

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

There is an **interior employee conference call with Superintendent Wenk on Sequestration** scheduled for Thursday, March 7, at 2:00pm.

Please dial: 1-866-500-8741, passcode: 9544358#. (use the pound sign)

There will also be an **all-employee meeting at the Mammoth Community Center** with Superintendent Wenk starting at 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Thursday, March 7.

Any employee who cannot make the 3:30pm meeting in Mammoth can also join the conference call at 2pm.

Employees who are at work and want to be on the conference call at 2:00pm or attend the meeting at 3:30pm must obtain approval from their supervisors.

Please call Jan at X2002 or Kerrie at X2003 if you have any questions. Thanks!

Jan Laye
Superintendent's Office

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After almost 10 years in Yellowstone, **Bridgette Guild is leaving** us for that park to the south...she'll be the new museum curator at Grand Teton NP! Join us Thursday, March 7th from 3-5pm in the Heritage and Research Center Conference Room (lower level conference room).for some cake and some goodies (feel free to bring something to share!) Wear your best St. Paddy's green and help us wish Bridgette the best of luck in her move to be the curator of Grand Teton National Park!

In our increased effort to limit costs, travelers need to remember it is DOI and NPS policy that: 1) **we don't rent separate GPS units when renting a vehicle**, and 2) **we don't accept the prepaid fuel service option offered by the rental agency**. Employees are expected to fuel the rental car prior to returning it. There are a few exceptions for renting a GPS (such as active law enforcement or fire fighting missions). Navigating in an unfamiliar metropolitan area is NOT an exception and employees should obtain maps and plan driving routes before leaving for a trip.



On behalf of me and my husband, Dan Kowalski, we would like to **express our sincere thanks and gratitude** for all of the support from the NPS YELL staff, especially those who donated leave to me these past few months. We welcomed a beautiful, 6 pound 4 ounce baby girl into world on January 6, 2013. Her name is Estelle Carpenter Kowalski, and she is settling into her new Yellowstone home nicely. Thanks to all of your kind donations, I have been able to spend much needed time at home with Estelle, as well as have enough leave for follow-up appointments with doctors and specialists both in Billings and Denver in order to monitor baby Estelle's rare genetic disorder, Tuberous Sclerosis. Thankfully, Estelle is doing very well and she is showing no outward symptoms of the disease right now. Estelle looks forward to meeting you all and growing up as a resident of Yellowstone National Park.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Carpenter Kowalski and Dan Kowalski

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Courier Run: Due to changes with the plowing schedule, I cannot give exact information on how the courier run will be impacted. My plan for now is to run the courier for the next 2 weeks on Tuesday and Friday. March 15th will be my last day for the winter season, after that the courier duties will be delegated to the different divisions like we always do during the shoulder seasons. We will continue to update you as we know more information and will organizing the shuttling of mail as the plowing progresses through the spring.

Tammy Wert (2115) and the Visitor Services Office (2107) will be your contact for any questions with the courier schedule after March 15th.

-Rachel Cudmore

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In an effort to reduce excessive idling, to save on fuel costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Green Team is encouraging the use of **windshield covers**. It's great for those who like to jump in their rig quick and get right to work!

Prevent the need to warm up your vehicle on cold days in order to clear frost and snow from windshields.

YNP Wellness Incentive Program

Certification forms are due **TODAY** for the reporting period of February 1-28 for any employee who participated in any or all of the 5 clubs and met the club goal. Five participants will earn an award.

Here's to your health!

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.

RECENT PRESS RELEASES

Yellowstone National Park Spring Opening Delayed

Roads into Yellowstone National Park will open one to two weeks later than normal this spring.

Each spring, park road crews clear snow and ice from 198 miles of main road, 124 miles of secondary roads and 125 acres of parking lots inside the park as well as 31 miles of the Beartooth Highway outside the park's Northeast Entrance to prepare for the summer season.

Crews normally begin plowing roads on the Monday after the first weekend in March. Budget cuts due to the impacts of sequestration prompted the park to take many administrative actions, including delaying the start of plowing until Monday, March 18.

It costs up to \$30,000 a day to clear Yellowstone's roads in the spring. Allowing time for more snow to melt from the roads should reduce the number of days it takes to clear each road segment. This will also result in less ice to be cleared from the road base, less re-plowing of road segments, less wear and tear and repairs on equipment, and a reduction in fuel costs.

The park chose to delay spring road clearing as part of an overall plan to cut \$1.75 million from the anticipated \$35 million annual base operating budget, since a delayed spring opening will impact fewer visitors and have fewer impacts on local communities than cuts during the peak summer months.

Based on 2012 visitation figures, opening two weeks later than originally scheduled will impact approximately 135,000 visitors, compared to the 505,000 visitors who would be impacted if the park were closed the last two weeks of the fiscal year in mid-September through the end of October. Yellowstone hosted of 3.45 million visitors to the park during the 2012 calendar year.

The Old Faithful Visitor Education Center, Snow Lodge Geyser Grill and Bear Den Gift Shop will open on April 26, a week later than previously scheduled. All other services including the Old Faithful Inn, the Old Faithful Lodge, Old Faithful Snow Lodge and the Upper and Lower General Stores and Service Stations will open as originally scheduled.

All services in the Mammoth area including the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Dining Room, and Terrace Grill will open as originally scheduled. The Yellowstone General Store, clinic, post office, campground, and Albright Visitor Center are open all year.

The roads from West Yellowstone and Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful will open to automobile travel at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, April 26, one week later than originally scheduled.

The road from Norris Junction to Canyon Village will open on Friday morning, May 3, two weeks later than previously scheduled. The Canyon Adventure Store will now open on May 3 and the Canyon Visitor Education Center will open on May 25, both two weeks later than previously scheduled. All other services in the area including the Canyon Lodge will open on schedule.

Yellowstone intends to open the road from the park's East Entrance to Fishing Bridge, Lake, and Canyon Village no later than May 17, which is two weeks later than normally scheduled. This may result in a delayed opening for the Fishing Bridge General Store, the Fishing Bridge RV Park and the Fishing Bridge Service Station. The Fishing Bridge Visitor Center will open on May 25, three days later than originally scheduled. All other services in the Lake and Fishing Bridge area including the Lake Yellowstone Hotel, the Lake Hotel Cabins and the Lake Lodge and Cabins will open as originally scheduled.

Travel through the park's South Entrance to Grant, West Thumb and Lake will begin no later than Friday morning, May 24, in time for the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The road from West Thumb Junction over Craig Pass to Old Faithful will open shortly thereafter. The Grant Mini Store will open on May 24, one week later than originally scheduled. All other services in the Grant area will open as originally scheduled.

The section of US-212 between the park's Northeast Entrance through Cooke City and Silver Gate to the intersection with WY-296, the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway, will open on Friday, May 24, in time for the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The section of the Beartooth Highway between the junction of US-212/WY-296 and the community of Red Lodge, Montana, is now set to open on Friday, June 14.

The road between Canyon and Tower-Roosevelt over Dunraven Pass will open to travel sometime in early June. Construction will resume this summer between Tower-Roosevelt Junction and Chittenden Road, with up to 30 minute delays and possible nightly road closures. All services in the area including the Tower Fall General Store and the Roosevelt Lodge and Cabins will open as originally scheduled.

The road from the park's North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana through Mammoth Hot Springs on to the Northeast Entrance and the communities of Cooke City and Silver Gate, Montana, is open all year.

The sequestration cuts will result in a base operating budget of approximately \$33.3 million, a 10-percent decrease from the \$37 million base operating budget Yellowstone received in Fiscal Year 2010. The park anticipates taking several other actions including leaving several permanent positions vacant and hiring fewer seasonal employees in order to make up the budget shortfall, while still working to provide a high quality visitor experience during the peak summer season.

IN THE PRESS

Park cuts reverberate to surrounding communities

9 hours ago • By Brett French

Cooke City may be a little quieter than usual this spring. That's because the isolated mountain town of 75 on the northeast edge of Yellowstone National Park won't have its snowed-in dead end on Highway 212 plowed until late May.

Yellowstone, which plows the highway, had to cut 5 percent from its budget to meet the federal government's sequestration requirements that went into effect Friday. The cuts affect all national parks and monuments.

"It has a really huge impact on these communities," said Kim Capron, of the Friends of the Beartooth All-American Road, which includes the communities of Cooke City and Cody in Wyoming and Red Lodge. "And it has a ripple effect. People change travel plans, then they go somewhere else."

Details

In a teleconference on Monday, park Superintendent Dan Wenk announced that snowplows wouldn't open Highway 212 between Cooke City and the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway -- a 10-mile stretch -- until May 24. Then crews would move on to the Beartooth Highway, clearing the Wyoming side of that popular route that connects Cooke City and Yellowstone to Red Lodge. Wenk predicted the road would open on June 14 instead of on the Friday before Memorial Day.

Other roads will open sooner. The route between West Yellowstone and Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful will open on April 26, one week later than normal. The road from Norris Junction to Canyon Village will open on May 3, two weeks later than previously scheduled.

Yellowstone intends to open the road from the park's East Entrance to Fishing Bridge, Lake and Canyon Village no later than May 17, which is two weeks later than normal.

Travel through the park's South Entrance to Grant, West Thumb and Lake will begin no later than May 24. The road from West Thumb Junction over Craig Pass to Old Faithful will open shortly thereafter.

Big hit

Wenk had to trim \$1.75 million from Yellowstone's planned expenditures. Its neighbor, Grand Teton National Park, had to find \$700,000 in savings, most of it from not hiring 180 seasonal workers and closing visitor centers. The Bighorn Canyon National Monument, which straddles the Montana-Wyoming border, will have to trim \$176,000 from its spending plan.

Wenk said the delay in opening snow-covered roads could mean about 4,700 fewer visitors traveling through Cooke City. More folks will be turned back at other entrances as plowing is delayed one to two weeks -- an estimated 49,600 total. Hardest hit would be the South Entrance, between Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park. The delay there would mean 18,500 fewer visitors. The estimates are based on 2012 visitor numbers.

Other savings

To come up with the bulk of the savings, Wenk said, a number of vacant positions in Yellowstone would not be filled, saving about \$1 million. About 35 fewer seasonal workers, out of a typical year's total of 435, would be

hired, saving about \$450,000. Those seasonal employees also may work fewer hours. All parks had to cut nonessential travel. To make up the additional savings, Yellowstone decided to delay its plowing schedule, saving \$100,000.

Mary Sue Costello, director of the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, said it is better to take the hit in the spring than in the fall, when the park is busier. She said some businesses will likely delay their hiring, meaning some seasonal employees may not be as well trained when summer arrives.

Because it is so heavily reliant on tourist traffic for business, Cooke City may be one of the most economically challenged of park border communities. It's estimated that summer nonresident travelers accounted for a \$12.1 million boost to the small town's economy, according to a survey done for the Friends of the Beartooth Highway. The survey showed travelers to the region, including Red Lodge and Cody, accounted for \$44.9 million in spending.

"Obviously Yellowstone is vital to our economy," said Angela Beaumont, general manager of the Pollard Hotel in Red Lodge. "But I feel there are a lot of things people can do here. Access to Yellowstone would be nice, but in early June one never knows whether the road will be open because of the weather anyway."

Yellowstone's importance to surrounding communities is paramount. In 2011, a federal study estimated that Yellowstone National Park accounts for \$332.9 million in spending in surrounding communities and supports more than 5,000 jobs. The Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area was estimated to bring \$6.2 million to surrounding communities while Grand Teton National Park brought \$436 million to its area of Wyoming.

Other options

Lisa Ohlinger, president of the Cooke City Chamber of Commerce, said her group is working with their counterparts in Cody, Red Lodge and even Billings to see if they can find the means to at least plow the road between Cooke City and the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway.

"Hopefully, Montana and Wyoming would understand this is major tourism dollars," Ohlinger said. "We want to open it as soon as we can" after April 15, which is when the snowmobiling club stops grooming the federal highway.

Wenk said he has spoken to the governors in Montana and Wyoming about plowing, but received no commitments from the states. Wenk said Yellowstone spends about \$30,000 a day plowing roads. In 2011, a wet year with heavy snow, the park spent \$1.5 million clearing its roads. In 2012, a drier year, it spent \$1.14 million. Just to clear the Beartooth Highway cost the Park Service \$316,000 in 2011, \$178,000 in 2012.

"I would love to have the state take it over," Wenk said.

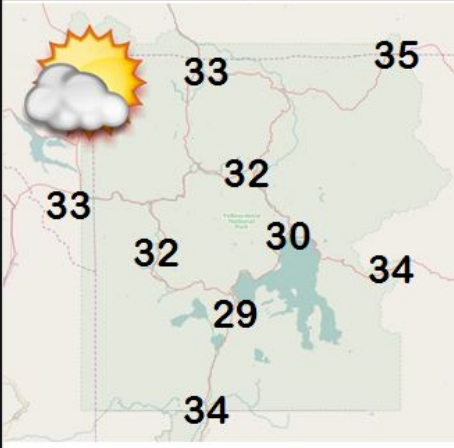
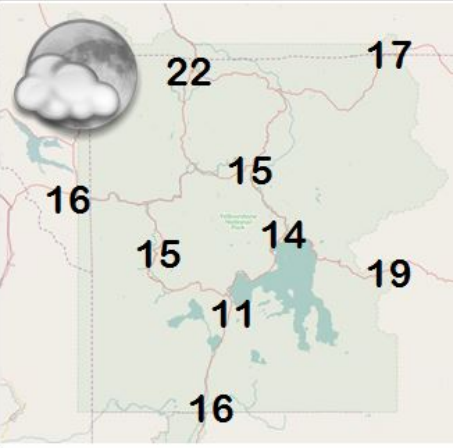
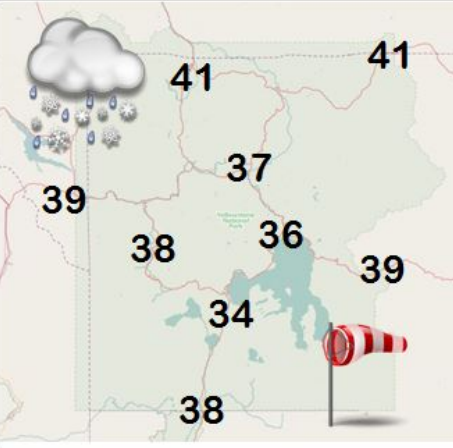
Beaumont, of the Pollard Hotel, said she didn't see why federal government, which bailed out large banks for hundreds of millions of dollars, couldn't find \$316,000 to clear the Beartooth Highway. To have the communities pay the cost may not be smart, she added.

"I'm not quite sure we want to set the precedent."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/park-cuts-reverberate-to-surrounding-communities/article_0fcc7b4f-a321-55c8-9056-f7cf0a36ea16.html#ixzz2Mg8qDZmY

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny until late afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Southwest winds 9-14 mph with gusts 21-26 mph. Lighter winds for West Yellowstone, Old Faithful, and the South Entrance.	Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. South winds 9-16 mph with gusts to 24 mph, with lighter winds in the southwest quarter of the park.	Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning, then snow possibly mixed with rain in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches in some interior locations. SW winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph.
		
Wednesday Night: Breezy...cloudy. Snow likely in the evening... Then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent. Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 30 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the morning. Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 12 to 18. Friday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 32 to 38.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riv/?n=ynp_gtnp		

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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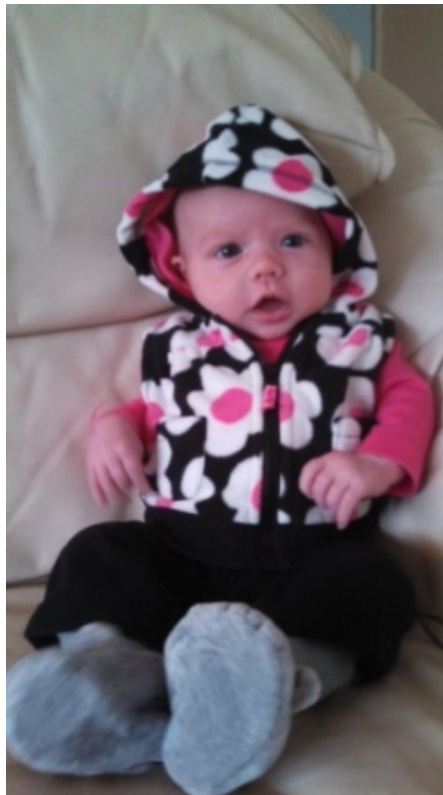
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Don't forget about the Lunch Hour **Seminar Grizzly Bear – Human Interactions in Yellowstone: An Evaluation of Bear Management Areas** by Dr. Tyler Coleman. **TOMORROW** from 12 – 1 p.m. in the YCR Conference Room. Dr. Coleman will present the results of his interesting study of grizzly bear-human interactions in the remote Yellowstone Lake Region of Yellowstone National Park.

After 39 or so years.....**Jen Whipple is heading off to new adventures!** There will be a potluck farewell retirement party for Jennifer Whipple at the Mammoth Community Center on Saturday, 23 March beginning at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to come and wish Jen well as she begins a new chapter. Stay tuned for more information forthcoming next week.

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Sincerely,
Jennifer Carpenter Kowalski and Dan Kowalski

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Employee Safety Committee-March Wellness Newsletter

In this issue: The FINE art of STRETCHING; 4 FUN ways to exercise; MEN-9 reasons to go to the doctor; Snoring-NO joke; Just say NO to negativity; March is NUTRITION Month-set a nutrition goal!!; Unused drug disposal-what you need to know; Soothing Soup-some advice; Quik Risk-Spot the signs of stress.

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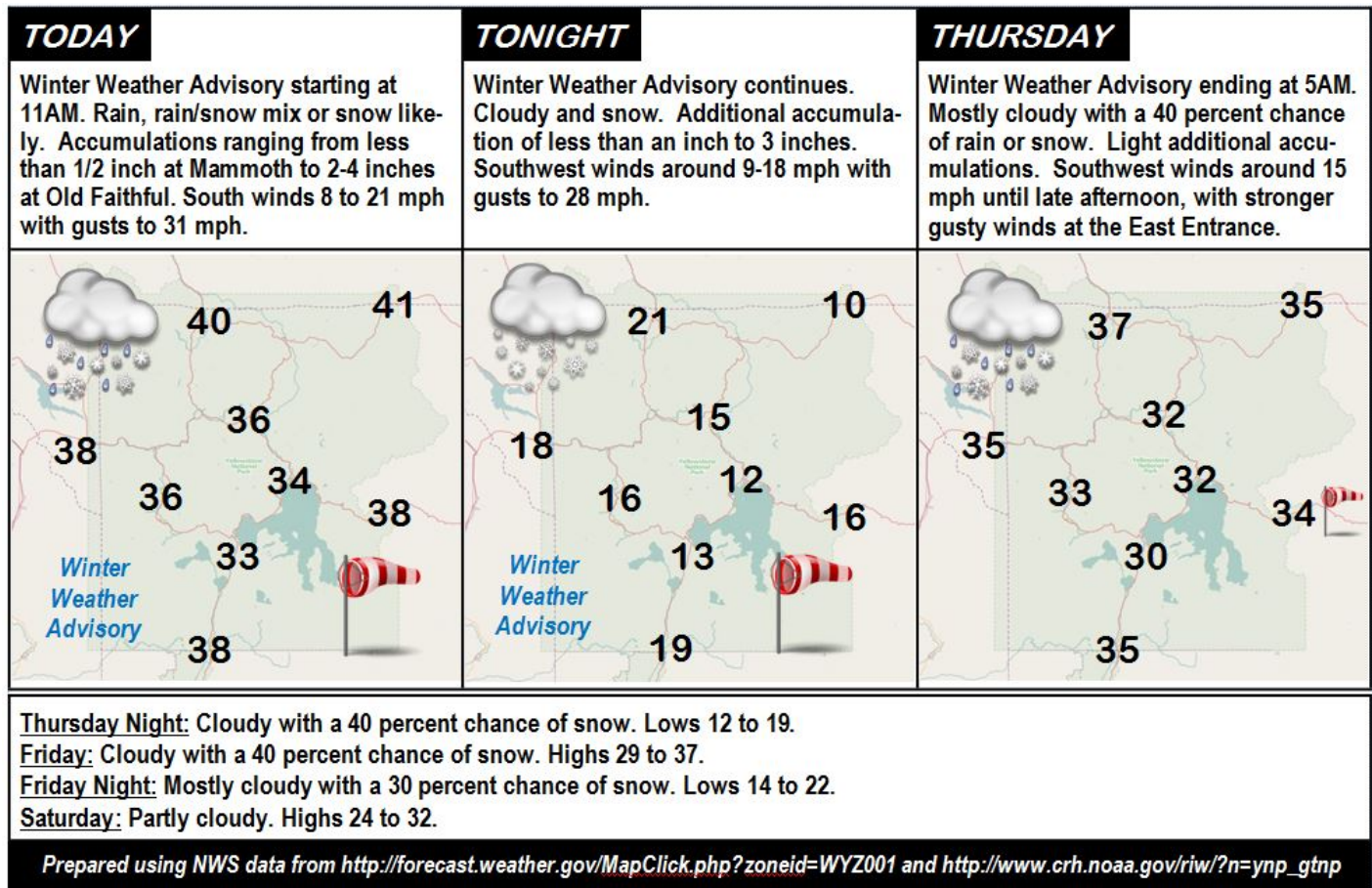
Website: <http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/View-Issue.aspx?issue=556>

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

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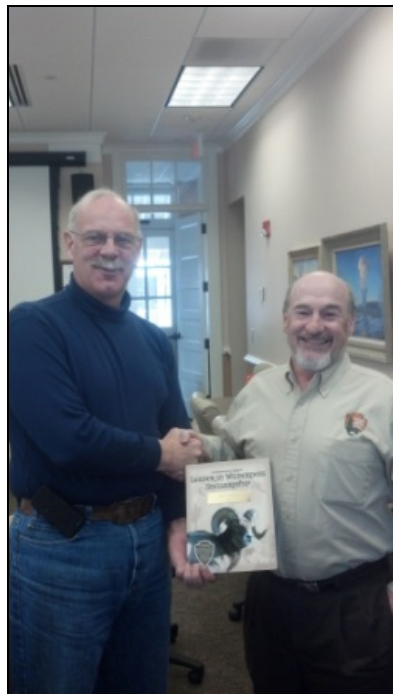
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Jan Laye
Superintendent's Office



Congratulations to Dan Reinhart! He was selected by the IMR Wilderness Executive Committee, in consultation with the regional directorate, as a 2012 IMR Wilderness Stewardship Award winner. Dan was recognized for his outstanding stewardship contributions in the park and communication of wilderness science and management information to agencies throughout the Greater Yellowstone Area. In particular, Dan has been a leader through his interagency work on whitebark pine restoration plans that support wilderness values.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT?!?! How can she leave us!!!

After almost 10 years in Yellowstone, **Bridgette Guild is leaving** us for that park to the south...she'll be the new museum curator at Grand Teton NP! In order for everyone to be able to attend the All Employee Meeting on Thursday afternoon, the time of Bridgette Guild's going-away party **TODAY** at the HRC will now be **4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**. So please stop by the HRC lower level conference room after the meeting for goodies and refreshments and help us wish Bridgette the best of luck in her move to be the curator of Grand Teton National Park!

TOMORROW the courier route will be run in reverse. Thanks, Rachel Cudmore

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Come join us at the Mammoth Community Center's **Saint Patrick's Day inspired potluck** next Tuesday, March 12 from 6 to 8 pm. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with your favorite six-pack for beer tasting and a pub-style potluck item. Come eat, drink, and be merry!

DID YOU HEAR???

A Yellowstone Endemic Returns to her Native Vegetation—Jen Whipple is Retiring!

Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 5:00PM at the Mammoth Community Center. Cake, utensils, and drinks will be provided. Alcohol will not be provided but you may bring your own. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or salad to share. Gift Donations should be sent to Roy Renkin.

The next United Blood Services Blood Drive will take place on Monday, March 18th, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #2. You can either call or email me to make an appointment, or book your own appointment on line at: www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth)

NO AB donors are needed at this time.

As always a photo ID is required to make your donation and if anyone is interested in providing snacks, treats, and drinks, your donations will never be turned down!! Give the gift of life!!! Thank you in advance for your generous donation.

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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 March 2013

What: Free public presentation by Bob Landis

"Filming Highlights of Yellowstone 2012"

(sponsored by "A Gathering of Naturalists" presentation series)

When: March 22, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Where: Track Education Center, located at #9 Jardine Road, Gardiner

For more information, contact Leo at: [<yellowstone.leo@gmail.com>](mailto:yellowstone.leo@gmail.com)

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IN THE PRESS

Decline in Yellowstone elk herd leveling off

Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer - Posted: Thursday, March 7, 2013 12:15 am

The population of the northern Yellowstone elk remains in decline, although a recent aerial count indicates the drop of the last several years may be leveling off.

On Feb. 18, the Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group counted more than 3,900 elk in Yellowstone National Park and north of the park in the Gardiner basin east to Dome Mountain.

That's down slightly from the winter 2012 count of more than 4,100 elk. But park biologist Doug Smith said the numbers should be used as indicators rather than absolutes.

Smith conducts the park's aerial count every year and has seen several changes over the past few decades. In 2005, when the elk count was 9,545, large herds covered open meadows. Smith said that elk are now likely staying out of the open because of wolves.

"It's a lot harder to count elk now — they're in smaller groups and they tend to hang out more in the trees," Smith said. "The count is an underestimate."

The annual elk counts have declined since 1995, when 16,791 elk roamed the area. Elk overpopulation was destroying some of the park habitat by overgrazing.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks encouraged hunting around the park, which rapidly brought the numbers down. FWP biologist Karen Loveless said the final big harvest was in 2005, and the following year's count was 6,588.

Since then, the herd counts have mostly continued to drop, with some years showing bigger declines than others. The elk tend to migrate to better wintering ground outside of the park, and this year, about three-quarters of those counted were outside the park. That's a change from a decade ago when the split was closer to 50-50.

Smith said that proportional change was probably a product of today's smaller herd size.

"They want to go outside the park. But when there was more of them, the wintering ground would fill up and the rest couldn't come out," Smith said.

A number of factors affect the herd's growth.

Hunting played a large part until 2005. Some dwindling effects may still remain since cows can live about 20 years and a lot of cows were taken out of the picture.

Predators, including wolves, mountain lions and grizzly bears, play a part. The park's wolf population peaked at around 100 in 2004 and brought elk numbers down. But now only 20 wolves remain in the northern range, Smith said.

The contribution from mountain lions and grizzlies is unknown, Smith said.

Finally, climate change is likely playing a part.

Prior to the wet winter of 2010, the drought probably affected calf survival. One of the largest count declines was from 6,070 in 2010 to 4,635 in 2011.

One other consideration is brucellosis. A disease surveillance area surrounds the park, where the disease exists in elk, cattle and bison and causes them to abort their calves. The disease appears to be increasing in elk in recent years.

Citizen working groups are coming together to try to reduce the interaction between elk and cattle in that area so cattle aren't infected. With fewer elk, that job gets a little easier.

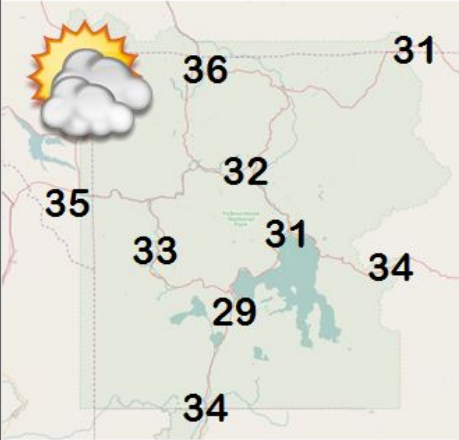
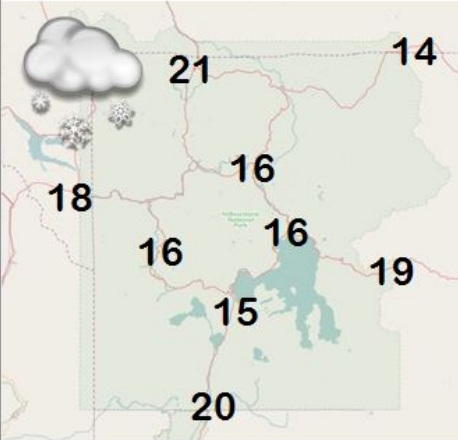
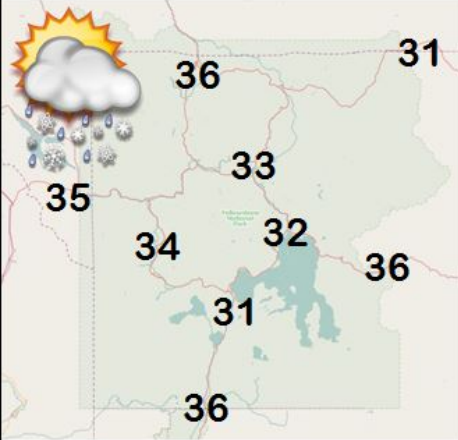
But Loveless doesn't want elk numbers to drop any lower, so additional hunts will probably not occur in the Gardiner basin.

"This herd is of particular interest ecologically and culturally," Loveless said.

Loveless just finished counting elk in the Shields Valley north of Livingston where the population looks good, she said. She'll count the population south of Livingston in the next week.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. Southwest winds 7-15 mph with gust up to 29 mph at the East Entrance. Winds decreasing in the afternoon.	Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Light or no snow accumulation.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain or snow showers. Light or no new snow accumulation.
		
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 16 to 20. Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 25 to 33. North winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Saturday Night: Spring Forward! Daylight Saving Time Colder. Mostly clear. Lows 5 to 21. Sunday: Spring Forward! Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 AM. Mostly sunny. Highs 31 to 42. <i>Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riv/?n=ynp_gtnp</i>		

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, March 8, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bear Management Office has received the first report of bear activity of the year. On March 5, Ranger Michael Curtis observed bear tracks in the snow deep in the backcountry in the south-central part of the park. With bears now emerging from winter dens, all park employees are reminded to carry bear spray and use caution when encountering ungulate carcasses.

TODAY the courier route will be run in reverse. Thanks, Rachel Cudmore

Daylight Saving Time 2013 begins at 2:00 AM this Sunday. Don't forget to move those clocks forward an hour!

Come join us at the Mammoth Community Center's **Saint Patrick's Day inspired potluck** next Tuesday, March 12 from 6 to 8 pm. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with your favorite six-pack for beer tasting and a pub-style potluck item. Come eat, drink, and be merry!

DID YOU HEAR???

A Yellowstone Endemic Returns to her Native Vegetation—Jen Whipple is Retiring!

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The next United Blood Services Blood Drive will take place on Monday, March 18th, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #2. You can either call or email me to make an appointment, or book your own appointment on line at: www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth)

NO AB donors are needed at this time.

As always a photo ID is required to make your donation and if anyone is interested in providing snacks, treats, and drinks, your donations will never be turned down!! Give the gift of life!!! Thank you in advance for your generous donation.

In our increased effort to limit costs, travelers need to remember it is DOI and NPS policy that: 1) **we don't rent separate GPS units when renting a vehicle**, and 2) **we don't accept the prepaid fuel service option offered by the rental agency**. Employees are expected to fuel the rental car prior to returning it. There are a few exceptions for renting a GPS (such as active law enforcement or fire fighting missions). Navigating in an unfamiliar metropolitan area is NOT an exception and employees should obtain maps and plan driving routes before leaving for a trip.

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Boiling River hours change to 5A-9P on 3/10. Get your soak on before the high water hits!

In an effort to reduce excessive idling, to save on fuel costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Green Team is encouraging the use of **windshield covers**. It's great for those who like to jump in their rig quick and get right to work!

Prevent the need to warm up your vehicle on cold days in order to clear frost and snow from windshields.

Employee Safety Committee-March Wellness Newsletter

In this issue: The FINE art of STRETCHING; 4 FUN ways to exercise; MEN-9 reasons to go to the doctor; Snoring-NO joke; Just say NO to negativity; March is NUTRITION Month-set a nutrition goal!!; Unused drug disposal-what you need to know; Soothing Soup-some advice; Quik Risk-Spot the signs of stress.

Employees may access the March edition of the Wellness Newsletter by pasting the website link below into your browser 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.

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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 March 2013

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"Filming Highlights of Yellowstone 2012"

(sponsored by "A Gathering of Naturalists" presentation series)

When: March 22, 2013 at 7:00 pm

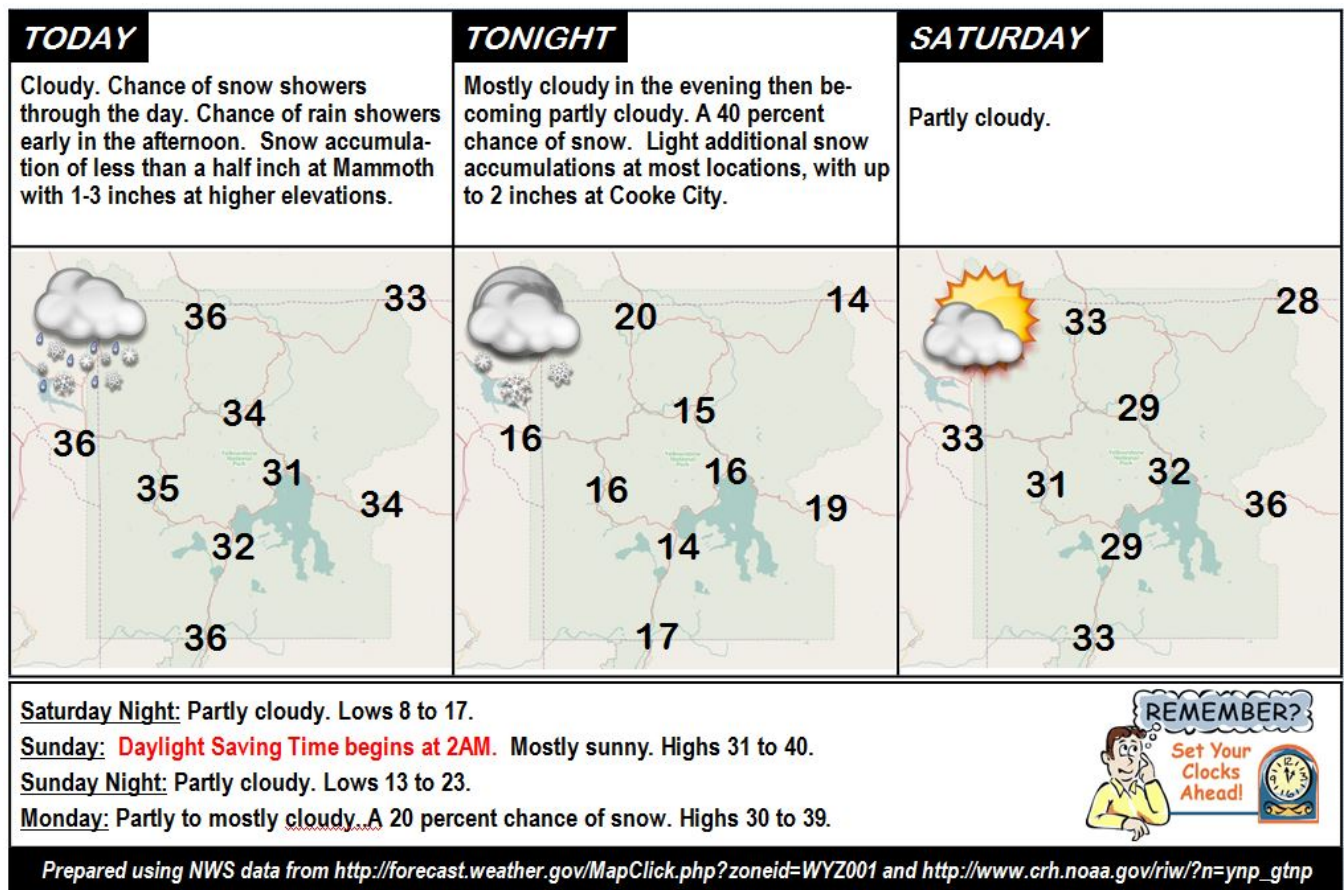
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For more information, contact Leo at: <yellowstone.leo@gmail.com>

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IN THE PRESS

Yellowstone gets real about budget cuts

By Lisa Rein, Washington Post, March 10, 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/yellowstone-gets-real-about-budget-cuts/2013/03/10/fdc3e5f4-868f-11e2-9d71-f0feafdd1394_story.html

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. — The giant yellow snowplows that wake Yellowstone from its winter slumber every March are idled, waiting for the sun to make up for federal budget cuts that are forcing the park to open late for peak season.

Mandatory cuts kicked in three days before the plows were to start clearing snow and ice from 300 roads at altitudes that reach 11,000 feet. Faced with an order from Washington to slice \$1.8 million from his budget, the park superintendent, Dan Wenk, had considered his options.

He could slash the ranks of the 430 seasonal rangers, guides and other employees who help keep Yellowstone running every summer. But it would mean fewer visitor centers open, fewer walking tours and a risk to public safety.

He could halt the bison-management program — but the program is required under a court settlement. He could close the park for two weeks before the fiscal year ends Sept. 30, but that would mean shutting out 267,000 visitors.

Or he could keep the seasonals, just fewer of them, and bring them on two weeks later, saving \$450,000. He could freeze all permanent hires (\$1 million), delay the snowplows (\$250,000) and open most entrances two weeks late. About 50,000 visitors would be lost, and hundreds of fishing and hiking guides, rangers, and concession workers would lose their livelihoods.

But it seemed the best bad alternative. The sun would melt and soften the snow, saving \$30,000 a day.

“We didn’t say we’re going to shut the park down” for the season, Wenk said. “But it will have real impacts.” At parks, military bases and federal agencies across the country, managers such as Wenk are weighing choices being forced by the budget reductions known as sequestration.

“Everybody says, ‘We want you to run the park like a private business,’ ” he said, referring to the 5.1 percent cut he must make over seven months, which will feel a lot bigger. “Well, here it is. The impact is 9 percent.”

Early Monday, he sat in regulation khakis in the brown armchair in his office, five miles inside the park, 2,174 miles from Washington. The temperature outside was 3 degrees. He looked over a long list of calls and meetings on his schedule to make it official that plowing would not start on time.

He dialed the governor of Montana.

“There’s a lot of misinformation out there that we are just doing this to make a statement about the effects of sequestration,” he told Gov. Steve Bullock (D), walking him through his decision.

“That’s where we are, sir,” Wenk said.

Bullock thanked him for the briefing. Then things got messy.

By midday, a news release had gone out, and the angry while-you-were-out slips were piling up. Tour guide Rusty Cole’s was at the top.

“He’s mad as hell and not buying your argument,” read the message.

“Rusty should call his congressman,” Wenk said in frustration, rubbing his eyes.

And Cole did. Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) returned his call that night.

“He said the delayed opening is not a done deal,” recounted Cole, who is furious that park officials are slashing two weeks from his 20-week season.

“They spend millions of dollars to operate Air Force One, and they can’t come up with some money to blow open the roads in Yellowstone?” Cole said.

But the sequestration law slices money from most budgets across the government, including \$136 million from the 398 national parks.

In 1872, the federal government saw to it that the spectacular landscape of 2.2 million acres, which is ringed by the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, was protected as America’s first national park. Today, Yellowstone country is a deeply conservative place, where government is regarded with great suspicion.

Just ask Wyoming’s lone House member, Rep. Cynthia M. Lummis (R), who applauded the \$85 billion carved across the board in a letter to constituents.

“Instead of blindly filling empty desks,” she wrote last week, “federal agencies will be forced to consider which positions are crucial and make their decision based on necessity rather than luxury.”

In an interview, Lummis suggested that Wenk petition House and Senate appropriators for permission to take money from his capital budget to cover the cuts, an idea he said was not legal and would never get through Congress in time.

The late opening has further inflamed the area’s anti-government sentiment as small, rural communities that serve park visitors absorb the reality of the cuts. In the large scheme of 3.4 million annual visits, losing 50,000 seems small.

But the ripple effect on jobs and tourism could mean millions of dollars in lost income. The plowing delay also means that snow won’t be cleared until mid-June from the scenic Beartooth Highway, which straddles Montana and Wyoming outside the park. The National Park Service plows about half the road.

“We have 90 days to make a living,” said Sam Bolinger, 56, who leads whitewater rafting tours along the Yellowstone River from Gardiner, Mont., in the summer and grooms park trails in the winter. “If people get the impression they can’t get into the park, they just won’t come.”

There was the hostile reaction from the mayor of Jackson, Wyo., 60 miles from the park’s south entrance, who told Wenk that anyone knows how to cut 5.1 percent from a budget without inflicting this much pain.

“This is, with all due respect, an asinine decision,” Mark Barron said in a conference call with business and community leaders. Jackson recently cut its budget by 22 percent, Barron said, “and we didn’t cut any services.”

“This is a small cut in your budget, sir,” Barron continued. “If I ran my business like this, I wouldn’t be in business long.”

It was the day’s one moment when Wenk, a self-possessed and widely respected 60-year-old civil servant, got mad. He was acting Park Service director in Washington in 2011 when the top job opened at Yellowstone. He had been a management assistant to the park superintendent in the early 1980s, and he and his wife couldn’t wait to get back.

Wenk managed to contain his temper, though, telling Barron that Yellowstone’s \$33 million budget is \$3.7 million smaller than it was three years ago. He asked Barron whether the park should continue to stay open in the winter, when each visitor costs \$55 — vs. \$10 in the summer. When the call was over, Wenk and his deputy, Steve Iobst, wondered how one could slash 22 percent just like that.

As sequestration hit, the park was preparing for high season, closing the hotels and restaurants that serve its fewer than 100,000 winter tourists. Yellowstone in winter is a landscape of white, broken only by pine trees and half-frozen rivers. Clouds of steam from the park's many geysers billow into the cold, while herds of bison forage. The only way around is by snowmobile, and that's the tourist draw.

"We just saw a fox for the second time today," marveled Tina Don, visiting from Cedarhurst, N.Y., and warming up inside a concession trailer. "The same fox!" Her husband, Scott Dere, pulled out his iPhone and scrolled through his photos. A bison, an elk, a bald eagle. Don pointed out that her hot chocolate cost just \$2.25 ("There's no place in New York you could get hot chocolate for that") and said the park should raise the price to cover the budget cuts.

By late May, the place will be humming with cars and RVs, campfires and hikers.

The small towns at the park's edge have been closely following Washington's budget wars. All roads to survival lead to Yellowstone. "We're here all day, hoping someone comes in for a cup of coffee," said Jan Gaertner, who owns the Buns N Beds restaurant and cabins in Cooke City, Mont., population 300. "For us, \$400 in a day in April is good."

At the Old Faithful visitor center, Rich Jehle said half of his six supervisor jobs are vacant and won't be filled, which will mean fewer guided walks around the geyser and other attractions.

"We'll be spread thin, but we'll adapt," said Jehle, who oversees about half of the park's the visitor centers and interpretive programs.

On Wednesday, Wenk was 90 minutes into a meeting with his managers to decide which seasonal workers would not be called back and how the park would adjust to permanent vacancies, when the Wyoming governor's office called. The governor was getting complaints about the opening delay.

And Cooke City residents in particular were in a civil war. Cooke City sits on an eight-mile section of highway outside the park's northwest entrance that's usually plowed by the Park Service, opening access to eastern Montana. Wenk offered to plow the road first, but the snowmobile industry balked: Paved roads mean less business. Now the plow crews won't arrive until the end of May, angering other businesses who want the road cleared.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R) organized an emergency conference call for Wednesday to figure out whether Wenk could reverse his decision or whether there was any other way to open the park on time. About 20 mayors, tourism and business leaders and state transportation officials dialed in. Mead was asked whether the state would plow the roads in the park.

It was an uncomfortable spot. A state bailout of the federal government to help his constituents? Wyoming has just sliced 6.5 percent from state spending while raising the fuel tax — a combination of new revenue and cuts that Washington can't seem to agree to.

"It's a bad message for Wyoming to say, Yellowstone is not open, call back later," Mead said in an interview.

"But do I ask that state resources step in to cure a large federal screw-up?"

His answer late Friday: No. His office announced that the state would provide labor and equipment — but will not "backfill federal dollars lost through sequestration." That means the park communities must pay for the plowing. Local leaders said they are trying to raise the money. But every day causes more delays.

Wenk is already thinking about next year, when he said he will be forced to consider closing the park in the winter. Sequestration, he thought, is here to stay.

Weeds invade Yellowstone, spur new control work

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, March 7, 2013

Park Service officials are targeting hundreds of non-native plant species that have sunk roots in Yellowstone National Park.

Yellowstone officials released an environmental assessment that outlines bolstered efforts to eliminate invasive plants, seeds of which often are carried inadvertently into the park by its 3 million annual visitors.

Yellowstone biologists have identified 217 species of non-native plants inside the 2.2 million-acre park. That's a 155 percent increase from the 85 species known in 1986. By comparison, Yellowstone has 1,350 known native species of plants.

Some invaders, such as spotted knapweed, oxeye daisy and dalmation toadflax, are widespread, said Warren Renkin, the park's vegetation management supervisor. Others, he said, have been identified only in one or two locations.

"They've prioritized the species, so we've basically figured we'd get the most bang for our buck," Renkin said.

The plan to fight invasives is two-pronged, Renkin said, relying on eradication and preventing entry.

"We're going to see if we can really get a handle on the influx of weed seeds that'll be coming in," he said.

One idea is to wash construction equipment before it enters the park, Renkin said.

The other side of the invasive plant plan will focus on control, the park biologist said.

That effort will rely on chemicals, mowing and revegetation, he said.

More than 90 percent of Yellowstone is backcountry, so past treatments have mostly targeted areas near the park's 467 miles of paved roads.

"More than 75 percent of our work is focused on front-country roads and developed areas," Renkin said.

Non-natives have also treaded into the backcountry, however, the environmental plan said.

"In some places, Canada thistle has grown so dense it impedes off-trail travel in the front-country and the backcountry," the document reads. "Non-native evergreen blackberry, which can easily reach over 5 feet in height and has been found in one location in the park, poses an even greater threat than Canada thistle for making off-trail travel cumbersome."

Luckily — considering Yellowstone's many blue-ribbon trout streams — no non-native aquatic plant species have been discovered, Renkin said.

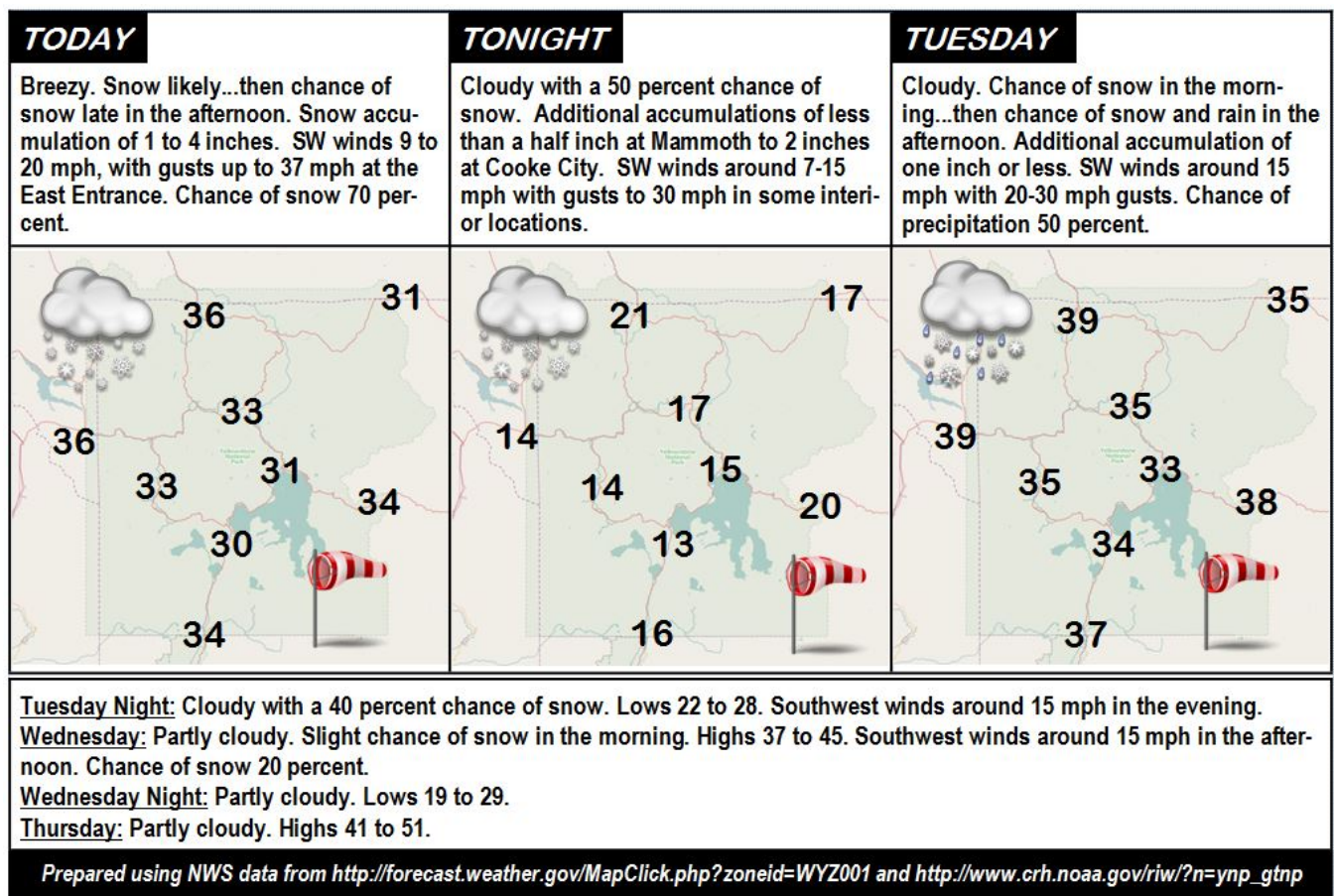
The problem is complicated, Renkin said, by difficulties in monitoring and lack of funding.

“When it comes to the question of how effective we really are, we don’t have a whole lot of information,” he said. “The gut feeling is that we’re winning the war on some of the species, we’re treading water on others, and with some we’re winning a few battles but we’re losing the war.”

A lack of manpower and resources complicates matters, Renkin said. Seven full- and part-time employees are either partly or fully devoted to exotic plant management, he said. Another “12 to 15” summer seasonal employees split time between managing weeds and invasive aquatic invertebrate species, he said.

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- - - - -

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the month of February. Names have been drawn from among those who participated in each of the 5 clubs. The following employees will receive an award for their participation.

Club #1 (Aerobic Exercise): Bonnie Whitman, RVP

Club #2 (Strength Training/Flexibility): Clare Cloghessy, REYP

Club #3 (Healthy Stress Reduction): Rachel Cudmore, RVP

Club #4 (Healthy Nutrition): Tammy Wert, RVP

Club #5 (Lifestyle Choices): Kathy Cunningham, Admin

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 March are due to Stacey Gunther by April 5th.

Here's to your health!

- - - - -

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IN THE PRESS

Wyoming officials discuss Yellowstone plow options

16 hours ago • Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Gov. Matt Mead says he's open to arranging for the Wyoming Department of Transportation to plow roads inside Yellowstone National Park this spring, provided that the state isn't stuck with the bill amid the federal budget cuts that have delayed plowing.

The governor's office has been conferring with Cody and Jackson officials to get state plows to Yellowstone and open up the park's East and South entrances sooner than the dates targeted since the cuts took effect March 1.

Yellowstone, meanwhile, is amenable to raising its gates for WyDOT snow plows.

"Should we get a proposal, we just have to see about working out the details," park spokesman Al Nash said Monday.

Cody and Jackson aren't opening their checkbooks just yet, however.

Another option would be a fund drive among Cody Country Chamber of Commerce members. The chamber was awaiting word from the governor's office to proceed, Executive Director Scott Balyo said.

"We're kind of waiting for two pieces. One, yes this can be done. And two, here's how much it's going to cost," Balyo said. "It's going to have to be done pretty quickly. We'll only have a handful of days to pull that together."

Park officials decided that relying more on warming temperatures to do snow removal this year was one of the less disruptive options available to them to save money under the cuts in effect across the federal government.

Plowing was supposed to begin March 4 and has been delayed until March 18. The postponement is saving Yellowstone an estimated \$30,000 a day, or a total of anywhere from \$150,000 to \$300,000, depending on the weather.

Depending on how much snow falls in the weeks ahead, park entrances originally scheduled to open in early May now aren't expected to open until mid-May. That worries local businesses owners looking forward to the start of summer tourist season.

"It's truly surprising. I think we should do a little bit better than that," Jackson Mayor Mark Barron said.

Barron said he planned to discuss plowing options with his town manager, the Teton County Commission chairman and the executive director of the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce. He suggested that a bigger priority is pay increases for his employees, who haven't gotten raises in four years.

"We intend to budget a compensation package for our staff, who have been incredibly patient," Barron said.

Cody officials, meanwhile, were looking to their local Chamber of Commerce to first determine how much plowing might cost.

"Once we kind of know what target they're trying to fundraise for, then our City council will determine if there's any funds that could be released for the project," said City Administrator Jenni Rosencranse.

Current costs for mountain snow removal in Wyoming range from \$4,400 in the Big Horns to over \$17,000 in the Snowy Range, according to a letter Friday from Mead's chief of staff, Kari Gray, to Barron and Cody Mayor Nancy Tia Brown.

"WyDOT believes its average costs are pretty close to that of the National Park Service on a per mile average in similar terrain. It estimates that its projected costs to assist with the Park factoring in travel and per diem will be somewhat higher," Gray wrote.

The department would need anywhere from two days to a week to activate its crews and would be able to help the Park Service if it got local funding to do so, she wrote.

Plowing the Chief Joseph Highway and western portion of the Beartooth Highway to Yellowstone's Northeast Entrance near Cooke City, Mont., also remains an option. The Beartooth is one of the few highways outside a national park or monument that the Park Service maintains.

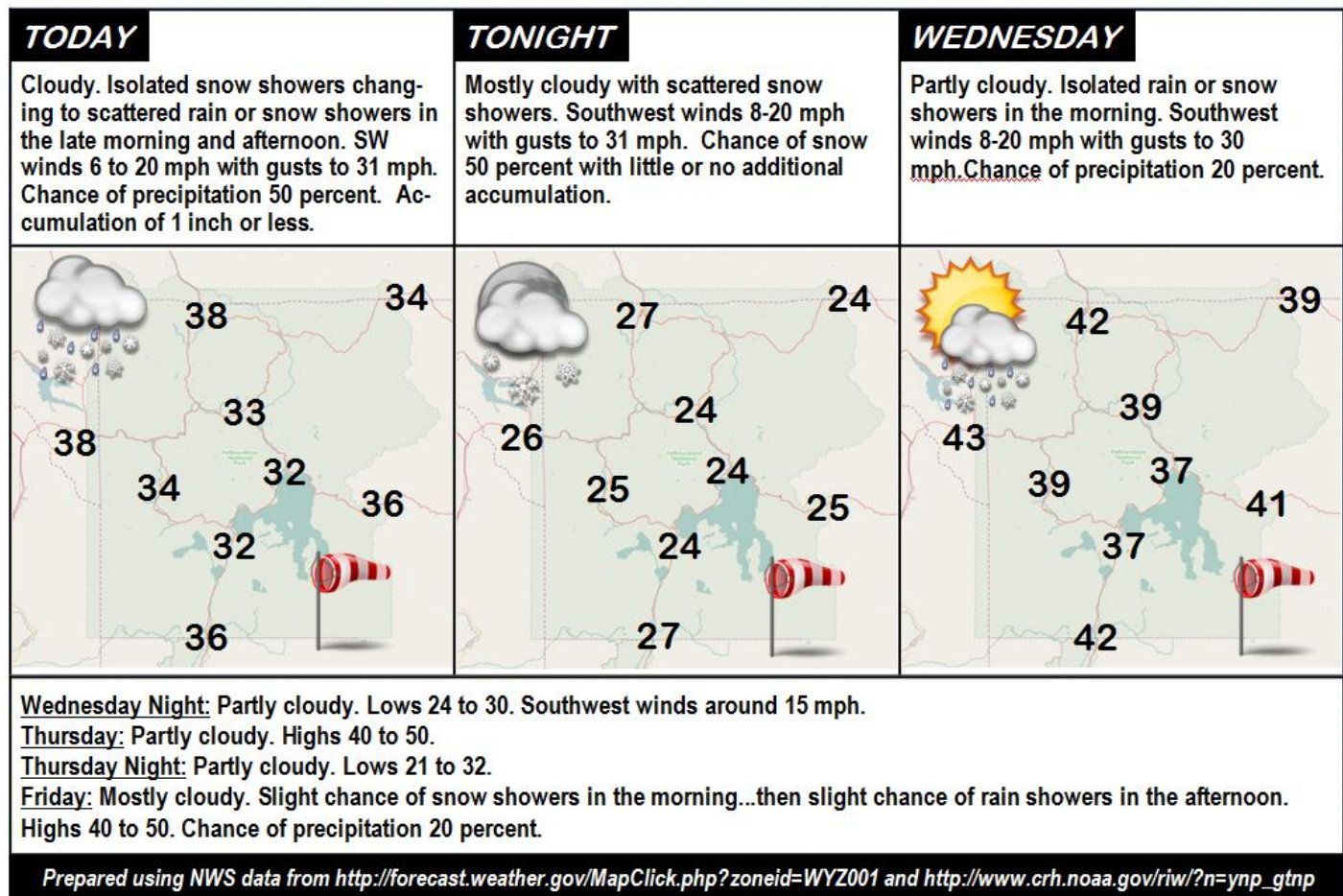
The governor has decided that using state money to plow for the Park Service is not an option.

"He's thought this through. He realizes that not having Yellowstone open on time does have an impact up there," said Mead spokesman Renny MacKay. "But he's frustrated by the way sequestration has been handled and realizes that if Wyoming starts to try to backfill all of the lost federal dollars in Wyoming, we'll destroy our own budget."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wyoming-officials-discuss-yellowstone-plow-options/article_6b39bc70-2957-5472-8c0d-f0049b1007b1.html#ixzz2NL0zAPGr

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.



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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage March 14, 2013. To schedule work please contact Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work please contact Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the month of February. Names have been drawn from among those who participated in each of the 5 clubs. The following employees will receive an award for their participation.

Club #1 (Aerobic Exercise): Bonnie Whitman, RVP

Club #2 (Strength Training/Flexibility): Clare Cloghessy, REYP

Club #3 (Healthy Stress Reduction): Rachel Cudmore, RVP

Club #4 (Healthy Nutrition): Tammy Wert, RVP

Club #5 (Lifestyle Choices): Kathy Cunningham, Admin

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 March are due to Stacey Gunther by April 5th.

Here's to your health!

- - - - -

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.

IN THE PRESS

Survey puts dollar figure to Beartooth Highway

By Brett French, Billings Gazette

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/survey-puts-dollar-figure-to-beartooth-highway/article_4d439012-e63c-51bc-9f4b-d1586ddaad90.html

RED LODGE — It didn't surprise Bob Thomas that the Beartooth All-American Road generates an estimated \$13.6 million and 176 jobs from nonresident summer visitors to this mountain town and surrounding Carbon County.

"If the highway goes away, this becomes a ghost town," he said.

Thomas, who runs the town's Comfort Inn, says the \$13.6 million figure is probably low.

The figures come from a recently released study by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana. The results were presented to a small gathering of the Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday.

The economic impact was based on a survey of visitors on the Beartooth Highway taken last summer at three locations — Vista Point scenic overlook south of Red Lodge, the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone National Park near Cooke City and just past the junction of the Beartooth Highway and the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway in Wyoming.

The money generated by the highway link is of special interest since Yellowstone National Park announced recently that it would delay plowing of the road's Wyoming section for two weeks to meet federal budget sequestration targets. If the highway generates an estimated \$113 a day per visitor, spread over two weeks in the three communities, the delay in plowing could mean a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to local economies.

Thomas, for one, thinks federal cutbacks will only get worse, so the affected communities ought to come up with an alternative to guarantee that the road is plowed.

"Seventy-five percent of our money is made in four months," he said. "And if you take two weeks away ..."

Kim Capron, of the nonprofit Friends of the Beartooth Scenic Road, said the communities are considering the possibility of creating a trust fund to pay for the plowing of the road in Wyoming. The cost in the past has ranged from \$176,000 to \$316,000, depending on how much snow falls in the winter, she said.

“I just don’t know how realistic it is,” Capron said.

The recent survey of visitors to the highway may help the communities decide what they should do. For the communities of Cody, Wyo., Cooke City and Red Lodge, the survey put nonresident spending at \$44.96 million in the summer season. Cooke City was the greatest beneficiary, considering how small the community is, reeling in a combined income — money generated by tourist dollars and those dollars turning over in the community — of \$13.5 million. Cody, the largest of the three communities, nets an estimated \$23 million from Beartooth Highway visitors alone.

One of the biggest surprises for Jake Jorgenson, who conducted the survey, was that the highway is not just a means to travel from point A to point B. More than half of the visitors to the highway said the route over the top of the Beartooth Mountains that climbs to almost 11,000 feet elevation was the object of their visit. Jorgenson also was happy to finally be able to show that the highway generates income for Cody, Wyo., since the route is often thought of as a Montana road.

“Park County, Wyoming, sees the most economic contribution from the Beartooth Highway ... anywhere around here,” Jorgenson said.

The visitors come to the route to take in the spectacular views of cropped rock cliffs, rolling high-mountain tundra and lakes tucked into pockets of pine trees. They stop to hike, fish, take photographs and often spend one or two nights in the surrounding communities, usually dining out.

Jorgenson said the Beartooth Highway couldn’t be compared to Montana’s other stunning road, the Going to the Sun Highway in Glacier National Park, since that road is inside the park and therefore has a built-in drawing card. Beartooth Highway visitors come from all 50 states and several European countries. Forty-four percent were first-time visitors. Once they have visited, Jorgenson said, they have a tendency to return or recommend the trip to others.

“This is a destination people come to multiple times,” he said.

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Facts from the study

The study by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research cost \$150,000. A similar study is being conducted this winter where the road is closed between the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway and Cooke City.

The complete study can be found online at <http://www.itrr.umt.edu/Research2013/BTHSummerReport.pdf>. Here are some of the highlights from the study:

-- From May 31 to Sept. 30, total traffic on the Beartooth Highway was 178,904 vehicles.

-- Nonresidents represented 91 percent of total traffic: 76,147 through Yellowstone National Park’s Northeast Entrance; 57,727 from Red Lodge; 28,391 from Wyoming Highway 296.

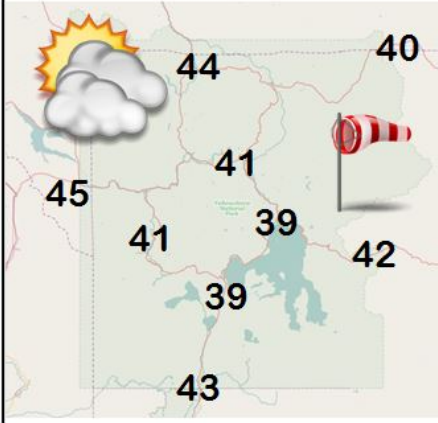
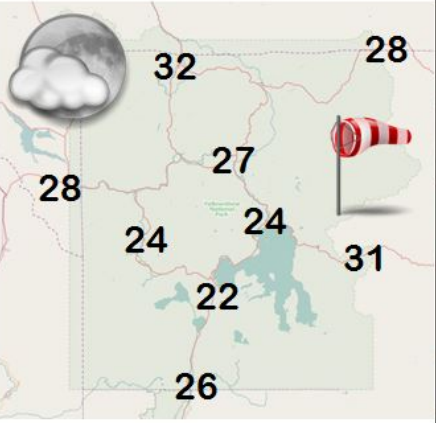
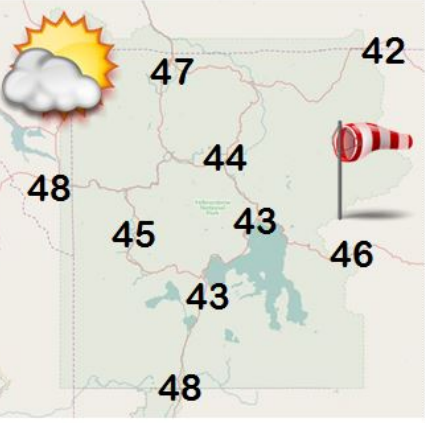
-- Visitors came from all 50 states (81 percent of visitors), seven Canadian provinces (3 percent), and 30 foreign countries (5 percent, with England and Germany the most).

-- 49 percent of the visitors spent a night in Yellowstone Park; 27 percent spent a night in Billings; 25 percent spent a night in West Yellowstone and 25 percent spent a night in Jackson, Wyo.

-- Responses to traveling the highway show that first-time visitors were more reserved, nervous, stressed and afraid than repeat visitors

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY
Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain or snow showers in the morning. Southwest winds ranging from 8-11 mph at the South Entrance to 20-25 mph with gusts to 31 mph at the East Entrance.	Partly cloudy. Southwest winds from 8-11 mph at the South Entrance to 15-20 mph with gusts to 30 mph at the East Entrance.	Partly cloudy. Southwest winds ranging from 8 mph at the South Entrance to 15-18 mph with gusts to 28 mph at the East Entrance.
		
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Lows 21 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Friday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs 38 to 47. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow and slight chance of rain in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 17 to 28. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Saturday: Cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning...then chance of snow showers and rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 43. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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Thursday, March 14, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IN THE PRESS

East gate opens May 3 if ...

By MARK HEINZ Posted: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 3:30 pm

The county commissioners are confident Sylvan Pass and the East Entrance to Yellowstone Park can be opened on time – by May 3 – but it hinges on raising \$120,000.

“The bottom line is, the money will be raised and the east gate will be open by the traditional date,” commissioner Tim French said Tuesday.

He’d met earlier that day with YNP superintendent Dan Wenk and others to discuss plowing the road.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation usually plows US 14-16-20 to the east gate during the spring, leaving the rest up to Park Service crews.

Because of budget cuts related to the federal sequestration, the Park Service recently announced it would delay its spring plowing and gate openings by two weeks.

The Cody chamber and other locals have expressed concern that delaying the first two weeks of tourism season could mean significant revenue loss for businesses here.

But WYDOT has agreed to commit the crews and equipment necessary to keep plowing, possibly all the way to Fishing Bridge, to get Sylvan and the east gate open on time, French said.

The catch is that WYDOT will need an estimated \$120,000 to cover the cost.

The chamber, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, city of Cody and others likely are willing to put up money, French said.

The chamber also is poised to start fundraising, executive director Scott Balyo said.

“We have not actively started fundraising yet, because I’m still waiting for word from WYDOT on exactly how much this will cost,” he said Wednesday. “Once I get that figure, we will begin asking the community for their support.”

When fundraising starts, locals will probably have about two weeks to come up with the money, Balyo said.

That should give WYDOT the needed time to shuffle its already busy spring plowing schedule, he said.

The county might also help, although the commissioners took no action on the matter Tuesday.

“The county is prepared, if called upon, to put up a share of the money,” commissioner Bucky Hall said.

“We’re venturing into uncharted waters here, and I think it’s worth looking in to,” commissioner Lee Livingston said.

Commission chairman Loren Grosskopf said it hasn’t been decided how much money the county could commit.

Plowing the road will cost an estimated \$5,000 per mile, Grosskopf said.

“For the stretch across Sylvan Pass that cost per mile might be higher because the work gets more involved and complicated there,” he said.

Commissioners said the county has a vested interest in seeing the park open on time because some of the sales tax revenue from purchases in the northern half of Yellowstone goes to the county.

“In that first two weeks of the traditional tourist season, we collect a percentage of the sales tax, so the county and other entities stand to gain from the road being open on time,” French said.

Gov. Matt Mead confirmed Tuesday that WYDOT was ready to help open the east gate, as well as the South Entrance near Jackson – but only if the communities can raise the needed money.

Mead said he’s disappointed in how the sequestration is being handled.

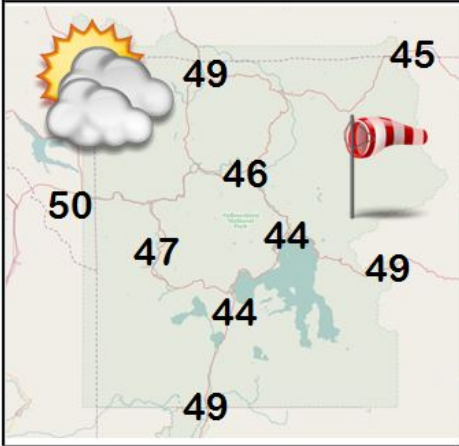
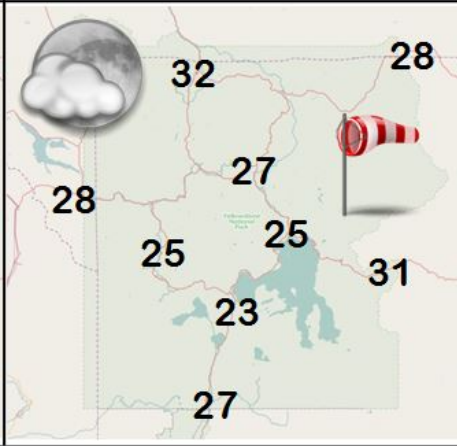
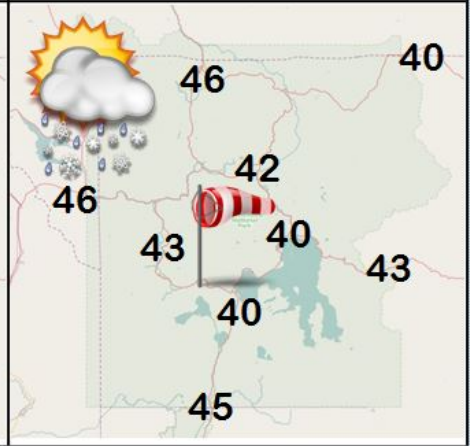
And while the state is willing to provide the personnel and equipment, Mead said he opposes using any state money to help plow Yellowstone roads.

“If Wyoming begins the process of trying to backfill lost federal dollars at every turn, we will destroy our own budget and put an additional burden on Wyoming citizens and taxpayers,” he said.

“In addition, covering federal budget shortfalls with state dollars provides a mask for a process of fiscal mismanagement that should not be excused,” Mead added. “To commit these dollars means we would be going down a road with no end in sight.”

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

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Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Lows 17 to 29. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 30 percent. Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 43. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 16 to 29. Sunday: Breezy. Snow showers likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Highs 23 to 32. Chance of snow 70 percent.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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Friday, March 15, 2013



The remainder of the roads open to oversnow vehicles close tonight at 9pm.
Spring is just around the corner. (Google images)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The vegetation group has received the first report of blooming wildflowers for the year. On March 14, Lloyd Krueger observed blooming buttercups while skiing the Mammoth Terraces. With wildflowers appearing all park employees should exercise caution that this sign of spring is not trampled by unobservant individuals. All park employees are reminded that observing wildflowers is easier if one is carrying a hand lens.

Today is my last day as a Yellowstone employee as I enter the "retired state". It has been great fun and I will miss all of you and the park too.

Tally ho,

Jen Whipple

That being said...don't forget! Saturday, March 23, 2013 5:00PM at the Mammoth Community Center come help **usher Jen Whipple into retirement!** Cake, utensils, and drinks will be provided. Alcohol will not be provided but you may bring your own. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or salad to share. Gift Donations should be sent to Roy Renkin.

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IN THE PRESS

Chamber: \$100K needed by April 1 for east gate opening

Posted: Thursday, March 14, 2013 12:04 pm

To get the East Entrance to Yellowstone Park open on time, \$100,000 will be needed by April 1.

That's the word from the Cody chamber, which is spearheading efforts to raise the money.

It will pay for the Wyoming Department of Transportation to plow snow to and past the east gate – possibly as far as Fishing Bridge.

The Park Service recently announced the east gate would be open two weeks late, May 17, because sequestration budget cuts will delay spring plowing for Yellowstone.

But Gov. Matt Mead and others stated this week that WYDOT crews and equipment could help open the east gate and Sylvan Pass on time – May 3.

The catch is, Mead wants no state funds to be used in the venture, so the money will have to be raised.

Similar efforts must be taken to open Yellowstone's south gate near Jackson, Mead said.

"To pay for our portion of the plowing, \$100,000 needs to be raised by April 1," chamber executive director Scott Balyo said.

"Yellowstone and the state of Wyoming are partnering with us on this, but we need to raise the money. I hope that all businesses in Cody and around the state affected by this will donate."

The chamber board of directors has voted to match all donations for the plowing dollar-for-dollar, up to \$50,000, from the chamber's reserve account.

“All donors will be given the option to have a prorated amount refunded to them based on what is actually spent on the plowing,” Balyo said.

“Donors can also choose to have the chamber replenish its ‘snowy day’ fund with any money that is raised but not spent,” he added.

Mead’s office, the Wyoming Office of Tourism, YNP staff, WYDOT, state legislators, Cody Mayor Nancy Tia Brown, city of Cody staff, the county commissioners, and the Park County Travel Council have agreed to help in the effort, Balyo said.

According to the Park Service, about 11,000 people traveled through the east gate during the first two weeks of the 2012 spring/summer tourist season.

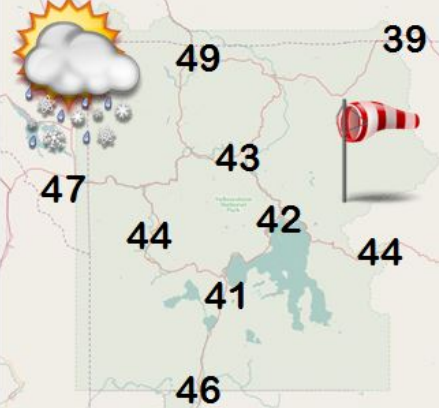
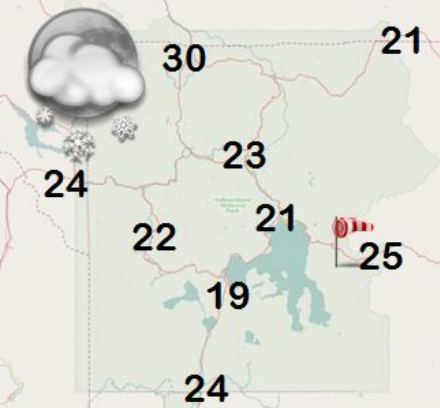
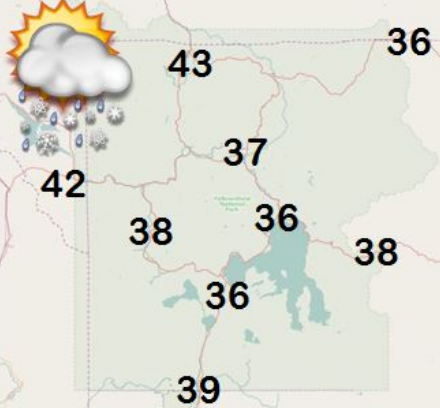
The chamber estimates the overall lost local tourist revenue could exceed \$2 million if the opening is delayed this year.

“I think a scheduled delay would have a dramatic effect on our community in both losses of direct revenue and indirect costs,” said chamber president Luke Anderson.

“I think we are acting in the best interest of our membership and our community in our attempt to open the east gate on time.”

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY
Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the morning. Isolated rain or showers in the late morning and afternoon. Southwest winds 7 to 15 mph with gusts to 24 mph in some locations. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers and snow showers early in the evening...then scattered snow showers late in the evening. Little snow accumulation. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning... then scattered snow showers and rain showers in the afternoon. Light accumulation. SW winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.
		
Saturday Night: Scattered snow showers in the evening...then numerous snow showers after midnight. Snow accumulation of less than 1/2 inch to 3 inches. Lows 18 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent. Sunday: Breezy. Snow likely. New snow accumulation of 1-3 inches at lower elevations to 3 to 5 inches at the East Entrance. Highs 22 to 32. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent. Sunday Night: Breezy...colder. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 to 17. Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 24 to 34.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, March 18, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Found: Nice pair of gloves in road in Lower Mammoth. Contact Russ Miller x2174 russell_miller@nps.gov

Don't forget! Saturday, March 23, 2013 5:00PM at the Mammoth Community Center come help **usher Jen Whipple into retirement!** Cake, utensils, and drinks will be provided. Alcohol will not be provided but you may bring your own. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or salad to share. Gift Donations should be sent to Roy Renkin.

From the Vehicle Fleet Manager:

With the implementation of FBMS comes a tighter control of Yellowstone's Fleet. Monthly input of mileage, fuel usage, and repairs of every Vehicle is mandatory. Fleet reductions will be determined by the use or non-use of all Interior and GSA vehicles. In order to comply with FBMS requirements, and to maintain our fleet, we would like to remind you of the following procedures:

- All fuel receipts need to be submitted to the Garage Admin Office with your name, license plate, mileage, and accounting information weekly
- Mileage must be submitted through Miles Manager by the 10th of each month
- If you have a vehicle that does not get much mileage but is used often, we suggest tracking the number of days that vehicle is used as well as mileage. This criteria may help you retain your vehicle when fleet reductions are considered. If there is any interest in tracking days, Fleet Admin could come up with a standardized form for tracking
- No Premium/Plus fuel may be purchased for government vehicles. The least expensive fuel is to be purchased
- Purchases are only for the vehicle/equipment assigned to the card
- Mileage and fuel utilization have to be input manually into FBMS at this point, so we are requesting your cooperation in timely submittal of mileage and fuel receipts.

Please Contact Holly Long at (307) 344-2324, should you have any questions regarding the use of fleet vehicle-assigned charge cards, mileage, or day-use tracking.

Do you like to read?!?!? We've got a deal for you. Visit the book sale in the gymnasium at the MCC. Donations can be sent to Karin Schwartz in the Human Resources Office. Questions call her at 344-2052.

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The next **United Blood Services Blood Drive** will take place **TODAY**, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #2.

As always a photo ID is required to make your donation and if anyone is interested in providing snacks, treats, and drinks, your donations will never be turned down!! Give the gift of life!!! Thank you in advance for your generous donation.

- - - - -

Spring Health Screen days are Tuesday, March 26 from 6–9 am at the Gardiner School and Wednesday, March 27 from 7–9 am at the Mammoth Clinic. Blood Profile Testing is \$40. *This is a fasting blood test. Please consume nothing but water after 8:00 pm the night before! Prostate Specific Antigen \$18 (Optional blood screening for males). ColoCare Kits \$4

- - - - -

I am in need of **moving boxes**, especially specialty types like wardrobe or picture frame boxes, but any size will help. If you have any please contact me, Russell_Miller@nps.gov.

- - - - -

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.

IN THE PRESS

Photographers present works at Winter Photo Festival

Posted: Friday, March 15, 2013 12:20 pm

By ABBIE TUMBLESON West Yellowstone News |

A handful of local photographers presented works highlighting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem at the fifth annual Yellowstone Winter Photo Festival on Tuesday evening.

Each photographer was given up to five minutes to present or they could share up to 25 photographs, whichever came first, Yellowstone National Park ranger Rich Jehle said.

Photographers at this year's Winter Photo Festival included Casey Kirkpatrick, Ken Takata, Mike Burdic, Chris Daniel, John Layshock, Jehle and Abbie Tumbleson. Jehle also presented photographs on behalf of Dennis Young, who was not in attendance.

Jehle said the photo festivals were started by Yellowstone employees at the Madison Junction as a fun way for photographers to share their photographs with other people. The Fall Photo Festival has been going on for 11 years and five years ago the winter event was added as another opportunity for local photographers to share their creative works with the public.

“The fun part about this is we get to see a lot of artists’ interpretations of Yellowstone through photographs. It’s very informal and just kind of fun,” Jehle said.

Young, Jehle and Gary Pumplin helped start up the photo festivals at Madison.

This year’s photo fest showcased images of gushing geysers captured on early winter mornings, the elusive bobcat who inhabits the park, wolves and other wildlife that call Yellowstone home as well as snowy landscapes throughout the area.

Ken Takata shared a variety of photos ranging from fly-fishing scenes on the Yellowstone, Madison and Gallatin Rivers to thermal features at Mammoth Hot Springs.

“I like to add color in the winter and use color in the landscape,” he said.

He also displayed ways to play with lights and darks and warm and cool colors and shadows.

Photographers Chris Daniel and John Layshock explained how they have recently been experimenting with night photography. Daniel showed a photo of the Roosevelt Arch at the North Entrance lit up by the stars and night sky. Layshock showed a series of photos that were taken on nighttime walks around the Upper Geyser Basin and Old Faithful. He explained how he used a headlamp and the flash on his camera to capture the fine details of various thermal features.

Layshock was able to photograph a pack of wolves on his first day of guiding this season and made it a goal to shoot every day he’s gone into the park, noting he’s only missed one day so far.

Jehle, Burdic and Kirkpatrick each chronicled trips into Yellowstone by means of photographs.

Jehle’s slideshow was titled “West to Madison Drive by Photography” or “Point and Shoot Without Getting off of the Sled.” He explained that he wanted to share what it was like in the winter from the West Entrance to Madison Junction, which is a drive he had to make for work by snowmobile throughout the season.

Burdic journeyed into the park on a day when the weather conditions weren’t so good. One of his photographs showed bison coated with snow as they trudged along in a blizzard.

“The animals don’t have a choice (about the weather). They’re out when they’re out,” he said. He added that photographers always try to go out in good weather to find the right scene and the right light, but it doesn’t always work out in their favor.

“Always enjoy your day, sunrise, sunset, everything in between,” he said.

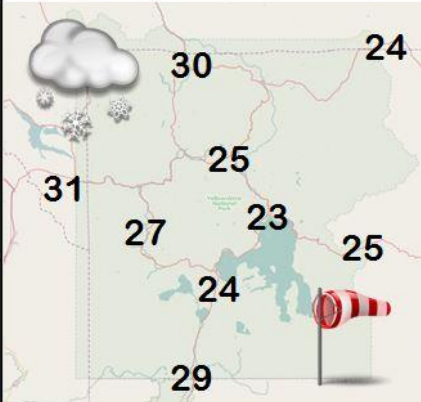
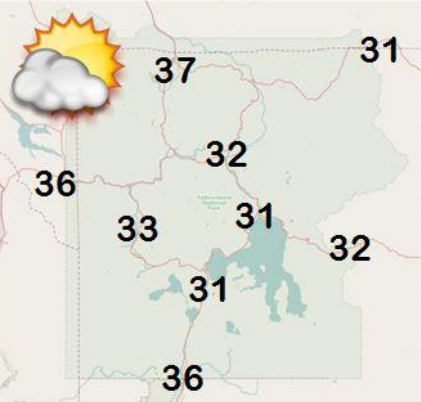
Kirkpatrick showed a series of black and white images, capturing what it’s like to see Yellowstone’s winter landscape through the window of a snowcoach.

Mary Armstrong came down to West Yellowstone from Gallatin Gateway to attend the photo festival and said she enjoyed seeing all of the different photos. She is a member of the Camera Club of Bozeman with Young.

The photo festivals are sponsored by the National Park Service and the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center. The Fall Photo Festival is scheduled to take place this coming September.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY
Windy. Scattered snow showers. New snow accumulation of 1 inch or less. Chance of snow 60 percent. Southwest winds ranging from 8 to 30 mph with gusts up to 39 mph.	Windy. Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Little or no additional snow accumulation. Chance of snow 50 percent. Southwest winds 8 to 30 mph with gusts to 39mph, decreasing early in the morning.	Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning.
		
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 13 to 22. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent. Wednesday: Chance of snow in the morning...then snow and rain likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Highs 33 to 41. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent. Wednesday Night: Snow likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 17 to 26. Chance of snow 70 percent. Thursday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 27 to 36.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, March 19, 2013



Mammoth Hot Springs (photo by George Herrman-Telecom)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unfortunately due to budget cuts, **TODAY** is the LAST DAY of "Taco Tuesday" at the Mammoth General Store. Hurry and drop by for lunch while supplies last.

Spring cleaning or packing to move? Remember to sort out ALL recyclables before throwing out the trash!

- Electronics, **including VHS, VCR and audio cassette tapes**, may be dropped off in the labeled shed located in Mammoth behind the YCR building. For a list of recyclable electronics accepted by *Yellowstone E-Waste Solutions* click here: <http://www.yellowstoneewaste.com/about.html>
- So you've collected a few of the 380 billion plastic shopping bags that Americans use annually? Stuff them into one bag, tie the top, and place in the bin with plastic containers to be recycled.
- Questions? Contact: yellgreenteam@nps.gov

Our 100% recycled paper is proving to be a bit dusty!

We are aware that several copiers have had problems with dust build-up from the 100% recycled, husky, paper. It appears that we did not choose the best paper in our first attempt. The Supply Center will not order any more, 100% recycled paper, until we do further research to identify which companies can meet our specifications for 'trouble free' printing.

If you had problems with this paper we urge you to report them to The Supply Center or the Green Team so that we can be more informed. If you have not had problems please continue to use it. Thank you.

FYI – the **spring courier**, done on Tues and Friday through the end of April will be rotated between the Interpretation, RVP, and Maintenance divisions. During this time, mail and packages will continue to be dropped at the winter mail drop areas. The run will be made as weather and plow operations permit, sometimes the mail may need to be shuttled by local staff, e.g., from Lake to Grant. Or, if arrangements are made the courier can meet your staff at the end of the cut (where the plows stop).

Please keep in mind this courier is primarily conducted for personal and park mail – large packages or supply orders should be picked up in Mammoth.

The USPS is scheduled to start mail delivery at the Old Faithful Post Office on May 7. In prior years they have had admin travel access over Craig Pass for making a loop to drop mail at the Maint office mail drop areas (until the post office opens in each area). As of now, Admin travel is not scheduled to open over Craig Pass until late May. Employees at Grant, Lake and Canyon; if needed we will work out another option to get your mail to you during that time.

Tammy Wert

Found: Nice pair of gloves in road in Lower Mammoth. Contact Russ Miller x2174 russell_miller@nps.gov

Don't forget! Saturday, March 23, 2013 5:00PM at the Mammoth Community Center come help **usher Jen Whipple into retirement!** Cake, utensils, and drinks will be provided. Alcohol will not be provided but you may bring your own. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or salad to share. Gift Donations should be sent to Roy Renkin.

Do you like to read?!?!? We've got a deal for you. Visit the book sale in the gymnasium at the MCC. Donations can be sent to Karin Schwartz in the Human Resources Office. Questions call her at 344-2052.

Spring Health Screen days are Tuesday, March 26 from 6–9 am at the Gardiner School and Wednesday, March 27 from 7–9 am at the Mammoth Clinic. Blood Profile Testing is \$40. *This is a fasting blood test. Please consume nothing but water after 8:00 pm the night before! Prostate Specific Antigen \$18 (Optional blood screening for males). ColoCare Kits \$4

I am in need of **moving boxes**, especially specialty types like wardrobe or picture frame boxes, but any size will help. If you have any please contact me, Russell_Miller@nps.gov.

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.

IN THE PRESS**Cody plowing fund nears \$60,000**

Posted: Monday, March 18, 2013 3:30 pm | *Updated: 3:31 pm, Mon Mar 18, 2013.*

By ENTERPRISE STAFF |

The Cody chamber is better than halfway to its goal of raising \$100,000 by April 1 to get the East Entrance to Yellowstone Park open on time.

The chamber is spearheading efforts to raise \$50,000, to match its own pledge of \$50,000, for a total to \$100,000

As of Monday noon, donations totaled \$28,800, bringing the chamber's match to \$57,600, executive director Scott Balyo said.

It will pay for the Wyoming Department of Transportation to plow snow past the east gate – possibly as far as Fishing Bridge.

The Park Service recently announced the east gate would open two weeks late, May 17, because sequestration budget cuts will delay spring plowing for Yellowstone.

But Gov. Matt Mead and others said last week that WYDOT crews and equipment could help open the east gate and Sylvan Pass on time – May 3.

The catch is, Mead wants no state funds to be used in the venture, so the money will have to be raised.

Similar efforts must be taken to open Yellowstone's south gate near Jackson, Mead said.

"To pay for our portion of the plowing, \$100,000 needs to be raised by April 1," Balyo said.

"Yellowstone and the state of Wyoming are partnering with us on this, but we need to raise the money. I hope that all businesses in Cody and around the state affected by this will donate."

The chamber board of directors has voted to match all donations for the plowing dollar-for-dollar, up to \$50,000, from the chamber's reserve account.

"All donors will be given the option to have a prorated amount refunded to them based on what is actually spent on the plowing," Balyo said.

"Donors can also choose to have the chamber replenish its 'snowy day' fund with any money that is raised but not spent," he added.

Mead's office, the Wyoming Office of Tourism, YNP staff, WYDOT, state legislators, Mayor Nancy Tia Brown, city of Cody staff, the county commissioners, and the Park County Travel Council have agreed to help in the effort, Balyo said.

According to the Park Service, about 11,000 people traveled through the east gate during the first two weeks of the 2012 spring/summer tourist season.

The chamber estimates the overall lost local tourist revenue could exceed \$2 million if the opening is delayed this year.

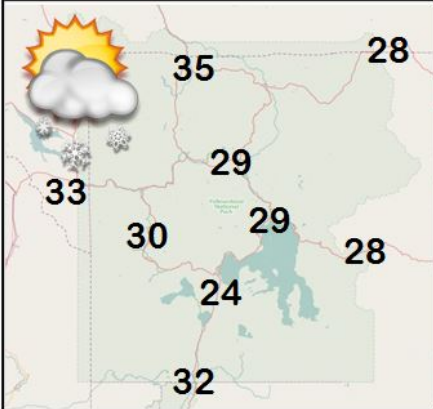
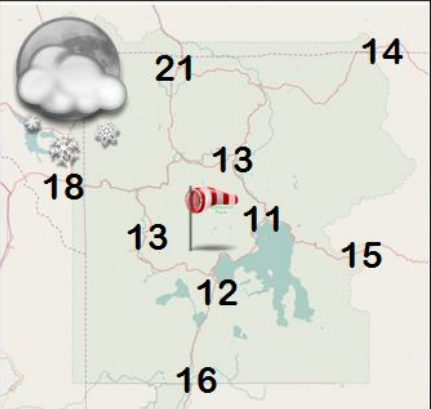
“I think a scheduled delay would have a dramatic effect on our community in both losses of direct revenue and indirect costs,” chamber president Luke Anderson said.

“I think we are acting in the best interest of our membership and our community in our attempt to open the east gate on time.”

To donate, go to codychamber.org, or visit the chamber, 836 Sheridan Ave.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy early in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Occasional flurries early in the morning.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers after midnight. Little accumulation. Chance of snow 20 percent. South winds 8-16 mph with gusts of 20-24 mph across the center of the park.	Chance of snow in the morning...then snow and rain likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of less than 1/2 inch at Mammoth to 1-2 inches at Grant.. Southwest winds 8-18 mph with gusts of 21-28 mph.
		
Wednesday Night: Breezy. Snow and rain likely in the evening... Then snow likely after midnight. Additional snow accumulation of less than one inch at West Yellowstone to 2-4 inches at Old Faithful & the South Entrance. Lows 16 to 25. Southwest winds 8-15 mph with gusts to of 20-28 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent. Thursday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 33. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Thursday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 to 20. Friday: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 22 to 31.		
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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, March 22, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Courier Route: Due to poor travel conditions on Craig Pass the following is the current plan for the next 2 courier runs (TODAY & Tues 3/26): We're sending a mattrack vehicle to Canyon and Lake (per Willie B, Grant mail will be left at Lake). The West side mail (Madison, OF, West) will be driven to Madison. If anyone is traveling back and forth and can take mail, please let us know so we can save a trip. Questions call Tammy at X2115.

Last Chance! Don't forget to check out the book sale in the gymnasium at the MCC. The books will be taken to Bozeman on Thursday. Donations can be sent to Karin Schwartz in the Human Resources Office. Questions? Call Karin at 344-2052.

Spring cleaning or packing to move? Remember to sort out ALL recyclables before throwing out the trash!

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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.

IN THE PRESS

Cody to plow East Entrance to Yellowstone

Carmen Irish, Billings Gazette, March 22, 2013

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/cody-to-plow-east-entrance-to-yellowstone/article_d36ae32c-39dd-5383-ae92-a1f0f3a0fb97.html

Yellowstone gateway community members of Cody will plow ahead with their effort to clear Yellowstone National Park's East Entrance on its traditional opening day of May 3.

The National Park Service postponed the start of spring plowing by two weeks this year to save money amid federal budget cuts. Plowing was supposed to begin March 4.

A two-week delay would have cost Cody an estimated \$2 million in tourism-related revenue and taxes, according to the National Park Service. In those first two weeks, more than 11,000 travelers enter the park through the East Gate.

When the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce heard the announcement that the park wouldn't open until May 17, it agreed to match donations up to \$50,000 from its reserve account for the plowing of the East Entrance, about 50 miles west of Cody.

Cody businesses and community members rallied and raised \$50,000 in five days, according to a Cody Country Chamber of Commerce media release.

The Chamber received more than 60 contributions ranging from \$10 to \$10,000.

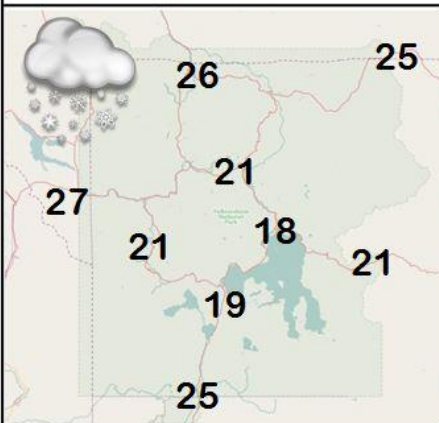
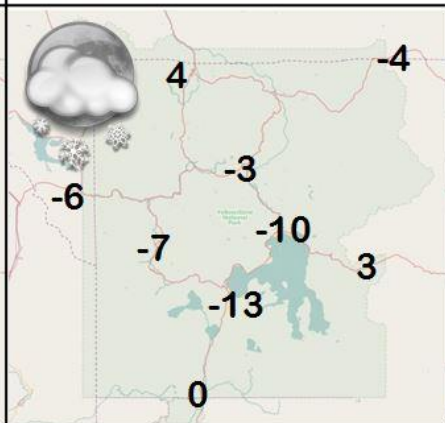
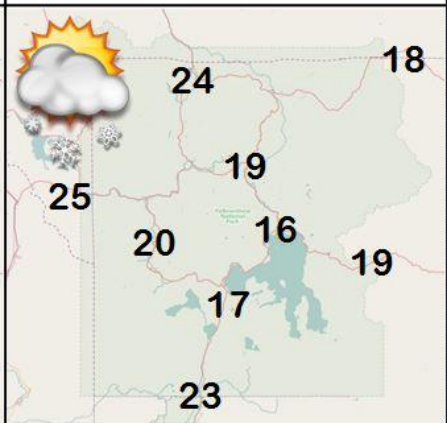
"I can't think of a better illustration of the independent, determined spirit that embodies this town of 10,000 people," Scott Balyo, executive director of the Chamber, said in the release.

The funds will be used to pay for state of Wyoming equipment and crews.

For more information, call the Park County Travel Council at 800-393-2639.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY
Numerous snow showers. New snow accumulation ranging from less than an inch at Mammoth to 1 to 3 inches at Old Faithful. Chance of snow 60 percent.	Partly to mostly cloudy and colder with chance of snow. New snow accumulations of 2 inches at Cooke City, less than an inch at the East Entrance, and even less elsewhere. Chance of snow 30 percent.	Partly cloudy with isolated snow showers. New snow accumulations of one half inch or less. Chance of snow 40 percent.
		
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Lows 14 below to 7 above zero. Chance of snow 40 percent. Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 18 to 27. Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow showers in the evening. Lows 18 below to 4 above zero. Monday: Partly cloudy. Highs 23 to 33.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riv/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, March 29, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The road is now open for administrative travel from Mammoth to Norris, Norris to Madison, Madison to Old Faithful, and Madison to West Yellowstone. Caution is advised for icy conditions, and for plows which will continue to work through the weekend. Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

Yellowstone Environmental Coordinating Committee

The Yellowstone Environmental Coordinating Committee (YECC), a team of National Park Service employees, park concessioners, and non-profit partners, work together combining extensive resources to elevate the potential for sustainability achievements in Yellowstone National Park. The unique partnership was established in 2008 to facilitate communication and promote cooperation between the greater Yellowstone workforce in order to reinforce the Park's environmental stewardship programs, work collectively on parkwide environmental goals, and coordinate joint educational efforts and outreach.

The team includes representatives from NPS, Delaware North, Medcor, Xanterra, YPSS, Yellowstone Association, and the Yellowstone Park Foundation. The group is currently working on a "Climate Friendly Parks" designation, Solid Waste Diversion and Recycling program, 2013 Earth Day Celebration and the Plastic Reduction Initiative. The team meets quarterly and will be issuing progress updates periodically. Questions regarding the YECC may be directed to Mary Murphy at 344-2272 or Lynn Chan at 344-2622. -----

Employee Safety Committee-APRIL Wellness Newsletter

In this issue: If the SHOE fits; Cancer: Where are we now?; Mind your FOOD Environment; Treatment for Depression.

Employees may access the April edition of the Wellness Newsletter by pasting the website link below into your browser 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=564>. Sharepoint site: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> under Documents-Health and Wellness Information, folder Personal Best Documents, folder 2013: Personal Best 4 U Newsletter April 2013

Have you enjoyed having access to a monthly Wellness Newsletter? Please contact your Division or District Employee Safety Committee Representative to provide feedback on this topic.

YNP Wellness Incentive Program

Keep those club certification forms coming in to Stacey Gunther (EmSC Chair). The certification forms are due by **April 5th** for the reporting period of March 1-31 for any employee who participated in any or all of the 5 clubs and met the club goal. Five participants will earn an award.

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The Gardiner School Board will be holding their elections on May 7, 2013. Simultaneously, the election of the **Yellowstone Representative to the Gardiner School Board will be held**. Any Yellowstone NP employee who resides in the state of Wyoming is eligible to serve as a non-voting, not-at-large member for a 3-year term. If you wish to be a candidate for this position, please contact Sarah Willoughby in the Finance Office (x2058) for a copy of the Yellowstone Operating Procedure and the Statement of Candidacy form that needs to be submitted by **April 16**.

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Yellowstone Federal Credit Union-Serving the Yellowstone and Gardiner Communities for Over 75 Years!

When you walk into our lobby, or call a loan officer, what makes Yellowstone Federal Credit Union different from a bank isn't immediately apparent. The two financial institutions may offer similar products and services, but the similarities stop there. Crucial differences exist - in ownership, in cost of borrowing money, and in use of services.

You own your credit union. Credit unions are member-owned nonprofit financial cooperatives dedicated to improving members' lives. More than 95 million members own 7100 US credit unions with combined assets of \$1.02 trillion. Stockholders own banks, and banks make money for stockholders, not for customers.

Credit unions are the only democratically controlled financial institutions in the United States. You and other members elect a volunteer board of directors to oversee the credit union. The manager or president/CEO reports to this board. Bank directors, however, are paid and legally bound to make decisions that benefit stockholders, not customers.

Since our credit union has no outside stockholders, after reserves are set aside, earnings are returned to members in the form of higher dividends on savings, lower loan rates, and lower-cost services. We offer a variety of services, including simple savings accounts, checking accounts and debit cards, ACH and other electronic services, and low-cost consumer loans.

We serve anyone who lives and works in Yellowstone National Park, Gardiner, Montana and the Paradise Valley north to Point of Rocks. "People helping people" is the basic philosophy of our credit union.

Contact us with any questions you may have about joining the credit union or obtaining a loan. We are here to provide the tools to improve your financial well-being!

Phone: 307-344-7974 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM Monday-Friday

Office location: Canteen Building, Room B, Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park.

Online at www.yellowstonefcu.org.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

March 28, 2013 – Grand Teton National Park

Snow Removal on the Teton Park Road to Begin April 1st

Grand Teton National Park road crews will begin their annual spring plowing of the Teton Park Road from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain Lodge on Monday, April 1, 2013. As plowing operations get underway, recreation on this winter trail will cease for the season. Visitors may continue to use other winter trails, or areas adjacent to the Teton Park Road, for skate-skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing until conditions are no longer favorable.

For safety reasons, park visitors may NOT access the Teton Park Road while rotary snow removal equipment and plows are working; the roadway is closed to ALL users during this time.

Skiers and snowshoers using areas adjacent to the Teton Park Road are cautioned to avoid the arc of snow being blown from the rotary equipment because pieces of ice and gravel can be mixed with the spray. Park rangers will enforce the temporary closure to ensure safe conditions for plow operators and visitors alike.

Depending on weather, snow conditions and plowing progress, the roadway should become accessible to traditional springtime activities by mid-April. Once the Teton Park Road opens to non-motorized use, people should be alert for park vehicles that occasionally travel for administrative purposes and for snow plowing operations that continue as a result of late-season snowstorms.

The Teton Park Road will open to vehicle traffic on Wednesday, May 1, 2013.

Due to budget reductions from sequestration, the Moose-Wilson Road, Antelope Flats, Death Canyon and Signal Mountain Summit roads will not be plowed this spring. Vehicles can access these roads once they have naturally melted out and road closed signs are removed. Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway is close for the winter and will remain closed to all vehicles from April 1 to May 31, due to springtime grizzly bear activity. Although the Grassy Lake Road will be open to vehicles for the 2013 summer season, dispersed campsites and vault toilets along the road will not open due to budget reductions.

Leashed dogs are permitted on the Teton Park Road and other park roads; however they are restricted to roads and turnouts—they are not permitted to travel beyond the roadbeds, into the park's backcountry, or on the multi-use pathways. Owners are required to keep pets on a leash (six foot maximum length). Mutt Mitt stations are in place at the Taggart Lake parking area and pet owners are required to use these disposal bags.

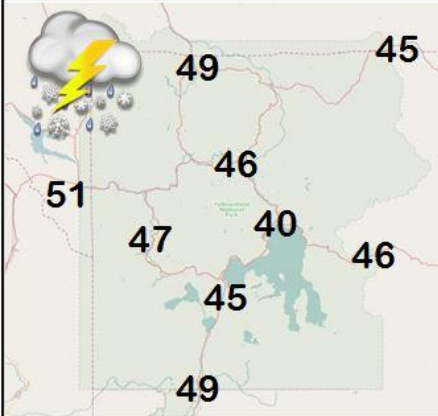
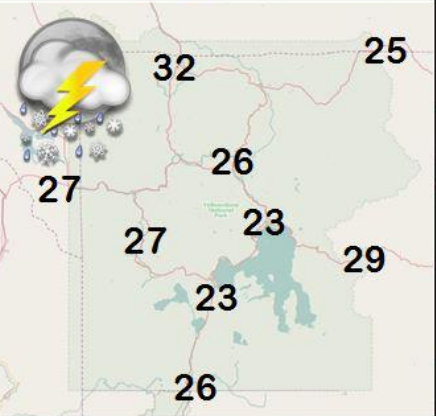
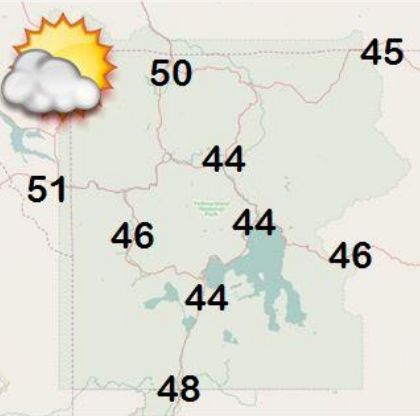
As a reminder, entrance stations are operating and collecting fees. Fee options are as follows:

- \$12 7-day permit for foot/bicycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$20 7-day permit for motorcycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$25 7-day permit for vehicle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$50 Grand Teton/Yellowstone Annual Pass valid for one-year entry into both parks
- \$80 Interagency Annual Pass valid for one year entry to all fee areas on federal lands

When entering the park using a pass, please be sure to bring personal identification. Bicyclists are required to stop and show a pass before proceeding through the gates, just as motorized vehicles are required to do.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY
Cloudy. Scattered rain showers and snow showers through the day. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers...snow showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening... then scattered snow showers after midnight. Accumulations of one inch or less. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers in the morning... then partly cloudy in the afternoon. Chance of snow 40 percent.
		
<u>Saturday Night:</u> Mostly clear. Lows 18 to 29. <u>Sunday:</u> Partly cloudy. Highs 39 to 47. <u>Sunday Night:</u> Partly cloudy. Lows 17 to 28. <u>April Fool's Day:</u> Partly cloudy. Highs 40 to 50.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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