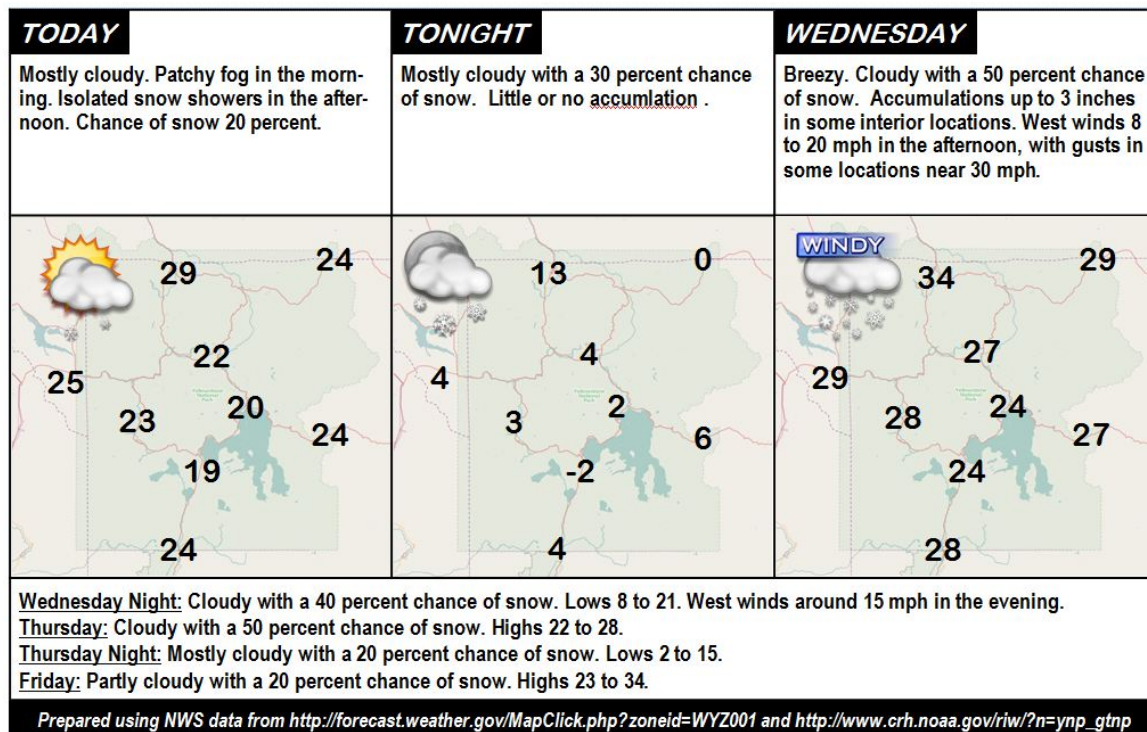
"A teacher can reach hundreds, even thousands, of students in his or her career. That multiplier effect is important. The Yellowstone Association is serious about educating youth, which means we're serious about educating teachers."

The Yellowstone Association will also present three new educational programs for organized middle-school, high-school, and college-age groups this summer, with a new scholarship program available for nonprofit, tax-exempt groups. For more information, please call us at 406-848-2400 or visit the association's website.

Teachers can also visit Yellowstone's website to explore resources offered by the National Park Service specifically for teachers.

## WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.



## 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](mailto:YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov) (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Safety is also working to put together a power point show for next season's snowmobile training. We are looking for any photos of snowmobile actives within the Park. Your name will be added to the credits at the end of the PPS for your photos if they are used. Please note location where the photo was taken and who the masked employees are as well. Contact the Safety Office for more details.

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The **YFEA coffee pots** are missing from the Canteen kitchen! If you borrowed them, please return them ASAP! Someone else needs to use them.

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Finance has ordered "**Tear it Up**" **shred service** for **Wednesday morning, February 13th**. If you're interested in participating, please contact Sue Capasso in Finance beforehand to schedule a time-slot. Finance will start the session @ 8 a.m., and will need to coordinate additional office needs back-to-back. The cost is \$0.19 per pound. You'll need to coordinate your office requirements as follows:

- Each office coordinate hand-off of boxed documents to the vendor (loading dock behind Mammoth Supply Center);
- Prior to shred date, ensure binders, paper clips, other obtrusive objects are removed;
- Be prepared on the scheduled date/time as vendor works fast & can complete the process in a matter of minutes;
- Make sure to have your purchase charge cardholder on-site to provide their card to the vendor to complete the transaction.

This is a wonderful opportunity to clean your stored files with 6 year, 3 month retention requirements (FY06 files now that December is behind us).

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The **Yellowstone Plastics-to-Textile recycling program** is a **finalist** for a national Award. Scroll down to the bottom of the attached article to see the Yellowstone carpet recycle project that Matt Wren and Jim Evanoff were involved with.

#### Recycling Program

- City of San Diego - Water Purification Demonstration Project Outreach Program
- Cone Communications for Nestlé Waters North America - Reinventing Recycling through an Extended Producer Responsibility Model
- TerraCycle, Inc. - TerraCycle Brigade Program
- Universal Textile Technologies - Project Yellowstone

[http://www.prnewsonline.com/free/PR-News-Announces-CSR-Awards-Finalists\\_17662.html](http://www.prnewsonline.com/free/PR-News-Announces-CSR-Awards-Finalists_17662.html)

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All employees are encouraged to participate in the Wellness Incentive Program (WIP). Full program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. Certification forms for the month of February are due to Stacey Gunther by March 5th.

Here's to your health!

- - - - -

#### Partner Yoga Workshop!

Friday, February 15, 2013

6-8pm at the Studio at Lower Mammoth

\$18/single or \$30/couple

All levels welcome! Mats provided.

Please visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for more information!

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**Employee Recreation:** Just a reminder that the Winter Employee Photo Contest Judging will be in the Mammoth Xanterra Employee Dining Room from 11 am – 1 pm on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Stop by to vote for your favorites.

The deadline to buy your 2012-13 Winter Staff Shirts is Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office or call 344-5225 for more information or to order your shirt.

## **IN THE PRESS**

### **Congratulations to Ann Rodman, GIS, for her work on the Atlas of Yellowstone!!**

#### **Yellowstone atlas wins major award**

MSU News Service, February 12, 2013

BOZEMAN - An atlas involving many Montana State University faculty members has won one of the five top awards given by the Association of American Publishers.

The "Atlas of Yellowstone" received the PROSE Award for Excellence in Physical Sciences and Mathematics during a Feb. 7 awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Association of American Publishers has more than 300 members. For this year's competition, 71 publishers nominated 518 books, journals or e-products for awards in 45 categories. The atlas won the Earth Sciences category, then was grouped with other award winners from across the physical sciences and math. The atlas won best book in this broad division.

The 296-page book is the first comprehensive atlas of a U.S. national park. It contains more than 500 maps, photos and charts that cover a wide range of topics. Four themes run throughout the atlas. Three themes emphasize how Yellowstone is constantly changing, the ways that Yellowstone is connected to a broader environment, and the interactions between humans and natural processes. These themes in turn support the fourth theme - the importance of Yellowstone for research, interpretation and education, and inspiring conservation and preservation efforts.

The atlas was produced by the University of Oregon, Yellowstone National Park and their partners. As one of those partners, MSU was a major sponsor of and contributor to the "Atlas of Yellowstone," said senior editor W. Andrew Marcus from the University of Oregon. Participating faculty came from MSU's Institute on Ecosystems, the Department of Earth Sciences, the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, the Thermal Biology Institute, and the Museum of the Rockies.

"Not only did MSU provide financial support, but its faculty deserve a tremendous amount of the credit for the content," Marcus said. "MSU faculty and affiliates guided the content and provided draft text for topics covering history of Yellowstone science, American Indians, land use, population trends, geology, seismicity, geothermal areas, geomorphology, glaciation, fire regimes, dinosaurs and thermophiles.

"The atlas - at least an atlas of this quality - literally would not exist without the strong presence of MSU within its pages." Marcus said.

## **WEATHER**

### **Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

**Today:** Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 4 inches. Highs 22 to 28. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

**Tonight:** Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 8 to 14. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 to 11.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 24 to 30.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 7 to 13.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny. Highs 26 to 32.

### **WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

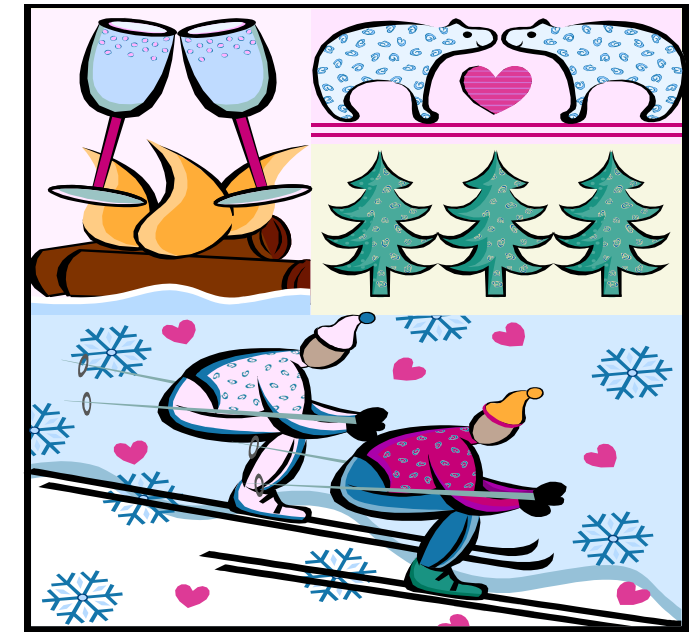
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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, February 14, 2013



Happy Valentine's Day

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**IN THE PRESS**

**'Wolf Man' believes new partners likely come from rival Yellowstone wolf packs**

2 hours ago • By MARTIN KIDSTON Missoulian

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK – Rick McIntyre relates their story through anthropomorphic terms, classics like “Romeo and Juliet,” or ancient tribes from the Old Testament that still don’t get along.

Settled in the distance upon an outcropping of rock, the two wolves could be killed if they’re discovered by rivals. They’re surrounded by opposing packs and, even in this vast and open landscape, eking out a territory of their own won’t be easy.

“For a middle-aged alpha male to leave his territory and look for someone new, he has to trespass into territories of rival packs,” McIntyre said. “So far, (wolf) 755 has been able to get away with that. He’s in better shape now because he has her (wolf 759), and two is better than one.”

McIntyre, a biological technician for the Yellowstone Wolf Project who’s known across the park as the “Wolf Man,” watches the pair interact while speaking his observations into a recording device. If 755 is successful in courting 759, McIntyre believes he’d become the first observed alpha male to leave one pack and successfully start another inside the park.

Watching the wolves’ courtship and knowing their history, it’s easy to see their saga in Shakespearean terms, as McIntyre does. The two wolves hail from rival packs – a rivalry dating back to the wolf’s 1995 reintroduction to Yellowstone Park.

But the story of these two wolves must start in more recent times, when two of 755’s pack members were killed in the recent Wyoming wolf hunt. The deaths included 755’s brother, wolf 754, along with his mate, wolf 832. The loss of the two wolves sent the pack into turmoil and forced 755 into what McIntyre describes as a difficult situation.

“The surviving members of his pack were all his sons and daughters, and wolves have a strong instinct not to breed with close relatives,” McIntyre said. “We’ve had cases like that in the past, where if there’s a longtime breeding pair and one dies, in some cases, the surviving member will resign from the pack and try to start over.”

The original Crystal Creek pack formed in 1995 when wolves were first released in Yellowstone. That initial pack claimed the Lamar Valley, roaming its wide river bottom and sweeping sagebrush steppes.

The following year, McIntyre said, more wolves were released in the park, forming the Druid Peak pack. Since the Crystal Creek wolves had already claimed the Lamar Valley, scientists expected the Druids to establish a territory elsewhere.

“The Druids decided they wanted Lamar Valley, too,” McIntyre said. “They tracked down the Crystal Creek pack and battled them and killed their alpha male. The survivors had to retreat and give up their territory.”

The Crystal Creek wolves retreated 25 miles south and established a new territory in the Pelican Valley. Scientists didn’t believe the pack would survive the park’s harsh interior since elk, their primary food source, leave the valley each winter in a seasonal migration.

But when the snow piled up, the Crystal Creek wolves turned to hunting bison. Their hunts proved successful and they thrived, becoming one of the largest packs in Yellowstone.

Around that time, they also received a name change. They became the Mollie’s Pack in a tribute to Mollie Beattie, the first female director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“She was instrumental in getting wolves back in Yellowstone, helping carry them to the pen, and she died young of cancer,” McIntyre said. “Doug Smith (Yellowstone wolf biologist) renamed them the Mollie’s, and that’s where 759 was born.”

While wolves are now considered recovered in the Northern Rockies of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, it’s here in Yellowstone National Park where scientists continue to study the social behavior within and between packs.

Like a genealogist, McIntyre knows the juicy details of the wolves’ individual lineage and family battles. But while a good deal is known about 759, her potential new mate, 755, is more unknown.

McIntyre believes 755 is more closely related to the original Druid wolves. Wolf 759 stems from the Mollie’s, or the former Crystal Creek pack. That, he said, gives them a background rooted in rivalry, and in the wild – as in literature – that often means death.

“That original incident happened 17 years ago,” McIntyre said, recalling the year the Druids chased off the Crystal Creek wolves. “It’s like the Old Testament, where generations later, the descendents are still in conflict with one another.”

Today at least, the two wolves have the sagebrush steppe and that pile of rock to themselves. McIntyre believes they’re similar in age, and despite the acrimonious history shared by their ancestors, wolf 759 may already be pregnant, and a new chapter in the family saga may be set to begin.

“Other alpha male wolves that have tried to do that, it hasn’t worked out too well for them,” McIntyre said. “In fact, I don’t know of any others that have survived that transition, so 755 may be the first one.”

The new breeding pair may be in luck, though its future as a pack remains uncertain. While 759’s lineage is tied to the Mollie’s and its battles with the Druids ages ago, she may also have relatives in the Junction Butte pack.

The Junction Butte wolves were spotted a few miles west earlier in the day. This is dangerous territory for the new pair, though McIntyre believes that if they did cross paths, the Junction Butte pack may recognize 759 as a sister.

“If she (759) was to encounter them, it may not be a violent encounter,” McIntyre said. “He (755) also would be related to the males in that pack, not too closely, but somewhat. We don’t know how that would work out. If there are adjacent packs related to one another, sometimes that can lessen potential aggression, but not always.”

As for 755’s former pack, that chapter of the story waits to be written. He has six adult daughters in that pack, and McIntyre said they’d all be capable of breeding this month and having pups in April.

Because 755 left his former pack after the death of his companion (wolf 832), it freed his adult daughters to seek outside mates. If 755 were still a member of that pack, McIntyre said, he’d be aggressive to any young males that came courting and he’d try to drive them off.

“With him gone, that opens the door for one or more males to come in, with one of them being the alpha male – the breeding male,” McIntyre said. “When 755 was younger, he was traveling with his brother (754) when they met a female (832). When they started that pack, it was two males and one female, so anything is possible.”

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wolf-man-believes-new-partners-likely-come-from-rival-yellowstone/article\\_14419f5e-feb6-5985-b2de-cbad6f3d8eac.html#ixzz2KtMwC7dZ](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wolf-man-believes-new-partners-likely-come-from-rival-yellowstone/article_14419f5e-feb6-5985-b2de-cbad6f3d8eac.html#ixzz2KtMwC7dZ)

**WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

**NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 532 AM MST THU FEB 14 2013

**Today:** Cloudy. Snow likely early in the morning...then chance of snow in the late morning and afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 19 to 25. Chance of snow 60 percent.

**Tonight:** Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 8 inches. Lows 8 to 14. Chance of snow 60 percent.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 24 to 30.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 7 to 13.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 11 to 17.

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Friday, February 15, 2013

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**IN THE PRESS****House advances anti-bison measure**

Associated Press, February 15, 2013



HELENA — The House is advancing a bill that would let landowners haze or shoot wild bison that come onto their property.

The measure was endorsed Thursday in a 62-38 vote. The state estimates it could lead to the destruction of more than 100 bison a year.

Supporters said it is necessary to give landowners a way of removing wild bison that can injure people and damage property. They said destruction of the bison would be a last resort.

Bison management has long been the focus of conflict, particularly around Yellowstone National Park. Opponents of the bill argued that landowners are not allowed to shoot other game animals. And some Native American lawmakers worried the measure could lead to the destruction of tribal bison that trespass on neighboring land.

**WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

**NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update: 815 AM MST FRI FEB 15 2013**

**Today:** Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated snow showers. Highs 24 to 30.

Chance of snow 20 percent.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 7 to 13.

**Saturday:** Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 11 to 17. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

**Sunday:** Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 19 to 25. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

**Sunday Night:** Colder. Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 4 to 10.

**Washingtons Birthday:** Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 18 to 24.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013**

## **From the Superintendent:**

Many of you have no doubt read or heard a great deal of information circulating in the local and national media about the potential for sequestration of the National Park Service's Fiscal Year 2013 budget on March 1. News coverage has mentioned potential impacts to National Park areas across the country. To my knowledge, no specific decisions have been made with regard to what actions individual parks will take.

Should sequestration occur on March 1, NPS Director Jon Jarvis requested that each of the 398 park units prepare a plan for an approximate five percent cut in their operating budgets. For Yellowstone, that percentage equates to an approximately \$1.75 million reduction that would take place in the remainder of the 2013 fiscal year.

Our management team determined that first and foremost we would do as much as possible to lessen any impacts on the quality of our visitor services, resource protection and our staff. However, because it is only a possibility that sequestration will occur at this time, we are making no public comment on any specific actions we would take. But we are working to refine and ground truth the savings plan we have prepared for the Washington Office.

The following statement is being made to the media by NPS headquarters in Washington concerning the effects of a sequestration:

*"The public should be prepared for reduced hours and services provided by National Park Service employees at 398 national parks, historic sites, monuments and memorials, parkways, trails, preserves and reserves, seashores and lakeshores, recreation areas and national battlefields.*

*Visitors would see reduced hours of operation for visitor centers, shorter seasons, and possibly closing of camping, hiking and other recreational areas when there is insufficient staff to ensure the protection of visitors, employees, and historic, cultural and natural resources.*

*The reductions would limit the National Park Service's ability to sustain a full complement of seasonal employees needed for interpretive programs, maintenance, law enforcement and other visitor services as we are preparing for the busy summer season.*

*Local communities and businesses that rely on recreation to support their livelihoods would face a loss of income from reduced visitation to national parks. Some 280 million people visit national parks each year and their spending alone supports 247,000 jobs and a \$31 billion economic impact, mostly in local economies."*

I am sure you understand not all of the things mentioned above will affect any one park, but is a general statement about potential impacts across the service. I will provide any updates on how Yellowstone will proceed as soon as we receive further direction.

Dan Wenk, Superintendent

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Safety Services** has moved to the Share Point site. The latest updates and JHA's are located within the site as well as the Parks NEW Safety Programs. Please take a minute to look at the site and provide feedback for things you would find useful.

Safety is also working to put together a power point show for next season's snowmobile training. We are looking for any photos of snowmobile actives within the Park. Your name will be added to the credits at the end of the PPS for your photos if they are used. Please note location where the photo was taken and who the masked employees are as well. Contact the Safety Office for more details.

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**Employee Recreation** has more historical seminars for you! The first will be: *Dashing Through the Snow: A History of Motorized Winter Travel in Yellowstone* presented by Leslie Quinn on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Rec Hall. The second will be: *Yellowstone Then, Yellowstone Now* also presented by Leslie Quinn on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room.

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### **Employee Safety Committee-Wellness**

All employees are encouraged to participate in the Wellness Incentive Program (WIP). Full program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. Certification forms for the month of February are due to Stacey Gunther by March 5th.

Here's to your health!

-----

### ***Adult Beginning Ballet Classes***

Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45pm at the Studio in Lower Mammoth

Six Weeks, February 20-March 27.

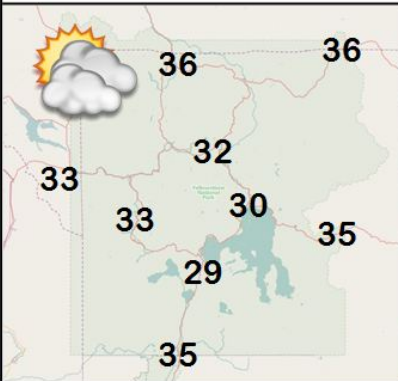
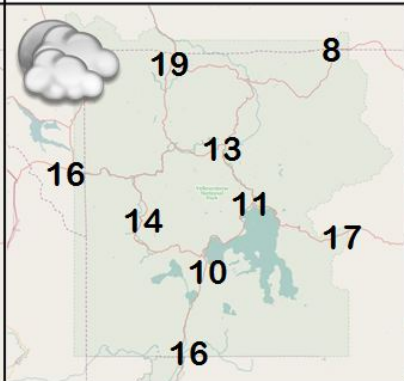
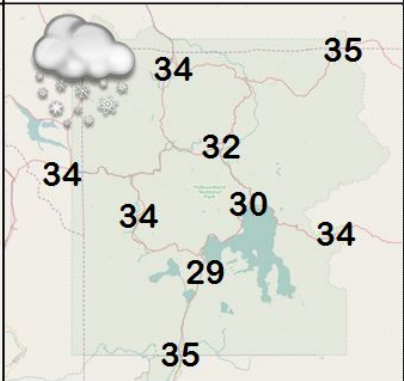
Cost is \$10 for an individual class or \$55 for all six.

No previous dance experience required. MEN ARE WELCOME, TOO!! Please dress comfortably in clothing that allows for movement. Ballet slipper or socks are acceptable. Ladies, please make sure that your hair is pulled back off of the neck and out of the face!

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## **WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

| <b>TODAY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>TONIGHT</b>                                                                                                 | <b>WEDNESDAY</b>                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. South winds around 15 mph, with gusts to 20 mph at some interior locations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mostly cloudy. South winds around 15 mph until early morning, with gusts to 20 mph at some interior locations. | Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Accumulations of a trace up to one inch.  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                               |  |
| <p><b>Wednesday Night:</b> Cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight with light accumulations. Lows 9 to 18. Northeast winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.</p> <p><b>Thursday:</b> Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 30. North winds around 15 mph in the morning.</p> <p><b>Thursday Night:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 to 20.</p> <p><b>Friday:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 28 to 36.</p> |                                                                                                                |                                                                                    |
| Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                |                                                                                    |

## **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](mailto:YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov) (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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

# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

## From the Superintendent:

Many of you have no doubt read or heard a great deal of information circulating in the local and national media about the potential for sequestration of the National Park Service's Fiscal Year 2013 budget on March 1. News coverage has mentioned potential impacts to National Park areas across the country. To my knowledge, no specific decisions have been made with regard to what actions individual parks will take.

Should sequestration occur on March 1, NPS Director Jon Jarvis requested that each of the 398 park units prepare a plan for an approximate five percent cut in their operating budgets. For Yellowstone, that percentage equates to an approximately \$1.75 million reduction that would take place in the remainder of the 2013 fiscal year.

Our management team determined that first and foremost we would do as much as possible to lessen any impacts on the quality of our visitor services, resource protection and our staff. However, because it is only a possibility that sequestration will occur at this time, we are making no public comment on any specific actions we would take. But we are working to refine and ground truth the savings plan we have prepared for the Washington Office.

The following statement is being made to the media by NPS headquarters in Washington concerning the effects of a sequestration:

*"The public should be prepared for reduced hours and services provided by National Park Service employees at 398 national parks, historic sites, monuments and memorials, parkways, trails, preserves and reserves, seashores and lakeshores, recreation areas and national battlefields.*

*Visitors would see reduced hours of operation for visitor centers, shorter seasons, and possibly closing of camping, hiking and other recreational areas when there is insufficient staff to ensure the protection of visitors, employees, and historic, cultural and natural resources.*

*The reductions would limit the National Park Service's ability to sustain a full complement of seasonal employees needed for interpretive programs, maintenance, law enforcement and other visitor services as we are preparing for the busy summer season.*

*Local communities and businesses that rely on recreation to support their livelihoods would face a loss of income from reduced visitation to national parks. Some 280 million people visit national parks each year and their spending alone supports 247,000 jobs and a \$31 billion economic impact, mostly in local economies."*

I am sure you understand not all of the things mentioned above will affect any one park, but is a general statement about potential impacts across the service. I will provide any updates on how Yellowstone will proceed as soon as we receive further direction.

Dan Wenk, Superintendent

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Park Projects Requested for YCC Program**

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) residential program provides young people ages 15-18 with a variety of work, recreation, and education experiences in Yellowstone National Park. The camp operates 2 month-long sessions between mid-June and mid-August. Throughout the program's 24-year history, enrollees have worked on a variety of projects that preserved resources or improved the visitor experiences. To see a list of projects YCC completed last summer, visit [P:/YCC/2012 YCC Completed Project list](#).

### **SUMMER 2013**

**YCC Project Requests are needed for this summer.** The Project Request form is due by **COB March 1, 2013** and is located at [P:/YCC/2013 YCC Work Project Request Form](#). As a Word file, you can fill the form out electronically and email it to me, or print it and send or fax (307-344-2323) it to me.

We are seeking a variety of both front country and short-distance backcountry projects (up to six miles from trailheads), including painting and staining, fence repairs, parking lot bumper logs, habitat rehab work, food storage box (bear box) installation, tent pads, bench building, basic trail work, assistance with research projects, etc.

Crews will be available for up to 4 work days at a time, and all work assignments will begin with an afternoon of project orientation/preparation and safety training prior to the start of a project.

If you have noticed something in the park that you feel needs work but it is outside your work scope, feel free to submit the idea as a possible project. We will follow-up with the appropriate division in order to decide if the proposed project is a good match for YCC crews.

### **SAFETY**

All work in Yellowstone is based on a core value of safety. This is an especially important consideration when developing a work-plan for young workers who typically lack the experience, skills, and mature judgment of an adult work-force.

### **COMPLIANCE**

Since project submissions will be reviewed for any potential resource compliance needs, it is your responsibility to make sure your project meets park compliance standards. We will need to review your requests with you and compliance staff in the Yellowstone Center for Resources.

**REPLY BY:** March 1, 2013

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Thanks,

Bob Fuhrmann

Youth Program Manager

307-344-2256

[Bob\\_Fuhrmann@nps.gov](mailto:Bob_Fuhrmann@nps.gov)

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**Employee Recreation** has more historical seminars for you! The first will be: *Dashing Through the Snow: A History of Motorized Winter Travel in Yellowstone* presented by Leslie Quinn **TONIGHT** at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Rec Hall. The second will be: *Yellowstone Then, Yellowstone Now* also presented by Leslie Quinn on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room.

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### **Employee Safety Committee-Wellness**

All employees are encouraged to participate in the Wellness Incentive Program (WIP). Full program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. Certification forms for the month of February are due to Stacey Gunther by March 5th.

Here's to your health!

-----

### ***Adult Beginning Ballet Classes***

Wednesdays, 6:45-7:45pm at the Studio in Lower Mammoth

Six Weeks, **TONIGHT**-March 27.

Cost is \$10 for an individual class or \$55 for all six.

No previous dance experience required. MEN ARE WELCOME, TOO!! Please dress comfortably in clothing that allows for movement. Ballet slipper or socks are acceptable. Ladies, please make sure that your hair is pulled back off of the neck and out of the face!

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## **IN THE PRESS**

### **Yellowstone crowdsources visitor photos to help study wolf disease, dynamics**

8 hours ago • [YellowstoneGate.com](http://YellowstoneGate.com)

The next time you visit Yellowstone National Park and manage to snap a great wolf photo, you could also be helping researchers as they monitor everything from infectious diseases to breeding habits among the elusive animals.

A Penn State University graduate student working on the Yellowstone Wolf Project has launched an Internet campaign to raise funds for a website that will let visitors upload wolf photos along with location information and other data. The goal is to track the spread and progress of sarcoptic mange among individual wolves and packs. But the effort could also prove helpful to other areas of wolf research.

Yellowstone wolf studies have long relied on field photos and images taken from research aircraft as important data sources, but scientists also sometimes use visitor photos to help answer questions about specific wolves.

“We’ve found that the visitor photos have been incredibly helpful, and rather than searching for all of those on our own time, this would allow us to find and use them in a more organized way,” said Emily Almberg, who set up a Kickstarter campaign to raise \$7,000 for a website that will solicit, organize and archive wolf photos.

The citizen science project will let visitors upload wolf photos, along with additional information such as where and when the picture was taken, what pack the wolf might belong to and any identifying marks, traits or other unique characteristics.

Almberg has been working on the Yellowstone Wolf Project since 2003, and is hoping to use the photos to learn more about how mange is affecting Yellowstone's wolves by recording fur loss and skin lesions as shown in the images.

Mange is caused when mites burrow into the skin of fur-bearing animals. In wolves, a reaction to the mites causes scratching, which results in fur loss. Severe fur loss can leave wolves at risk of death from exposure to the cold.

A handful of researchers with the Yellowstone Wolf Project try to photograph or observe each of the park's wolves on a monthly basis, especially those collared for research purposes, Almberg said. But there are more than 3 million annual visitors to the park, and most of them are carrying cameras and looking for wolves.

Many of the most active wolf-watchers know individual animals by sight, and often use high-end cameras with powerful lenses, Almberg said, so it makes sense to leverage their efforts in gathering data.

"There's a community of people that spend anywhere from several days to months each year observing uncollared animals that the Wolf Project traditionally hasn't tracked," she said. "Those folks have a tremendous wealth of information that could be very helpful for research purposes."

Photos gathered by the site could help in other areas of wolf research, ranging from tracking pack movements to sorting out relationship questions about specific breeding pairs, Almberg said.

Other online citizen science projects use similar crowdsourcing methods for everything from counting migrating birds to compiling historical weather records from archived ship logs.

While some park visitors will have only a vague idea of a photo's location, some pro cameras can record GPS data with each shot. Almberg said the website will allow for public review and comments for each photo, leveraging the collective wisdom of the crowd to help verify data. Researchers will cross-reference images with their own data as part of verification, and exclude from final data sets any photos they aren't confident about.

Pro photographers leery of sharing a prized image can upload a low-resolution version or have the photo blocked from public view.

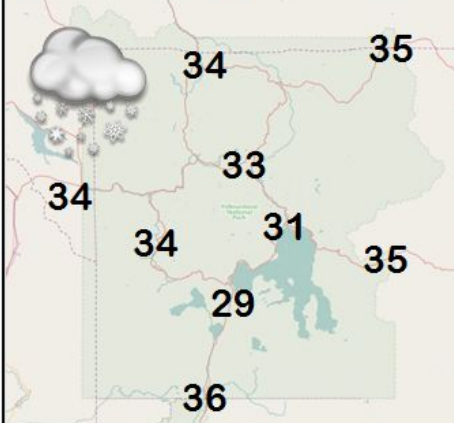
Almberg said the website will be managed through Penn State, but that data will be shared with Wolf Project researchers and the public.

The campaign has already received more than \$1,200 in pledges after five days, and runs through April 16. Almberg said a pilot website could be online sometime in May.

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-crowdsources-visitor-photos-to-help-study-wolf-disease-dynamics/article\\_50e264b7-4641-531e-8447-7362f34ef2e1.html#ixzz2LSElloxQ](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-crowdsources-visitor-photos-to-help-study-wolf-disease-dynamics/article_50e264b7-4641-531e-8447-7362f34ef2e1.html#ixzz2LSElloxQ)

**WEATHER**

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

| <b>TODAY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>TONIGHT</b>                                                                                                                                          | <b>THURSDAY</b>                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Chance of snow 50 percent. Accumulations of 1-2 inches at Old Faithful, with an inch or less expected elsewhere. Light winds except at Mammoth where gusts to 20 mph are possible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Accumulations of up to one inch. Light to moderate winds except at Mammoth where gusts to 21 mph are forecast. | Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Snowfall amounts of less than one inch.     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |  |
| <p><b>Thursday Night:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 7 to 20.</p> <p><b>Friday:</b> Breezy. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.</p> <p><b>Friday Night:</b> Cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 12 to 23. Chance of snow 60 percent.</p> <p><b>Saturday:</b> Snow likely. Light snow accumulations. Highs 30 to 36. Chance of snow 70 percent.</p> |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                      |
| Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                      |

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, February 21, 2013

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Park Projects Requested for YCC Program**

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YCC Project Requests are needed for this summer. The Project Request form is due by **COB March 1, 2013** and is located at [P:/YCC/2013 YCC Work Project Request Form](#). As a Word file, you can fill the form out electronically and email it to me, or print it and send or fax (307-344-2323) it to me.

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If you have noticed something in the park that you feel needs work but it is outside your work scope, feel free to submit the idea as a possible project. We will follow-up with the appropriate division in order to decide if the proposed project is a good match for YCC crews.

## **SAFETY**

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## **COMPLIANCE**

Since project submissions will be reviewed for any potential resource compliance needs, it is your responsibility to make sure your project meets park compliance standards. We will need to review your requests with you and compliance staff in the Yellowstone Center for Resources.

**REPLY BY:** March 1, 2013

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Thanks,

Bob Fuhrmann

Youth Program Manager

307-344-2256

[Bob\\_Fuhrmann@nps.gov](mailto:Bob_Fuhrmann@nps.gov)

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CSS has received a few questions about the **Microsoft Home Use program**, which allows NPS Employees to purchase such programs as Office Suite, Visio or Project at a low price. Below is the Link to [Inside.nps.gov](http://inside.nps.gov), that will provide the info for ordering

<http://inside.nps.gov/index.cfm?handler=viewnpsnewsarticle&type=Announcements&id=13437>

So if you need or want Microsoft Office for Home Use, you cannot beat the price of \$9.95!

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I will need some help with the **HazCom program**. I will need a list of all of our flammable and hazardous storage lockers in the Park and a point of contact. First, this will allow Safety to get a route inspection done on all the lockers. Secondly, it will give us a good count for MSDS books we will need to put together. Thirdly, we will have an employee who can manage the locker and update the MSDS at their location(s) after we get them trained up on the program.

Thanks,

Brandon Lipke, Risk Manager

Yellowstone National Park

Office: (307) 344-2030

Cell: (406) 551-0913

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**Employee Recreation** has more historical seminars for you! *Yellowstone Then, Yellowstone Now* presented by Leslie Quinn on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room.

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### **Employee Safety Committee-Wellness**

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Here's to your health!

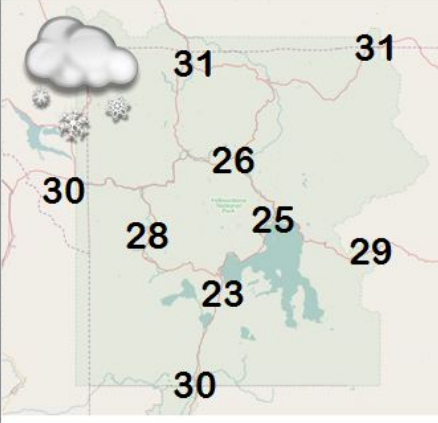
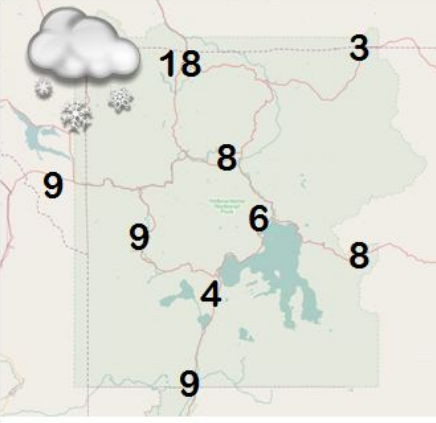
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**The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Jardine Ski Run** is February 24 in Jardine. Registration begins at 12:00 p.m., Race starts at 1:00 p.m. Adults and kids alike are invited to come dressed in your best and enjoy a competitive (or not) 5-mile

groomed track. Food and beverages will be available. Call Tammy at 848-7143 or Jeanne at 848-7972 for more information. Sponsored by the Bear Creek Council at [www.bearcreekcouncil.org](http://www.bearcreekcouncil.org)

## **WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

| <b>TODAY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>TONIGHT</b>                                                                                                             | <b>FRIDAY</b>                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Chance of snow 40 percent. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than an inch possible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Chance of snow 40 percent. New snow accumulation of less than an inch possible. | Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Southwest winds 8 to 22 mph in the afternoon, with gusts of 21-33 mph. New snow accumulation of less than an inch possible. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                         |                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Friday Night:</b> Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening... Then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of up to 2 inches. Lows 13 to 24. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with higher gusts. Chance of snow 60 percent.</p> <p><b>Saturday:</b> Snow likely. Snow accumulation of up to 2 inches. Highs 22 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the morning. Chance of snow 70 percent.</p> <p><b>Saturday Night:</b> Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 to 18.</p> <p><b>Sunday:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 30.</p> <p><i>Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/rw/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/rw/?n=ynp_gtnp</a></i></p> |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                              |

## **WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

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

# YNP@Work

## A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

**Friday, February 22, 2013**

I'm pleased to let you know that we're releasing our Final Winter Use Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) today.

Our preferred alternative calls for managing future motorized oversnow vehicle (OSV) access by focusing on their impacts to park resources, visitors, and staff members rather than focusing on snowmobile and snowcoach numbers.

Now, next winter, 2013/2014, snowmobile access would be managed the same way as this year, with up to 318 commercially guided BAT snowmobiles and 78 snowcoaches.

Starting with the winter of 2014/2015, we would begin managing access by "transportation events." We would allow up to 110 "transportation events" a day, initially defined as either one snowcoach or a group of up to 10 snowmobiles, averaging no more than 7 snowmobiles. No more than 50 transportation events a day would be allocated for groups of snowmobiles.

Furthermore, over the next few seasons we would require snowmobiles to meet new, improved BAT standards, and require snowcoaches to meet BAT standards for the first time.

The preferred alternative continues to allow for motorized OSV travel over Sylvan Pass.

For the first time since we began regulation of snowmobiles and snowcoaches, we'll set up a program to allow one non-commercially guided group of up to five snowmobiles a day through each of the four winter oversnow entrances.

This Winter Use Plan is very comprehensive. We'll be distributing a "Frequently Asked Questions" document by email next week which will help you become more familiar with the plan. Of course, I encourage you to go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yell> and download a copy of the Final SEIS for your own review.

Our next steps include publication of a proposed rule in the "Federal Register" which would detail the way we would implement the preferred alternative. It will be open for a 60-day public review and comment period. Later this spring, I'll make recommendations to the Intermountain Regional Director, who will sign a Record of Decision on the plan. After that, a final rule will be published allowing us to begin implementing the new winter use plan for the 2014/2015 winter season.

I believe that taking this approach to managing snowmobiles and snowcoaches would result in a cleaner, quieter park than we've authorized even during the last few years of limited, managed use of BAT snowmobiles.

And as always, you are encouraged to contact Wade Vagias, the park's Management Assistant, at 344-2035 if you have any additional questions about the Winter Use Plan, Final SEIS, or the remaining steps in the winter use planning process.

*Daniel N. Wenk*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Folks living in Lower Mammoth are experiencing discolored, murky water in their faucets this morning. After checking with the Plumbing Shop and the Water Treatment plant, we have learned that yesterday the Fire Department was testing fire hydrants in Lower Mammoth. Whenever this is done, it stirs up sediment in the main water lines, causing the water to turn brown. Per the advice of the Plumbing Shop and the Water Treatment plant, please turn on your spigots and allow them to run for awhile until the sediment passes through. Although the water does not look appealing, it is safe to drink. Thanks for your patience.

- - - - -

**Park Projects Requested for YCC Program**

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**REPLY BY:** March 1, 2013

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Thanks, Bob Fuhrmann, Youth Program Manager  
307-344-2256, [Bob\\_Fuhrmann@nps.gov](mailto:Bob_Fuhrmann@nps.gov)

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So if you need or want Microsoft Office for Home Use, you cannot beat the price of \$9.95!

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I will need some help with the **HazCom program**. I will need a list of all of our flammable and hazardous storage lockers in the Park and a point of contact. First, this will allow Safety to get a route inspection done on all the lockers. Secondly, it will give us a good count for MSDS books we will need to put together. Thirdly, we will have an employee who can manage the locker and update the MSDS at their location(s) after we get them trained up on the program.

Thanks,  
Brandon Lipke, Risk Manager  
Yellowstone National Park  
Office: (307) 344-2030  
Cell: (406) 551-0913

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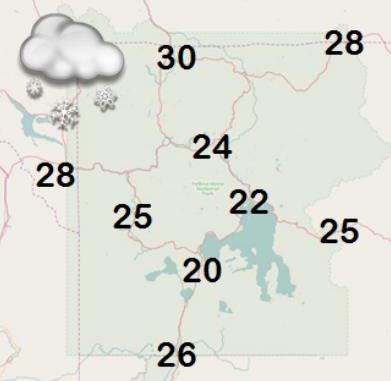
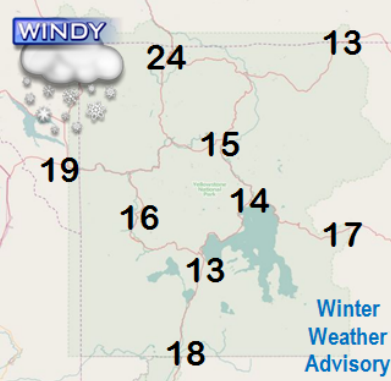
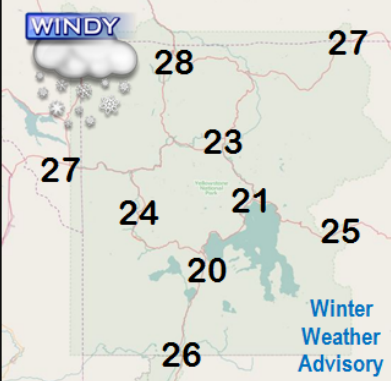
Here's to your health!

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**The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Jardine Ski Run** is February 24 in Jardine. Registration begins at 12:00 p.m., Race starts at 1:00 p.m. Adults and kids alike are invited to come dressed in your best and enjoy a competitive (or not) 5-mile groomed track. Food and beverages will be available. Call Tammy at 848-7143 or Jeanne at 848-7972 for more information. Sponsored by the Bear Creek Council at [www.bearcreekcouncil.org](http://www.bearcreekcouncil.org)

**WEATHER**

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

| <b>TODAY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>TONIGHT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>SATURDAY</b>                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cloudy with scattered snow showers with accumulations of one inch or less. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon, with higher gusty winds in some locations. Chance of snow 40 percent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Winter Weather Advisory from 5 pm tonight until 5pm Saturday.</b><br>Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 5 inches. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 34 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent. | Breezy...snow. Additional snow accumulation of 1 to 4 inches. West winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                         |                                                                   |
| <p><b>Saturday Night:</b> Colder...cloudy. Snow likely in the evening... Then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 0 to 17. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.</p> <p><b>Sunday:</b> Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 20 to 29. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 40 percent.</p> <p><b>Sunday Night:</b> Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 0 to 16. Chance of snow 30 percent.</p> <p><b>Monday:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 31.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                      |
| Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                      |

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

# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, February 25, 2013



Even the bison follow the rules of the road...sometimes.  
(photo by Emily Cunningham)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Park Projects Requested for YCC Program**

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**IN THE PRESS**

**Landowner fears, anger stoke barrage of bison policy bills at Legislature**

February 24, 2013 12:05 am • By MIKE DENNISON Gazette State Bureau

HELENA – For Republican state Sen. John Brenden and many of his Eastern Montana neighbors, the idea of bison roaming the Montana plains as wildlife is absurd — and they want to do what they can to stop it.

“Buffalo have their place in the world, but it isn’t going back to the 1850s,” Brenden said last week. “It’s no different than the dinosaurs. We’re living in a modern world, whether we like it or not .... We don’t need free-roaming buffalo.”

Brenden, a farmer from Scobey, is sponsoring a bill to prohibit moving wild bison from Yellowstone National Park herds to anywhere in Montana except the National Bison Range in Moiese.

His bill also creates a year-round hunting season for bison, allowing any hunter who pays \$125 to shoot up to three bison.

“(My bill) says if the National Park Service and the feds don’t want to cull (the Yellowstone bison herd), we’ll cull them ourselves, when they come on private property,” he said.

Brenden’s bill isn’t the only one this session taking a whack at Montana’s bison management policies.

As the 2013 Legislature reaches its midpoint, a half-dozen bison bills are still alive, doing everything from requiring the state to remove bison from private property outside Yellowstone National Park to allowing landowners to shoot any “wild bison” that come on their property.

The wave of bison legislation is from Republican lawmakers who say they’re responding to heightened landowner concerns about bison encroaching on farms, ranches and other private property, not only near Yellowstone National Park but also in Eastern Montana, where wildlife advocates are talking about possible free-roaming herds of bison on mostly public prairies.

Opposing the bills are wildlife and hunting groups, state wildlife managers and Indian tribes, who say the bills derail a 2-year-old compromise that set up a planning process with tightly drawn restrictions on how or where bison could be “translocated” somewhere in the state besides near Yellowstone Park.

“We’re saying, rather than have a whole flood of new bills and supersede what we’re trying to do, as we work through a process — let’s let the process work, and see what the results are,” said Jeff Hagener, director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Several Indian tribes also say many of the bills trample treaty rights for tribal members to hunt bison that range outside Yellowstone National Park.

“If that happens, it’s going to be a chaotic situation,” said John Harrison, an attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Western Montana. “I guarantee there will be litigation. ... When (tribes) talk about treaty rights, it’s as sacred to them as the Constitution is to American citizens.”

Two years ago, the Legislature passed a law that said the state must adopt a management plan before allowing wild bison to be transplanted to any private or public land in Montana.

The state is preparing an environmental review that examines where wild bison could be located in Montana other than near Yellowstone National Park. If some areas are identified, the next step is working with local groups of citizens on what safeguards should be in place if relocation might occur, Hagener said.

“Anywhere we’d put them in, we’d look at managing them on the landscape,” Hagener said. “What is the intent for that herd? How big would it be? What’s our long-term goal?”

Brenden, who chairs the Senate Fish and Game Committee, and Rep. Jeff Welborn, R-Dillon, wrote Hagener a letter late last month, asking about department plans for relocating bison.

Hagener replied a week later, saying the issue has spawned “no small amount of speculation, rumor and misinformation about bison management.”

In the letter, Hagener said the department has no current plans to move bison anywhere outside the Greater Yellowstone Area, and if translocation is considered in the future, it would follow the process in the 2011 law. He also said there are no plans to move any new bison to tribal lands in Montana.

Welborn said last week he thought Hagener’s letter addressed many concerns, and showed that the agency has “a genuine interest in bringing all of the stakeholders to the table and working out solutions.”

But the letter hasn’t stopped the flood of bills attempting to change state policy on bison.

Brenden’s Senate Bill 143 is an extensive rewrite of bison hunting and management policy, and House Bill 484, from Rep. Alan Redfield, R-Livingston, would direct state agencies to take certain actions when Yellowstone bison come onto private property.

Redfield, a rancher in Paradise Valley, said last week that his bill merely clarifies how the state departments of Livestock and Fish, Wildlife and Parks should handle bison that leave the park and cause problems on private property.

Tom France of Missoula, the senior director for western wildlife conservation at the National Wildlife Federation, said his group and others believe wild bison can be restored on and near the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, which surrounds a remote stretch of the Missouri River in northeast Montana.

Bison could be viewed by eco-tourists and hunted, he said, “with really minimal conflicts and a great deal of benefit” to the area.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks should be allowed to study that possibility and other options for wild bison, France said.

“Until we have a result from that (process), it seems premature to be passing legislation that second-guesses it,” he said.

Wildlife advocates and state wildlife officials also say the bills revert state bison policy to what existed in the late 1980s and 1990s, when hundreds of bison were slaughtered by hunters and fish-and-game personnel when the animals left Yellowstone Park, causing a national outcry.

Pat Flowers, the state Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional director in Bozeman, said last week that HB484 essentially “requires that no bison will come out of Yellowstone National Park into Montana, ever.”

“This is very similar to the approach we took in the late 1980s,” he said. “It’s a failed policy then, it’s a failed policy now. This bill will take us right back to that same point in time.”

Brenden, however, said he and others are only seeking a balance in bison policy, and that if landowner concerns aren’t addressed, sportsmen’s groups should be worried about the backlash.

“People have closed up their properties to hunting because of the actions of Fish, Wildlife and Parks on this translocation of buffalo,” he said. “If we don’t get this bison thing solved, there won’t be hundreds of thousands of acres locked up, there will be millions of acres.”

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/landowner-fears-anger-stoke-barrage-of-bison-policy-bills-at/article\\_1437bbfa-c276-524e-9a41-3c190c5a96d9.html#ixzz2LvRSXM9u](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/landowner-fears-anger-stoke-barrage-of-bison-policy-bills-at/article_1437bbfa-c276-524e-9a41-3c190c5a96d9.html#ixzz2LvRSXM9u)

### **Several bison bills still before the 2013 Legislature**

February 24, 2013 12:00 am • Gazette State Bureau

HELENA — The Legislature is considering a half-dozen bills affecting bison management in Montana. Here’s a summary and status of the bills:

**Senate Bill 143:** Sponsored by Sen. John Brenden, R-Scobey, it establishes a year-round hunting season for bison in Montana and forbids the transfer of Yellowstone National Park bison to anywhere in Montana except the National Bison Range in Moiese. Awaits action in the Senate Fish and Game Committee.

**SB256:** Makes the state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks liable for any damage to private property from wild bison. Sponsored by Sen. Eric Moore, R-Miles City. Approved by same committee last week.

**SB305:** Sponsored by Sen. Jim Peterson, R-Buffalo, redefines “wild bison,” possibly preventing relocation of certain animals. Approved by the same committee last week and may be on the Senate floor this week.

**House Bill 249:** Allows landowners to do a number of things to remove wild bison from their property, including shooting them. State game officials would have to remove the carcass. Sponsored by Rep. Alan Doane, R-Glendive. Awaits action in the House Appropriations Committee.

**HB396:** Sponsored by Rep. Mike Lang, R-Malta, it would require approval of the county commission before the state could relocate wild bison in the county. Endorsed Saturday by the House on a 63-37 vote and faces a final House vote Monday.

**HB484:** Requires state livestock and game agencies to take certain actions when bison leave Yellowstone National Park. Sponsored by Rep. Alan Redfield, R-Livingston. Endorsed Saturday by the House on a 62-38 vote, and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**HB507:** Substantially rewrites state bison policy, including restrictions on where wild bison can be transplanted. Sponsored by Rep. Bill Harris, R-Winnett. Tabled Thursday by the House Agriculture Committee.

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/several-bison-bills-still-before-the-legislature/article\\_2fe0030c-e849-5cb5-b557-6e04dcc47033.html#ixzz2LvURr4BI](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/several-bison-bills-still-before-the-legislature/article_2fe0030c-e849-5cb5-b557-6e04dcc47033.html#ixzz2LvURr4BI)

### **There's still time to explore Yellowstone's winter beauty**

Posted: Friday, February 22, 2013 1:13 pm | By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News |

Venturing into Yellowstone's natural pristine wonderland during the winter season is an almost unworldly experience unlike anything else. Smaller crowds, scenic snowy vistas, towering plumes of steam and spotting wildlife make a trip into America's first national park a real treat for both visitors and long-term local residents.

With the help of local snowmobile and snowcoach operator Backcountry Adventures and 10-year veteran guide Skip Morris, a group of tourists piled into a snowcoach equipped with mattracks and headed into the park with Old Faithful as the destination on a tour this Monday.

Along the way, herds of bison, bald eagles, trumpeter swans, elk and multiple species of birds and ducks were spotted from the road. Visitors caught a glimpse of Yellowstone's wild nature when the snowcoach pulled to a stop along the banks of the Firehole River.

A group of ducks swam and played in the river as an elk walked the bank of the river in search of grass to graze on. While the group was snapping photos from inside of the coach, an immature bald eagle swooped down from his perch and disappeared into the distance.

"If you stop and look around, there is a lot going on in the park," Morris said.

For the past 10 years, Morris has guided snowmobiles and snowcoaches during the winter season of oversnow travel in Yellowstone. Oversnow travel with guided snowmobile and snowcoach trips into the park typically starts on Dec. 15 each year and ends on March 15.

"I'm a people person and (guiding) is a way to stay in contact with people," he said. "I enjoy Yellowstone and I enjoy giving (visitors) a good experience in the park."

Morris says there isn't one memory from over the years of guiding that stands out in particular, but that everyday he's in the park is a good day.

"Everyday is different," he said. "A lot of different things have happened, but I enjoy doing it everyday; that would be my best memory."

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According to Morris, visitation and trip numbers have been up this winter season for Backcountry Adventures.

In general, park visitation has been holding steady, according to interpretive ranger Steve Ballou, who is based out of the Old Faithful Visitor Information Center.

“Visitation seems fine,” he said. “Last weekend we averaged over 1,000 visitors (at Old Faithful).”

Ballou says winter in Yellowstone is vastly different than in the summer months, and is a great experience for those who decide to visit.

“The snow and cold temperatures add an aspect to the hydrothermal features that are beautiful and unworldly,” he said.

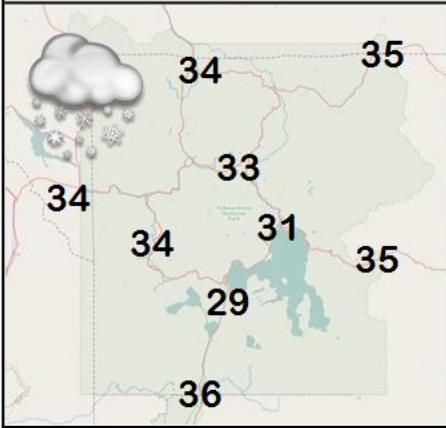
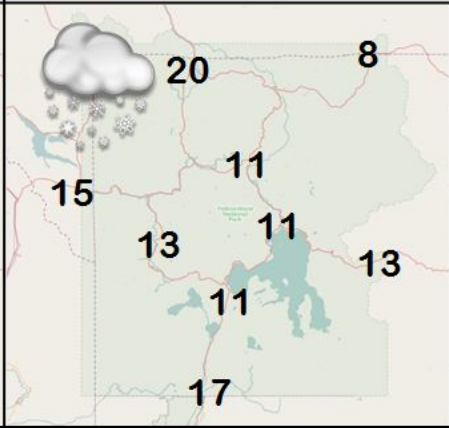
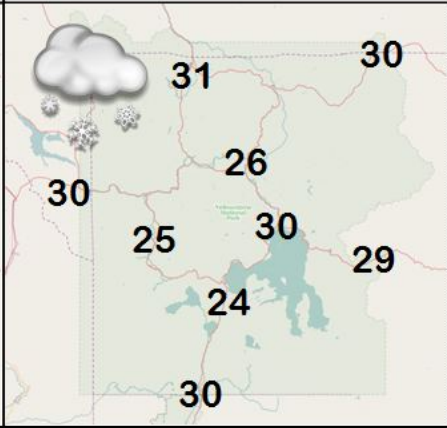
As the group continued towards Old Faithful, Morris spoke about the history of Yellowstone, along with the 1988 fires and old hotel establishments that have fallen to the wayside over the years.

After visiting Old Faithful and watching the world-famous geyser erupt on schedule, Morris took the group back towards West Yellowstone and stopped at Fountain Paint Pots for a short walk around the boardwalk. It was there that Morris informed visitors about the various thermal features that exist in Yellowstone, and why the park is such a delicate and unique ecosystem.

As the day grew long and the sun began to dip below the caldera rim, the tour group made their way back to West Yellowstone with memories that will last a lifetime.

## **WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

| TODAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | TONIGHT                                                                                                                                                        | THURSDAY                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Chance of snow 50 percent. Accumulations of 1-2 inches at Old Faithful, with an inch or less expected elsewhere. Light winds except at Mammoth where gusts to 20 mph are possible.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Accumulations of up to one inch. Light to moderate winds except at Mammoth where gusts to 21 mph are forecast.</p> | <p>Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Snowfall amounts of less than one inch.</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                              |      |
| <p><b>Thursday Night:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 7 to 20.<br/> <b>Friday:</b> Breezy. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.<br/> <b>Friday Night:</b> Cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 12 to 23. Chance of snow 60 percent.<br/> <b>Saturday:</b> Snow likely. Light snow accumulations. Highs 30 to 36. Chance of snow 70 percent.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                         |
| <p>Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                         |

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

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**Mountain Mobile Auto Glass** will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday February 28th 2013. To schedule work for a Gov vehicle please call Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work please call Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

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### **IN THE PRESS**

#### **Wyoming may look at ways to manage federal land**

7 hours ago • By LAURA HANCOCK Casper Star-Tribune

CASPER, Wyo. — Wyoming might soon eye ways the state could wrest land from the federal government — a measure that echoes the decades-old Sagebrush Rebellion.

House Bill 228, which provides \$30,000 to pay for a study of the state's options, awaits Gov. Matt Mead's signature after gaining approval from the Legislature.

Critics call the study and the task force that will consider it a waste of money and time.

Task force members, to include lawmakers and others, would look at issues such as the loss of property tax revenues on federal lands, delays in permits because of federal laws and the management of wilderness.

“The study will look at what Wyoming can do to take primacy on the management of the public lands in Wyoming,” wrote bill sponsor Rep. David Miller, R-Riverton, in an email to the Star-Tribune.

The study essentially reignites the Wyoming front of the decades-old Sagebrush Rebellion, the movement from the 1960s-1980s in which many Western states tried through formal requests and state legislation to get the federal government to hand over land it owned within state borders.

Similar bills have been debated and passed in other Western states, said Shannon Anderson, an attorney for the Powder River Basin Resource Council, a Sheridan-based agricultural and conservation group.

“It’s been well-studied, it’s been well-debated,” she said. “We can’t make the federal government turn over its land to us. It’s not anything the state can do. It’s not worth spending the money to study.”

Anderson’s group was one of six that sent a letter to the Senate asking them to consider opposing the bill in a time of budget cuts and the “futility of trying to establish the legality of federal lands transfer.”

The other groups were the National Outdoor Leadership School, Wyoming Outdoor Council, Wyoming Wilderness Association, Equality State Policy Center and The Wilderness Society.

Anderson noted that the Joint Interim Minerals Committee heard testimony on Utah’s similar Land Transfer Act. But no Wyoming version of the bill came out of the committee.

Miller said critics have blown concerns about the study out of proportion.

“Of course their scare tactic is to say the bill is going to privatize Yellowstone and the other national parks, of course it is not,” he wrote in his email. “A simple conclusion of the study may be for the federal government to allow (oversight) by Wyoming agencies, instead of the federal government agencies. Much like we do on other issues.”

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wyoming-may-look-at-ways-to-manage-federal-land/article\\_bc9040d9-cd5e-516b-a203-5240a67c62ef.html#ixzz2M1OusabR](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wyoming-may-look-at-ways-to-manage-federal-land/article_bc9040d9-cd5e-516b-a203-5240a67c62ef.html#ixzz2M1OusabR)

### **Yellowstone Park prepares for budget cuts**

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 12:15 am |

If Congress doesn’t avert automatic budget cuts by Friday, Yellowstone National Park will be forced to make some changes, but it’s too early to say what they’ll be.

“We were told to look at cutting \$1.75 million over the next seven months,” park spokesman Al Nash said. “We face budget challenges on a regular basis, but we’ve not had to face anything like this.”

Yellowstone’s budget for fiscal year 2011 was \$35.2 million, so the cut is a reduction of about 5 percent. The looming sequestration will cut many federal jobs and programs, but national parks are already feeling the pinch. The National Park Service announced a freeze on all new hires and furloughs of employees at parks and landmarks across the nation in anticipation of a budget cut of \$110 million

In a Monday news conference, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Park Service director Jonathan Jarvis warned that mandatory budget cuts under sequestration will result in reduced hours for visitor centers, shorter seasons and the possible closing of campgrounds, hiking trails and other recreational areas because of staffing.

The majority of the park's budget is spent during the summer season when the park receives the greatest number of visitors.

The timing is awkward because peak season lands near the end of the federal fiscal year when money is running low, Nash said.

Peak season is when the park hires a lot of seasonal workers, and employee costs are a large portion of the park budget, Nash said.

Now sequestration may throw another wrinkle into the mix.

Nash said he didn't have the details of the proposal, but the park tried to minimize the effect on visitors, preservation and staff.

While announcing the park's Winter Use Plan on Friday, Superintendent Dan Wenk hinted that some of the park entrances might open later this year if the cuts go through.

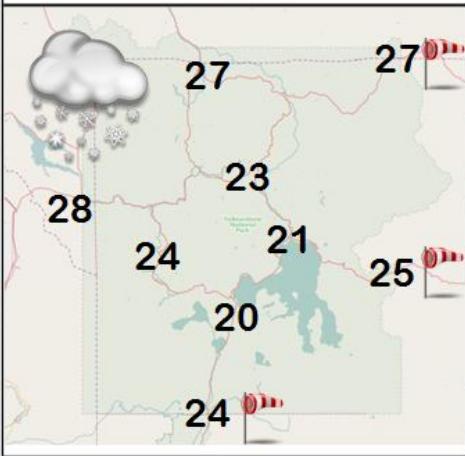
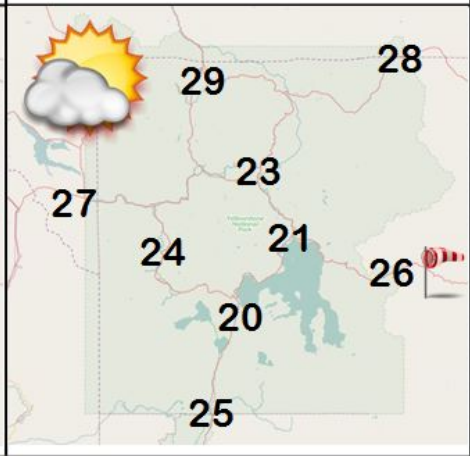
If the cuts happen, the park will start making preliminary changes on Monday.

"We remain optimistic," Nash said. "We are watching the discussion with interest."

## **WEATHER**

**Admin Travel recording 344-7115.**

Down below

| <b>TODAY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>TONIGHT</b>                                                                                   | <b>WEDNESDAY</b>                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Mostly cloudy. Snow in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of one inch or less. Wind gusts to 20 mph possible on the park's east and south sides. Chance of snow 90 percent.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of snow in the evening. Isolated wind gusts to 20 mph.</p> | <p>Partly cloudy. Highs 19 to 25. Wind gust to 21 mph at the park's East Entrance.</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                |     |
| <p><b>Wednesday Night:</b> Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 1 to 17. Chance of snow 30 percent.<br/> <b>Thursday:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 24 to 33. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.<br/> <b>Thursday Night:</b> Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 10 to 20.<br/> <b>Friday:</b> Partly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 29 to 38. Chance of snow 30 percent.</p> |                                                                                                  |                                                                                        |
| <p>Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                  |                                                                                        |

## **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](mailto:YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov) (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

Back issues of the newsletter are available at <P:\YNP@Work Published Issues>

# YNP@Work

**A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2013**

Get Ready...this YNP@Work is a LONG one!

February 26, 2013

Memorandum

To: All Employees

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Update Regarding Sequestration Impacts

As you've seen from Monday's memo from the Secretary of the Interior and widespread coverage in the news media, we are preparing to implement budget cuts if the sequestration is implemented at midnight Friday.

We were asked to cut approximately \$1.75 million from the amount we had planned to spend during the remaining seven months in the fiscal year.

Today I can share with you additional details on what these budget cuts would mean, and the perspective we used in making our recommendations to the Regional Director.

The recommendations we made will first and foremost assure that the protection of park resources is not compromised, assure a quality visitor experience, and recognize the role that local communities play in providing services to the public and maintain the high quality work force of Yellowstone. None of our proposed actions lessen our strong commitment to employee safety.

The instructions from Director Jarvis were clear on the approach that we were to take in implementing the sequestration, should it occur. Unfortunately, this year the savings have to be generated over a seven month period. Therefore our approach is different than if we had an entire fiscal year in which to absorb the cut in funding park operations.

We can achieve significant savings, approximately \$1 million, by placing a partial freeze on filling permanent positions. We have already received permission to fill vacancies critical to the protection of the park and visitors, and to provide a quality visitor experience. Those actions will proceed and future hiring decisions will be made as vacancies occur. We will also hire fewer seasonal employees or reduce the season that some positions will work resulting in savings of approximately \$500,000. Not filling these positions or reducing the season, will result in providing less coverage or service in those operations affected. Recognizing that for many years we have stretched our staff to do more with less, this reduction will now cause a reduction of services that we can provide.

Those two significant actions will achieve much of the savings and can only be sustained for a short period of time. Many of the permanent vacancies will need to be filled in the coming fiscal year.

In addition, we will reduce our expenditures on travel, training, overtime, and delay purchasing where possible in order to fund the maximum number of permanent and seasonal employees, recognizing the demands of the summer season in Yellowstone.

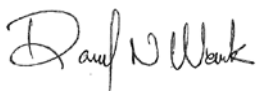
These actions do not get us to the total that we will be required to cut from the budget. Therefore, an additional action will be taken to delay the opening of the roads this spring. We have made this decision because we believe that we can achieve savings from these actions while affecting the fewest visitors.

Spring opening typically starts the Monday after the first weekend of March. However, no matter what happens on the issue of sequestration, plowing will be delayed a minimum of one week and no more than two weeks. We have coordinated this delay with the park concessioners and discussed this action with the Governors of Wyoming and Montana, state congressional delegations and the surrounding local communities. While all parties want the park open as soon as possible in the spring, they also understand the situation we are in.

We will get a schedule out to you as soon as we are able because I know this has the potential to affect plans that you have made in both your professional and personal lives.

We are currently in discussions with Wyoming and Montana to see if we can work together to minimize the impacts of the delayed start to opening the park, especially as it relates to plowing we do outside of the park from Cooke City over the Beartooth Highway to the Montana state line.

I appreciate the dedication that you have to Yellowstone National Park and the mission of the National Park Service. These are difficult decisions to make and implement, and I appreciate the work you do in support of Yellowstone and the NPS.



Daniel N. Wenk

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Park Projects Requested for YCC Program**

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) residential program provides young people ages 15-18 with a variety of work, recreation, and education experiences in Yellowstone National Park. The camp operates 2 month-long sessions between mid-June and mid-August. Throughout the program's 24-year history, enrollees have worked on a variety of projects that preserved resources or improved the visitor experiences. To see a list of projects YCC completed last summer, visit [P:/YCC/2012 YCC Completed Project list](#).

YCC Project Requests are needed for this summer. The Project Request form is due by **COB March 1, 2013** and is located at [P:/YCC/2013 YCC Work Project Request Form](#). As a Word file, you can fill the form out electronically and email it to me, or print it and send or fax (307-344-2323) it to me.

We are seeking a variety of both front country and short-distance backcountry projects (up to six miles from trailheads), including painting and staining, fence repairs, parking lot bumper logs, habitat rehab work, food storage box (bear box) installation, tent pads, bench building, basic trail work, assistance with research projects, etc.

Crews will be available for up to 4 work days at a time, and all work assignments will begin with an afternoon of project orientation/preparation and safety training prior to the start of a project.

If you have noticed something in the park that you feel needs work but it is outside your work scope, feel free to submit the idea as a possible project. We will follow-up with the appropriate division in order to decide if the proposed project is a good match for YCC crews.

**SAFETY:** All work in Yellowstone is based on a core value of safety. This is an especially important consideration when developing a work-plan for young workers who typically lack the experience, skills, and mature judgment of an adult work-force.

**COMPLIANCE:** Since project submissions will be reviewed for any potential resource compliance needs, it is your responsibility to make sure your project meets park compliance standards. We will need to review your requests with you and compliance staff in the Yellowstone Center for Resources.

**REPLY BY:** March 1, 2013

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.  
Thanks, Bob Fuhrmann, Youth Program Manager  
307-344-2256, [Bob\\_Fuhrmann@nps.gov](mailto:Bob_Fuhrmann@nps.gov)

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A note from Safety Service:

We are off to a great start this year, we currently enjoying a zero recordable injury rate and just received our first vehicle accident report. Great job!!!!

Now, the bad news, this morning we had a **near miss with the employee shuttle bus**. There has been POVs passing the bus while unloading employees here in Mammoth. Please treat the shuttle bus like a school bus, take the time and wait for it to unload our employees and move on.

Please feel free to contact Safety Services with any questions or concerns. Thanks!

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CSS has received a few questions about the **Microsoft Home Use program**, which allows NPS Employees to purchase such programs as Office Suite, Visio or Project at a low price. Below is the Link to [inside.nps.gov](http://inside.nps.gov), that will provide the info for ordering

<http://inside.nps.gov/index.cfm?handler=viewnpsnewsarticle&type=Announcements&id=13437>

So if you need or want Microsoft Office for Home Use, you cannot beat the price of \$9.95!

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**Mountain Mobile Auto Glass** will be at the Mammoth Garage **TOMORROW**. To schedule work for a Gov vehicle please call Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work please call Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

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Thank you everyone who came out to support the **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Jardine Ski Run** on Sunday. A great time was had by all! View the results of all the races here: [P:\TemporaryItems\2013 JSR Race Results \(1\).pdf](P:\TemporaryItems\2013 JSR Race Results (1).pdf)

- - - - -

Don't forget **tonight's seminar** at 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room. Leslie Quinn will be presenting ***Yellowstone Then, Yellowstone Now***.

Lunchtime yoga classes will continue through spring. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 – 12:45 pm and are at a discounted rate of \$5. Please check yoga flyers posted in the rec hall for specific dates.

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#### **Employee Safety Committee-Wellness**

All employees are encouraged to participate in the Wellness Incentive Program (WIP). Full program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page.

Certification forms for the month of February are due to Stacey Gunther by March 5th.

Here's to your health!

### **RECENT PRESS RELEASES**

#### **Xanterra Parks & Resorts Selected To Provide Lodging, Retail, And Other Visitor Services In Yellowstone**

The National Park Service has selected Xanterra Parks & Resorts to provide a wide range of visitor services in Yellowstone National Park for the next two decades.

The contract covers lodging, retail sales, restaurants, and many other services provided to visitors to Yellowstone.

The new 20-year contract includes a 4.5-percent franchise fee and a 6-percent repair and maintenance reserve account.

The contract also requires an estimated \$134.5 million investment in facilities improvements. Roughly half of the money will be invested in redevelopment of lodging at Canyon. The current cabins, which were constructed as temporary facilities in the 1960s, are in poor condition. Other projects include renovation of the Fishing Bridge RV Park, continued renovation of the Lake Yellowstone Hotel, construction of new concession employee housing at Lake and Old Faithful, rehabilitation of the Mammoth Haynes Photo Shop, and changes necessary to provide year-round lodging at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.

Work on these facility improvement projects is scheduled to begin in 2014 and to be completed by 2018.

Xanterra Parks & Resorts holds the current contract to provide these services, which began in December 2005 and expires at the end of November 2013. The company reported gross receipts of approximately \$89 million for calendar year 2011.

### **Only A Few Days Left In Yellowstone's Winter Season**

Yellowstone National Park's winter season is drawing to a close.

Park roads that serve commercially guided snowmobile and snowcoach travel to iconic Yellowstone locations will be closed in stages beginning Friday, March 1, when the East Entrance will close at 9:00 p.m.

Oversnow travel into the park from Mammoth Hot Springs will end at 9:00 p.m., Sunday, March 3.

Visitors traveling with a commercial guide service through the West Entrance will be able to enjoy the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone at Canyon Village by way of Norris Geyser Basin until 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 5.

Travel to Canyon Village will be still be possible from the both the West and South Entrances via the West Thumb area until 9:00 p.m., Sunday, March 10.

Old Faithful will remain accessible from both the West and South Entrances until 9:00 p.m. Friday, March 15, when all remaining interior parks roads will close for the season.

After the roads close to oversnow travel, plowing crews will clear them of snow so they can reopen to automobile travel in the spring.

At Old Faithful, the Snow Lodge and Cabins will close for the winter season on Sunday, March 3. The Geyser Grill, Bear Den Gift Shop and the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center will remain open through Friday, March 15.

At Mammoth Hot Springs, the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Dining Room and Gift Shop will close for the season Monday, March 4. The Mammoth Campground, Yellowstone General Store, Post Office, Medical Clinic, the Albright Visitor Center and self-serve fuel pumps are open all year.

The road from Gardiner, Montana, through the park's North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs to Cooke City, Montana, is open to automobiles all year, weather permitting. Self-serve fuel is available all year at Tower Junction. Updated Yellowstone National Park road information is available 24 hours a day by calling 307-344-2117.

### **Yellowstone Tourism Creates Over \$330 million In Local Economic Benefit *Part of \$30 billion impact that supports 252,000 jobs nationwide***

A new National Park Service (NPS) report for 2011 shows that the 3,394,326 visitors to Yellowstone National Park spent \$332,975,000 in communities surrounding the park. This spending supported 5,041 jobs in the local area.

The information on Yellowstone is part of a peer-reviewed spending analysis of national park visitors across the country conducted by Michigan State University for the National Park Service. For 2011, that report shows \$13 billion of direct spending by 279 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. That visitor spending had a \$30 billion impact on the entire U.S. economy and supported 252,000 jobs nationwide.

Most visitor spending supports jobs in lodging, food, and beverage service (63 percent) followed by recreation and entertainment (17 percent), other retail (11percent), transportation and fuel (7 percent) and wholesale and manufacturing (2 percent.)

To download the report visit [www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM](http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM) and click on *Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation, 2011*.

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming and how the National Park Service works with communities to preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide local recreation opportunities, go to [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

## **IN THE PRESS**

### **Wyoming may look at ways to manage federal land**

7 hours ago • By LAURA HANCOCK Casper Star-Tribune

CASPER, Wyo. — Wyoming might soon eye ways the state could wrest land from the federal government — a measure that echoes the decades-old Sagebrush Rebellion.

House Bill 228, which provides \$30,000 to pay for a study of the state's options, awaits Gov. Matt Mead's signature after gaining approval from the Legislature.

Critics call the study and the task force that will consider it a waste of money and time.

Task force members, to include lawmakers and others, would look at issues such as the loss of property tax revenues on federal lands, delays in permits because of federal laws and the management of wilderness.

"The study will look at what Wyoming can do to take primacy on the management of the public lands in Wyoming," wrote bill sponsor Rep. David Miller, R-Riverton, in an email to the Star-Tribune.

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### **Montana Senate Republicans overwhelmingly support 2 bison bills**

18 hours ago • By MIKE DENNISON Gazette State Bureau

HELENA — The state Senate on Tuesday advanced a pair of bills to limit reintroduction of wild bison on the Montana plains or protect landowners against possible damage from relocated wild bison.

The Senate voted 30-20 in favor of Senate Bill 256, which says the state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is liable for any damage that wild bison cause to private property in Montana.

“This is a reasonable, rational compromise ... between landowners and those who want to introduce bison,” said the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Eric Moore, R-Miles City. “We’re simply asking the citizens of Montana to go into this decision with their eyes wide open.”

The Senate also endorsed 31-19 a second measure that narrowly defines “wild bison,” possibly limiting what animals can be relocated to the Montana plains as wild game.

Nearly all of the chamber’s 29 Republicans voted for both measures, while most of its Democrats voted against them. Both will face a final vote Wednesday before advancing to the House.

Sen. Mike Phillips, D-Bozeman, who opposed both measures, said the issue of reintroducing bison as a wild species on the Montana plains isn’t going away, and that it’s the one native ungulate species in Montana that hasn’t been truly restored in the wild.

“There is a national constituency surrounding this species,” he said. “That constituency will not go away, regardless of how our state laws are set against the issue.”

The bills endorsed Tuesday by the Senate are among several sponsored this session by Republicans, primarily addressing landowner concerns about reintroduction of wild bison on the plains or bison migrating out of Yellowstone National Park in the winter.

State wildlife officials, hunting groups and Indian tribes are opposing the bills, saying that current management laws and agreements are adequate to protect landowners and should be allowed to work.

The state currently is drafting an environmental-impact plan on whether and where bison could be introduced as wild game in Eastern Montana.

Moore said farmers and ranchers in Montana already suffer millions of dollars in losses essentially feeding other wildlife that roam their property, such as antelope and deer. But bison have the potential to incur even greater costs, and Eastern Montana landowners certainly haven't been figuring those costs into their business plan.

SB249 also requires the state to estimate private-property damages for any bison relocation plan.

Opponents of Moore's bill said it's almost impossible to estimate such damages, and that state law already requires the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to pay for bison damages caused by the state failing to follow its management plan.

Moore said if the costs can't be estimated, "then maybe it's something we shouldn't be doing," and that the state shouldn't be exempt from paying damages just because it followed its management plan.

Opponents of the bill changing the definition of wild bison, Senate Bill 305, said they're not sure what it's trying to accomplish, and "creates more questions than answers."

The sponsor of the bill, Sen. Jim Peterson, R-Butte, said the bill pretty much narrows the definition of wild bison to bison that are in Yellowstone National Park.

"My point is we have to start somewhere," he said. "This whole issue of bison has attracted a slew of bills, as you know. We're struggling with landowners and the department in how we deal with bison, and we haven't seen the last of this subject."

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/montana-senate-republicans-overwhelmingly-support-bison-bills/article\\_15209fce-6251-59b2-99a3-6c2ecc045ab2.html#ixzz2M78YGJVS](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/montana-senate-republicans-overwhelmingly-support-bison-bills/article_15209fce-6251-59b2-99a3-6c2ecc045ab2.html#ixzz2M78YGJVS)

### **Out-of-state scientists to weigh in on brucellosis**

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 12:15 am

EMIGRANT – Yellowstone National Park managers have recruited an outside group of scientists to help them fit a few more pieces in the brucellosis puzzle.

On Tuesday, eight scientists from universities and agencies in other states received a dizzying overview of the agricultural, social, political and ecological complexities of trying to control brucellosis in the greater Yellowstone area.

Yellowstone Center for Resources director Dave Hallac said the park must soon decide whether to vaccinate bison against brucellosis, a bacterial disease that can cause cows to abort their calves. Along with public input, park managers want fresh insight from leading scientists in the fields of disease control and wildlife management. More than 50 Montanans also attended the first day of a three-day workshop at Chico Hot Springs. The workshop is intended to provide all the information the scientists need to come up with recommendations on management options.

Representatives from the Interagency Bison Management Plan partners, including tribes and state agencies, gave presentations on their respective jigsaw pieces.

Vaccination from a distance is fraught with difficulties, as highlighted by a briefing by park spokesman P.J. White.

Remote vaccination would require biologists to shoot bison in the haunches with vaccination-loaded bullets.

The optimal size of a “bio-bullet” is too small to provide an accurate shot at a distance greater than 100 feet. As a result, biologists would be lucky to immunize half the animals in a herd, White said.

Plus, depending where it hits the animal, the bullet might not deliver the full dose.

The cost for remote vaccination would be between \$300,000 and \$500,000 every year, and vaccination could not be halted or the disease would return.

“We’ve concluded that there will be no remote vaccination at this time,” White said. “Yellowstone National Park is not trying to eradicate brucellosis. At this point, we’re struggling with where to go.”

Representatives from tribal groups and a citizens’ working group echoed the aversion to bison vaccination. They all said elk are responsible for recent cattle infections so vaccinating bison would make little difference – both bison and cattle would continue to be infected by elk.

About 15 percent of cow elk test positive for brucellosis in some areas while around 50 percent of bison cows test positive.

Inter Tribal Buffalo Council representative Jim Stone said the tribes were frustrated by the lack of scientific research driving bison management.

In addition to wanting their own bison herds, the tribes want to continue hunting Yellowstone bison.

The timing of vaccination efforts would overlap with hunting, causing a conflict. Vaccinated bison should not be consumed for about three weeks, but there would be no way to ensure that hunters wouldn’t kill a recently vaccinated bison.

“Bison vaccination is not viable economically, so vaccination should be done at the level you can manage, which is livestock,” Stone said.

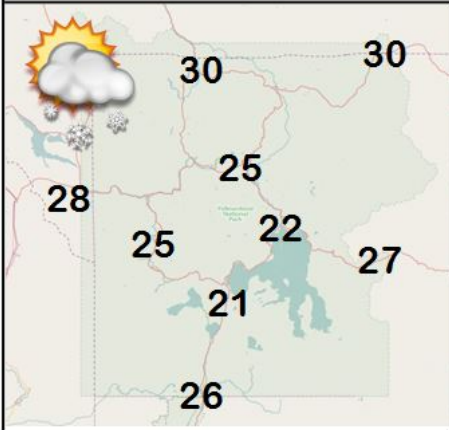
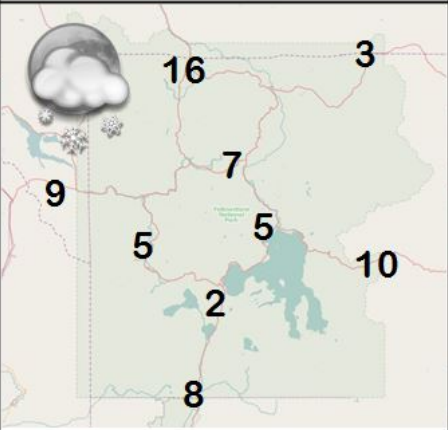
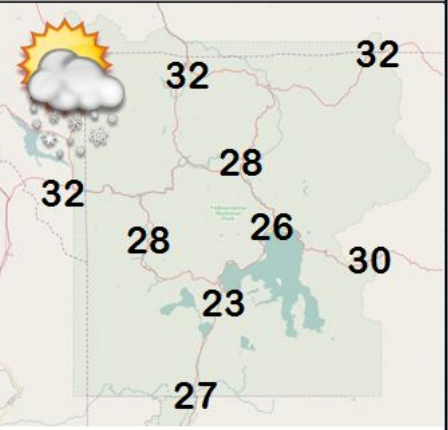
State veterinarian Marty Zaluski was the only speaker to support bison vaccination.

“If we wait until we have a perfect vaccine for bison, we’ll get nowhere. Let’s not worry about getting (disease presence) down to zero – let’s get it down to that of elk,” Zaluski said.

The scientists will present their preliminary conclusions Thursday. By June, Hallac and Flowers will create a draft report that park managers will consider in vaccination decisions.

## **WEATHER**

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

| <b><i>TODAY</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b><i>TONIGHT</i></b>                                                                                                    | <b><i>THURSDAY</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Southwest winds around 15 mph with gusts to 24 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent. | Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Accumulation of less than a half inch up to two inches Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon with gusts to 28 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                       |                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>Thursday Night:</b> Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 9 to 20. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 30 percent.</p> <p><b>Friday:</b> Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated snow showers. Highs 29 to 39. Chance of snow 20 percent.</p> <p><b>Friday Night:</b> Partly cloudy. Lows 12 to 22.</p> <p><b>Saturday:</b> Mostly sunny. Highs 36 to 43.</p> |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Prepared using NWS data from <a href="http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001">http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001</a> and <a href="http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp">http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp</a>                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## **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](mailto: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](#)