

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday June 3, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to announce that **John Cataldo has accepted the Yellowstone Fire Management Officer position.** John currently occupies the Yellowstone Assistant Fire Management Officer position and has been acting as the FMO since late October 2012.

John has an extensive fire management background and will do an excellent job in moving the Yellowstone program forward as well as continuing to maintain and expand interagency partnerships and support.

Please take the time to congratulate John when you get the chance.

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-Christie Hendrix

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Employee Safety Committee-JUNE Wellness Newsletter

In this issue: MEN: Take Charge of Your Health; Benefits of Good Balance; Breakfast Outside the Box; the ABC's of Hepatitis.

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Website: <http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/View-Issue.aspx?issue=582>

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

YNP Wellness Incentive Program

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Heartsaver First Aid and CPR_Sign-Up at P:\[Safety](#) Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2013 First Aid and CPR sign Up\First Aid and CPR)

June 13, 2013 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (**Canyon Visitor Center conference room**)

RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Grizzly Bear Research To Resume In Yellowstone**

Biologists with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) will be conducting scientific grizzly bear research operations in Yellowstone National Park from June 3 through July 15, as part of the ongoing monitoring of the activities and population of grizzly bears within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Team members will bait and trap bears at several remote sites within Yellowstone National Park. Once trapped, the bears are anesthetized to allow wildlife biologists to radio-collar and collect scientific samples for study. All trapping and handling are done in accordance with IGBST's long established protocols.

None of the trap sites in the park will be located near any established hiking trails or backcountry campsites, and all trap sites will have posted warnings for the closure perimeter. Potential access points will also be posted with warning signs for the closure area. Backcountry users who come upon any of these posted areas need to heed the warnings and stay out of the area.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team was established in 1973 to collaboratively monitor and manage ecosystem bears on an interagency basis. The gathering of critical data on the protected bears is part of a long-term research effort required under the Endangered Species Act to help wildlife managers devise and implement programs to support the ongoing recovery of Yellowstone's grizzly bear population.

The IGBST is composed of representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game Department, and the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

For more information regarding grizzly bear research efforts call (406) 994-6675.

IN THE NEWS

Iconic burger joint changes hands; owners offer new twist

By Liz Kearney - Enterprise Staff Writer



Tracy and Mike Barlow poke their heads out the order window at the Wild West Corral Drive In in Gardiner recently. The couple purchased the restaurant from Steve Gould, whose mother, Helen Gould, ran the iconic restaurant since 1960. Mike recalled his first "Helen burger" when he moved to Gardiner in the 1990s. "I remember Helen calling me 'honey,'" he laughed

You want a raft trip with that burger, honey?

Gardiner's iconic Corral Drive In — "Helen's" to generations of locals and visitors — is under new ownership. Helen Gould, who operated the Corral from 1960 to 2008, was famous for her half-pound burgers, her sometimes salty language, and for calling everyone "honey." Gould sold the business to her son Steve Gould in 2008. She died in 2011 at the age of 79.

Steve Gould sold the Corral to Mike and Tracy Barlow earlier this year.

The Barlows own another company, Wild West Rafting, a commercial rafting operation, and they've applied the name to the restaurant, now known as Wild West Corral Drive In.

Mike said a raft company and a burger joint go hand-in-hand.

When rafters come off the river cold and hungry and ask about places to eat, they can be directed to the Corral. And when diners at the restaurant ask about activities in the area, they can be directed to a raft trip, Barlow said last week. He's working on a discount program, where customers of each business receive coupons for the other.

For anyone worried the new owners might try to change the place, fear not. Other than adding a breakfast menu and offering a few more selections of cheese for their burgers, the menu remains the same. The same burgers, either beef or bison, are served in a basket with fries. And the Wilcoxson's milkshakes are still there, too.

"We want to keep the quality and tradition alive," Barlow said.

The printed menu includes a tribute to Helen along with some Corral history.

Customers — who come from all over the world — ask about Helen. They're glad to see the place unchanged.

"One man came in and said he had been coming here for 40 years," Barlow recounted. "He ordered a burger, and when he finished, he said it was just as good as ever."

The restaurant purchase went through in March, and the Barlows opened up in early May. Steve Gould stayed on for a few weeks to ease the transition, helping out with training and cooking.

"His help was invaluable. He was instrumental in getting our feet off the ground," Barlow said of Gould.

The Barlows plan to staff the restaurant with a little help from their rafting guides. When things are slow on the river, the guides can pick up shifts at the restaurant.

"They're learning how to cook, wait tables and mop floors. It's good experience for them," Barlow laughed.

So far, no one has noticed that their cook was also their rafting guide, Barlow laughed, although he said it's sure to happen.

And no story about the Corral would be complete without a reference to the famous 1983 "hateful burger" incident, wherein a customer complained that a burger tasted like cigarette smoke after Helen was observed smoking while she cooked.

Will the Barlows continue this habit?

"Neither of us smoke. So unless you request a cigarette butt in your burger, you're not going to get one," Barlow laughed.

And so far, Barlow said, he hasn't picked up the habit of calling you "honey."

Wild West Corral Drive In is open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Breakfast offerings include bagels, yogurt and breakfast sandwiches. Lunch and dinner prices range from about \$7 to \$12, depending on size. The Corral offers burgers ranging in size from 1/4-pound up to a one-pound burger, which sells for \$14.75.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 256 AM MDT SUN JUN 2 2013

Today: Breezy. Partly cloudy until late afternoon...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms late in the afternoon. Highs 59 to 65. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Numerous thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Little or no snow accumulation. Lows 31 to 37. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Monday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 50 to 56. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Monday Night: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 30 to 36. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning... Then mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 52 to 58. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 32 to 38.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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Tuesday June 4, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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If you plan on attending any of the runs we ask that you post a comment on FB announcement so that we know who will be coming along. Runs take place in and out of the park so that our furry friends can join us on some runs as well. If you are not on Facebook, please contact Carrie Lang and ask to be on the email list carrie_lang@nps.gov.

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IN THE NEWS

Wolf advocacy billboards return around Yellowstone

Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer Tuesday, June 4, 2013 12:15 am

Billboard advertising may be old-school, but wolf advocacy groups hope that a few strategically placed signs will get tourists talking about the future of wolf management.

Before it enters the Gallatin Canyon, U.S. Highway 191 is dotted with billboards touting the Montana adventures that await tourists down the road.

Last week, a new sign sponsored by Predator Defense, a national wildlife advocacy organization, joined others near Gallatin Gateway. Just yards beyond a billboard advertising the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, a large wolf stares from a sign saying, "Coming soon: A World Without Wolves? Stop the killing."

It is one of five identical billboards in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming situated to catch the attention of Yellowstone National Park visitors.

Predator Defense opposes the use of hunting and traps to control wolves and objects to the way Western states have set their wolf hunting seasons, said Predator Defense executive director Brooks Fahy.

The indiscriminate killing of wolves has ecological consequences because it fractures packs, Fahy said. Without group support, juvenile survivors are more likely to go after easily killed livestock.

As Montana prepares to set its 2014 wolf season and the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission considers increasing the trapping limit, wolf advocates are trying to push back.

They are concerned about how states will manage wolves in the future, especially if wolves are fully delisted. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plan to delist the wolf, announced in April, is on hold after the resulting vocal opposition from conservationists, legislators and the public.

"This is a small effort to bring about awareness because nobody's aware of this," Fahy said. "This is a big contentious issue. We just want people to look at it; we want to drive them to our website."

In a contentious issue, no effort by one side will ever go unanswered.

After the billboards went up, a hunters' group, Big Game Forever, started fundraising to post their own message on billboards that they've reserved in Idaho and Montana.

According to its website, Big Game Forever wants wolves delisted so state wildlife agencies can be free to manage the wolf and "return wolf numbers to agreed upon levels to avoid irreversible damage to big game herd."

Attempts to contact representatives of the Utah-based Big Game Forever and Sportsman of Fish and Wildlife were unsuccessful.

This isn't the first time wolf advocacy groups have turned to billboard advertising.

At the beginning of May, a group called Project: WOLF paid for four grisly billboard signs in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana that showed four dead wolves lying in the snow. A bloodstain draped across the top of the sign, which said, "This is what's happening to your Yellowstone wolves. Do you care?"

Kristy Saul, who manages a Gallatin Gateway store, remembered that sign, which was on the same billboard that carries the new sign.

“It was definitely more graphic,” Saul said. “But no one’s said anything about them, not even the locals.” The people of Cody, Wyo., complained about that sign to Lamar Outdoor Advertising, which owns the billboards.

Lamar Montana general manager Paul Dennehy said he hadn’t received any calls about the Project: WOLF signs in Montana until the Cody complaints were publicized. So all the signs were taken down within days of going up.

Other groups, such as anti-abortion groups, also use graphic images on billboards.

For that reason, Dennehy said, Louisiana-based Lamar has a group that assesses signs for controversy. It didn’t think the Project: WOLF sign went too far.

“I’m not sure what happened. But now anything else dealing with wolves will receive a little more scrutiny,” Dennehy said.

Fahy said his group worked with Lamar and compromised on some of the wording.

“I was fine with Project: WOLF’s sign and was sorry they were taken down,” Fahy said. “But we decided against disturbing images; we were told that would turn people off. And we didn’t want to put something up just to have it taken down.”

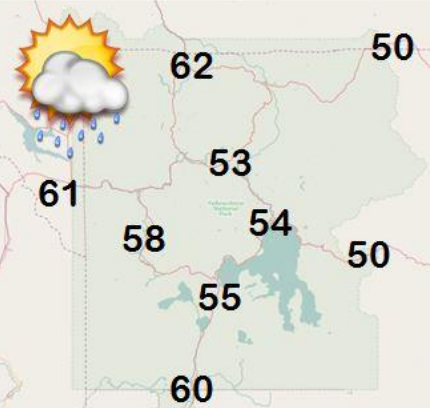
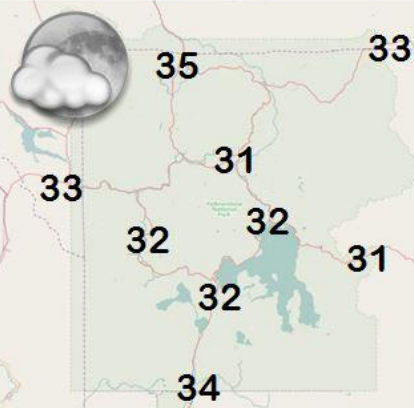
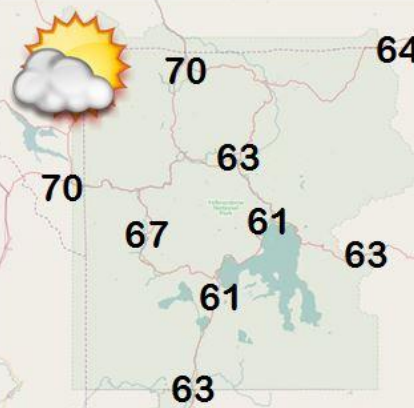
Fahy said the billboards are just the first step while he tries to raise more money. Next, he plans to put ads in travel magazines and airports.

But not all wildlife groups agree with the message.

Montana Wildlife Federation spokesman Nick Gevock said there was always an understanding that wolves would be hunted once they were recovered.

“Part of the problem is the anthropomorphization of wolves – I’ve never shot an animal that had a name and a fan club,” Gevock said. “But there’s ridiculous rhetoric on both sides of this issue with some groups claiming wolves have wiped out all the elk.”

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny to mostly cloudy, with isolated morning rain showers. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.	Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing.	Mostly sunny to partly cloudy and warmer.
		
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 35 to 43.		
Thursday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 61 to 76. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.		
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 35 to 46. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.		
Friday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 60 to 73. Chance of precipitation 40 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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NPS excavators, fence builders, etc.; There is an easier way to submit underground utility locate forms through BisonConnect.

Look for the "Underground Utility Locate Form" link listed in the column on the right side of the Employee Info SharePoint Page. <http://inpyellshare/employees/SitePages/Home.aspx>. Fill in your information and click "Submit". Don't forget to fax or email your map of the location of the dig. Instructions on how to send the map is at the end of the form. If you prefer the handwritten Locate Form, the file, "Locate Form 6-2013", is also on the Employee Info page listed under Shared Documents.

FISSA training is due this year on July 31. I'm going to try something new and NOT nag people to complete it. If you have a DOI Learn account and have completed training - thank you. I am getting reports this year so I will not need copies of certificates. (I didn't know this until last week, so I may have told you something different previously.) If you are a volunteer, you will have to request an account from DOI Learn.

Thanks! --Nancy, CSS

If there are any issues with DOI Learn itself, please contact their help desk at:1-866-466-1998.

On Tuesday, Yellowstone contributed a squad (6) of firefighters (Tripp, Koel, Wines, Kulla, Fleming, and Yellin) to a Type 2 hand crew that was sponsored by the Gallatin National Forest. They were dispatched to the Southwest on a pre-position order. They are expected to be assigned to an incident before they arrive in Albuquerque.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Isa Lake Bridge Reconstruction Project Approved

A plan to reconstruct Isa Lake Bridge located at Craig Pass on the Continental Divide has been approved.

Reconstruction of the bridge, which spans a section of the road connecting West Thumb and Old Faithful, is needed to bring the structure up to current design standards, improve safety, increase vehicle load capacity and preserve the historic integrity of the bridge. Improvements will also be made to adjacent parking and pullout areas to help maintain visitor access on this section of the Grand Loop Road into the future.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) allowing the existing Isa Lake Bridge to be removed and a bridge of similar appearance on the existing alignment to be reconstructed was signed by the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director, May 23, 2013. An Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzed two alternatives was released for public review and comment March 14, 2013.

Among the highlights of the approved reconstruction plan:

- During bridge reconstruction, the road will remain open via a temporary bridge spanning Isa Lake to the north of the existing bridge.
- The existing parking area and pullouts will be repaired. One handicapped accessible parking space will be created.
- New curb logs will be installed.
- The existing kiosk structure will be rehabilitated.

The project will proceed when funding becomes available through the Federal Lands Highway Program and will take approximately two years to complete.

Copies of the EA and the FONSI are available on the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Isa>.

IN THE NEWS

Experts seek to unlock mysteries of Old Faithful, other Yellowstone geysers

By RUFFIN PREVOST YellowstoneGate.com for The Billings Gazette

Researchers and Yellowstone National Park staff members are meeting at Old Faithful this week to review the current scientific understanding of the park's hydrothermal systems. The group will eventually develop suggestions for new research projects and design standards that could help inform and guide management of Yellowstone's thermal features and any nearby development.

Discussions on Monday, the first of three days when the science review panel is meeting, revealed that top experts in the field are still struggling to fully understand some details of how and why Old Faithful erupts at intervals averaging every 90 minutes or so, as well as other factors in how all of the park's thermal features function.

"It's about as complex a hydrothermal system as you could expect to find," said Payton Gardner, a geologist with Sandia National Laboratories who is studying how the park's thermal features are recharged by groundwater.

Gardner and others who have spent their careers studying hydrothermal systems in Yellowstone and elsewhere said it is difficult to unlock the mysteries of what's going on underground, especially since researchers must rely on non-invasive methods that won't disturb or alter hydrothermal processes.

It is only in the last decade that park geologists have begun using sophisticated thermal imaging technology to create detailed maps of Yellowstone's hot spots, said Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst.

The information will be used to guide development around Old Faithful and in other areas in an effort minimize human effects on thermal features, and to avoid repeating some of the mistakes made in the past.

Among those past mistakes are structures built atop thermally active ground and a network of buried water, sewer and power lines that wasn't always planned or mapped as carefully as it should have been.

"You will never figure out what's underground in terms of infrastructure at Old Faithful," said Nancy Ward, chief of maintenance for Yellowstone.

The area has seen a mosaic of construction for more than 100 years, Ward said, and more than 30 miles of buried utilities snake underneath the buildings and roads. That includes a complex jumble of abandoned water and sewer lines that park officials don't know whether to dig up or leave in place.

Maintenance crews have often rerouted underground infrastructure as buildings are torn down, removed or refurbished, or when pipes fail from age or thermal stress.

Visitation to Yellowstone continues to trend upward, and Old Faithful remains by far the most popular spot in the park. Accommodating the growing crowds without disturbing geysers, hot springs and mudpots is one of the best examples of the difficulty in balancing the National Park Service's mission of protecting resources while allowing for appropriate public use, Superintendent Dan Wenk said.

As the Park Service considers new ways to better handle an average of 20,000 daily summer visitors at Old Faithful, planners will be relying on guidance from the panel of scientific advisers gathered at this week's conference, which is funded by the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

Panelists will help identify potential future problems and may suggest options for design standards that can be applied around any of the hundreds of thermal features spread throughout Yellowstone.

Significantly restricting access to the park's most popular attraction is not a politically viable option. So park managers are exploring ideas for how to better manage the throngs by making small changes that will cost relatively little, said Eleanor Clark, chief of comprehensive planning for Yellowstone.

Colleen Rawlings compared the Old Faithful crowd control challenge to Times Square in New York City.

"Imagine Times Square at midnight on New Year's Eve, and then Times Square on any other day of the year," Rawlings said. "You see that same difference at Old Faithful, only it fluctuates every 92 minutes."

Migrating elk dwindling because of climate change, predators

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 12:15 am

Migration used to be a good strategy for animals to find the best food, but a recent study appears to show that climate change and human interference favor animals that stay put.

A scientific study, published today in the journal *Ecology*, tracked the Clarks Fork elk herd for more than two decades as it migrated between central Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park, finding that the herd's numbers have dwindled since 1989.

The cause appears to be lowered reproduction caused by climate change and human and predator pressures. Biologists have hypothesized that migration was advantageous in natural systems, allowing herbivores to follow the spring green-up as it works its way into higher elevations. Thus animals can maximize the amount of high-nutrient grass they eat, especially after a long winter.

But that's been hard to prove because, in recent decades, manmade barriers such as fences or roads have hindered migrating herds. In the case of bison, hazing hampers migration.

The Clarks Fork elk herd is one of the few that still travels old routes across mostly open territory, wintering in central Wyoming and migrating to the park for summer. But even without barriers, migration doesn't mean success.

Scientists from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the University of Wyoming compared the Clarks Fork herd to one that stays in central Wyoming and found the Clarks Fork herd produces fewer young. Between 1989 and 2009, the production of calves declined by 73 percent.

No historic population numbers were provided, so 1989 may have been an artificial peak.

The decrease is explained partly by the fact that only 70 percent of the Clarks Fork cows would become pregnant while almost 90 percent of cows in resident herds became pregnant.

Using satellite imagery, scientists measured the amount of vegetation in grazing areas over time and concluded that long-term drought has made it harder for migrating elk to find good forage, so females don't have enough energy to produce calves.

Meanwhile resident elk take advantage of irrigated farm fields so they have more to eat.

They also found that the green-up has started occurring earlier, before the cows calve. So the cows aren't able to maximize their nutrition intake while they're nursing their calves.

Predators also play a part in the equation. The study didn't measure predation rates but cited corresponding trends

in predator populations.

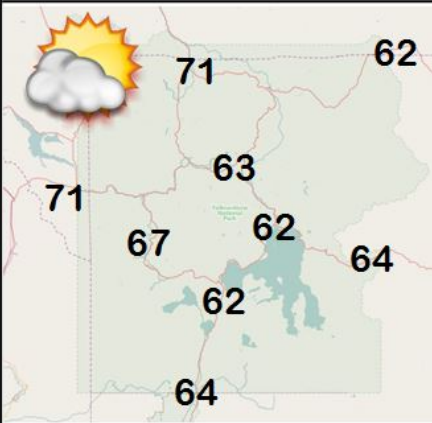
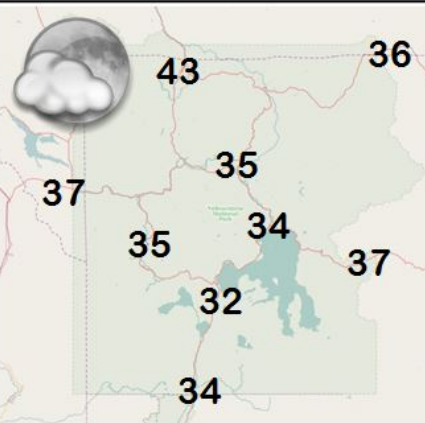
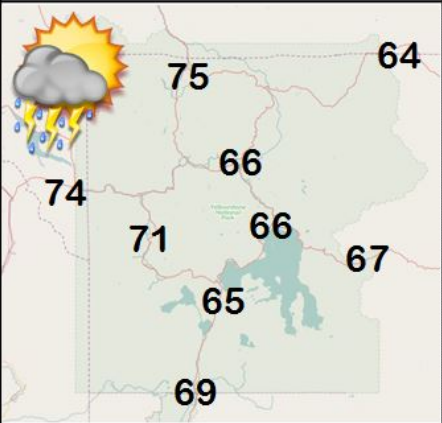
Few wolves live in central Wyoming. The ones that end up there are often shot. So wolves don't affect resident herds. The combination of irrigated lands and no predators has led to population increases in central Wyoming. But the Clark Fork cows drop their calves in central Wyoming and then migrate to Yellowstone, where wolves, grizzly bears, black bears and mountain lions await.

During the two decades of the study, the grizzly bear population increased fourfold. Wolves didn't start having an effect until around 2000, but then their numbers climbed four times higher also.

A similar situation exists for migratory and resident elk herds near Banff, Canada. There, scientists found that resident herds suffered lower predation because wolves avoided more urban habitat. Wolves killed far more elk that migrated into the wilderness.

The authors concluded that the combination of predation, human barriers and drought from climate change would challenge the conservation of migratory herds.

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY
Mostly sunny to partly cloudy.	Partly cloudy.	Mostly sunny in the morning... then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.
		
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 36 to 45. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent. Friday: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning... Then mostly cloudy with slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 61 to 75. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers after midnight. Lows 36 to 47. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 62 to 74.		
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

Thursday, June 6, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NPS excavators, fence builders, etc.; There is an easier way to submit underground utility locate forms through BisonConnect.

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FISSA training is due this year on July 31. I'm going to try something new and NOT nag people to complete it. If you have a DOI Learn account and have completed training - thank you. I am getting reports this year so I will not need copies of certificates. (I didn't know this until last week, so I may have told you something different previously.) If you are a volunteer, you will have to request an account from DOI Learn.

Thanks! --Nancy, CSS

If there are any issues with DOI Learn itself, please contact their help desk at:1-866-466-1998.

On Tuesday, Yellowstone contributed a squad (6) of firefighters (Tripp, Koel, Wines, Kulla, Fleming, and Yellin) to a Type 2 hand crew that was sponsored by the Gallatin National Forest. They were dispatched to the Southwest on a pre-position order. They are expected to be assigned to an incident before they arrive in Albuquerque.

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John has an extensive fire management background and will do an excellent job in moving the Yellowstone program forward as well as continuing to maintain and expand interagency partnerships and support.

Please take the time to congratulate John when you get the chance.

Please be aware that the **bison are migrating** this time of year (especially with the boundary work going on) and they are frequently on the roadway. There have been a number of vehicle accidents and near misses in the past couple days. Please drive with caution and watch for the large black holes wandering the roadways!

Driving Safety Reminder: With the nice weather and kids getting out of school, we should expect to see more of them on the streets throughout Mammoth during the weekdays. Please keep this in mind as you drive around Mammoth for both personal and work reasons. Be watchful of blind areas, corners, etc., and keep your speed at or below that which is posted.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone National Park Receives 2013 “Ticket To Ride” Grant From The National Park Foundation

Yellowstone National Park has been selected to receive a 2013 “Ticket to Ride” grant from the National Park Foundation (NPF), the official charity of America’s national parks, for Yellowstone’s Connecting Native American Youth to Yellowstone program. The NPF “Ticket to Ride” program, supported by a grant from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, helps students explore the outdoors by providing transportation and program support to national parks around the country.

Now in its second year and with continued support from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund and Disney Friends for Change, “Ticket to Ride” provides financial resources for transportation, in-park educational programming, and meals that make national park field trips possible for schools across the country. The grant from Disney will help more than 60,000 students to experience location-based learning in their local national parks this year. Disney is committed to connecting kids to nature, ensuring they appreciate and understand the beauty and value of our natural resources.

Funding will help provide bus transportation for most of the 300 students and 65 teachers/chaperones from tribal schools who will participate in Expedition: Yellowstone! , a curriculum-based education program for grades 4 – 8, or in a ranger-led Yellowstone Field Trip program from May 2013 through April 2014. The Yellowstone Park Foundation, the park’s primary fundraiser, will support full or partial scholarships for many of the students participating in the Expedition Yellowstone! program.

Schools partnering with Yellowstone include: St. Francis Indian School from South Dakota; Wyoming Indian Elementary School; Plenty Coups High School, Pryor Middle School, De La Salle Blackfeet School, Hardin Intermediate School, Hardin Middle School, Crow Agency School, and Lame Deer School from Montana.

For many students, the “Ticket to Ride” field trip will be their first visit to a national park. Welcoming Native American youth to the lands their ancestors walked upon will serve to strengthen relationships between Yellowstone and its associated tribes. By engaging youth in healthy outdoor physical activities and hands-on, place-based, interactive learning, the park hopes to open the doors to future stewardship and preservation of ecosystems in and beyond the Park, as well as to reinforce the cultural and historical value of the tribal contributions to this landscape.

For information about the National Park Foundation go to www.nationalparks.org. For information about the Yellowstone Park Foundation go to www.ypf.org.

Secretary Jewell, Director Jarvis Announce Initiative to Offer Additional Healthy, Sustainable Food Choices at Parks*Nutritious, Affordable Food Options for Park Visitors to be Offered Nationwide*

WASHINGTON, DC – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, Let's Move! Executive Director and White House Senior Policy Advisor on Nutrition Sam Kass, and executives and chefs of major concessioners to announce that visitors will have additional choices for purchasing healthy, nutritious food at national parks across the country.

“Our national parks are renowned around the world for their breathtaking landscapes and important cultural and historical sites,” Jewell said. “Today, as part of the administration’s efforts to promote healthier choices, we are adding yet another reason to visit our national parks and increasing the number of healthy food options available to visitors at parks from coast to coast.”

As part of the Healthy Parks, Healthy People initiative, Director Jarvis issued healthy food standards and sustainable food guidelines that will increase the number of menu items available at more than 250 food and beverage operations in national parks.

“There is no reason that you should have to take a vacation from eating well when you visit a national park,” said Jarvis. “Traditional favorites such as hot dogs and ice cream will remain, but the new standards will provide additional choices, such as fish tacos and yogurt parfaits, for the 23 million people who buy meals in national parks each year.”

The agency collaborated with park food and beverage operators, concession industry leaders and health experts to develop the standards, which will be integrated into all new concessions contracts and applied on a voluntary basis to existing contracts. Many concessioners are embracing the Healthy Parks, Healthy People connection and are working with parks to display new signs and nutritional data, including calorie counts, to help customers make informed decisions.

“Providing additional choices is good for our customers and good for our business,” said Gerry Gabrys, Chief Executive Officer of Guest Services, Inc. who spoke on behalf of the concessioners. “All of us have seen a growing consumer demand for healthy food and we are committed to meeting the needs and desires of park visitors while keeping prices affordable. The new guidelines include many efforts already underway by the industry and reflect the close collaboration and positive partnership we enjoy with the National Park Service.”

The new program includes incentives and recognition opportunities for concession companies that exceed the standards and demonstrate leadership in improving the visitor experience.

Jewell and Jarvis made the announcement at an event on the National Mall featuring executives and chefs from four major concessioners – Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Guest Services, Inc., Aramark Parks and Destinations, and Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts – who served samples of the new menu items.

“We all have a role to play in building a healthier nation, and improving the offerings at parks across the country is an important step towards making the healthier choice the easier choice for parents and kids,” said Kass. “Our beautiful national parks are a fun way for families to get active together this summer, and now families will also be able to enjoy many healthy food options as part of their visit to the great outdoors. I look forward to eating a healthy meal in a national park this summer myself!”

In addition to providing more nutritious food options, the National Park Service is encouraging concessioners to incorporate sustainable food sourcing and service practices. The use of locally grown or raised items, when available, provides fresh food, reduces environmental impacts, and supports regional economies.

Already, concessioners in parks like Yellowstone and Mount Rushmore are working with local vendors to supply a variety of seasonal ingredients, from fish, beef, bread, and tomatoes to dairy products, blueberries, cage-free eggs, and vegetables. Mount Rushmore's "Lakota Popcorn" is from the harvest of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe.

"When it comes to serving items like beef and vegetables, we are returning to our roots," said Lu Harlow, director of food and beverage for Xanterra's Yellowstone National Park operations, which served 1.8 million guests last year. "Whenever possible and practical, we offer healthy foods that are good for our guests, our neighbors and our park. Because there are now more organic farms and local growers in the region, we have more choices to source close-to-the-ground and organic foods than ever before. It's a win for our guests, a win for us and a win for our suppliers."

The Healthy & Sustainable Food Program is a key pillar of the Healthy Parks, Healthy People US initiative, which the service established in 2011 to better link public health and the mission of public parks and public lands. The initiative includes national, state, and local parks, as well as business innovators, healthcare leaders, scientists, foundations and advocacy organizations.

Concessioners from the Muir Woods in California to the Statue of Liberty in New York have already received local and national restaurant awards for their efforts. In addition, the first National Park Service Healthy Parks, Healthy People Award nominations have been accepted and winners, including those in the healthy food category, will be announced in July.

The new Standards and Guidelines and other healthy and sustainable food resources are available on the NPS web site <http://concessions.nps.gov>.

IN THE NEWS

State kills two bull bison outside Yellowstone

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 5:12 pm

The Montana Department of Livestock killed two bison Wednesday after the bulls wouldn't stay inside Yellowstone National Park.

Wednesday morning, DOL agents shot one bull on private property and another on Gallatin National Forest land south of the Madison Arm of Hebgen Lake near West Yellowstone.

DOL spokesman Steve Merritt said agents moved the bulls back to the park on numerous occasions, but they wouldn't remain in the park.

The majority of bison were hazed into the park prior to May 15, a target date designated by the Interagency Bison Management Plan.

Every year, after the main hazing effort, bison attempt to return to grazing areas outside the park, so DOL agents continue moving animals after May 15 until the urge to migrate dissipates.

Merritt said hazing was ongoing through last week and a few more were hazed Tuesday.

"It ends when it ends," Merritt said.

In April, DOL agents shot another bull that wandered north of the winter range delineated by the IBMP near

Gardiner.

Wildlife advocates questioned the need to shoot the bulls.

The IBMP requires bison be kept separate from cattle to avoid the transfer of brucellosis, a bacterial disease that can affect cow pregnancy.

Brucellosis can only be transmitted when an animal comes in direct contact with an aborted fetus. So only cows can act as a source of the disease; bulls play no part.

Wildlife advocates have thus asked for more tolerance for bulls.

DOL executive director Christian MacKay said bulls have gained some ground, but they still aren't allowed outside the tolerance zone.

Bulls have recently been allowed to remain year-round outside the park's western boundary south of Duck Creek, and the IBMP partners anticipate the addition of more area on Horse Butte north of the Madison River.

"We let it slide with these bulls for a long time, but we finally exhausted all options. A no-tolerance line is a no-tolerance line," MacKay said. "It helps reduce conflict. If you allow the line to erode, people lose confidence."

The people who would lose confidence are two cattle ranchers in the area.

One owns the private property where one bison was shot and MacKay said he'd be moving his cows onto the property any day now. The other rancher plans on moving his cattle into the area on July 1, MacKay said. But others in the area have indicated that they don't oppose the presence of bison.

A group of homeowners on Horse Butte are scheduled to meet with Gov. Steve Bullock's representatives next week to protest the hazing of bison on their private property.

National Forest managers have also said forest land is open to bison.

"When the DOL says those bulls were in a 'no-tolerance zone,' the public thinks that's a big problem area, that there's no tolerance. But it doesn't reflect the attitude of the landowners," said Gallatin Wildlife Association spokesman Glenn Hockett. "If a bison crosses a line, you don't have to automatically intervene."

Hockett said the DOL doesn't need to kill bulls to avoid brucellosis; it's more about competition for grazing resources.

Tribal members were allowed to harvest the meat, heads and hides of the two bulls.

Billboard battle continues on west strip

Posted: Wednesday, June 5, 2013 3:24 pm | Updated: 3:29 pm, Wed Jun 5, 2013.

By MARK HEINZ | Cody Enterprise

The billboard battle is back on the West Cody Strip.

Signs offering differing views of Wyoming's wolf management have gone up in close proximity to each other in west Cody.

Those behind the billboards say the placement, one right next to the other, was not planned. Both are on billboards owned by Lamar Outdoor Advertising.

Dustin Rosencranse, owner of Roger's Sport Center in Cody and one of the sponsors of a billboard favoring state wolf management, said he was unaware of any plans for the other billboard's placement.

Brooks Fahy of the Eugene, Ore.-based Predator Defense, made a similar statement regarding the placement of his group's advertisement.

A previous billboard, which featured a graphic image of dripping blood and four wolf carcasses in protest of wolf hunting, stirred controversy.

It was quickly taken down after protests from locals, and statements from Lamar that the sponsors had given the company inaccurate information.

The new billboards are more low-key.

Headed west toward Yellowstone Park, the first includes a photo of a cow and calf moose and features the caption, "Where are these in Yellowstone?"

It also directs viewers to wildlifefacts.org, which contains information about wildlife populations.

The second billboard features a photograph of a live wolf and the caption, "Coming soon: A world without wolves? Stop the Killing."

It directs people to predatordefense.org, which contains information about the group's billboard campaign that is critical of state management and wolf hunting.

Predator Defense also has put up billboards along routes to Yellowstone in Idaho and Montana. Rosencranse said the Cody billboard is his group's only sign.

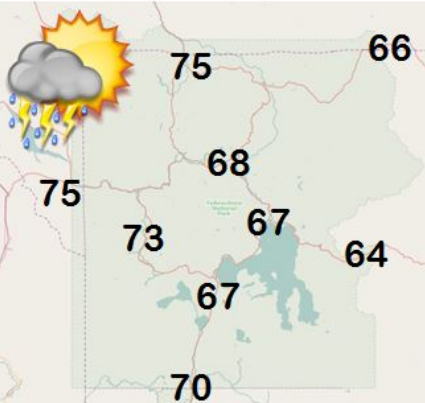
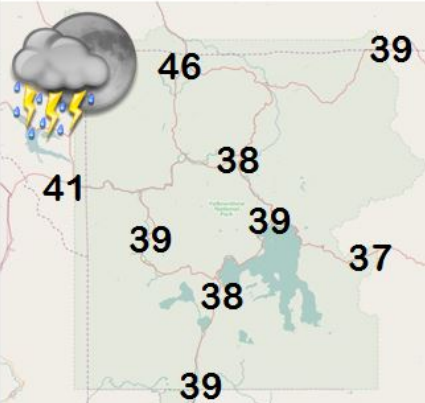
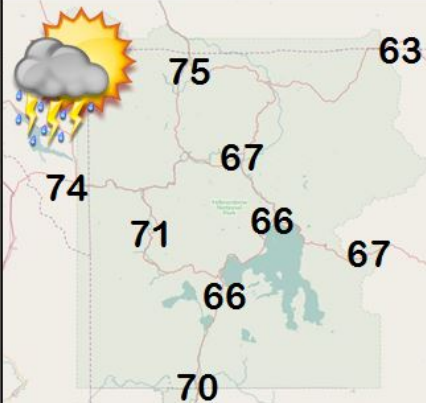
State wolf management plans, particularly public wolf hunts in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, remain controversial.

Supporters say the wolf population has recovered to adequate levels, and hunting does not threaten its vitality. Detractors claim the states, particularly Wyoming, are being heavy-handed.

Lawsuits about Wyoming's wolf management are pending in Cheyenne and Washington D.C.

Still, Game and Fish has gone ahead with plans for this fall's wolf hunts, noting that kill quotas could be cut by about half from last year's statewide limit of 52 wolves.

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny until late afternoon... then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms late in the afternoon primarily across the northern half of the park. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening... then partly cloudy after midnight. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Partly cloudy in the morning... then mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent
		
Friday Night: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 36 to 46. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent. Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 63 to 75. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Saturday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 35 to 44. Sunday: Sunny. Highs 65 to 76.		
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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, June 7, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yellowstone's Intranet (www.yell.nps.gov) and Yellowstone's SharePoint (inpyellshare) are both down right now. The server that they run on is broken, and the repairman estimates that they will be back up tomorrow afternoon.

The Internet is not down, but you might get an error message when you open Internet Explorer. It could be something like "Internet Explorer cannot display the webpage" and/or "Diagnose Connection Problem". You should be able to get to other websites from your favorites or by typing in a website address.

Sorry about this, Computer Support Services
307-344-2062

All are welcome to attend **the Employee Safety Committee Meeting** scheduled for 10:00 am Wednesday, June 12 at the Canyon Visitor Center Conference Room

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Participant Code 1885448

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

(GRTE News Release) **Annual Cattle Drive to Cause Minor Traffic Delays near Moran Junction on June 8**

MOOSE, WY — Motorists may experience a minor travel delay along Highway 26/89/191 from Moran Junction to the Elk Ranch flats (one mile south of the junction) on Saturday morning, June 8, between the hours of 6:45 and 8:30 a.m. The temporary delay will allow for the safe movement of cattle from the Pinto Ranch of Buffalo Valley to the Elk Ranch pastures, which lie south of Moran Junction and the Buffalo Fork River. Park rangers will provide traffic control for this cattle drive.

Pinto Ranch wranglers will drive a herd of approximately 290 cattle westward from the ranch using a right of way

along Highway 26/287. When the cattle drive reaches Moran Junction, the animals need to cross the Buffalo Fork Bridge, which may cause a delay of up to 30 minutes while cattle clear both the bridge and a swampy area just south of the bridge.

To avoid the temporary road delay, local residents and park visitors may choose to travel an alternate route through Grand Teton National Park using the Teton Park Road between Jackson Lake Junction and Moose Junction.

Every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to travelers who may be using Highway 26/89/191 near Moran Junction during the early morning cattle drive on Saturday.

Several years ago, Grand Teton officials requested that the Pinto Ranch shift their cattle from an historic, free-range Pacific Creek grazing allotment north of Moran to the fenced Elk Ranch pastures in order to minimize potential conflicts with predators in the Pacific Creek drainage.

In accordance with the 1950 Grand Teton National Park enabling legislation, certain historic grazing privileges were retained. Since that time, the fenced and irrigated Elk Ranch pastures have been used for cattle grazing.

IN THE NEWS

Wildlife managers look to change bear, wolf management policies

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Friday, June 7, 2013 12:15 am

Bison and wolves spur controversy, and the management of both is about to change slightly as Fish, Wildlife & Parks managers try to get closer to acceptable compromise.

At Thursday's Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting in Bozeman, FWP director Jeff Hagener and Region 3 supervisor Pat Flowers discussed the status of bison and wolves and the proposals that could change their management.

The FWP commission is considering changing the specifics of this year's wolf hunt to increase the number of wolves one hunter or trapper can take from three to five.

The rifle season would be extended to more than six months, running from Sept. 15 to March 31, while the trapping season remains the same.

The 2013 Legislature eliminated the possibility of a no-hunt buffer zone around national parks, so the wolf management area around the park, WMU 316, has been enlarged to encompass areas west of Gardiner and the quota in that area is proposed at seven wolves.

FWP spokesman Howard Burt said the smaller version of that area had a quota of three last year but only two wolves were shot.

The commission is entertaining two additional proposals.

In WMU 316, the commission is considering limiting each person to one wolf so that just one or two people couldn't shut down the hunt by taking up to five wolves. It also is considering allowing private trappers to assist with the elimination of wolves that prey on livestock.

"Our objective is to reduce the population," Burt said. "Last year, 225 were harvested and that produced a 4

percent decrease in the population.”

Comments are being accepted on the wolf season until June 24, and Hagener said FWP has already received about 15,000 comments.

“There’s no shortage of passion about the wolf,” Hagener said. “I got a comment yesterday from Tasmania.” Hagener said the state is still required to monitor the wolf population.

“We’re still under scrutiny; we don’t have full management for another two years,” Hagener said. “We’re hoping the Wyoming lawsuit won’t affect us.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved Wyoming’s wolf plan so it could delist the wolf in Wyoming, but environmental groups sued based upon the harsher management of the Wyoming plan.

Bozeman resident Norm Bishop said FWP should start educating the public on wolf ecology and the ways it has contributed to healthy ecosystems.

“Barstool biology is rife throughout the West, and the only education you provide is on how to kill wolves,” Bishop said.

Hagener agreed. He said people see ungulate populations drop and the first thing they blame is the wolf.

“The strongest sentiment in the Legislature was control, control, control,” Hagener said. “But as we’re finding in the Bitterroot study, other things like mountain lions may have more of an effect.”

While Montana is looking at clamping down more on the wolf, it may be easing up a bit on bison.

Flowers said the environmental assessment on larger year-round areas outside Yellowstone National Park would be out by the end of June.

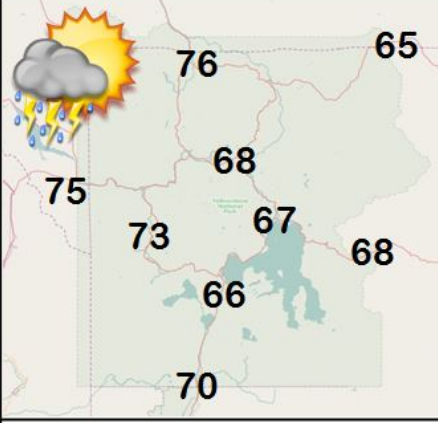
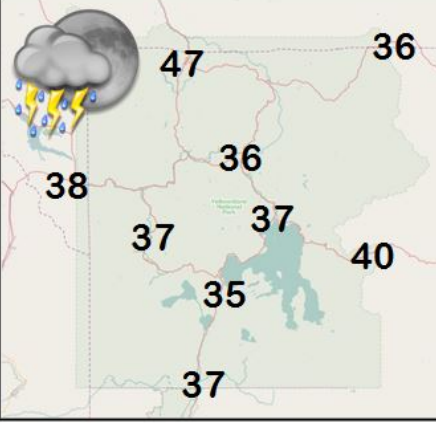
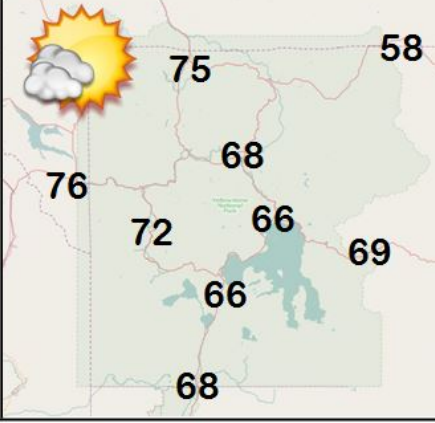
The range of alternatives range from year-round tolerance as far north as the Taylor Fork in the Gallatin Canyon to no change in the current plan.

When asked whether the Montana Department of Livestock would cooperate, Flowers said the DOL would be one of the signing parties of the final decision. The final decision should go into effect by the end of this year, Flowers said.

When asked about tolerance outside the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, Hagener said the department was fully committed to a statewide plan. The process to develop that plan has been in limbo over the first part of the year while the department has gone through some changes.

Hagener said he intended to find out the status of the process and move it ahead.

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Mostly sunny. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.
		
Saturday Night: Breezy. Mostly clear. Lows 35 to 44. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs 67 to 78. Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 43 to 49. Monday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 69 to 79. Chance of precipitation 20 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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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, June 10, 2013



An atypical Lifelight arrival, landing, and takeoff from the Esplanade between the Mammoth Clinic and the Justice Center Friday morning.

Photos by Karin Schwartz, Christy Koehler and Emily Cunningham.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All residents of our communities are invited to a very special service of worship at the Mammoth Chapel to celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, June 23, at 10:30 am. As the Mammoth Chapel was originally dedicated by the U.S. Army chaplain on Sunday, June 23, 1913, our special speaker will be the retired Chaplain of West Point, Rev. Richard Camp. In addition, Communion will be served by a former Resident Minister of Yellowstone, Rev. Merv Olson. Please be a part of this historic event.

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Toll free number 888 930-9220

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Begins 2013 With Strong Visitation

Yellowstone National Park is off to a strong start to the 2013 visitor year.

Visitation to the world's first national park begins to pick up in May as weather improves and interior roads and visitor facilities begin to open to the public.

There were 293,250 recreational visitors to Yellowstone in May and a total of 392,222 for the first five months of 2013.

	Recreational Visits 2013	Recreational Visits 2012	Change
January	24,699	24,766	- 0.27 %
February	31,053	27,752	+ 11.90 %
March	18,613	20,248	- 8.07 %
April	24,606	29,056	- 15.32 %
May	293,250	268,251	+ 9.32 %
Total Year-To-Date	392,222	370,073	+ 5.99%

However, comparing recreational visitor figures from 2013 with those from 2012 will not provide an accurate picture of year-to-year changes in park visitation.

Visitation statistics are calculated by taking the actual number of wheeled vehicles entering the park gates, and using a person-per-vehicle multiplier to calculate the number of monthly recreational visitors.

Last summer, Yellowstone conducted surveys to gauge the accuracy of the multipliers which have been in use for nearly 20 years. Based on the survey results, Yellowstone began using new, monthly lower person-per-vehicle multipliers as of January 2013.

For instance, during the summer months we previously used a multiplier of 2.91 persons-per-vehicle. This year and into the future, we'll use the lower multiplier of 2.58 persons-per-vehicle.

A better year-to-year comparison of park visitation may be to look at the number of autos and RVs entering the park for recreational purposes.

	Recreational Autos & RVs 2013	Recreational Autos & RVs 2012	Change
January	4,135	4,833	- 14.44 %
February	5,654	4,908	+ 5.20 %
March	5,215	5,040	+ 3.47 %
April	9,777	10,397	- 5.96 %
May	103,537	93,236	+ 11.05 %
Total Year-To-Date	128,318	118,414	+ 8.36 %

The total number of automobiles and RV's entering Yellowstone for recreational purposes during the first five months of 2013 was up 8.36% compared to the same period in 2012.

All park entrances saw an increase in these vehicle numbers in May 2013 compared to the same month the previous year, with the park's East and South entrances posting the largest gains.

The actual number of vehicles entering Yellowstone this year for recreational purposes is expected to remain consistent with levels experienced in recent years.

Monthly and annual recreational visitor figures which will be reported over the course of this year may not reflect an actual significant change in the number of park visitors, just a different and more accurate accounting of park visitation.

July is typically the park's peak visitation month, followed in order by August, June, September, and May.

Detailed park visitation information and additional information on how these statistics are calculated is available online at <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/ReportList>.

IN THE NEWS

Park Service taps Missoula's Adventure Cycling for transportation planning help

By Rob Chaney Missoulain

MISSOULA — Bicyclists will have a seat at the table when the National Park Service does its transportation planning in the future.

A five-year agreement reached between the Park Service and Missoula-based Adventure Cycling Association should help park supervisors plan for bike tours, consider better road designs and include other features that appeal to tourists on bikes, according to NPS spokesman Alan Turnbull.

While it doesn't provide any funding or construction action yet, it should ensure that future park travel plans don't omit biking opportunities.

"There've been a lot of studies showing the economic impact of bike tourism in national parks," Turnbull said. "If the Park Service was a business operator, which it's not, it would still look at bicyclists as: 'They come in, spend money and exert very little wear-and-tear on the park.' It's a win-win."

Adventure Cycling will share details of its extensive bike-route development activity and best-use practices with the National Park Service, according to spokeswoman Winona Bateman. The 46,000-member association organizes more than 70 bike tours a year and provides maps and route information to bike adventurers.

"You can draw a line on the map, but you must also make sure roads are suitable for bicyclists, look at the traffic volume, what the shoulders are like. We've developed a community process with volunteers and state departments of transportation that vet different roads. We're developing a national corridor plan for the United States that shows where routes should go. Then we work to get buy-in from the people who want the routes to traverse their community."

The National Park Service manages 400 parks, monuments, landmarks and other properties. Some, such as Canyonlands National Park in Utah, have extensive trail networks that attract tourists specifically for biking opportunities. Glacier National Park, by contrast, is popular with bikers in its spring and fall shoulder seasons but is difficult to cycle when the mid-summer car traffic dominates Going-to-the-Sun Road.

The agreement will promote user etiquette and safety while providing well-managed recreation and tourism opportunities, according to Bateman. It also preserves the National Park Service's authority to determine where and when bicycling is appropriate on park lands.

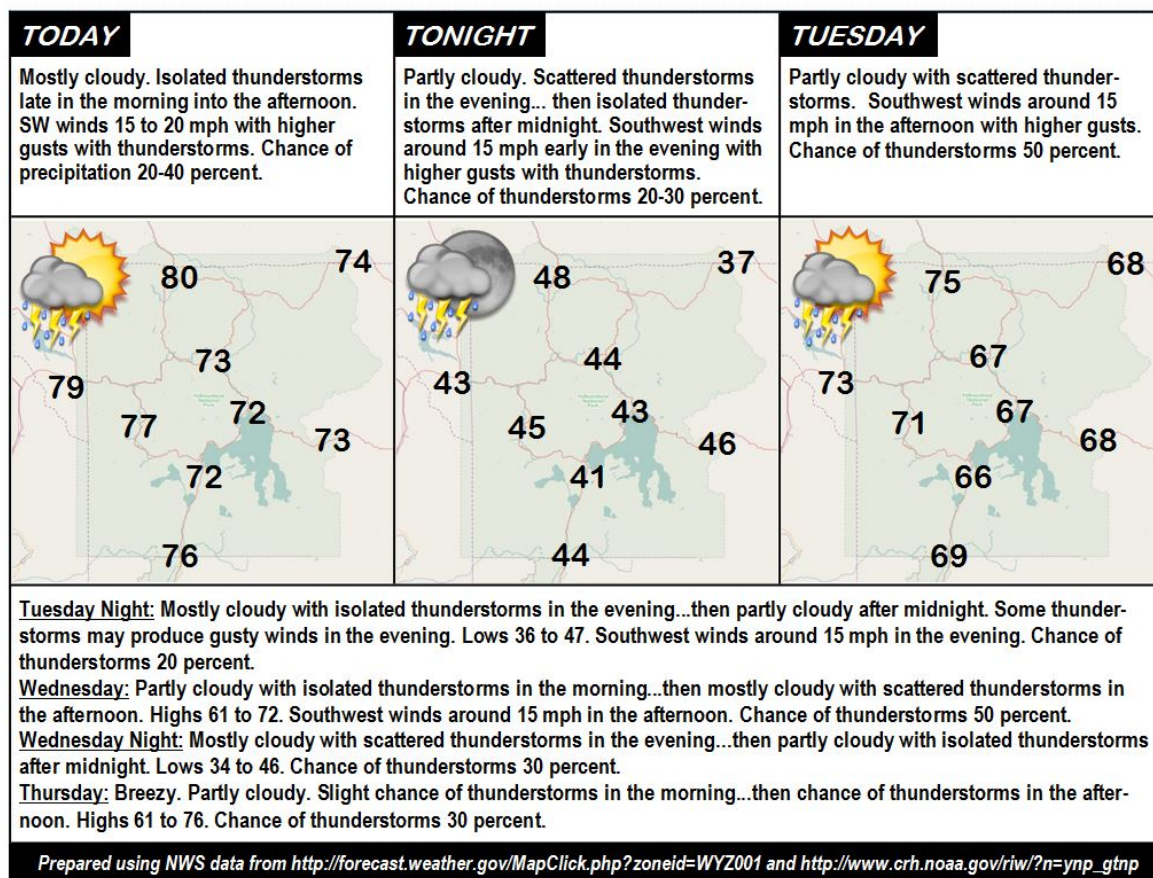
Turnbull said similar agreements have helped mountain bikers, backcountry horse riders and other recreation interest groups get their needs and suggestions heard in the national park system. He called it a "tool of diplomacy" that improved the Park Service's understanding of its visitors' interests.

"It's not a work plan – it doesn't add bike lanes," Turnbull said of the agreement. "It says here's an opportunity for the Park Service to benefit from the knowledge of a highly competent national organization. And it says to the cycling world: We appreciate your willingness to work through the many issues the National Park Service has to balance."

"This agreement could not come at a better time," said Adventure Cycling Association executive director Jim Sayer. "Bicycle tourism is surging in America and around the planet. Bike networks are being developed at a rapid pace. It's important that the National Park Service is a key player in this effort to make biking safer and more enjoyable, especially in our national parks."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/park-service-taps-missoula-s-adventure-cycling-for-transportation-planning/article_d68b41e1-4193-5410-964c-aa1880429f08.html#ixzz2VpFjo5Pl

WEATHER



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YNP@Work

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Tuesday, June 11, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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However, there are multiple, discouraging reports that members of our own park staff have been observed blatantly disregarding these closures and the 25-yard distance requirement.

When you're in a very public place (like most of Mammoth) take a moment to consider whether your actions set the right example for visitors.

All residents of our communities are invited to a very special service of worship at the Mammoth Chapel to celebrate its **100th anniversary on Sunday, June 23, at 10:30 am**. As the Mammoth Chapel was originally dedicated by the U.S. Army chaplain on Sunday, June 23, 1913, our special speaker will be the retired Chaplain of West Point, Rev. Richard Camp. In addition, Communion will be served by a former Resident Minister of Yellowstone, Rev. Merv Olson. Please be a part of this historic event.

All are welcome to attend **the Employee Safety Committee Meeting** scheduled for 10:00 am Wednesday, June 12 at the Canyon Visitor Center Conference Room

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Park to Conduct Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspections

Yellowstone National Park rangers and state and federal transportation officials will conduct safety evaluations of commercial vehicles and operators traveling in the park again this summer.

These inspections are designed to ensure the safe operation and mechanical soundness of commercial buses and trucks on Yellowstone's roadways. These inspections help protect park visitors, employees and resources from the impacts of potential mishaps. Both the vehicle and the driver are evaluated in order to ensure full compliance with federal regulations that govern commercial vehicle operation.

This is the 15th year of the interagency inspection program. It has resulted in a significant decrease in the most serious "out-of-service" violations, which require that either a commercial vehicle or a commercial driver be taken off the road due to serious mechanical or driver-specific violations.

IN THE NEWS

Strong start for tourism in Yellowstone National Park

Troy Carter, Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 12:15 am

The number of visitors who entered Yellowstone National Park in May was up significantly, according to the National Park Service, which tracks vehicle entries.

This year's May report tallied 103,537 vehicles entering the park, an 11 percent increase compared to last May's 93,236 entrances.

"The weather this spring has been great for the park, especially on Memorial Day weekend, so there hasn't been road closures keeping people out like we've seen in previous years," said park spokesman Al Nash. "And on top of that it is the right time to see all the baby animals."

The number of vehicle entrances into the park this spring has so far totaled 128,318, an 8 percent gain compared to the 118,411 visitors in the same period last year.

The vehicle entrances correspond to about 392,222 individual visitors entering the park so far this year, including many from Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

"Our national parks are the state's number one asset. Research shows that when the parks are posting good entrance numbers, there is a positive economic effect on the entire state," said Sarah Lawlor, communications manager for the Montana Office of Tourism.

Businesses near the park are already benefiting from the high volume of tourists.

"This has been the best spring in recent memory," said Barbara Shesky, executive director of the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, which represents 126 businesses. "The north gate vehicle entrances are up 10 percent and the chamber's membership is reporting things are going great."

All five park entrances saw an increase in vehicle numbers in May compared to the same month the previous year, with the park's east and south entrances posting the largest gains.

In past years, July has been the park's busiest visitation month, followed in order by August, June, September and May.

Kaelyn Kelly, spokeswoman for AAA, said national parks are popular for family vacations.

“In a recent survey, we found 66 percent of Americans are planning to travel at least once this summer, and that they’re prioritizing value and time spent with the family,” Kelly said. “Our national parks like Yellowstone are a great way for people to combine both.”

Nash said Yellowstone’s entrance fees haven’t been raised in years.

“Folks will spend more on gas than they will for a park pass,” he said.

A seven-day vehicle pass costs \$25 for both Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park. For more information, visit nps.gov.

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy early in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the morning. Scattered thunderstorms late in the morning. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 63 to 71. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 50 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms early in the evening...then isolated thunderstorms in the late evening and overnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail early in the evening. Lows 38 to 44. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 61 to 67. South winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 50 percent.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 37 to 43. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Thursday: Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs 61 to 69. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated thunderstorms and snow showers after midnight. Lows 33 to 39. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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IN THE NEWS

Study: Yellowstone wolves don't harm elk pregnancy

21 hours ago • Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Wolves don't appear to startle female elk that range east of Yellowstone National Park sufficiently or frequently enough during the winter to cause them to lose weight and reduce their ability to carry fetuses to birth in the springtime, according to a study released Tuesday.

Previous studies offered no consensus on whether Yellowstone's reintroduced wolves have caused "non-consumptive" effects - impacts of predators on prey besides killing them - on the area's elk.

Some biologists have theorized that Yellowstone's wolves create an environment of fear sufficient to make elk less able to forage, get enough nutrition and reproduce.

But researcher Arthur Middleton and others who monitored wolves and elk in an area about 30 miles east of Yellowstone from January through March of 2008, 2009 and 2010 reached the opposite conclusion: wolves don't harm elk with fright.

"There were clear responses of elk to wolves. Elk moved at higher rates. They displaced away from the encounter. They became more vigilant," Middleton said.

Elk disturbed by approaching wolves, however, didn't move very far - on a scale better measured in yards than miles - and typically didn't retreat from their open winter ranges to hide in treed areas with lower-quality forage. The elk followed normal patterns of ruminating under tree cover during the day and spent the rest of the time in the open, Middleton said.

Elk took little evasive action until wolves were relatively close by, within a half-mile or so. Such close encounters happened only once every nine days, on average, for individual elk. That wasn't enough to significantly reduce body fat or cause elk to miscarry their calves, Middleton said.

"Elk behavior responses to wolves were just too weak and too infrequent to accumulate over the course of winter in such a way as to reduce their nutrition and cause them to lose pregnancy," he said.

Grizzly bears and poor summer forage conditions caused by several years of drought have a bigger effect on elk health, the researchers concluded in findings published in the journal Ecology Letters.

Middleton and his colleagues conducted their research as part of the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, a U.S. Geological Survey program involving the University of Wyoming and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Middleton got his doctorate in ecology from UW and is now with the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The study focused on the Clarks Fork elk herd and Sunlight, Hoodoo, Beartooth and Absaroka wolf packs. About two-thirds of the elk herd spends the whole year in the area northwest of Cody, but the other one-third migrates to summer ranges in Yellowstone.

Besides tracking and visually documenting the relative movements of elk and wolves, they tranquilized and examined the same elk in late summer and late winter.

They compared how much fat the elk gained and lost each year and, using ultrasound, checked to see if the elk were pregnant in late winter.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/study-yellowstone-wolves-don-t-harm-elk-pregnancy/article_8fe12799-c0d3-504d-895b-af4f0f139f13.html#ixzz2W0lr4QiM

Park's bombs litter slopes

Yellowstone can't say how many unexploded shells lie above Sylvan Pass, or how to find them.

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyo. June 12, 2013

An untold number of dud artillery rounds litter the slopes of Yellowstone National Park's Sylvan Pass but officials have no plan to find and safely detonate them as they prepare to continue their winter avalanche program.

Yellowstone can't say how many of the duds, capable of propelling deadly shrapnel hundreds of yards, lie on the slopes of 10,000-foot Hoyt and Avalanche peaks. The park has rejected contractors' bids for demolition because of the high cost and difficulty in finding the unexploded shells.

Avalanches have carried at least one live shell down to the highway, where it was found in the spring, an examination of park records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act shows. Despite the danger of what one document says may be some 300 unexploded rounds, Yellowstone is set to continue its bombing program under a plan that would safeguard no more than 27 visitors a day traveling to and from Cody.

The military-grade explosives, a mix of 105-millimeter howitzer and 75-millimeter recoilless rifle rounds, are an unknown to the 400,000 or 500,000 visitors that pass by each year. They are the byproduct of annual avalanche control work on Sylvan Pass.

About 350 inches of snow a year fall here, and shelling the snowfields of 20 avalanche start zones looming above Highway 20-14-16 grants safe access for the hundred or so snowmobiles and snow coach passengers that pass between Cody and Yellowstone National Park each winter.

Over the decades legal squabbles over the number of oversnow vehicles and impacts to air quality, the soundscape and wildlife have overshadowed the controversy surrounding bombing inside of a national park. Meanwhile, the comment deadline for Yellowstone's latest winter-use plan, touted as a long-term solution and generally accepted by conservation groups, fast approaches.

No significant changes are proposed to operations at Sylvan Pass, where every year dud warheads are buried in the snowpack and eventually in the talus and rocks.

No one was counting

Yellowstone officials and National Park Service documents are at odds over the number of unexploded artillery rounds scattered in steep, mostly treeless avalanche paths that run toward the highway.

"What the actual number is, that's anyone's guess," Yellowstone Deputy Chief Ranger Nick Herring said.

The latest document that determines winter-use regulations in Yellowstone, a 674-page final supplemental environmental impact statement, addresses the issue of "unexploded ordnance" in a single paragraph. The document is open to public comment through Monday.

"The total number of unlocated unexploded ordnance is estimated at 300," page 173 of the Yellowstone plan said. "The ammunition used contains a mixture of explosives that is highly toxic to humans and the environment."

"Both exploded and unexploded ordnance have potential to release toxic materials," the study says. "The fate of the partially unexploded and unexploded ordnance and its toxic filler is unknown but of concern in the Sylvan Pass area."

Ordnance, in military parlance, is artillery and also the rounds fired.

Yellowstone officials interviewed for this story disputed the estimate provided by the planning document they released this February.

"There is no way to even estimate the number," Al Nash, the park's chief of public affairs, wrote in an email. "The number of 300 is not possible though. The high number would be significantly lower than that."

Tim Reid, Yellowstone's chief ranger, agreed. As did Herring.

“That’s an unrealistic number, according to my avalanche expert,” Herring said. “He said 300 is really not a realistic number.”

“I suspect that, you know how something gets out there and takes on a life of its own,” he said of how the figure was incorporated into the planning study. “That number’s taken on a life of its own.”

Officials at the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, an organization that’s long grappled with Yellowstone over wintertime regulations, admit they have not made Sylvan Pass artillery operations a central part of their campaign. Nonetheless, they’re not tempered in their criticism.

“Nothing says ‘Yellowstone National Park’ like a howitzer and unexploded ordnance,” said Jeff Welsch, the coalition’s communications director. “If Americans knew about this dangerous and costly winter rite in the world’s first national park — and that they are paying for it — they would be incredulous and aghast.”

Over the years, Yellowstone management has been persisted in attempting to locate and detonate unexploded ordnance. Complicating the effort is a quarter century of shoddy record keeping.

Between 1971 and 1997 the Park Service triggered avalanches with smaller, more dud-prone 75-millimeter recoilless rifle rounds. At the peak of the 75-millimeter era, there were an estimated 15 to 18 duds being fired each season, according to a 2007 report on Sylvan Pass prepared by Bridger-Teton National Forest avalanche forecaster Bob Comey.

The 75-mm recoilless rifles were upgraded to 105-mm howitzers in 1997.

“Records detailing how many duds occurred prior to the replacement of the recoilless rifle with the howitzer and how many duds were located and destroyed were not available,” Comey’s report said.

A decade ago, Yellowstone contracted with consulting group TetraTech and the Montana Department of Military Affairs to prepare a separate report that offers recommendations for locating the explosives.

The report found that metal detectors were of limited use for finding duds due to the region’s magnetic rock. The most effective of three detectors tested in the study was capable of finding duds only if they were within two feet.

“It is technologically impracticable to recover all UXO [unexploded ordnance],” the report’s recommendations said. “The best safety mechanism is in education of both park personnel and the public.”

Pass must stay open

After abandoning the search with metal detectors, TetraTech and military officials found 18 unexploded rounds while combing the mountainsides at the time of the initial investigation. Sixteen of the 18 were the 75-millimeter shells.

Seven years ago, Yellowstone officials proposed closing Sylvan Pass during winter, citing safety concerns.

“You are trying to bring snow down in your own direction,” Nash told the News&Guide in 2006, explaining how the slides run toward gunners. “Over the past three or four years, Yellowstone has really stepped up our attention to visitor and employees’ safety. It really prompted us, as part of that effort, to take the opportunity during this planning effort to look at Sylvan Pass.”

Wyoming and Park County leaders opposed the closure plan, ultimately prevailing.

The M101 howitzer that clears Sylvan Pass from the south side of Highway 20-14-16 was donated by the state of Wyoming, saving the park \$35,000.

The 20-pound shells the howitzer fires typically explode when they hit the snowpack. They're designed to spray shrapnel as far as a third of a mile away and kill people. When the rounds don't detonate on impact, it doesn't mean they're dead.

"Unexploded ordnance has the potential to explode," the 2007 Comey report said. "Unexploded ordnance should not be handled and are a potential threat to the public."

About "one to two" of the warheads fired each year fail to detonate, Herring said. Yellowstone averages "10 to 12" avalanche missions a year and "16 to 20" shots are fired in a mission, making for an effective dud rate of less than 1 percent, he said.

"If you get a dud that doesn't go off at all, we can plot where that is," he said.

Yellowstone rangers then sweep the area during the warm season. When they locate unexploded ordnance, specialists from Malmstrom Airforce Base are called in, and the duds are detonated on site.

80 percent still there

Avalanche-clearing crews have launched 23 duds since the park switched from the 75-millimeter recoilless rifles to the 105-millimeter howitzers. Just five howitzer shells have been found and detonated since that time, Nash said in an email.

In other words, the Park Service has recovered and detonated just over 20 percent of the faulty howitzer shells it has launched in the past 16 years.

In 2010 and 2011, Yellowstone officials made one last effort to try to clear Sylvan Pass of many of its many unexploded artillery shells.

A prospectus issued, "Unexploded Ordnance in Sylvan Pass Avalanche Start Zone," called for contractors to be able to "use hand-held instrumentation to detect below surface UXO in priority areas," among other requirements.

Ten companies signed onto an "interested vendor list," found on FedBizOpps.gov.

None of them, however, was able to put together a compelling proposal for the Park Service.

"Bids were ridiculous, off the chart," Herring said. "We pretty much came to the conclusion that we were as effective if not more effective [at finding/detonating duds] than the high-cost crew we would have been bringing in."

History has proven there's a relatively low probability of a catastrophe resulting from the slow accumulation of unexploded artillery shells on Sylvan Pass. Areas in the avalanche zones where duds are likely are closed to the public and marked by signs, Nash said.

"Signs are placed at high probability entry areas such as pull-outs and either side of the avalanche control zones," the spokesman wrote in an email. "The Avalanche Peak Trailhead has a sign with a map of the closure as well, which includes the reason for the closure."

But there have been a couple related incidents.

Sylvan Pass's avalanche chutes, which have an average slope of 38 degrees and vertical drop of 613 feet, carry projectiles downhill.

"Everything goes downhill in a slide path eventually," Herring said. "As to when it goes downhill, there are a lot of variables to that."

On at least one occasion, a dud bomb swept toward the roadway was discovered by a visitor, according to the 2007 Comey report.

"In the past a motorist on the East Entrance Road is reported to have picked up an unexploded round and transported it to the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center," Comey's report said. "A similar event occurred near Teton Pass in the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming when a hiker picked up an unexploded round above Teton Pass and brought it home."

That dud, Nash said in an email, was discovered in a ditch near the road.

It used to be park policy to sweep the roadway with metal detectors because of the chance of dud being imbedded in the spring snowpack. Fear is that rotary plows that clear Highway 20-14-16 each spring might encounter one.

The search varies

"It is currently procedure for NPS personnel to search the road with a metal detector before spring snowplow operations begins," Comey's report said.

The precautionary search was one of the recommendations from the 2003 TetraTech report.

Today, the road is no longer swept with a metal detector before the spring plows run, Herring said.

"We don't use metal detectors," he said. "I'm not aware of any rounds coming down onto the roadway in recent history. We're definitely not doing that."

Reid, Yellowstone's chief ranger, said that it's unlikely for a spring rotary plow to encounter an artillery dud.

"The actual plowing operation is dealing with the compressed, compacted groomed road surface," Reid said. "It's impossible for rounds to be buried in that. That's the surface that avalanches slide off the hill on."

Eight years ago, however, a dud was discovered on top of the road.

"In 2005 one was discovered on the road," Nash said in the email. "This was during reconstruction of the road and the road had a gravel surface. The road was closed, the dud destroyed the next day by Malstrom Explosive Ordnance Disposal."

Rick Smith, a former acting Yellowstone superintendent and member of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, questioned the logic of maintaining Sylvan Pass during winter given the need for artillery operations.

"We're talking about a very small number of visitors that enter the park in the winter [through the East Gate]," Smith said. "It seems like a lot of trouble to go through."

Because of avalanche control work, which closes the pass, the gate from Cody rarely opens during winter.

A total of 176 snowmobiles and no snowcoaches traveled over Sylvan Pass on their way to the Yellowstone Interior this past winter.

That's a busy season, judging by traffic in recent winters. In 2009-10, 81 oversnow vehicles crested the pass en route from Cody to Yellowstone; in 2008-2009, the tally was 73.

The cost to keep Sylvan Pass open every year, the latest environmental impact statement estimates, is \$125,000.

The Yellowstone interim regulations now in effect allow for 20 snowmobiles and two snow coaches to enter the park through the East Entrance each day. The environmental impact statement that would set the guideline for coming winter seasons proposes allowing five "transportation events," defined as a single snow coach or an average of seven snowmobiles.

Smith called for action.

"Having a bunch of unexploded ordnance in any park is a bad idea," he said. "Having it in Yellowstone, which has often been called the Serengeti of North America, is a particularly bad idea.

"I'm not [park superintendent] Dan Wenk, so I can't say what the park budget is and what it isn't and I can't say what his priorities are," the former Yellowstone superintendent said. "All I know is it seems to me that, to the extent that we can make the park safe for visitors, and employees and wildlife, we ought to do something about it."

"In my judgment, it ought to be a priority," Smith said.

WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the morning...then scattered thunderstorms late in the morning. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail early in the afternoon. Highs 60 to 66. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy early in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail late in the evening. Lows 38 to 44. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent.

Thursday: Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs 62 to 70. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 31 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday: Breezy...cooler. Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 50 to 56. Southwest winds around 15 mph increasing to 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 30 to 36.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, June 13, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since June 7, 2013, approximately 30 Xanterra employees at Mammoth Hot Springs have missed work because of acute-onset vomiting and/or diarrhea. Symptoms have generally resolved within 24-36 hours and are consistent with norovirus, the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in the U.S. Norovirus spreads easily from person-to-person through direct contact or exposure to contaminated surfaces (e.g. bathrooms, doorknobs).

The source of this cluster is thought to be a tour bus that arrived in Mammoth on June 6 with 9 passengers ill with vomiting and diarrhea. To date, there is no evidence to suggest a contaminated food or water source in the park. Multiple measures have been implemented to limit further spread. The investigation is ongoing and is being led by the NPS Office of Public Health in conjunction with YELL and concessioner managers.

Current Status:

- Case summary
 - 28 Xanterra cases recorded in illness database since June 7
 - 27 cases (96%) from Mammoth
 - Departments of ill employees include housekeeping (39%), front desk (21%), food and beverage (14%), retail (7%), and maintenance (7%)
 - Ill employees primarily in departments with high frequency of visitor contact
 - Peak date of symptom onset June 8 (15 cases)
 - No cases among Delaware North employees; scattered reports among NPS staff
- Mammoth clinic data
 - 2 cases seen on June 7
 - 10 cases seen on June 9 (8 Xanterra, 2 visitors)
 - Stool samples collected on at least 3 patients and were submitted to Wyoming Public Health Laboratory
- To date, no cases reported at Old Faithful, Lake, or other park locations

Prevention measures

- Xanterra has implemented norovirus prevention and response plan, including:
 - Enhanced environmental cleaning (every hour in high-use visitor areas and dormitory bathrooms) with appropriate personal protective equipment
 - Strict hand washing among employees
 - Ill employees isolated in rooms until symptom-free for at least 72 hours
 - Buffet services discontinued in employee dining room
 - Hand washing signs posted for visitors

The situation will continue to be monitored closely and updates provided, as needed

For more information on norovirus see: <P:\YNP@Work Published Issues\2013\Norovirus\Norovirus General> or <P:\YNP@Work Published Issues\2013\Norovirus\Norovirus Response and cleanup> or <http://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/>

Contacts:

LCDR George Larsen, Consultant, NPS Office of Public Health at YELL, george_larsen@nps.gov
CDR David Wong, Medical Epidemiologist, NPS Office of Public Health, david_wong@nps.gov
Brandon Lipke, Risk Manager, YELL, brandon_lipke@nps.gov

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Thanks to all who participated in the **Wellness Incentive Program** during the month of May! 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): Molly Moore, RVP

Club #2 (Strength Training/Flexibility): Debbie Van de Polder, Admin.

Club #3 (Healthy Stress Reduction): Janine Waller, REYP

Club #4 (Healthy Nutrition): Kristie Wiederholt, Maint.

Club #5 (Lifestyle Choices): Jo Suderman, REYP

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 June are due to Stacey Gunther by July 5th.

Here's to your health!

New Supervisor's Workbook Available

Are you a new supervisor? Are you struggling to develop a useful Individual Development Plan? If so, check out the NPS New Supervisor Workbook, found on the Employee Information page of the Yellowstone Sharepoint Site:

<http://inpyellshare/employees/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

The handbook was developed to help new supervisors navigate that first probationary year with easy to accomplish developmental activities, training options, and useful resources and reference materials. To find this and other useful resources for your personal development as a supervisor, and for your career in general, be sure to visit the IMR Learning & Development Website found here:

<http://share.inside.nps.gov/sites/IMR/EOD/SitePages/Employees.aspx>



Come join us as we send off MCC board member, volunteer and all around great gal

Dana Jordan on her next adventure - with the Peace Corps!

BYOB and a side dish to share. Burgers and Dogs will be provided.

Sunday June 23rd at Arch Park 3:00 pm

Bring your Musical Instruments, lawn games, bubbles, and of course your dog!

If you live, work, or visit Mammoth, you've probably come across **traffic cones or barricades** in recent days intended to keep our visitors at a safe distance from elk cows with newborn calves.

However, there are multiple, discouraging reports that members of our own park staff have been observed blatantly disregarding these closures and the 25-yard distance requirement.

When you're in a very public place (like most of Mammoth) take a moment to consider whether your actions set the right example for visitors.

All residents of our communities are invited to a very special service of worship at the Mammoth Chapel to celebrate its **100th anniversary on Sunday, June 23, at 10:30 am**. As the Mammoth Chapel was originally dedicated by the U.S. Army chaplain on Sunday, June 23, 1913, our special speaker will be the retired Chaplain of West Point, Rev. Richard Camp. In addition, Communion will be served by a former Resident Minister of Yellowstone, Rev. Merv Olson. Please be a part of this historic event.

The Bookmobile rides again! Need to do some research for a fireside talk? Looking for some great places to hike? Need some entertainment? Check out our online catalog (<http://wyld.state.wy.us/yr/>) to see what we have in the collection.

Call (x2264) or email and let us know what topics or books you are interested in and we can bring them practically to your doorstep.

If you can't come to the bookmobile while we're near you, let us know and we'll figure out a place to drop books off in your district.

Don't see something you need? Let us know and we can try to get the item for you. We will be heading into the park on June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 12.

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

Let us know if you're coming and we can get the library card process started saving you valuable browsing time.

NPS and Silvertip Ranch staff began a joint project to lay down a fresh foundation of gravel base to the Slough Creek Transfer Hill. It was begun at the Trailhead and will proceed up the hill as time and conditions allow. The first phase of this refurbishment project is expected to progress through 6/20 before concluding for the summer. Daily temporary travel delays will occur as equipment is operated and materials are moved around the area. Park staff will control and manage visitor traffic for safety. Visitors can expect to experience equipment noise and movement for the 1-2 miles of their journey before proceeding into their wilderness experience...

We regret the temporary influence we will have on this experience, striving to keep it to the minimum in time and duration - and are looking forward to our visitors and staff experiencing a more enjoyable time in this most beautiful area.

NPS excavators, fence builders, etc.; There is an easier way to submit underground utility locate forms through BisonConnect.

Look for the "Underground Utility Locate Form" link listed in the column on the right side of the Employee Info SharePoint Page. <http://inpyellshare/employees/SitePages/Home.aspx>. Fill in your information and click "Submit". Don't forget to fax or email your map of the location of the dig. Instructions on how to send the map is at the end of the form. If you prefer the handwritten Locate Form, the file, "Locate Form 6-2013", is also on the Employee Info page listed under Shared Documents.

CHANGE OF TIME AND LOCATION! Yellowstone Center for Resources welcomes Bridget Borg, Denali National Park biologist, for her presentation on **Wolf Watching and Wolf Management in Denali National Park** **Wednesday, June 19, 2013** Noon-1 pm (brown bag lunch) **Superintendent's Conference Room (Admin building)**

FISSA training is due this year on July 31. I'm going to try something new and NOT nag people to complete it. If you have a DOI Learn account and have completed training - thank you. I am getting reports this year so I will not need copies of certificates. (I didn't know this until last week, so I may have told you something different previously.) If you are a volunteer, you will have to request an account from DOI Learn.

Thanks! --Nancy, CSS

If there are any issues with DOI Learn itself, please contact their help desk at: 1-866-466-1998.

IN THE NEWS

Outbreak of suspected norovirus reported in Yellowstone

Jodi Hausen, Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Thursday, June 13, 2013 12:15 am

About 30 people in Yellowstone National Park have contracted a severe gastrointestinal illness that is suspected to be norovirus.

Though samples have been sent to a lab, results confirming the highly contagious virus have not yet been returned, park spokesman Al Nash said Wednesday.

Most of the sick people are concessions employees at Mammoth Hot Springs who probably got sick when they came into contact with visitors from two tour buses that came into the park on June 6 and June 9, Nash said.

Sometimes referred to as food poisoning or stomach flu, norovirus is the most frequent cause of acute gastrointestinal illness in the U.S., and it can spread quickly, according to the Centers for Disease Control. It can make people extremely ill with symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, body aches and fever.

There is no medical treatment for norovirus. Symptoms can lead to mild to severe dehydration, so drinking plenty of fluids is crucial.

“It’s not a fun illness to have,” said Gallatin City-County health officer Matt Kelley. “The key to recovery is staying hydrated. It’s also important for people to clean up effectively and thoroughly with a bleach solution.”

The virus is transmitted when people are exposed to affected vomit or stool on unclean surfaces or by eating food prepared by someone who is ill, according to the CDC.

People are most contagious when they are experiencing symptoms and for up to three days after recovering.

To prevent spreading the illness, people should wash their hands well with soap and water — hand sanitizers are not enough — particularly after changing diapers or before preparing food.

Other prevention methods include carefully washing fruits and vegetables, thoroughly cooking shellfish, disinfecting contaminated surfaces, thoroughly washing contaminated laundry and not preparing food when sick. Montana averages about 20 norovirus outbreaks each year, according the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

“By this time of year, we usually see about 10 outbreaks,” DPHHS spokesman Jon Ebelt said.

This year the state has experienced an elevated number of outbreaks, with 24 reported so far that have sickened more than 650 people.

Park officials have asked ill employees to isolate themselves in their rooms until they are symptom-free.

“We’re a very busy, very public place,” Nash said. “We’ve had issues with gastrointestinal illness in the past, and we’ll have them again. I’m a realist about that.”

And though 30 people may seem like a lot, about 112,000 people came through Yellowstone’s north entrance in Gardiner — the closest to Mammoth — last June, he said.

“We want people to be aware, but certainly, there is no cause for alarm,” Nash added. “We’re taking all the steps that are prudent and necessary. We’re assuming it’s norovirus, but nothing will change if it is identified as such.

Staff moved quickly and appropriately to what was an above average number of cases of gastrointestinal illness.”

WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers early in the morning...then isolated thunderstorms in the late morning and early afternoon. Isolated thunderstorms late in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail late in the afternoon. Highs 60 to 68. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening... Then isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Isolated snow showers early in the morning. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Lows 31 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening becoming southwest around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning...then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 49 to 55. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Friday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening.

Saturday: Warmer. Mostly sunny. Highs 60 to 66. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 39.

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

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, June 14, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Yellowstone has its **first wildland fire of 2013**.

The Lewis Falls Fire is currently less than 0.25 acres burning in regenerating forest from the 1988 fires 0.5 miles southeast of Lewis Falls.

It is visible from the Park road near Lewis Falls.

The Park will implement a monitoring strategy for this lightning fire as fire is a natural process on our landscape. This strategy is also commensurate with the low number of values at risk in the current and anticipated path of this fire. Firefighters are placing a couple of signs along the Park road advising visitors not to continue to report this fire.

No trail, campsite, or area closures are anticipated in the immediate future of this incident.

2 Yellowstone firefighters are hiking into (and out of) the fire this afternoon to obtain an exact location (44 15.665 x 110 37.802), complete a size-up of the fire, and further assess the spread potential of the fire. In the coming days fuels samples from the fire area will be collected and long-term fire growth modeling projections will begin to be compiled. After that, fuels samples will be collected intermittently as needed, and the fire monitored from the road for the most part.

Fire behavior in the 1988 fire scar continues to be of particular scientific interest, and we hope this fire will in some manner contribute to that expanding knowledge base.

- - - - -

RV Parking at YCC: In the summer there is not enough room for RV or other personal storage or government vehicles that don't belong to the YCC program or people living in the dorm. The lot looked full this morning and there are still 8 people yet to move in, most likely arriving in their personal vehicles. Please move your RVs and other vehicles.

- - - - -

Health Update: Since June 7, 2013, approximately 30 Xanterra employees at Mammoth Hot Springs have missed work because of acute-onset vomiting and/or diarrhea. Symptoms have generally resolved within 24-36 hours and are consistent with norovirus, the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis in the U.S. Norovirus spreads easily from person-to-person through direct contact or exposure to contaminated surfaces (e.g. bathrooms, doorknobs).

The source of this cluster is thought to be a tour bus that arrived in Mammoth on June 6 with 9 passengers ill with vomiting and diarrhea. To date, there is no evidence to suggest a contaminated food or water source in the park. Multiple measures have been implemented to limit further spread. The investigation is ongoing and is being led by the NPS Office of Public Health in conjunction with YELL and concessioner managers.

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For more information on norovirus see: <P:\YNP@Work Published Issues\2013\Norovirus\Norovirus General> or <P:\YNP@Work Published Issues\2013\Norovirus\Norovirus Response and cleanup> or <http://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/>

Contacts:

LCDR George Larsen, Consultant, NPS Office of Public Health at YELL, george_larsen@nps.gov
CDR David Wong, Medical Epidemiologist, NPS Office of Public Health, david_wong@nps.gov
Brandon Lipke, Risk Manager, YELL, brandon_lipke@nps.gov

Adult Yoga and Pilates Class Schedule, Mammoth Community Center Studio

Monday

Gentle Hatha Yoga, 6:00pm-7:15pm

Tuesday

Pilates, 5:45am-6:45am

Lunchtime Yoga, 12:00pm-12:45pm*

Wednesday

Pilates, 5:30pm-6:30pm
Vinyasa Flow, 6:45pm-8:00pm

Thursday

Lunchtime Yoga, 12:00pm-12:45pm*

Classes are \$10 / drop-in or 4 for \$30

Lunchtime Classes are \$5

Private instruction rates available upon request.

For a complete listing of classes and upcoming events, please visit: <http://amandastover.weebly.com>

*This is sponsored by Yellowstone Employee Co - Op. You must be an employee of NPS, Xanterra, or Delaware North to participate. Classes held in the Mammoth Rec. Hall, cost is \$5.

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Thanks to all who participated in the **Wellness Incentive Program** during the month of May! 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.

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Here's to your health!



Come join us as we send off MCC board member, volunteer and all around great gal

Dana Jordan on her next adventure - with the Peace Corps!

BYOB and a side dish to share. Burgers and Dogs will be provided.

Sunday June 23rd at Arch Park 3:00 pm

Bring your Musical Instruments, lawn games, bubbles, and of course your dog!

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The Bookmobile rides again! Need to do some research for a fireside talk? Looking for some great places to hike? Need some entertainment? Check out our online catalog (<http://wyld.state.wy.us/ysl/>) to see what we have in the collection.

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

Wolf Watching and Wolf Management in Denali National Park: Yellowstone Center for Resources welcomes Bridget Borg, Denali National Park biologist, for her presentation on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 Noon-1 pm (brown bag lunch) Superintendent's Conference Room (Admin building)

WEATHER

Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 30 to 36. West winds 15 to 20 mph early in the evening.

Saturday: Warmer. Mostly sunny. Highs 60 to 66. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 39.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 63 to 69.

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

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Pilates, 5:45am-6:45am

Lunchtime Yoga, 12:00pm-12:45pm*

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

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Names New Top Wildland Firefighter

John Cataldo was named Yellowstone National Park's Fire Management Officer (FMO) earlier this month.

Cataldo had been the park's Assistant Fire Management Officer for the past two years and had been acting FMO since October 2012.

He will be responsible for implementing Yellowstone's wildland Fire Management Plan.

Cataldo has been a wildland firefighter since 1994 and has held positions in fire management on the Chugach, Six Rivers and Umpqua National Forests as well as Denali, Big Cypress, Yellowstone and Crater Lake National Parks

and Preserves. He has helped manage fires in 17 states from Florida to Alaska and before Yellowstone served as an Interagency Hotshot Crew Captain and Superintendent for eight years.

Cataldo graduated from Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology and Fisheries.

More information on the role of Wildland Fire in Yellowstone National Park and the park's Fire Management Program can be found online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/wildlandfire.htm>.

- www.nps.gov/yell -

IN THE PRESS

Yellowstone winter plan comment deadline Monday

June 15, 2013 9:50 am • Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Monday is the deadline for people to comment on the National Park Service's latest proposal on the use of snowmachines in Yellowstone National Park.

The public has been allowed 60 days to comment on the proposal, which was released in February.

The Park Service's winter management plan is based on limiting the collective noise and pollution of snowmobiles and snow coaches.

The agency's proposal would allow no more than 480 snowmobiles plus 60 multi-passenger snow coaches in a single day in Yellowstone. Snowmobiles and coaches would both be subject to lower emission and noise standards.

If the plan goes through, it will take effect in the 2014-15 winter season. Next winter's season would operate under the current limits of up to 318 snowmobiles and 78 snow coaches.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-winter-plan-comment-deadline-monday/article_9d7473de-612d-5a1f-8978-2868986602af.html#ixzz2WU6mY3Ub

The stagecoach was the way to see Yellowstone 'back then'

Friday, June 14, 2013 10:10 am By Abbie Tumbleson West Yellowstone News

Before the days of automobile travel, stagecoaches were the most popular way to see Yellowstone National Park in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

According to Rawhide Johnson, the board chair for the Yellowstone Historic Center, there were also thousands of people and wagons that serviced only the stagecoach companies and freighting outfits in the days before railroad travel.

"Food, shelter, fuel – They had to have all those necessities in the middle of nowhere. Think about how far away some of those places were," Johnson said during a presentation on the history of stagecoaches and stagecoach

travel through Yellowstone at the Yellowstone Historic Center Museum in West Yellowstone on Tuesday. The YHC Museum celebrated Train Day on Tuesday and invited the public to share in the experience. In addition to Johnson's stagecoach tour, Paul Shea, the curator for the Livingston Museum, gave a presentation on putting together his book about the history of West Yellowstone.

On June 11, 1908, the first passenger train steamed into West Yellowstone, then known as "Boundary." Johnson said about 99 percent of the visitors taking stagecoach tours through Yellowstone arrived on the train, which was operated by the Union Pacific.

Johnson, dressed in a western shirt, cowboy boots and a tall cowboy hat, led his tour group out to the front porch of the museum, where a series of stagecoaches were on display. Cindy Salisbury, who is the great-granddaughter of O.J. Salisbury, joined in on the presentation. Salisbury's great-grandfather was the co-owner of Gilmer and Salisbury Company, which was one of the largest stagecoach operators of the time. A mud wagon, which is a stagecoach model that Gilmer and Salisbury Company produced at the time, was on display on the front porch of the museum.

Cindy Salisbury outlined the story of how her great-grandfather O.J. purchased the Diamond D Ranch on the north shore of nearby Henry's Lake in 1902, following the death of the original owner Dick Rock. Rock homesteaded the ranch, which was a stop along the stagecoach route to Yellowstone's West Entrance.

"He owned mud wagons and Concord coaches and people came from Montana through the Centennial Valley into Yellowstone. They came from all over the west," Salisbury said.

Johnson then led the tour to the inside of the museum, where they were introduced to the Yellowstone Observation Wagon.

The observation wagons transformed excursion-style trips through the park into tours for visitors.

"It was very expensive, the average person probably couldn't afford to go on one of these tours," Johnson said.

He explained that the iron-wheeled wagons could fit between nine to 11 passengers and a driver and cost between \$500 and \$600 to purchase.

"The highest-end, most fun part of stagecoaches in the country were in Yellowstone," Johnson said.

People rode the rails to Yellowstone's West Entrance through what's known today as West Yellowstone and then hopped on a stagecoach for three-, five- or even seven-day tours through the park.

There were four licensed stagecoach companies that provided tours through the park and about 40 outlaw companies that also did tours, according to Johnson.

Johnson went on to explain that in 1915, right here in West Yellowstone, was the sunset of the horse-drawn industry.

“Automobiles were then the allowed method of travel in the park,” he said.

As stagecoaches made way for automobiles, more and more visitors came to the park in the following years.

Even though most of the wagons have faded into the dust, a few restored models are on display throughout Montana and Wyoming and haven’t permanently faded away for good.

Those stagecoaches traveled pretty much the same routes and roads we take today to see the iconic places in Yellowstone National Park like Old Faithful, Lake Village and Mammoth Hot Springs.

WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny until late afternoon...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms late in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds late in the afternoon. Highs 65 to 73. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds early in the evening. Lows 38 to 44. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 68 to 76. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Lows 39 to 45. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 62 to 70. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Wednesday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated thunderstorms and snow showers after midnight. Lows 31 to 37. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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YNP@Work

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Tuesday, June 18, 2013

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Wolf Watching and Wolf Management in Denali National Park: Yellowstone Center for Resources welcomes Bridget Borg, Denali National Park biologist, for her presentation **TOMORROW** Noon-1 pm (brown bag lunch) Superintendent's Conference Room (Admin building)



Come join us as we send off MCC board member, volunteer and all around great gal

Dana Jordan on her next adventure - with the Peace Corps!

BYOB and a side dish to share. Burgers and Dogs will be provided.

Sunday June 23rd at Arch Park 3:00 pm

Bring your Musical Instruments, lawn games, bubbles, and of course your dog!

All residents of our communities are invited to a very special service of worship at the Mammoth Chapel to celebrate its **100th anniversary on Sunday, June 23, at 10:30 am**. As the Mammoth Chapel was originally dedicated by the U.S. Army chaplain on Sunday, June 23, 1913, our special speaker will be the retired Chaplain of West Point, Rev. Richard Camp. In addition, Communion will be served by a former Resident Minister of Yellowstone, Rev. Merv Olson. Please be a part of this historic event.

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Last Sunday, with equipment provided by Jim Nichols, the engineer for KEMC, 104.9 was restored. This should help with some of the reception problems experienced in the Mammoth area. It does seem to have a little more static sometimes than it did before the interference problems began last December. If that is the frequency you receive KEMC on, please give me some feedback on your location and the quality of your reception.

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Many thanks to all of you who have made donations to the Gardiner-Mammoth FM Association in the last 7 months.

Unfortunately we are always in need of donations to the Gardiner-Mammoth FM Association to maintain equipment and pay the electric bills. The Gardiner-Mammoth FM Association has an account at the Yellowstone Federal Credit Union in Mammoth. You can donate there directly if you like, or you can send a check (made out to Gardiner-Mammoth FM Association) to P.O. Box 194, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190. The FM Association is not part of the National Park Service.

We are a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization and all members of the board are unpaid volunteers.

Thanks for your patience and please feel free to provide me with any feedback, questions, or concerns at this e-mail address. Please share this e-mail with interested parties that are not on the mailing list. If you know of interested parties that would like to be on the list, please send those to me.

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Rattle Snake Avoidance Clinic OPEN TO ALL BREEDS OF DOGS

Date: Sat. July 20, 2013

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: True Grit Brits Kennel, Bozeman, MT

Sponsored by: The Montana Brittany Club

See: <http://montanabc.org>

Professional dog trainer, Butch Nelson, will be training each dog using a live defanged rattlesnake. This safe and effective method has been used successfully for many years. Participating dogs must wear a sturdy collar that can be adjusted so that there is no chance that the collar can slip off over the dog's head. The correct collar will be provided for those who don't have one. The training process only takes a few minutes for each dog so you can just show up and get in line. You will be able to watch the training from a distance. **NO CAMERAS PLEASE!!**

Cost per Dog: \$40, \$30 MTBC members, \$25 for a recheck

Email Tana Kradolfer for more info: truegritbrits@imt.net

Directions to True Grit Brits(Kradolfer Residence) at 5075 Clearview Rd, Belgrade, MT 59714: Take the North 19th/Springhill Exit in Bozeman to Springhill Rd, Turn right onto Springhill Rd and travel approx 5 miles, turn right on to East Baseline Rd, then go ¼ mile and turn left onto Clearview Rd. Please park in driveway or on the shoulder of the road.

Adult Yoga and Pilates Class Schedule, Mammoth Community Center Studio

Monday

Gentle Hatha Yoga, 6:00pm-7:15pm

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Pilates, 5:45am-6:45am

Lunchtime Yoga, 12:00pm-12:45pm*

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Vinyasa Flow, 6:45pm-8:00pm

Thursday

Lunchtime Yoga, 12:00pm-12:45pm*

Classes are \$10 / drop-in or 4 for \$30

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For a complete listing of classes and upcoming events, please visit: <http://amandastover.weebly.com>

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Old Faithful	10:45-11:15	Ranger Station
Grant	12:00 Pickup/Drop off	Visitor's Center
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Tower

4:00 Pickup/Drop off Ranger's Station

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:56 am MDT Jun 18, 2013

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 11am. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. East wind 5 to 11 mph becoming south in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 9pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. South wind 6 to 10 mph becoming east in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. South southwest wind 10 to 16 mph becoming southeast in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow showers after midnight. Some thunder is also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. West southwest wind 9 to 15 mph becoming east in the evening. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. Southwest wind 8 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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4:00 Pickup/Drop off Ranger's Station

IN THE PRESS**2 dead bison test negative for sheep fever**

20 hours ago • Gazette Staff

Laboratory results of tissue samples taken from two bison found dead in the Yellowstone River this spring have confirmed that none died of malignant catarrhal fever.

One other dead bison tested negative for the illness earlier, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. In all three cases, the tissues showed no sign of disease and the exact cause of death could not be determined.

All three bison did show signs of trauma, according to FWP wildlife veterinarian Jennifer Ramsey, including fractured pelvises on two bison and crushed ribs on a third. Ramsey concluded the injuries occurred before death, possibly from the animals being swept into rocks during high water or other blunt-force trauma. Every year, animal carcasses wash downstream from Yellowstone National Park into Montana.

The dead bison were spotted in the Yellowstone River in mid-May. FWP crews retrieved tissue samples from each bison: the first near Emigrant, and the other two closer to Gardiner.

Given the recent introduction of domestic sheep in the Gardiner area, FWP looked into the possibility of malignant catarrhal fever in the bison. Malignant catarrhal fever is a viral disease which may be carried by domestic sheep without any symptoms, but can cause fatal infections in bison.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/dead-bison-test-negative-for-sheep-fever/article_20780543-1172-5186-a867-3b739edf206b.html#ixzz2WfjSRJXa

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

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Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. Southwest wind 5 to 13 mph becoming east southeast in the evening. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

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Friday Night: A slight chance of rain showers before midnight, then a slight chance of rain and snow showers. Some thunder is also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light south after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yellowstone YCC session 1 has begun.

You can follow this month's accomplishments and adventure at <http://yellowstoneycc2013.wordpress.com/>. For the next month, 22 new youth and 6 returning youth leaders will fill their days with conservation work projects, learning, exploring and growing.

RV Parking at YCC: In the summer there is not enough room for RV or other personal storage or government vehicles that don't belong to the YCC program or people living in the dorm. The lot looked full this morning and there are still 8 people yet to move in, most likely arriving in their personal vehicles. Please move your RVs and other vehicles.



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8-8:30
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IN THE PRESS

Bear attack reported in Park County, Wyo.

1 hour ago • Gazette Staff

A bear attacked a man working in an irrigation ditch near Cody, Wyo., early Thursday.

Few details of the incident were available by 7 a.m., but the Wyoming Game and Fish Department said the man was working in an irrigation ditch along Southfork Road, south of Cody, when he was attacked by a bear.

Officials received the call shortly before 6:40 a.m. that a private vehicle was driving the man to meet with an ambulance after the attack.

More information will be reported as it becomes available.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/bear-attack-reported-in-park-county-wyo/article_12e37fa1-03ec-5164-818a-1e0d9fabef95.html#ixzz2Wle8oALF

Bison transfer legal, Montana court says

16 hours ago • Associated Press

The relocation of Yellowstone National Park bison to tribal lands in Montana can resume, under a Wednesday ruling from the state's Supreme Court that revives a stalled conservation initiative for the animals.

Bison, also known as buffalo, once numbered in the tens of millions across North America, before overhunting drove them to near-extinction. Government-sponsored efforts in Montana have the potential to return the burly animals to parts of their historic range, but had been on hold since last year.

That's when a lower court sided with ranchers and property rights advocates, who sued to block further transfers of the animals after Montana wildlife officials moved more than 60 bison to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

Critics said the move was illegal under state law. They argued wild bison damage fences, eat hay meant for cattle, and potentially could spread animal diseases to livestock.

In March of 2012, state district Judge John McKeon sided with plaintiffs and issued an order blocking future transfers of Yellowstone bison. The move effectively halted the restoration program.

In Wednesday's ruling, state high court justices came down on the side of the state, which had argued that the law in question did not apply to tribal lands.

Chief Justice Mike McGrath wrote in a 16-page opinion that the relocation program was a "reasoned and viable" alternative to past practices involving Yellowstone bison. Those have included the wholesale slaughter of

thousands of bison in the name of disease control when the animals crossed into Montana during their winter migrations.

A representative of the plaintiffs said the ruling guts the Montana Legislature's attempt last session to allow public input into the bison relocation process. Chuck Denowh with United Property Owners of Montana said the group is not strictly opposed to relocating bison but wants to inject transparency into the process.

Last year's relocation, during the administration of former Gov. Brian Schweitzer, came with little prior notice.

An attorney for conservation groups that intervened on behalf of the state said the ruling most immediately allows for the transfer of several dozen bison to the Fort Belknap Reservation.

The animals once played a central role in American Indian life, providing meat for food, and pelts for clothing and shelter. They also feature prominently in many Native American religious ceremonies.

Robert Magnan, Fish and Game director for the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, said he hoped Wednesday's ruling will allow the tribe to increase the size of its small bison herd to several hundred animals. The best prospect for that is to get some of the park's animals now being held on the state's behalf at a private ranch owned by media mogul and philanthropist Ted Turner near Bozeman.

The bison spent several years in quarantine just outside the park, to make sure they were free of brucellosis. The disease can cause infected cattle to abort their young.

"It's a good, positive way of moving buffalo, not only to tribal lands, but there are other places in Montana that would be ideal," he said.

For the tribes, bison meat provides a healthier source of protein than beef, Magnan added. That could help reduce high rates of obesity and diabetes on reservations, he said.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Ron Aasheim said future bison transfers to tribal lands will occur only if the receiving reservation has signed a legal agreement with the state. The document would cover issues including fencing, disease testing and established protocols in the event animals escape.

Fort Belknap Fish and Wildlife Director Mark Azure said negotiations with the state over such an agreement will resume this week.

Additional relocations to non-tribal lands would not take place until the agency completes a pending long-range bison management strategy. That statewide plan is due by the end of 2015, Aasheim said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/bison-transfer-legal-montana-court-says/article_b0aa006d-2361-59ca-986e-86d7fc140ffc.html#ixzz2WldKLKfT

Cutthroat decline felt by Yellowstone river otters

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyoming June 20, 2013

Collapse of the cutthroat trout population in Yellowstone Lake has been blamed for grizzly bears eating more elk calves and for failing osprey nests.

Now the trout decline has been linked to a dietary shift in river otters.

University of Wyoming doctoral student Jamie Crait will discuss the link between cutthroat, the larger predatory lake trout and the semiaquatic mustelid today at AMK Ranch in Grand Teton National Park. The talk begins at 6:30 p.m.

Little is known about the historic population of river otters in Yellowstone Lake, which complicates UW's decade-long research project, Crait said.

"It appears that the number of otters was steady from 2002 to 2010," Crait said. "There is some evidence of a genetic bottleneck in the river otter population that suggests they had already declined."

What's more clear is that otters' diet shifted during the study.

The cutthroat-dependent food web at the high-elevation lake has been thrown off by invasive lake trout, which are being culled as part of a multimillion dollar Yellowstone National Park campaign.

Even with reduced numbers, cutthroat trout are the primary source of food for the otters of Yellowstone Lake, which average an animal for every six miles of shoreline, Crait said. During the study, otters began to eat fewer cutthroat and more longnose suckers and amphibians such as frogs, he said.

There was evidence of instances where otters also consumed lake trout, Crait said, adding a caveat.

"I would not call lake trout a suitable replacement for a river otter," he said.

Cutthroat spawn during the time of year when queen otters are lactating, nursing their pups and most in need of food.

"At least female otters," Crait said, "they're just pretty dependent on the spawning cutthroat trout."

"They're not going to replace them with lake trout."

For more information on Crait's presentation, call the University of Wyoming-National Park Service Center at 307-543-2463.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Jun 20, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. West southwest wind 14 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms between 9pm and midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. West southwest wind 6 to 16 mph becoming east after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. Southwest wind 6 to 13 mph becoming north in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. West northwest wind 5 to 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 54. West southwest wind 6 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Saturday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. South southwest wind 5 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, June 21, 2013



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yellowstone YCC session 1 has begun.

You can follow this month's accomplishments and adventure at <http://yellowstoneycc2013.wordpress.com/>. For the next month, 22 new youth and 6 returning youth leaders will fill their days with conservation work projects, learning, exploring and growing.

RV Parking at YCC: In the summer there is not enough room for RV or other personal storage or government vehicles that don't belong to the YCC program or people living in the dorm. The lot looked full this morning and there are still 8 people yet to move in, most likely arriving in their personal vehicles. Please move your RVs and other vehicles.



Come join us as we send off MCC board member, volunteer and all around great gal

Dana Jordan on her next adventure - with the Peace Corps!

BYOB and a side dish to share. Burgers and Dogs will be provided.

Sunday June 23rd at Arch Park 3:00 pm

Bring your Musical Instruments, lawn games, bubbles, and of course your dog!

All residents of our communities are invited to a very special service of worship at the Mammoth Chapel to celebrate its **100th anniversary on Sunday, June 23, at 10:30 am**. As the Mammoth Chapel was originally dedicated by the U.S. Army chaplain on Sunday, June 23, 1913, our special speaker will be the retired Chaplain of West Point, Rev. Richard Camp. In addition, Communion will be served by a former Resident Minister of Yellowstone, Rev. Merv Olson. Please be a part of this historic event.

Rattle Snake Avoidance Clinic OPEN TO ALL BREEDS OF DOGS

Date: Sat. July 22, 2013

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: True Grit Brits Kennel, Bozeman, MT

Sponsored by: The Montana Brittany Club

See: <http://montanabc.org>

Professional dog trainer, Butch Nelson, will be training each dog using a live defanged rattlesnake. This safe and effective method has been used successfully for many years. Participating dogs must wear a sturdy collar that can be adjusted so that there is no chance that the collar can slip off over the dog's head. The correct collar will be provided for those who don't have one. The training process only takes a few minutes for each dog so you can just show up and get in line. You will be able to watch the training from a distance. **NO CAMERAS PLEASE!!**

Cost per Dog: \$40, \$30 MTBC members, \$25 for a recheck

Email Tana Kradolfer for more info: truegritbrits@imt.net

Directions to True Grit Brits(Kradolfer Residence) at 5075 Clearview Rd, Belgrade, MT 59714: Take the North 19th/Springhill Exit in Bozeman to Springhill Rd, Turn right onto Springhill Rd and travel approx 5 miles, turn right on to East Baseline Rd, then go ¼ mile and turn left onto Clearview Rd. Please park in driveway or on the shoulder of the road.

Adult Yoga and Pilates Class Schedule, Mammoth Community Center StudioMonday

Gentle Hatha Yoga, 6:00pm-7:15pm

Tuesday

Pilates, 5:45am-6:45am

Lunchtime Yoga, 12:00pm-12:45pm*

Wednesday

Pilates, 5:30pm-6:30pm

Vinyasa Flow, 6:45pm-8:00pm

Thursday

Lunchtime Yoga, 12:00pm-12:45pm*

Classes are \$10 / drop-in or 4 for \$30

Lunchtime Classes are \$5

Private instruction rates available upon request.

For a complete listing of classes and upcoming events, please visit: <http://amandastover.weebly.com>

*This is sponsored by Yellowstone Employee Co - Op. You must be an employee of NPS, Xanterra, or Delaware North to participate. Classes held in the Mammoth Rec. Hall, cost is \$5.

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Canyon	3:00 Pickup/Drop off	Visitor's Center
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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Safety Concerns Prompt Temporary Canyon Viewpoint Closure

Concerns over visitor safety have prompted officials at Yellowstone National Park to temporarily close a popular viewpoint.

Inspiration Point is one many popular spots along the North Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone from which visitors may view Lower Falls.

The last two tiers of concrete stairs leading to the viewing platform and the platform itself have deteriorated over time.

Due to concerns of visitor safety, the lower section of steps and the viewing platform are temporarily closed.

Park staff members are assessing the damage and determining how to move forward with repair or replacement of the failed stairway and platform.

It is not yet known when the area may reopen to visitors.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 9:15 am MDT Jun 21, 2013

Today: Isolated showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 54. Southwest wind 7 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming light after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph.

Saturday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 53. West southwest wind 5 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Saturday Night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 7pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. West southwest wind 5 to 9 mph becoming light after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. Light west southwest wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. Southwest wind 6 to 10 mph becoming south southeast after midnight.

Monday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 63. South wind 6 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, June 24, 2013



Great job on the Wulfman Run, Sage Leapers!
(photo by Bianca Klein)

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Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday June 27 2013. For Gov work please contact Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work contact Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

✓Have you checked your fire extinguisher lately?

Hello all YNP residents! When was the last time you took a look at the fire extinguisher provided in you park residence? This is just a friendly reminder from Mark Gleason of the Yellowstone Fire Department to:

- ✓ locate your fire extinguisher,
- ✓ make sure it's hung/mounted on the wall in an accessible place, and
- ✓ to inspect it monthly.

If you need any assistance with an extinguisher in your residence please contact a Yellowstone NP Fire Department Office and we will do our best to help you.

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Yellowstone National Park Fire Dept. Annual Fire Extinguisher Training

Hey YNP employees, it's time to kick off spring training with some *hands-on* fire extinguisher training! Learn:

- about the different types of extinguishers,
- how to select the right extinguisher for the job, and
- how to safely operate the extinguishers you find in the work place or in your home, to put out an incipient stage fire.

Weekly trainings will be held at both the Lake and Canyon Fire Stations.

We also have the ability to provide mobile training for employees at the Norris and East Entrances.

**** Please contact Mark Gleason 307 344-7135 for times and locations. ****

(An alternative for anyone is to use the DOI Learn for your annual certification. DOI Learn course can be found by a course catalog search for NPS Annual Fire Extinguisher Education.)

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone wreck sends one individual to hospital

By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News

At around 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, a motor vehicle accident involving an Isuzu truck and a Jeep Cherokee occurred on the park's West Entrance Road near the Mount Haynes Overlook in Yellowstone National Park.

According to Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash, the operator of the Jeep was stopped in the westbound lane waiting to turn into the Mount Haynes Overlook area when an Isuzu truck, also traveling westbound, failed to stop and subsequently hit the back of the Jeep.

Old Faithful fire and emergency services personnel as well as rangers responded to the wreck, while Hebgen Basin Fire District responded to provide assistance at the scene.

A passenger in the Jeep was checked for injuries and a passenger in the Isuzu was also checked for injuries by responding medical units, Nash said. The passenger of the Isuzu was transported to a hospital.

With the rapid increase of motor vehicles traveling inside Yellowstone during the summer months, Nash says motorists need to slow down and to not get in a rush when traveling.

"Local residents understand some challenges we all face when dealing with a significant influx of visitors this time of the year," he said. "Every year we have several hundred traffic accidents in the park, thankfully most (result) in minor injuries. Slow down and take your time; there's no need to rush through Yellowstone."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:42 am MDT Jun 24, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 11am. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66. Breezy, with a south wind 11 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Scattered rain showers before 3am, then scattered rain and snow showers. Some thunder is also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. Southwest wind 7 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 60. Southwest wind 11 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. Southwest wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. West southwest wind 9 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. South southwest wind 7 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, June 25, 2013



Electric Peak this morning as a light rain fell. (photo by Lori Wilkinson)

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Yellowstone National Park Fire Dept.

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IN THE NEWS

Wyoming senator supports minting coins for National Park Service 100th

2 hours ago • Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi has introduced legislation to allow the minting of coins to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service.

The Wyoming Republican is joined in the effort by Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, of West Virginia.

The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to produce a five dollar gold coin, a silver dollar, and a clad half dollar. The proceeds from sales of the coins would be used by the National Park Foundation for park preservation and to provide programs and services to visitors.

2016 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Park Service, which administers more than 400 park units with 84 million acres of land in all 50 states and territories.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wyoming-senator-supports-minting-coins-for-national-park-service-th/article_e1819043-5202-5ae7-b53a-9188356becf0.html#ixzz2XFB1U00

Study questions Yellowstone grizzly rebound

19 hours ago • Associated Press

Flaws in how the government measures Yellowstone's grizzly bear population raise questions about whether the animals have recovered sufficiently to merit lifting federal protections, according to a new study.

The study concludes that a major reason more bears have been counted in recent years is that more time is now spent counting bears. The authors argue that the region's bruin population could in fact be in decline, even as officials consider revoking the grizzly's threatened-species status.

The peer-reviewed findings have been accepted for publication in the journal Conservation Letters. The work was partially funded by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Population trends within Yellowstone's bear population have taken on added importance as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers lifting federal protections for the animals, possibly as early as next year.

Government biologists countered that there is no evidence of a decline. They said newly revised population data shows more than 700 grizzlies living in and around Yellowstone National Park, an area that includes Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

Meanwhile, rising numbers of bear-human conflicts — such as a mauling last week south of Cody, Wyo., that sent a man to the hospital with severe facial lacerations — have lent new urgency to calls to allow limited hunting to resume.

But the new study's lead author, University of Colorado environmental studies professor Daniel Doak, said shortcomings in the government's method of tracking grizzly numbers mean their recovery from widespread extermination last century may have been overstated.

The bears lost protections once, in 2007, before a federal judge ordered grizzlies back onto the threatened-species list two years later. The reversal came in part over concerns that one food source for bears, the nuts from whitebark pine trees, has grown increasingly scarce as insects kill large stands of the trees.

Doak said the loss of whitebark pine and a decline in another food source, cutthroat trout, may have pushed bears into areas where they are more likely to be seen during aerial surveys done by government agencies. That doesn't necessarily mean there are more bears.

"It's a pretty standard thing in all of wildlife biology and conservation biology that if you triple the amount of time you're looking for some rare species, it's likely you're going to seem more of them, just because you spend a lot more time doing so," he said.

Doak and co-author Kerry Cutler also say wildlife officials have mistakenly assumed female grizzly bears reproduce throughout a 30-year lifespan, compounding the government's overly optimistic population estimates.

They did not offer an alternative population size, nor say outright that the current estimate was wrong.

The government's latest estimate of 718 bears in the Yellowstone area is up from prior published estimates of roughly 600 bears.

That does not mean the bear population suddenly grew by about 100 bears. U.S. Geological Survey bear researcher Frank van Manen said the new figure results from revisions to the prior estimate based on increased survival rates for adult male bears in recent decades.

One reason more effort has gone into counting bears is that they are now spread across a much bigger landscape, said van Manen, who leads an interagency grizzly bear study team for the Yellowstone region. The results of those aerial surveys are corroborated by other factors, including the expansion of the animals' range and a trapping program that consistently identifies new bears, he said.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grizzly bear coordinator Chris Servheen said the government's methods are reviewed by outside scientists and other government agencies.

"We're certainly interested in what they did," Servheen said of Doak's work. "But we've done a lot of work on this. We've given very careful consideration and critiques to everything we've done multiple times."

Another U.S. Geological Survey bear researcher, David Mattson, said Doak's findings were in line with his own conclusions that current estimation methods are "essentially worthless."

"There is this belief that somehow, through some sort of statistical magic, you can compensate for bias in your field methods," Mattson said. "My conclusion is that's just not simply possible."

Yellowstone's grizzly population is the second largest in the Lower 48, behind an estimated 1,000 bears in the Northern Continental Divide region that includes Glacier National Park. Smaller populations live in the Cabinet-Yaak, North Cascades and Selkirk areas of Idaho, Montana and Washington state.

Proposed changes to how Yellowstone's bears are counted are meant to result in more accurate future population estimates, Servheen said.

Wildlife advocacy groups cautioned that the proposals could lessen opportunities for public input. An attorney for the groups, Tim Preso with Earthjustice, said Doak's study underscored the need to avoid a "politically motivated" drive to lift protections because of pressure from state wildlife officials.

But Alan Osterland, regional wildlife supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish in Cody, said letting states manage grizzlies would give them needed flexibility to address bear-human conflicts.

"We're seeing bears where we certainly haven't had them," Osterland said. "In areas where we think the population could sustain a harvest, that is something we would definitely look at."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/study-questions-yellowstone-grizzly-rebound/article_a0ba3011-d5d7-54ea-829a-ccee566d1e86.html#ixzz2XFC9rFAi

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:42 am MDT Jun 25, 2013

Today: Isolated showers before noon, then isolated showers and thunderstorms between noon and 2pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 61. Breezy, with a southwest wind 13 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight, then a slight chance of showers between midnight and 3am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. Breezy, with a southwest wind 18 to 23 mph decreasing to 10 to 15 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 11 to 16 mph increasing to 18 to 23 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West southwest wind 5 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 74. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 9 mph in the morning.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light south southwest after midnight.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, June 26, 2013



Oncoming Traffic...he obeyed the rules of traffic and didn't cross over the yellow lines. (photo by Karin Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeking Yellowstone Superlatives!

Recently, Superintendent Wenk asked the Public Affairs Office to prepare a list he's calling "Yellowstone by the Numbers"... a listing of items which help show the breadth & scope of park operations... like the fact we have 466 miles of roads and 67 species of mammals.

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Each of you has a unique Yellowstone experience and perspective. So we're asking you to put on your thinking caps... and share some ideas for inclusion on this list! Submissions can be serious... offbeat... even humorous... as long as they help illustrate how big and complex a place Yellowstone is!

Please send your ideas to YELL_Public_Affairs by COB Wednesday, July 3rd. Thanks!

Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage **tomorrow**. For Gov work please contact Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work contact Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

The Bookmobile rides again! Need to do some research for a fireside talk? Looking for some great places to hike? Need some entertainment? Check out our online catalog (<http://wyld.state.wy.us/yrl/>) to see what we have in the collection.

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Canyon	3:00 Pickup/Drop off	Visitor's Center
Tower	4:00 Pickup/Drop off	Ranger's Station

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travelers who don't want to drive in Yellowstone and expect to ride public transportation. We also board cyclists and hikers who want to take the bus for a part of their park adventure, as well as those who have parked their RV and want to see another park destination. Park employees from all over the world are working here for the summer but don't have a car. Linx can help all of these riders see and enjoy more of the area, plus visit all the gateway communities while they are here."

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The Yellowstone Park Foundation Opens the Historic Old Faithful Haynes Photo Shop New Feature in Yellowstone National Park - Summer 2013

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- Interactive exhibits that tell the Yellowstone Park Foundation story.
- A glimpse of Yellowstone as seen through the camera lenses of early Yellowstone photographers Frank J. Haynes and his son, Jack E. Haynes.
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"This is another significant collaboration between the Yellowstone Park Foundation and the National Park Service that will showcase the importance of philanthropy in the Park," said Dan Wenk, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent. "The restored Old Faithful Haynes Photo Shop will give our visitors a snapshot of the great work YPF has done, and also inspire them to become future stewards of this spectacular wonderland."

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- Salvaged and recycled materials sourced from regional manufacturers, including Douglas fir wood interior finishes, porcelain tile, and glass paving throughout the building.
- Many materials sourced from regional manufacturers.
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To access photos of the Old Faithful Haynes Photo Shop:

http://www.ycpf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=NEWS_PressRelease_061913

IN THE NEWS

National parks' paddle ban faces criticism

Decision not to study boating in-depth is "capricious and arbitrary," group says.

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyo.
June 26, 2013

A prominent pro-paddling conservation organization is charging the National Park Service with neglecting a legal duty to reassess watercraft bans on a number of its waterways in Wyoming.

American Whitewater penned a letter Monday that criticizes Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks for failing to analyze paddling in a planning document for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Kevin Colburn, the organization's national stewardship director, wrote the 23-page document.

"The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was written and passed by paddlers," Colburn said Tuesday from Missoula, Mont. "This is our baby — it's the way we save rivers.

"To be excluded from it just drives a wedge between a group of conservationists and public land managers."

Wyoming's two national parks, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recently drafted plans for complying with the designation of the Snake River headwaters as "wild and scenic." The act designated 99 miles of waters passing through the parks as "wild," "scenic" or "recreational." The comment deadline on the draft plan is Thursday.

River paddling is currently allowed only on the Snake River in Grand Teton and in the channel between Lewis and Shoshone lakes in Yellowstone.

In a 456-page analysis, the national parks spent three pages dismissing the idea of opening new rivers to paddling.

“The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not pre-empt more protective measures but instead is intended to enhance what is already protected,” the parks’ document said. “Re-evaluating the existing regulations and restrictions would require significant review and potential revision of existing policies and plans, as well as additional planning and other processes well outside the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the river designations.

“It thus does not meet the purpose and need for this planning effort and is beyond its scope,” the section on paddling concludes.

In the letter, Colburn levies nine charges at the Park and Fish and Wildlife services. They range from violations of the National Environmental Policy and Wild and Scenic Rivers acts to the agencies misreading their own mission statements.

The agencies’ pithy rationale for dismissing paddling was “based on a misinterpretation” of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Colburn wrote in his letter.

The more restrictive policies Yellowstone and Grand Teton have in place should not have trumped the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which is an act of Congress, Colburn argued.

American Whitewater also criticizes the national parks for barring paddling based on “historic fisheries management actions.”

“The paddling prohibitions in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park were not enacted in response to any concern over negative impacts from recreational floating,” the letter reads.

The paddling ban is “a weird policy,” Colburn said in an interview.

“They don’t need to do that to manage fishing anymore,” he said. “It’s very unusual. It’s not done anywhere else.”

Only three of 393 national park units prohibit kayaks and canoes on lakes and streams.

Yosemite is the third national park that’s instituted a ban. Unlike Yellowstone and Grand Teton, Yosemite’s plan for complying with the Wild and Scenic River Act does analyze paddling on two of its river with bans: the Tuolumne and Merced rivers.

“For a wide array of legal, regulatory and public interest reasons, Yosemite National Park will soon ease restrictions on paddling their rivers in canoes, kayaks and inflatable river craft as a result of the Wild and Scenic River [comprehensive river management plan] process,” Colburn’s letter reads.”Thus, while all other national parks support paddling as a wilderness-compliant form of place-based outdoor recreation that is integral to their mission, Grand Teton and Yellowstone are alone in prohibiting paddling.”

American Whitewater’s call for Grand Teton and Yellowstone to reassess their watercraft bans aligns with the sentiments of other pro-paddling groups. This includes Jackson Hole-based American Packrafting Association.

“We are on the same page with them,” said Tom Turiano, vice president of the association’s board of directors. “The only thing we’re asking in addition is for [the parks] to consider packrafting specifically.

“Packrafting is the ultimate form of backpackable boat,” Turiano said. “We want them to know that this exists and we want them to study it.”

In Grand Teton and Yellowstone it is legal to walk down riverbeds for fly-fishing, swimming or other forms of recreation. It’s also legal to hike almost anywhere in the parks, including in the backcountry off trail.

Colburn questioned whether paddling has any more of an impact than the on-land activities that are permitted.

“Whether you’re kayaking or packrafting or canoeing, you really do have a very small impact,” he said. “I don’t think any of these rivers that we’re talking about would be high-use rivers.”

Sections of “wild and scenic” river that the pro-paddling groups would like to see open include the Snake and lower Lewis rivers in Yellowstone. In Grand Teton park, the group’s aim is to lift bans on Pacific Creek, the Buffalo Fork of the Snake and the Gros Ventre River.

Colburn stressed that all he’d like to see is the parks analyze paddling, rather than dismissing it outright.

“It wasn’t an analysis so much just as a legal argument to avoid analysis, which is really frustrating,” he said of the park plan’s treatment of paddling. “It’s awful to think that we could be denied access to a wild and scenic river really just because.

“We’ve asked the Park Service to please just give us a look, and they won’t,” Colburn said. “I’m hoping the parks change course.”

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 9:10 am MDT Jun 26, 2013

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Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 19 to 24 mph decreasing to 13 to 18 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 31 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 74. West wind 10 to 14 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. West wind 8 to 13 mph becoming light and variable after midnight.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming west 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. West northwest wind 5 to 8 mph becoming light and variable.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, June 27, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Seeking Yellowstone Superlatives!

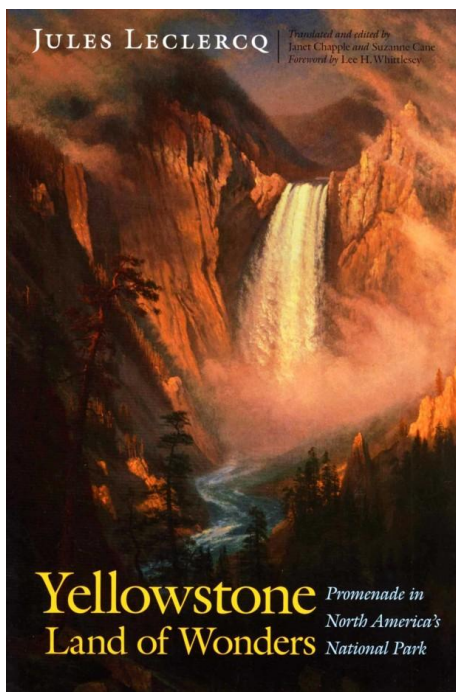
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Please send your ideas to YELL_Public_Affairs by COB Wednesday, July 3rd. Thanks!

- - - - -



If you think Yellowstone National Park is an interesting place to visit now with its spouting geysers, burbling mud pots and variety of wildlife, consider what it must have been like to tour the region in 1883.

Readers can gain insight to that perspective by picking up a copy of the soon-to-be-published book "Yellowstone, Land of Wonders: Promenade in North America's National Park." The book is a translation of a travelogue written by Jules Leclercq, of Belgium. It is due to be released in May.

"Land of Wonders" is one of three books recently released on Yellowstone National Park that can provide summer travelers to the area with a greater appreciation of the region's history, travel opportunities and environmental issues. Here's a breakdown on the titles.

"Yellowstone, Land of Wonders," University of Nebraska Press, \$29.95 – to be released May 1.

Longtime Yellowstone chronicler Janet Chapple, with the help of translator Suzanne Cane, resurrected Leclercq's writings about Yellowstone, which had never been translated into English.

Leclercq took a 10-day tour of the park on horseback, recording his musings and observations along the way. He wrote of arriving at Old Faithful geyser, Yellowstone's most popular feature: "If there are more alluring places in the world, there certainly are none stranger or more fantastic. ...The Ancients

would have placed Vulcan's laboratory in this basin where the earth covers a sea of boiling water; Dante would have seen here one of his circles of Hell."

Even at that early date, vandals had already left their mark on the geyser's cone and chipped out pieces of the structure, prompting Leclercq to write: "...it takes but one minute for irreverent hands to disfigure the work of thousands of years."

Chapple and Cane began working on the translation in 2007. Originally, Chapple said she intended to use only part of the travelogue in a Yellowstone anthology of early writings that she is compiling. That changed as she delved into Leclercq's work.

"I just found that it was so interesting and well written," she said. "I love learning about Yellowstone. It's my place."

Chapple and Cane will be giving readings and talking about Leclercq in Yellowstone this summer. They will be at the Mammoth Hotel for a talk at 8:30 p.m **TONIGHT**. On June 29 they will be at the Old Faithful Inn; the time has not been set.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/yellowstone-books-offer-insights/article_339749e6-a5ab-5953-9def-83155855beb3.html#ixzz2XQpkCcTJ



The Web Office is in the process of **revamping the Plan Your Visit** section of the park's website. As we work through this section of the website this summer, you may notice some changes. These changes are to improve usability and enhance trip planning information for our visitors. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact David Restivo at x2540

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To access photos of the Old Faithful Haynes Photo Shop:

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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone's fire season could go either way

Moisture running a bit below normal for June, but questions centers on lightning strikes

3 hours ago • By Brett French

The outlook for Yellowstone National Park's wildland fire season is balanced on a "razor's edge" right now, according to the park's newly appointed fire management officer.

Years similar to 2013 with just a little bit more moisture have resulted in a very moderate fire season, but those only slightly drier have created an active fire season, said John Cataldo, who was named Yellowstone's FMO earlier this month.

So far, the 2.2-million-acre park is a little behind normal for moisture in June. That may not matter, though.

"Really, what drives fires here is the moisture with the lightning storms," he said.

Last year, Yellowstone saw a lot of fire starts from lightning, but the storms carried enough moisture to douse the ignition.

New plan

This is the first year under the park's newly adopted fire management plan. The document emphasizes protecting people and developed areas through active suppression of fire starts. Outside the identified developed areas — places like Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge — fires are either suppressed or allowed to burn based on a checklist that prompts park firefighters to consider everything from current and future weather conditions to the possible harm a fire might do to species like whitebark pine trees that produce seeds that are a vital food for grizzly bears.

"One of our first calls is over to the Yellowstone Center for Resources when we're developing special strategies," Cataldo said.

At the end of June, Yellowstone National Park's fire danger was rated as moderate. Large fuels like downed trees contained 20 percent moisture. At 14 percent or less, fire managers are concerned. Fine fuels like grasses were damp and incapable of carrying fire. As an example, a fire that started near Lewis Falls has smoldered for weeks and was expected to die out on its own at only a quarter of an acre.

"We usually don't enter a high pressure pattern of hot, dry and windy until July," Cataldo said.

According to the park's fire management plan, the normal fire season in Yellowstone is June 15 through Sept. 30. From 1972 through 2010 — excluding the 1988 fire season, when 50 fires burned about 800,000 acres — the park has averaged 29 fires with about 4,600 acres burned.

Fuels reduction

To protect developed areas, the park uses full-time, seasonal and conservation corps groups to help thin trees and underbrush that can carry fire to structures.

"Most of the areas in the park have been treated but all require maintenance," Cataldo said.

This year fuels reduction work is taking place in Canyon Village with the help of the Montana Conservation Corps and Youth Conservation Corps, an investment costing about \$40,000.

"We are not very big players in the fuels reduction game," Cataldo said.

Yellowstone also has plans to protect structures in the backcountry, including 41 cabins and fire lookouts.

Next year, plans are to work near the Northeast Entrance and Grant Village. The work is mainly done by hand with chainsaws rather than with prescribed burns.

"We mostly prefer to do it with mechanical means, it's a little more precise and the results are a lot less controversial," Cataldo said. "Our goal is to make the areas more defensible, and we're confident we can do that."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-s-fire-season-could-go-either-way/article_654b879b-3d22-57f8-b8d6-f0fd8c76e082.html#ixzz2XQlCwzXR

Black bear shot in Yellowstone after raiding campground

19 hours ago • Gazette Staff

A black bear that refused to leave a Yellowstone National Park campground after obtaining human food was shot by the Yellowstone National Park staff Saturday evening, according to a park press release.

"It is a very rare thing for us to find ourselves in a position to do that," said Al Nash, chief of public affairs. "It is not something we do annually."

At approximately 3:30 p.m. that day, a 142-pound adult male black bear entered the Canyon Campground and approached within six feet of a man and woman eating. The campers retreated, and the bear ate some of their food. The bear also went through the campers' garbage and sniffed and pawed at their tent. The bear then left the site and sniffed and pawed at other tents, bear-proof Dumpsters and bear-proof food storage boxes, and dug through fire pits in other campsites in the campground.

Rangers responded and hazed the bear out of the campground, but the bear returned and re-entered the campground. Due to safety concerns for park visitors, the bear was shot and killed at about 9 p.m.

Black bears are common in the park, with no estimate of their population. In 2010, a female black bear was killed by park staff after it raided a camp near Slough Creek. In 2008 a male black bear was killed after ripping open a backpack along Hellroaring Creek.

Park visitors are reminded to keep food, garbage, coolers and other attractants stored in hard-sided vehicles or bear-proof food storage boxes. This helps keep bears from becoming conditioned to human foods, and helps keep park visitors and their property safe.

Hikers in bear country are encouraged to travel in groups of three or more, carry bear pepper spray, make plenty of noise on the trail, and to be alert for the presence of bears. If a bear charges during a surprise encounter, stand your ground, do not run, and use your bear pepper spray.

Park regulations require that you to stay at least 100 yards away from black and grizzly bears at all times. The best defense against bear attacks is to stay a safe distance from bears and use binoculars, a spotting scope, or telephoto lens to get a closer look.

Bear sightings should be reported to the nearest visitor center or ranger station as soon as possible.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/black-bear-shot-in-yellowstone-after-raiding-campground/article_91ec1372-a351-5ff2-bbc5-2624f040e140.html#ixzz2XQmogCdQ

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Jun 27, 2013

Today: Sunny, with a high near 75. West southwest wind 11 to 14 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. Southwest wind 5 to 13 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming west 5 to 8 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51. North wind 5 to 9 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Saturday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming northwest 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. North wind 5 to 8 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, June 28, 2013



Photo by Bob Fuhrmann

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeking Yellowstone Superlatives!

Recently, Superintendent Wenk asked the Public Affairs Office to prepare a list he's calling "Yellowstone by the Numbers"... a listing of items which help show the breadth & scope of park operations... like the fact we have 466 miles of roads and 67 species of mammals.

While we can find ways to add to the list by ourselves... we realized this was a good project to try out the concept of "crowdsourcing"... that is, going out to the members of "the crowd" to ask for their help and input!

Each of you has a unique Yellowstone experience and perspective. So we're asking you to put on your thinking caps... and share some ideas for inclusion on this list! Submissions can be serious...offbeat...even humorous...as long as they help illustrate how big and complex a place Yellowstone is!

Please send your ideas to YELL_Public_Affairs by COB Wednesday, July 3rd. Thanks!

The Bookmobile rides again! Need to do some research for a fireside talk? Looking for some great places to hike? Need some entertainment? Check out our online catalog (<http://wyld.state.wy.us/yrl/>) to see what we have in the collection.

Call (x2264) or email and let us know what topics or books you are interested in and we can bring them practically to your doorstep.

If you can't come to the bookmobile while we're near you, let us know and we'll figure out a place to drop books off in your district.

Don't see something you need? Let us know and we can try to get the item for you. We will be heading into the park on July 11, August 8, and September 12.

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

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Linx Now Offering Intercity Bus Connections Across Greater Yellowstone

For the third consecutive summer, the Linx Regional Transportation Cooperative is providing affordable public transportation inside Yellowstone National Park and to and from its gateway communities. The *Linx Bus in Yellowstone* pilot demonstration has been expanded beyond the Park's South Loop to include daily connections between West Yellowstone and Gardiner, Montana, and Cody and Jackson, Wyoming.

"Our members are pleased to offer Yellowstone Park visitors an affordable transportation service between West Yellowstone and Gardiner, Montana, and most 'in park' destinations," says Jan Brown, Linx General Manager. "Thanks to FTA grant support through the Wyoming Department of Transportation, area residents, park guests and seasonal employees may also travel to/from Cody, Jackson Hole, and the Wind River Valley (Dubois and Riverton/Lander)."

The 2013 Linx Summer Service is slated to operate until September 30th. A *Linx Bus in Yellowstone* day pass costs \$25.00 for multiple boardings inside the national park. One-way tickets on *Gateway Connection* lines -- from Lake Hotel to Cody or Jackson, for example -- cost an additional \$25.00. Tickets may be purchased online, or from ticket vendors both inside and outside Yellowstone

"It is so rewarding to be able to help those who wish to travel in Yellowstone Park using public transportation," adds Linx Sales Manager Collette Rinehart. "We have many different types of riders, including international travelers who don't want to drive in Yellowstone and expect to ride public transportation. We also board cyclists and hikers who want to take the bus for a part of their park adventure, as well as those who have parked their RV and want to see another park destination. Park employees from all over the world are working here for the summer but don't have a car. Linx can help all of these riders see and enjoy more of the area, plus visit all the gateway communities while they are here."

Linx is a locally-owned member cooperative of transportation providers and investors operating a regional transportation network to serve the Greater Yellowstone region. Linx is coordinating the stops and schedules of its

member-providers and making this information available to the general public on one online platform at <http://www.linx.coop>

For more information on Linx Bus in Yellowstone, call the Linx Help Line 877-454-5469, or visit the special [Linx website](#) to view a list of Linx Bus in Yellowstone and Gateway Connection stops, maps, schedules, and timetables. The Linx Operations Center is staffed 7 days/week and is located at 209 Firehole Ave, West Yellowstone, Montana.

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WEATHER

Expect another mostly sunny day with even slightly warmer afternoon high temperatures across most of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem today, cooling a bit as we move into the weekend. Look for an isolated late day thunderstorms across the mountains today through Sunday.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:42 am MDT Jun 28, 2013

Today: Sunny, with a high near 79. Light and variable wind becoming west 5 to 9 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. West northwest wind 5 to 9 mph becoming calm after midnight.

Saturday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming south 5 to 9 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Saturday Night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. North wind 6 to 11 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Sunday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming west northwest around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. North northwest wind 5 to 8 mph becoming light and variable after midnight.

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