

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, August 1, 2013



Frank Albrecht 35 year service award.....Way to go!

NOTE: This will be the last evening update unless significant fire activity occurs.

Contact: Clare Delaney 406-544-1084

FIRE NAME: Emigrant Fire

DATE OF DETECTION: July 21, 2013

CAUSE: Lightning

CURRENT SIZE: approximately 611 acres

CONTAINMENT: 5%

LOCATION: South of Emigrant Peak, between Gold Prize Creek and North Fork Sixmile Creek

AGENCY: Gallatin National Forest

PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES ON THE FIRE 1 helicopters, 4 engines, 1 - 15 person hand crew and overhead for a total of 45 personnel.

WEDNESDAY'S ACTIVITY: A transfer of command occurred today back to the local Gallatin National Forest unit which is still managing the fire as a Type 3 organization. A recon flight was flown to assess current fire potential. Aerial observations found the fire to be backing into good natural barriers with no significant fire activity to report.

THURSDAY'S PLANNED ACTIVITY: The Daily Lake ICP (Incident Command Post) will be demobed and the ICP will be relocated to the Livingston Ranger District office. Fire activity will continue to be monitored, looking for any increased fire activity.

FIRE WEATHER: Partly cloudy conditions were noted today over the fire area. Temperatures were 70-75 degrees, and the humidity will be 35-40%. Some gusty winds developed late afternoon.

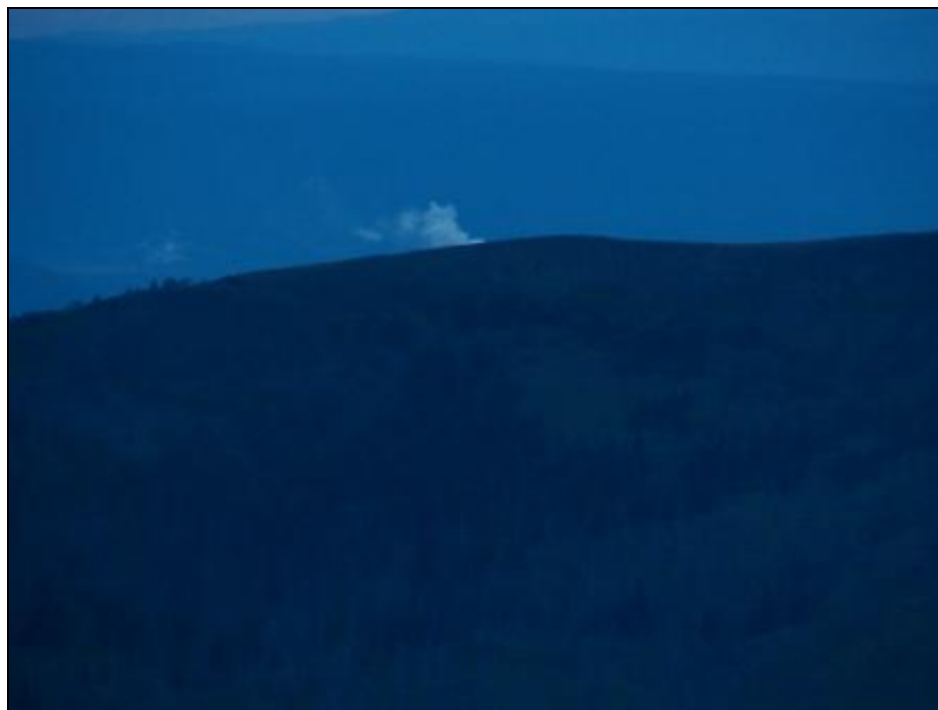
CLOSURES & OTHER INFORMATION: Dailey Lake and most surrounding camping areas are open to recreationists through the weekend. Emigrant Fire Incident Command Post is located on a bench approximately ¼ mile north of the lake and that area is the only portion closed to the public at Dailey Lake Recreation area. Please be cautious of fire traffic on Dailey Lake Road.

The Forest Service portion of Sixmile Creek Road from its junction with the Dailey Lake Road will be closed until further notice.

The Sixmile Creek Trail (#61) and North Fork of Sixmile Creek Trail (#606) will be closed to their junction with Trail #601 north of Monitor Peak. Connector Trail #601 will remain open.

A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over the fire area to ensure the safety of the aerial fire operations.

For further information, go to: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3537/>



Steamboat Eruption from Washburn Lookout (photo by Ed Stark)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Electronic temperature loggers documented a **major eruption of Steamboat Geyser** on 31 July 2013, 19:30:03 MDT, plus or minus 30 seconds.

The last major eruption of Steamboat Geyser occurred on 23 May 2005, in the time range 14:40 to 14:41 MDT.

The GreenTeam reminds you of this month's eHint: Go Green on your next camping adventure!

Recycling/composting in a campsite: Take your recycling techniques to the woods! Separate your recyclables from your trash and look for campground recycling receptacles to dispose of it or bring recyclables, including empty propane canisters, back to bins around the Yellowstone area.

Don't use gas-powered equipment: You're camping to enjoy nature, so next time you head to the woods consider leaving that generator at home. Your campsite neighbors will appreciate it, and you'll save all that money that would have otherwise gone to gas.

Buy used gear: If you're an avid camper, there's no reason to invest in lots of new gear. Instead, look to local second-hand stores for your next piece of equipment. Some places to check out are Second Wind Sports in Bozeman or surf the Internet at sites such as Craigslist and Freecycle.

Other things to consider:

- Leave no trace
- Look to camp nearby
- Bring reusable dishes
- Use eco-friendly toiletries
- Apply backpacking techniques on your next car camping adventure

The Green Team is currently collecting survey responses to learn how Yellowstone employees commute. If you haven't had a chance yet, please take a few minutes to visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YELLCommute> and fill out our quick survey. This will help us quantify greenhouse gas emissions from park operations, and may help us see how we can expand "green" commuting options to help you!

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

Thanks for supporting Yoga, Pilates and Dance classes in our community!

Hard to believe, but we've been in the Mammoth Community Center Studio for one year. Help us celebrate by participating in FREE YOGA AND PILATES CLASSES, Friday, August 16!

Pilates 5:30pm-6:30pm
Yoga 6:45pm-7:45pm

...And don't forget to visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes! (Parents-registration for Fall dance classes ends soon!)

Remaining Schedule for Chip Sealing

Week of July 29 to August 2, 2013 - Clean-up operations and move equipment to Grand Teton.

August 5 to August 16, 2013 - Chip Seal in Grand Teton.

Week of August 19 - Move equipment back from Grand Teton and prepare for paving operations in Yellowstone.

WHAT: Lecture: The Basics of Wood in Structures, Including the biological aspects of the material, performance and design considerations

WHEN: August 5, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – Noon

WHERE: Mammoth Community Center (Mammoth School)

WHO: Ron Anthony, Anthony & Associates, Ft Collins

Mr. Anthony is a leading preservation consultant who received an M.S. in Wood Science and Technology from Colorado State University. He earned his B.S. in Forest Management and Wood Science and Technology, also from Colorado State University. Prior to forming Anthony & Associates in Fort Collins, Colorado in 1999, he conducted research and consulted on wood properties and the use of wood in construction applications. Mr. Anthony's work focuses on understanding the nature and performance of wood in structures. He was the 2002 recipient of the James Marston Fitch Foundation Grant for his approach to evaluating wood in historic buildings.

Noontime Bring Your Own Lunch; Cold Drinks & Snacks Provided 1:00 – 3:30 Tour of the Fort Yellowstone Historic District (optional) and Mammoth-Area Preservation Projects Hosted by Montana Preservation Alliance & Yellowstone National Park/National Park Service. In partnership with the US Forest Service Northern Region Heritage Program, Gallatin National Forest, University of Pennsylvania Architectural Conservation Lab and the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

To RSVP by August 1 or For More Info, Please Contact: Montana Preservation Alliance 406-457-2822

info@preservemontana.org

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:56 am MDT Aug 1, 2013

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 73. South southwest wind 8 to 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms before 3am, then isolated showers. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. South southwest wind 7 to 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Southwest wind 10 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. South wind 11 to 16 mph decreasing to 5 to 10 mph after midnight.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly clear, with a low

around 39. West southwest wind 5 to 7 mph becoming calm after midnight.

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Friday, August 2, 2013



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Heritage Program, Gallatin National Forest, University of Pennsylvania Architectural Conservation Lab and the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

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IN THE PRESS

Yellowstone's Steamboat geyser sees rare eruption

21 hours ago • Associated Press

Old Faithful it's not.

Yellowstone National Park's Steamboat Geyser — the world's tallest — has erupted for the first time in more than eight years.

The nine-minute blast sent steaming hot water an estimated 200 to 300 feet in the air, park geologist Hank Heasler said Thursday.

Unlike the park's popular and famous Old Faithful geyser, which spews water like clockwork every hour-and-a-half, no one knows when Steamboat will erupt next.

In the past, it's gone as long as 50 years without a major event. In 1964, it erupted a record 29 times. The last blast came in 2005.

Steamboat is one of more than 500 geysers at Yellowstone, which boasts the largest collection of hydrothermal features in the world.

The geyser is in a popular viewing area known as the Norris Geyser Basin, and its eruption at about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday drew dozens of excited onlookers, said Robb Long, a freelance photographer from Sioux Falls, S.D., who was visiting the park with his fiancée and her family.

"It was an amazing experience. This thing sounded like a locomotive," Long said. "Everybody was frantic, taking pictures. People were running down there trying to get to it before it went away, and park rangers were running around trying to gather up people so they didn't get too close."

Yellowstone's geysers are fueled by cold water that feeds into a natural underground plumbing network, where heat from the park's volcano forces chemical-laden water to the surface and causes the periodic eruptions, Heasler said.

Early accounts of Steamboat's eruptions came from first-hand observations, with the first recorded in 1878. Since 2005, the park has used electronic monitors to more closely track the geyser.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-s-steamboat-geyser-sees-rare-eruption/article_a12e2d6d-6b85-5b7c-8129-a8aebc2219ec.html#ixzz2ap2ZlwmR

Dormant Yellowstone geyser erupts

Posted: Friday, August 2, 2013 12:15 am

Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer

Being in hot water is good if you're a geyser.

On Wednesday evening, Steamboat Geyser in Yellowstone National Park broke its eight-year silence in explosive fashion.

At 7:30 p.m., the geyser spouted scalding water 200 to 300 feet in the air for close to nine minutes, causing visitors to scramble for their cameras and geyser gazers parkwide to converge on the Norris Geyser Basin.

"I didn't see it go off because I was down watching Fountain," said park employee and geyser gazer Will Boekel. "We got a text message that Steamboat had gone off so we went to Norris right away. We got to see the steam."

For up to 40 hours after the eruption, the geyser should continue to vent pent-up steam, although the force will weaken with time.

Nearby Cistern Spring drains after Steamboat Geyser erupts. Boekel said it was "pretty well drained" as of Thursday morning.

Boekel said the boardwalks were covered with sand and grit that came up with the water. The geyser is so powerful that it's been known to eject boulders during an eruption.

The fickle geyser is notoriously unpredictable because it doesn't have the same structure as Old Faithful, which erupts each time its reservoir fills.

The geyser has gone as long as 50 years without an eruption, while in 1964, it blew a record 29 times.

The last eruption of Steamboat Geyser was May 23, 2005.

Boekel said Steamboat Geyser has erupted twice in one month so he's hoping for a repeat performance before the park closes.

Steamboat Geyser is one of almost 200 geysers in the Norris Geyser Basin and almost 1,300 geysers parkwide, according to recent research by University of Utah graduate student Jeff Cross.

Cross used a wide range of geological reports dating as far back as 1935 to tabulate 529 geysers in the Yellowstone backcountry and undeveloped areas and 754 in the developed areas.

"It is the first time that any complete list of the geysers in Yellowstone has been published," Cross said. "The number 1,283 represents a figure several times in excess of most quoted figures, 700 being the largest estimate that I've seen."

Cross said the discrepancy could be explained partly by the fact that only some geysers are active during any year so a geyser such as Steamboat may have been overlooked.

In any one calendar year, the count of active geysers ranged from 391 to 514 between 1987 and 1992.

Cross' results are published in a 2012 issue of the Transactions of the Geyser Observation and Study Association.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:56 am MDT Aug 2, 2013

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 4pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. West wind 7 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. West southwest wind 5 to 14 mph becoming north northeast in the evening. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. South southwest wind 5 to 14 mph becoming north northeast in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. Southwest wind 9 to 14 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Light and variable wind becoming west 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 7pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, August 5, 2013



From August 5- Aug 9th you may notice some interesting photography equipment being used around the park. Google Street View will be here photographing Yellowstone's trails and roadways this week using a 360 degree camera in a backpack and on a car (see images). You can see some examples of the final products at the following link: <https://www.google.com/maps/views/home?gl=us>
Please direct questions or concerns to Rachel Cudmore 406-581-0519

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blood Drive, Monday, August 12, 1-5:00PM at the Mammoth Community Center. You can either schedule an appt online or call or email Kathy Cunningham at 344-2455 (Kathy_Cunningham@nps.gov). Any questions, please feel free to contact her. Donations of snacks or drinks are always appreciated also.

Give the gift of life.....Donate blood.

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IN THE PRESS

25 years after 1988, Yellowstone reflects change wrought by fire

August 04, 2013 12:15 am • By [Brett French](#)

In 1988, almost 800,000 acres of Yellowstone National Park was burned in what was, at the time, one of the most significant wildland fires in American history.

Yellowstone is iconic, a symbol of the United States' foresight in protecting wild places, animals and natural features, a land idealized throughout the world for its vast high-mountain wilderness, variety of wildlife and many geothermal features.

So when the park seemed to be turning to ashes in that unusual summer of fire, the entire world watched or read the news reports in awe, disbelief, fear and with a deep curiosity about what the future of the park might be. Yellowstone, it was feared, would be destroyed. The park would never be the same. A unique place symbolizing Americans' ties to preserving wild places had been forever lost.

Jump forward to 2013, the 25th anniversary of those fires, and it's evident that Yellowstone National Park continues to thrive, adapt and transform as it always has, and that part of that change has always included fire. The species of plants and animals that inhabit the park have long adapted to fire. Sure, there are changes, but Yellowstone is a dynamic landscape. Nothing stays the same. And fire will return, especially as summers grow ever longer, hotter, drier and contain more lightning strikes.

What seems evident is that although the Yellowstone fires of 1988 were dramatic, they were only a signal of what was to come. Last year in Montana alone, 1.1 million acres burned while the nation saw almost 8 million acres

consumed by wildland fires. Firefighting costs for the Forest Service alone totaled about \$1 billion. Already this year, almost 300,000 acres burned in just two of New Mexico's 10 fires.

So wildland fire is here to stay on the Western landscape. More fires will burn in Yellowstone. But the burns are no longer viewed as catastrophic to the landscape. Different plants will sprout in the ashes, different trees and bushes will grow, but it is part of a natural cycle — one that people visiting Yellowstone National Park can see with their own eyes.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/years-after-yellowstone-reflects-change-wrought-by-fire/article_4e7b57d6-111c-5c65-90f5-cd627c0604c7.html#ixzz2b6o53HBc

New book chronicles life in Yellowstone

Published: Fri, 08/02/2013 - 4:46pm By Enterprise Staff

Author Marjane Ambler lived year-round in Yellowstone National Park for more than 10 years, enduring the fires of 1988 and long isolated winters at Lake Yellowstone.

Her new book, "Yellowstone Has Teeth," chronicles her experiences, as well as those of others who worked winters before her.

Ambler, who has held book signings this summer in Yellowstone, said most people understand the title's meaning.

"It's not about wolves," Ambler said about her book's title. "It's about isolation. If you make a mistake, mistakes matter. And Yellowstone will bite you in the butt."

Ambler will be in Livingston Tuesday night to talk about her book. Her appearance is sponsored by the Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County. Her free talk will be held in the Community Room at the Livingston-Park County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

Ambler chronicles people who face near-absolute isolation in the park's interior during winter — workers relying on snowmobiles for transportation, families fleeing the 1988 fires on horseback, rangers instructed to kill bears, social directors who keep the tiny communities knit together, and others. Ambler weaves her firsthand knowledge of Yellowstone National Park and the National Park Service's challenges and issues throughout the stories, a museum news release states.

During the program, Ambler shows photographs of some of the people who are described in the book, including Livingston resident Alice Murphy, widow of ranger Bob Murphy, who wintered in Yellowstone's interior in the 1950s; former Gardiner residents Scott and Louise Chapman, who wintered in Yellowstone's interior in the 1930s-1950s; the late Jerry Mernin and his wife, Cindy, who wintered in the 1970s-1990s; as well as more recent residents who lived there between 1984-1993.

Ambler and her husband, Terry Wehrman, lived year-round from 1984 to 1993 at Lake in Yellowstone, where they learned the stories of their neighbors and acquaintances.

Ambler said the community at Lake in the winter was sometimes as few as 12 people. Other locations, such as Grant Village, sometimes had even fewer.

The people built community by telling stories and holding potlucks.

She said the winter assignments — most often a husband with a National Park Service job — could be hard on couples.

“Asking a woman to give up a career and any chance of working in the winter was very hard,” Ambler said.

Ambler said she knew of at least one couple who divorced during the tenure of his job, then re-married after he left the winter job behind.

Ambler’s husband worked as a National Park Service heavy equipment operator — he groomed the snow-packed roads during the winter and served as the Lake District road foreman during the summer.

Amber herself worked four summers in the early 1990s, as a seasonal interpretative park ranger. In the winters, she worked as a freelance writer. She said she was fortunate to be able to go cross-country skiing whenever she liked — after her writing was done for the day.

In one of her programs, she told the stories of people who lived in the park during the 1930s-1970s.

The stories came to her, she said, during those potlucks. Everyone told stories, and then they told stories about those who had worked winters as far back as the 1930s.

The Chapmans, based at the Bechler Ranger Station, had a 12-mile one-way ski to get to their winter cabin, Ambler said.

“That put things in perspective,” she laughed, referring to her own time in the winter, with modern conveniences like reliable snowmobiles, regular mail and access “out” during the winter.

Ambler and her husband kept “beater winter cars” parked at the South Gate, Mammoth Hot Springs and East Gate, so they could get out a few times each winter.

Their favorite “big city” destination was Livingston, Ambler said, where they could make doctor’s appointments and buy groceries.

And getting groceries into the park for the winter could be iffy, she laughed.

Snowmobiling with a cooler and extra gasoline in a can sometimes resulted in getting home with frozen milk and gasoline that had leaked all over the food, she said.

Sometimes she craved fresh produce, like lettuce, she said.

One year, her husband didn’t receive his winter assignment until Dec. 1.

“We had to buy our predecessor’s stock of food,” Ambler said.

Now retired from the NPS, Ambler and Wehrman divide their time between Atlantic City, Wyo. — population 50 in the summer — and Lake Havasu, Ariz.

Ambler has been a journalist since 1968. She was an associate editor of High Country News from 1974 to 1980.

In 1990 the University Press of Kansas published her first book, “Breaking the Iron Bonds: Indian Control of Energy Development.”

From 1995 until 2006, she served as the editor of Tribal College Journal, a national quarterly magazine published by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, based in Mancos, Colo. During her tenure there, one of her colleagues dubbed her “Story Catcher,” the museum news release said.

Amber’s talk Tuesday evening is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Copies of “Yellowstone Has Teeth” will be available for sale. Those planning to attend should use the library’s North Third Street entrance.

For more information on Ambler, visit www.marjaneambler.com. For more information on the museum, visit www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org or call 222-4184.

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Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 9pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. West northwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming light west after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Light and variable wind becoming east southeast 5 to 8 mph in the morning.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. West wind 5 to 8 mph becoming calm after midnight.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Calm wind becoming west 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. West northwest wind 5 to 7 mph becoming calm after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

SNAKE FIRE UPDATE

For Immediate Release – August 5, 2013 @ 9:30 p.m. MDT



Contacts: Bridger-Teton National Forest – Mary Cernicek 307-739-5564
Grand Teton National Park – Traci Weaver 307-739-3692
Yellowstone National Park – Al Nash or Dan Hottle 307-344-2015

Summary

The Snake Fire was discovered shortly after 4:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon, August 5, burning along the boundary between the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Yellowstone National Park, approximately three miles east of Yellowstone's South Entrance. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Hot, dry conditions prompted rapid growth in heavy timber. The fire was estimated at 200 acres on Monday evening.

Firefighting efforts will be jointly managed by the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park.

Tuesday's Planned Activity

Firefighters will focus their efforts on point protection of values at risk including structure protection of backcountry cabins, developing a more accurate fire perimeter map, collecting fuel samples to aid with development of long term modeling of fire behavior, posting trail closure notices, and helping visitors reroute backcountry trips around closure areas.

Public and firefighter safety is always the first concern and priority. The Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) is a fire adapted ecosystem. Fire plays an important role in maintaining the health of this area's wildlife habitat and vegetation. Fires are managed to protect people and property, enhance the area's natural resources where appropriate, and safely and effectively use available firefighting resources.

Fire Weather

Sunshine, winds from 5-10 miles an hour shifting from the northeast to southwest are forecast for the fire area on Tuesday.

Impacts to visitors and area residents

Some trails and backcountry campsites near Yellowstone's South Entrance have been temporarily closed. At times a tall smoke column rising above the fire may be seen from locations a long distance away from the fire. However, all roads leading into and through the parks and the forest and all campgrounds, lodging, stores, and visitor services are open. The fire poses no threat to visitors or area residents.

Additional information

The next fire update will be prepared and distributed by noon Tuesday, August 6. Updates will be posted online at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>.

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IN THE PRESS

Nonprofits come to aid of national parks following sequester

8 hours ago • By Kyle Roerink Casper Star-Tribune

Philanthropy and nonprofits have kept the consequences of across-the-board federal budget cuts largely invisible to tourists traveling through the country's national parks this summer.

But officials don't know how long the effects of the sequester will remain unseen.

The fissures that would otherwise remain open in the aftermath of the 5 percent budget cuts, which triggered March 1, have been capped thanks to the altruism of private individuals, park associations and park foundations.

A one-time donation to Grand Teton National Park saved a visitor center, ranger station and preserve center from being shuttered this summer, said Jackie Skaggs, spokeswoman for Grand Teton National Park.

If those buildings would have been closed, they would have been noticeable changes for tourists. But a \$135,000 gift from associates who work with the Laurance Rockefeller Preserve Center, the Grand Teton Association and an anonymous donor helped keep the park looking as if it was operating as usual.

The nonprofit Grand Teton Association has helped to provide the park with funding for special projects for decades. It runs the bookstores on park grounds and usually uses its proceeds and money from private donations to provide the park with educational programs, money for new buildings and research, said Jan Lynch, executive director of the association. This year it donated money to help fund the seasonal employees for Jenny Lake Visitor Center.

“It’s a one-time thing,” Lynch said. “We can’t do this next year.”

The nonprofit gave the park \$1 million last year, equating to 78 percent of the association’s net revenue, she said.

“We make the money every year and give it away and start over,” Lynch said.

What tourists can’t see is the full-time and seasonal staffs being stretched thin, Skaggs said. Tourists are traveling to the park at greater rates, she added, increasing the need for more law enforcement and emergency crews in the park despite the \$700,000 cut imposed by sequestration and years of stagnating budgets. June’s visitation numbers at Teton were up 8 percent from last year, Skaggs said.

Parks nationwide haven’t seen a boost for inflation in years and are essentially running on the same amount of money they used in 2008, said John Garder, a budget and appropriations legislative representative for the National Parks Conservation Association in Washington, D.C.

Skaggs said Congress hasn’t given Grand Teton and other national parks an increase in funds to pay for electricity, propane, fuel, emergency radio, salaries, phones and trash collection. Grand Teton’s budget was \$13 million before sequestration. It is now \$11.8 million, with a similar allocation expected for 2014, according to Skaggs.

Grand Teton had 237 seasonal employees in 2010 compared to 156 this year. Its full-time staff has diminished by about 20 positions in that same period, Skaggs said.

Aside from wildfires and searches and rescues, other events have drained the resources of park officials, Skaggs said. This year in Teton there’s been a stabbing and two high-speed chases that ended with rangers using road spikes to stop the perpetrators.

“The workforce and the ranger staff are spending very long hours running from one incident or accident to the next,” said Jackson resident Joan Anzelmo, a former superintendent at Colorado National Monument and member of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees.

Park employees are known to wear many hats. At Grand Teton there is a press officer who doubles as an ambulance driver and many others who are willing to take on roles as “renaissance rangers,” Skaggs said.

Burnout is a concern. Park staff are like a baseball team, Anzelmo said.

“When you have more staff, you have depth on the bench and you don’t have to keep going back to the same staff who are beginning to wear out,” she said.

Grand Teton isn't the only park to see generosity this year. Yellowstone National Park saw neighboring chambers of commerce from gateway communities come together to plow park entrances, and other nonprofits help fill gaps caused by budget cuts.

The park staff at Yellowstone hasn't been as constrained as Grand Teton's, but the fear is that Congress will get complacent and begin to rely on outside funding as an unnamed revenue source.

"We will do everything we can to support Yellowstone," said Jeff Brown, executive director of the Yellowstone Association. "But the federal government can't just abdicate that responsibility."

Last year the association donated more than 16,000 volunteer hours to the park, equaling a \$350,000 donation, Brown said.

Gardner, with the National Parks Conservation Association, isn't optimistic about seeing a bump in revenue for the parks next year. Last week, the appropriations bill for the parks was tabled before Congress's August recess.

"In general, donors who help provide for our national parks and park resources want to see the federal government provide their share of the commitment," Gardner said. "It's worrisome to see that we may be seeing another year where the federal government falls considerably short on that commitment."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/nonprofits-come-to-aid-of-national-parks-following-sequester/article_b9e5e2d2-5081-5d0b-bcd6-4b2af5b8834d.html#ixzz2bCKdt79R

Gazette opinion: Yellowstone still teaching us about nature of wildfire

August 04, 2013 12:00 am

Bare, burned lodge-pole trunks still tower over a new forest of pines less than 25 years old. The scar from wildfires of 1988 has been covered with a profusion of new growth that reflects varying soils and moisture levels on Yellowstone Park's volcanic plateau.

Twenty-five years ago this summer, the biggest fires in Yellowstone's history burned across 1.4 million acres in the area, including nearly 800,000 acres inside the 2.2 million acre park. The biggest firefighting force ever assembled — 9,500 firefighters at one point — fought the Yellowstone fires from July through their fiery crescendo in the first 11 days of September.

In those tense, smoky months of 1988, the world's attention was riveted on the flames burning forests and meadows of the first national park. Millions of newspaper readers and TV viewers learned about the wildland-urban interface and wilderness firefighting techniques. The 'let it burn' policy was debated, confused, clarified and condemned — not necessarily in that order.

In the years since, Americans have seen more giant wildfires, many much more destructive than the Yellowstone fires. Westerners are still learning to live in a drier landscape. Nonprofit organizations such as Firewise and Montana Fire Safe now promote reducing wildfire risk. The Yellowstone fires first showed many of us the awesome and awful power of wildfire.

A review of federal firefighting policy generally upheld firefighting tactics already in place in 1988, but called for improved communication and coordination between agencies. One result is the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee's Fire Management Advisory Group. The chief firefighting officers on that panel represent

Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park, National Elk Refuge, Red Rocks National Wildlife Refuge, and the Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Gallatin, Shoshone, Custer and Beaverhead-Deer Lodge national forests.

“Our policy has evolved several times since 1988,” said John Cataldo, Yellowstone fire management officer. “The biggest change is being able to change the strategies and management of the fire spatially and temporally as it moves over the landscape.”

Giving fire managers more discretion has boosted firefighter safety, he said.

“We just respond to each fire in the safest, most cost-effective manner,” Cataldo said.

Fewer firefighters

Cost is a growing concern. Yellowstone alone has cut 10 firefighting positions in recent years. Cataldo’s old job as assistant manager is still vacant and won’t be filled this season.

The smaller force of 25 firefighters works to reduce fire risk, such as doing fuel management projects.

“Twenty-five firefighters and 2.2 million acres, we’re not doing this by ourselves,” Cataldo said. “For the time being, we’ll rely on our interagency partners.”

For 108 days of summer, the park firefighters also have a helicopter. Ten members serve on the heli-tack crew.

Scientific decisions

Firefighting decisions are based on science. The intel board at the Mammoth Fire Cache displays times and locations of recent lightning strikes. Firefighters monitor moisture content in logs collected at eight locations throughout the park. Low moisture in the logs indicates higher fire danger in the forest. Weather reports are monitored continuously.

Hundreds of scientists from across the country and around the nation have been drawn to Yellowstone in the fires’ aftermath. They came to study the fires’ effect on vegetation, wildlife and waterways.

Millions of park visitors have been introduced to the remarkable adaptability of nature, such as the lodge-pole pine whose seed cones only open when heated by fire. Last year, 3.4 million tourists visited the park that burned in 1988. What they will remember are the spectacular geysers, grizzlies, bison, wolves, wildflowers, mountains and lakes. They saw a park renewed and ever changing.

A quarter century after massive wildfires burned most of Yellowstone National Park’s forests, the big burn is still teaching scientists, firefighters and park visitors about the power of Mother Nature.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/editorial/gazette-opinion/gazette-opinion-yellowstone-still-teaching-us-about-nature-of-wildfire/article_cc329e29-5690-51b8-80e3-9c882b410f12.html#ixzz2bCL6TpWx

’88 Yellowstone fires: Cody people, businesses ‘under siege’

Posted: Monday, August 5, 2013 3:23 pm By Betsy Simon

The Yellowstone Park fires of 1988 wreaked havoc from the forests to the fire departments and business community in and around Cody.

Bob Coe of Pahaska Teepee near Yellowstone's East Entrance said when the fires approached his lodge, evacuation became necessary.

"We had people eating in the restaurant and we just told everyone to leave," he said. "They left their food on their plates and everyone left."

At the height of the fires, tourists were assured by authorities they were not in danger.

But the smoke that hovered over Cody Country because of the Mink Creek Fire was an indication that 40,000 of the Yellowstone Park's 2.2 million acres were vulnerable.

People in the Cody area on July 27, 1988, continued to live under siege by the Mink Creek Fire.

The fire widened to more than 24,400 acres with about 1,800 acres of the park impacted.

With fires still raging and lightning strikes making matters worse, firefighters, who were supposed to relax in Cody for the weekend, were instead called to duty when Mother Nature ignited more blazes inside Yellowstone.

Locally, the fire fight was a team effort by the Cody Volunteer Fire Department, along with the departments in Powell and Meeteetse, says city councilman Steve Miller, a former fireman.

"The support we had from the communities in Cody, Powell and Meeteetse for the fire departments was astronomical," he said. "No one ever asked how long they would have to stay and employers of all the firefighters were supportive of the efforts."

It was a feat, Miller says, that involved "every inch of hose off trucks and off the racks at the fire hall."

The battle would eventually bring the firefighters to Pahaska.

"Bob Coe (a North Fork fireman) had called the fire department and told us the fire had crossed the creek and he needed help," Miller says. "We went up there on the Friday of the first week in September and some guys from the Army showed up. But as soon as the snow came in September, the fires were gone."

By then, though, Miller said the blazes had already forced tourists out of Cody for the season.

"If you looked out your window, you could see the ash coming down like it was snowing," he said. "We lost many tourists in Cody that year from people figuring that the park was burning up and there was no sense in going to see it."

Coe said it would take years to get everything at the lodge back to normal.

“But we did it,” he said. “The tourists did come back.”

For others, the fires meant a complete change in the way business would be conducted.

Mike Hanson, a fourth generation in his family to enter the timber business, took over Cody Lumber Inc. from his father, who started the sawmill in 1960, based on the timber available for harvest on the north end of the Shoshone Forest.

“The Forest Service has what it calls a timber base – land suitable for timber harvesting,” Hanson explained. “The Shoshone Forest is approximately 2.5 million acres. Of this, 83,000, or 3 percent, is in the timber base. When part of this base is destroyed by fire, the Forest Service calculates the number of acres and volume of wood lost and subtracts these acres from the timber base.

“As a result of the fires, the allowable cut on the forest was reduced immensely, causing the sawmill to look elsewhere for a timber source.”

Hanson says Cody Lumber started purchasing ponderosa pines from central Montana, but low quality wood coupled with the expense involved ended that process.

An attempt also was made by Cody Lumber to cut cottonwoods along the Yellowstone River and ship the product to Batesville, Miss.

“This also proved unprofitable,” Hanson adds.

Through private, state and BLM resources, Hanson says Cody Lumber was able continue operating.

“The Shoshone Forest began to offer some timber about this time, but the major portion of the wood contained beetle-killed wood,” Hanson says. “The beetles were part of the result of the fires of ’88 and the drought that had followed. The wood dead from the beetles lost a great deal of its quality and value due to the cracking and splitting of the trees.”

Working with this type of wood also proved to be a challenge, Hanson said.

By the early 2000s, lumber resources were wearing thin and the plant in Cody was put up for sale in 2003.

It was purchased a year later by a man from Washington State.

“He had plans of cutting a different product from the dead wood,” Hanson said of the purchaser. “He ran the plant for two years and then closed and sold off the assets.”

But replenishing trees, Hanson says, shouldn’t be as difficult as it was after the summer of 1988.

“The forest is a renewable resource, after all,” he says. “Had the fires of 1988, with their devastating effects, not happened, I feel Cody Lumber could still be operating today.”

Catching Yellowstone lake trout no easy task

Monday, August 5, 2013 12:27 pm by Tim Wade

Fishing for lake trout in Yellowstone Lake is an interesting endeavor at best, especially when one is targeting the larger trout residing in the depths of the lake.

If you recall, the East Yellowstone Trout Unlimited Chapter asked for volunteers to assist in the catching of the larger lake trout so the fish scientists gathering data for the USGS could implant transponders to track these mature fish to spawning areas in Yellowstone Lake later this fall.

Twenty females in the Southeast Arm and 20 females in the South Arm was the goal of the USGS scientists. Disappointingly, all attempts at reaching this goal fell short due to the depths the larger lake trout seemed to prefer during the three day effort by volunteer anglers and the USGS crew.

Even though downriggers and other methods were employed to get down to the depths where the big gals hang out, only one laker exceeded 30 inches during the two days my partner and I participated in the tagging program.

That fish weighed a shade over 15 pounds and was caught on 3/4 ounce brass Jake’s Spin-A-Lure in 20-35 feet of water in the Southeast Arm.

Believe it or not, further checking with the Zanterra fishing guides at Bridge Bay the first night of the tagging program revealed that most of the larger lake trout caught in Yellowstone Lake over the years have averaged less than 8 pounds.

Not even the longtime guides for Zanterra had ever caught, nor seen, one as large as 15 pounds, even though depth finders were regularly showing lake trout much larger. At least attempts to catch a “big one” did pay off, despite the fact anglers trolling the depths only managed to bring a total of 22 lake trout over 18-inches to the USGS crew for implantation of tracking devices.

Those that were not large enough to receive transponders were killed as per Yellowstone Park’s fishing regulations.

Hopefully, I can get more data to share with you as the USGS crew follows the tagged lakera to spawning beds where, it is hoped, something can be done to crush the non-native lake trout population quickly so native Yellowstone cutthroat populations can be restored to their former numbers in Yellowstone Lake.

Many thanks should be extended to those anglers that took the time to participate in the fish study. To say we anglers learned a lot about lake behavior and trout trolling methods is an understatement, especially this angler who prefers the use of a fly rod over trolling lures hour upon hour.

Did we catch cutthroat while targeting lakers?

Absolutely we did. Many of the larger cutthroat were caught at the same depth the largest laker was taken. Evidently, mature cutthroat have no qualms about diving below 40 feet should the upper water column become too warm.

Surprising too, were the numbers of smaller lake trout also caught in the shallower water. These, when killed, had stomachs full of freshwater scuds, not baby cutthroat. Many of the cutthroat trout landed and released back to the lake in our boat, the Fly Away, were in the 5-8 pound class and measured 22-26 inches in the deeper water, while those caught in depths less than 20 feet were as small as 15 inches, giving hope for the future of Yellowstone cutthroat.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Aug 6, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. East wind 5 to 9 mph becoming west in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. West northwest wind 5 to 9 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Wednesday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 73. Calm wind becoming west 5 to 9 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. West northwest wind 5 to 9 mph becoming calm after midnight.

Thursday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Light and variable wind. 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

Wednesday, August 7, 2013



Snake Fire photo from August 5th



----- SNAKE FIRE UPDATE -----

August 6, 2013 @ 9:15 p.m. MDT

Reported: Monday afternoon, August 5, 2013

Location: Three miles east of Yellowstone's South Entrance Station along the boundary of the
Bridger-Teton National Forest and Yellowstone National Park

Cause: Lightning is suspected

Current Size: Estimated at 40 acres – Zero percent contained

Overview: -----

The Snake Fire was discovered shortly after 4:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon, August 5, burning in heavy timber about three miles east of the South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park along the boundary with the Bridger-

Teton National Forest. The area had received numerous lightning strikes last Wednesday, and it is believed one of these strikes smoldered and came to life Monday starting the fire. Firefighting efforts are being jointly managed by the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park.

Tuesday's Activities:

The cooler temperatures contributed to limited fire activity Tuesday. The fire experienced little growth and remains estimated at 40 acres. Efforts began on establishing an Incident Command Post at Grant Village to support firefighting efforts. Firefighters were deployed to protect a backcountry cabin, post trail closures, and gather fuel samples to aid fire behavior modeling that will be used to develop short and long-term fire management strategies.

Wednesday's Weather Forecast:

Sunny skies, light winds, and a minimum relative humidity of around 20 percent are forecast for the fire area; with a chance of isolated thunderstorms returning on Thursday. The Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park are all in "High" fire danger.

Wednesday's Planned Firefighting Actions:

A Type 3 helicopter which arrived late Tuesday will be employed in support of firefighting operations. Firefighters will continue their efforts to protect a backcountry patrol cabin. Firefighters will also be deployed to staff the Mt. Sheridan Fire Lookout. Another crew will staff a Type 6 wildland engine and begin developing plans for structure protection around the park's South Entrance should it be needed.

Impacts to visitors and area residents:

Some trails and backcountry campsites near Yellowstone's South Entrance have been temporarily closed. A map of the closure area is posted to the fire's InciWeb site. At times a tall smoke column rising above the fire may be seen from locations a very long distance away from the fire. However, all roads leading into and through the parks and the forest and all campgrounds, lodging, stores, and visitor services are open. The fire poses no threat to visitors or area residents.

Public and firefighter safety is always the first concern and priority. The Greater Yellowstone area is a fire adapted ecosystem. Fire plays an important role in maintaining the health of this area's wildlife habitat and vegetation. Fires are managed to protect people and property, enhance the area's natural resources where appropriate, and safely and effectively use available firefighting resources.

Updated information:

The next fire update will be prepared and distributed by Noon Wednesday, August 7. Updates will be posted online at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3600/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact Charissa Reid (Charissa_Reid@nps.gov or yellowstonemcc@gmail.com) to schedule the Mammoth Community Center Classroom 2 and/or the gym.

From **August 5- Aug 9th** you may notice some interesting photography equipment being used around the park. **Google Street View** will be here photographing Yellowstone's trails and roadways this week using a 360 degree camera in a backpack and on a car (see images). You can see some examples of the final products at the following link: <https://www.google.com/maps/views/home?gl=us>
Please direct questions or concerns to Rachel Cudmore 406-581-0519

Blood Drive, Monday, August 12, 1-5:00PM at the Mammoth Community Center. You can either schedule an appt online or call or email Kathy Cunningham at 344-2455 (Kathy_Cunningham@nps.gov). Any questions, please feel free to contact her. Donations of snacks or drinks are always appreciated also.

Give the gift of life.....Donate blood.

Thanks for supporting Yoga, Pilates and Dance classes in our community!

Hard to believe, but we've been in the Mammoth Community Center Studio for one year. Help us celebrate by participating in FREE YOGA AND PILATES CLASSES, Friday, August 16!

Pilates 5:30pm-6:30pm

Yoga 6:45pm-7:45pm

...And don't forget to visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes! (Parents-registration for Fall dance classes ends soon!)

IN THE PRESS

Federal agency turns over bison hazing documents

20 hours ago • Associated Press

HELENA — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has turned over its analysis on the effects of hazing bison back into Yellowstone National Parks on threatened grizzly bears after a conservation group sued for the information.

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy dismissed the Alliance for the Wild Rockies' lawsuit on Monday and awarded the alliance \$3,531 in attorney fees and costs.

Attorney Rebecca Smith of the Public Interest Defense Center filed a complaint on behalf of the conservation group in May asking Molloy to rule that the federal agency acted illegally by not responding and by failing to produce the requested documents.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals earlier this year rejected the alliance's request to block the annual spring hazing of bison from Montana into the park to make way for cattle to graze. The alliance says helicopters used to haze the bison cause grizzlies, a federally protected species, to panic and flee from their habitat.

In April, the alliance requested the file for the Fish and Wildlife Service's analysis on the effects of the hazing on grizzly bears in the area. The group asked for the final analysis and backing documents, along with all correspondence and meeting minutes regarding the analysis.

An employee with the federal agency acknowledged receiving the letter but the agency never made a determination on the request or handed over the documents, even though the federal law requires a government agency to make a determination on the request within 20 business days, according to the complaint.

The law allows a 10-day extension in some cases, but the federal agency failed to meet that deadline, too, the complaint says.

On Aug. 2, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Smith filed notice that the Fish and Wildlife Service had complied with the document request and that both sides were asking Molloy to dismiss the case.

Bison migrate from the park to lower elevations in Montana in the winter, but a federal-state agreement requires their return to the park in the spring. Montana officials, led by the state Department of Livestock, have hazed bison from public and private land in southwestern Montana since 2000.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/federal-agency-turns-over-bison-hazing-documents/article_c5f51da5-f2a9-5baf-98a5-92b82a2c4ea0.html#ixzz2bI9uhSCk

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Aug 7, 2013

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms between noon and 4pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Calm wind becoming west northwest 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. West northwest wind 5 to 7 mph becoming calm.

Thursday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. East wind around 6 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. East southeast wind 5 to 7 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 67. Light and variable wind becoming south southwest around 6 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. Light and variable wind.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, August 8, 2013

SNAKE FIRE UPDATE

August 7, 2013 – 9:00 p.m.



Reported: Monday afternoon, August 5, 2013

Location: Three miles east of Yellowstone's South Entrance Station along the boundary of the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Yellowstone National Park

Cause: Lightning

Current Size: Estimated at 200 acres – Zero percent contained

Resources: One Type 3 helicopter, one Type 6 wildland engine, and 25 personnel

Overview:

The Snake Fire was discovered shortly after 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, burning in heavy timber about three miles east of the South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park along the boundary with the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The area had received numerous lightning strikes last Wednesday, and one of these strikes smoldered and came to life Monday starting the fire. Firefighting efforts are being jointly managed by the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park.

Wednesday's Activities:

Modest fire activity was seen today by lookouts on the ground as well as from the air. The fire continued to burn with minimal growth inside the 200 acre perimeter. Additional firefighters were placed at the Mount Sheridan Lookout to get another good view to monitor the fire.

Thursday's Weather Forecast:

Mostly sunny skies with a chance of scattered afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms, with light winds, with a high around 70 and a minimum relative humidity which could drop to 20 percent. The Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park are all in "High" fire danger.

Thursday's Planned Firefighting Actions:

The Type 3 fire management team will be in place Thursday morning and working from Grant Village. Fire crews will be developing plans for structure protection around the park's South Entrance for future use if ever needed. Monitoring of fire will remain the primary focus again Thursday.

Impacts to visitors and area residents:

All roads leading into and through the parks and the forest and all campgrounds, lodging, stores, and visitor services are open. The fire poses no threat to visitors or area residents. At times a tall smoke column rising above the fire may be seen from locations a very long distance away from the fire.

Some trails and backcountry campsites near Yellowstone's South Entrance have been temporarily closed. A map of the closure area is posted to the fire's InciWeb site.

Public and firefighter safety is always the first concern and priority. The Greater Yellowstone area is a fire adapted ecosystem. Fire plays an important role in maintaining the health of this area's wildlife habitat and vegetation. Fires are managed to protect people and property, enhance the area's natural resources where appropriate, and safely and effectively use available firefighting resources.

Updated information:

The next fire update will be prepared and distributed by Noon Thursday, August 8. Updates will be posted online at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3600/>.



Doug Madsen provides Fire Extinguisher Training to YCR staff as part of the YCR Safety Academy held last week. Pictured: Doug Madsen (left), Staffan Peterson (center)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brenda Taylor, wife of long-term volunteer Ralph Taylor, passed away on August 1st after a long illness.

Ralph was a most capable and hardworking volunteer for the OFVEC, OF patrol, resource management and the geology office for more than 15 years, performing a variety of duties including geyser monitoring and thermal basin cleanup. Ralph was a past recipient of the IMR Herzog award.

Ralph's address is 9041 Hollywood Court, West Chester, OH 45069.

Donations may be made to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, 1241 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. It should be specified that donations are to honor Brenda K. Taylor, wife of Ralph Taylor.

Please contact Charissa Reid (Charissa_Reid@nps.gov or yellowstonemcc@gmail.com) to schedule the Mammoth Community Center Classroom 2 and/or the gym.

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From **August 5- Aug 9th** you may notice some interesting photography equipment being used around the park. **Google Street View** will be here photographing Yellowstone's trails and roadways this week using a 360 degree camera in a backpack and on a car (see images). You can see some examples of the final products at the following link: <https://www.google.com/maps/views/home?gl=us>
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**Pilates 5:30pm-6:30pm
Yoga 6:45pm-7:45pm**

...And don't forget to visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes! (Parents-registration for Fall dance classes ends soon!)

IN THE PRESS

Yellowstone lets fire burn, closer blazes battled

August 8, 2013

Five wildfires are burning in north-west Wyoming, several of which added considerable acreage from Tuesday into Wednesday morning.

The Snake Fire in Yellowstone National Park, the Green, Kendall Mountain, Packer Creek fires on the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Hardluck Fire on the Shoshone National Forest make up the list of those burning.

Yellowstone's Snake Fire, the park's first major blaze of the year, jumped from 40 acres Tuesday morning to 190 acres by the same time Wednesday. The lightning-ignited fire was burning in heavy timber 2 to 3 miles east of the park's South Entrance, just south of the Snake River.

Because it doesn't threaten buildings or other park infrastructure, Yellowstone officials are allowing the fire to burn, spokesman Al Nash said.

On the Bridger-Teton, firefighters are aggressively battling the 401-acre Packer Creek Fire. The blaze, about 22

miles north of Daniel Junction and near ranchland, was 40 percent contained as of Wednesday. Resources assigned to Packer Creek, which has cost more than \$1 million to date, include 226 firefighters, two helicopters, 11 engines and a bulldozer.

The Green Fire, estimated at 540 acres and the Kendall Mountain Fire, about 75 acres, both continued to burn in the Upper Green River Valley.

About 50 firefighters are assigned to the Green Fire, which is spotting and torching trees just to the north of Green River Lakes.

To the east of Moran, in wilderness land in the Shoshone, is the Hardluck Fire, Wyoming's largest at 12,976 acres.

Evening reports for the blazes that detailed growth during the daytime Wednesday were not released by press time.

The fire danger throughout Jackson Hole and in Yellowstone National Park is now "high." No special restrictions are in effect around Jackson.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:26 am MDT Aug 8, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2pm. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 71. Light and variable wind becoming west around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 9pm. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. Calm wind becoming east southeast around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Friday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. Calm wind becoming southwest around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. South southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest around 6 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. Southwest wind around 6 mph becoming calm in the evening.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, August 9, 2013

NEW FIRE START



A new fire start in the Druid Peak area was observed by the Mt. Washburn fire lookout this morning. The area is currently receiving some light rain. Four to five lightning strikes were observed in the area yesterday. The helicopter from the Snake fire will be launching soon to give a better location and size-up. More info to follow!

SNAKE FIRE UPDATE

August 8, 2013 – 8:15 p.m.

Reported: Monday afternoon, August 5, 2013

Location: Three miles east of Yellowstone's South Entrance Station along the boundary of the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Yellowstone National Park

Cause: Lightning

Current Size: Estimated at 200 acres – Zero percent contained

Resources: One Type 3 helicopter, one Type 6 wildland engine, and 25 personnel

Overview: The Snake Fire was discovered shortly after 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, burning in heavy timber about three miles east of the South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park along the boundary with the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The area had received numerous lightning strikes last Wednesday, and one of these strikes smoldered and came to life Monday starting the fire. Firefighting efforts are being jointly managed by the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park.

Thursday's Activities: There were no significant changes in fire behavior today as cooler, wet weather reached the fire area late in the afternoon. Isolated torching was observed in pockets of fuel within the fire perimeter. Work was completed on structure protection of a patrol cabin and the crew came out of the backcountry today.

Friday's Weather Forecast: There is a chance of isolated showers and thunderstorms with light to moderate winds, a high near 70 degrees, and a minimum relative humidity of 25 percent. The Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park are all in "High" fire danger.

Friday's Planned Firefighting Actions: Due to minimal fire movement and activity, all but two trails in the closure area will re-open Friday morning. Monitoring of fire will remain the primary focus again Friday. Fire crews will continue their structure protection efforts at a backcountry patrol cabin, and will continue developing plans for structure protection around the park's South Entrance for future use if needed.

Impacts to visitors and area residents: All roads leading into and through the parks and the forest and all campgrounds, lodging, stores, and visitor services are open. The fire poses no threat to visitors or area residents. At times a tall smoke column rising above the fire may be seen from locations a very long distance away from the fire.

Closed: The Snake River trail south of the Basin Creek Cut-Off and the Snake River Trail Junction to the junction with the South Boundary Trail west of campsite 8C2 and the Harebell Cut-Off Trail north of Harebell Patrol Cabin to its junction with the Snake River Trail. **Restricted:** Several previously closed backcountry campsites are available for walk-in permits, but are not available for reservation. Additional details and a map of the closure area are posted to the fire's InciWeb site. Public and firefighter safety is always the first concern and priority. The Greater Yellowstone area is a fire adapted ecosystem. Fire plays an important role in maintaining the health of this area's wildlife habitat and vegetation. Fires are managed to protect people and property, enhance the area's natural resources where appropriate, and safely and effectively use available firefighting resources.

Updated information:

The next fire update will be prepared and distributed by Noon Thursday, August 9. Updates will be posted online at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3600/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The curatorial staff created and installed a temporary exhibit in the new Lake Hotel display cases. Museum technician Deb Guernsey and interns Maddie Graham (Stanford) and Caitlin Gill (MSU) completed the project on Tuesday. Stop by the hotel to check it out!

Brenda Taylor, wife of long-term volunteer Ralph Taylor, passed away on August 1st after a long illness.

Ralph was a most capable and hardworking volunteer for the OFVEC, OF patrol, resource management and the geology office for more than 15 years, performing a variety of duties including geyser monitoring and thermal basin cleanup. Ralph was a past recipient of the IMR Herzog award.

Ralph's address is 9041 Hollywood Court, West Chester, OH 45069.

Donations may be made to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, 1241 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. It should be specified that donations are to honor Brenda K. Taylor, wife of Ralph Taylor.

Parents, there are just a few days left to register for **Fall dance classes** at the Mammoth Community Center! Visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes. Contact Amanda Stover at 317-416-3811 for a registration form and drop it in the mail by August 12. Classes begin next week!

Please contact Charissa Reid (Charissa_Reid@nps.gov or yellowstonemcc@gmail.com) to schedule the **Mammoth Community Center** Classroom 2 and/or the gym. And please send an email to joinus@mammothcommunity.org if you are interested in receiving the newsletter, updates and news about

what's going on in our community and at the Mammoth Community Center. Thanks for helping us update our mailing list!

- - - - -

All are welcome to attend the **Employee Safety Committee Meeting** scheduled for 10:30 am Wednesday August 14th at the West Yellowstone Visitor Center Conference Room.

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

If you would like to listen to the meeting via conference call, use the following number:

Toll free number 888 930-9220

Participant Code 1885448

- - - - -

The **Employee Safety Committee and Livingston Healthcare** have teamed up to offer the following hands-on Office Ergonomics session here in Yellowstone. If interested, please sign up here: P:\Safety Committee (Employee)\Wellness\Office_Ergonomics. There are 50 slots available for the session! Please obtain supervisory approval prior to attendance.

Do you sit at a desk for the majority of each day? If so, this session is for YOU. Join Physical Therapist, Bill Lewis, from Livingston Healthcare as he provides hands-on instruction to help office workers identify some basic issues they are faced with and take steps to reduce the risk of injury (i.e. stretching, taking breaks).

August 21, 2013 noon-12:45

Mammoth Community Center Gym

- - - - -

Blood Drive, Monday, August 12, 1-5:00PM at the Mammoth Community Center. You can either schedule an appt online or call or email Kathy Cunningham at 344-2455 (Kathy_Cunningham@nps.gov). Any questions, please feel free to contact her. Donations of snacks or drinks are always appreciated also.

Give the gift of life.....Donate blood.

- - - - -

Thanks for supporting Yoga, Pilates and Dance classes in our community!

Hard to believe, but we've been in the Mammoth Community Center Studio for one year. Help us celebrate by participating in FREE YOGA AND PILATES CLASSES, Friday, August 16!

Pilates 5:30pm-6:30pm

Yoga 6:45pm-7:45pm

...And don't forget to visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes!

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Yellowstone YCC students interacted with Envirothon 2013 students at Old Faithful on Wednesday to show and tell them about the work YCC students do and invited them to apply next year.

Envirothon is a week-long annual high-school-aged student competition held throughout both the U.S. and Canada every summer during July or August. This year's event was held at Montana State University in Bozeman from August 4-9 and included a "field day" portion at Yellowstone's Upper Geyser Basin.

The North American Envirothon seeks to expose students to diverse environmental issues, ecosystems, and topography. Teams from participating states and Canadian provinces, who have won their state or provincial event, compete for recognition and scholarships by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. The teams, each consisting of five members, work to demonstrate their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management at five training/testing stations.

IN THE PRESS

A View From The Overlook: A Few Days In Yellowstone

National Parks Traveler, August 7, 2013

<http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2013/08/view-overlook-few-days-yellowstone23710>

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Aug 9, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly between 11am and 4pm. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. Southeast wind 6 to 11 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. South southeast wind around 6 mph becoming southwest in the evening.

Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Calm wind becoming southwest around 6 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. Calm wind becoming west southwest 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. West southwest wind around 6 mph becoming calm in the evening.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, August 12, 2013

Snake Fire Update

Reported: Monday afternoon, August 5, 2013

Location: Three miles east of Yellowstone's South Entrance Station along the boundary of the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Yellowstone National Park

Cause: Lightning

Current Size: Estimated at 200 acres – Zero percent contained

Resources: One Type 3 helicopter, one Type 6 wildland engine, and 26 personnel



Overview: The Snake Fire was discovered shortly after 4 p.m. on August 5. The fire is burning in pockets of heavy timber about three miles east of the South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park along the boundary with the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park. The area received numerous lightning strikes July 31, and one of these strikes smoldered and came to life, starting the fire. Firefighting efforts are being jointly managed by the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and Yellowstone National Park.

Planned Actions: Cooler, wetter weather has led to reduced fire activity on the Snake Fire. Firefighters are still monitoring the fire behavior, and will bring in additional firefighting resources if needed. Crews completed plans for structure protection around the park's South Entrance and Flagg Ranch, in the event those locations are threatened in the future by a wildfire.

Public and firefighter safety is always the first concern and priority. The Greater Yellowstone area is a fire-adapted ecosystem. Fire plays an important role in maintaining the health of this area's wildlife habitat and vegetation. Fires are managed to protect people and property, enhance the area's natural resources where appropriate, and safely and effectively use available firefighting resources.

Impacts to visitors and area residents: All roads leading into and through the parks and the forest and all campgrounds, lodging, stores, and visitor services are open. The fire poses no threat to visitors or area residents. At times a smoke column rising above the fire may be visible.

Closures:

- The Snake River trail south of the Basin Creek Cut-Off and the Snake River Trail Junction to the junction with the South Boundary Trail.
- The Harebell Cut-Off Trail north of Harebell Patrol Cabin to its junction with the Snake River Trail.
- Campsite 8C4 is closed to all use until further notice.

Restricted Campsites: Several previously closed backcountry campsites are available for walk-in permits, but are not available for reservation. Additional details and a map of the closure area are posted to the fire's InciWeb site.

Updated information: Fire information will be updated when significant activity occurs on the fire. Updates, maps and photos are also posted online at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3600/>.

Druid Fire Update: The Druid Fire is estimated to be approximately 2 acres in size and is located approximately .2 miles NW of the Druid Peak Repeater site.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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August 21, 2013 noon-12:45
Mammoth Community Center Gym

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Pilates 5:30pm-6:30pm
Yoga 6:45pm-7:45pm

...And don't forget to visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes!

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Call for photos of 1988 fires in Yellowstone

The West Yellowstone Economic Development Council, in collaboration with the Yellowstone Historic Center and Hebgen Basin Fire District, is sponsoring an event recognizing the 25th anniversary of the wildland fires that swept through Yellowstone in 1988.

The event, set for Monday, Sept. 2, will feature a free showing of the IMAX film, "Wild Fires" starting at 3 p.m. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served for program attendees at the Union Pacific Dining Lodge in West Yellowstone from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and evening presentations are also on the event schedule for the evening.

WYED member Clyde Seely is trying to collect photos and slides taken during the 1988 fires. WYED would like to compile the photos and slides into a slideshow to be shown simultaneously with a film on the evening of the event on Sept. 2.

If you have photos of the 1988 fires and would like to share them for the event, they can be dropped off at Three Bear Lodge, located at 217 Yellowstone Ave. in West Yellowstone. You can also e-mail digital copies of photos to clayde@threebearlodge.com.

Please label photos or slides with names and contact information so that photos can be returned to owners following the event.

Photos may also be used for displays related to the 1988 fires at the event on Sept. 2. Contact Clyde Seely at 406-640-1700 with any questions or for more information.

IN THE PRESS

Montana author shares historic tales of adventurous travels in Yellowstone

August 11, 2013 12:00 am • [By RUFFIN PREVOST](#) www.yellowstonegate.com

Visitors to Yellowstone National Park typically go home with a story or two to share about wildlife, wilderness or wide-open spaces. But with modern vehicles, hotels and even smartphones and laptops, their experiences are usually a far cry from the frontier adventures of the park's earliest visitors.

Those first tourists entered a park that lacked not only hotels and restaurants, but boardwalks and even roads.

For Montana writer and historian M. Mark Miller, who will sign books this weekend and next at Old Faithful Inn, sharing those tales of early travel in Yellowstone is a passionate pursuit that has deep personal roots.

Miller recalls hearing stories from his grandmother about her 1909 trip to the park, as well as her recollections of Miller's great-grandfather's work surveying the park's northern boundary in 1882.

"I often try to imagine what scenes in the park would have been like 100 or 150 years ago," said Miller, author of "Adventures in Yellowstone: Early Travelers Tell Their Tales."

"What was it like to walk to the geyser cone of Old Faithful and peer into its bowels?" Miller said.

"What was it like catch a fish and cook it in a hot spring without taking it off the hook?"

Miller, a former newspaper reporter and journalism professor who lives in Bozeman, has collected, curated and annotated more than 300 written accounts from early travelers in Yellowstone.

He posts new and updated stories on his blog (many of which are reprinted at YellowstoneGate.com), and he speaks regularly as part of the Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau, recounting the adventures of women who visited the park in the nineteenth century.

That includes women like Emma Cowan, who was captured by Nez Perce Indians in Yellowstone in 1877, and Mary Wylie, who in 1880 crossed Yellowstone Park as a member of the first tourist party to traverse Yellowstone on wheels, traveling from Mammoth Hot Springs to the Lower Geyser Basin in a covered wagon.

Miller recalls his grandmother's trick for handling a monotonous chore when riding in a wagon.

“Grandma said she would hang a bucket of cream under the wagon axle in the morning where the rocking motion would turn it to butter by evening,” he said.

Despite his love of Yellowstone, Miller gets into the park less often than you might expect.

“I actually spend more time in libraries and archives than I do in Yellowstone Park,” Miller said. “Like many people, I usually visit Yellowstone Park when friends and relatives visit.”

Miller typically makes it into Yellowstone at least a couple of times each summer to sign books at Old Faithful Inn. The hotel has a rhythm “governed by Old Faithful’s 90-minute cycle,” Miller said, and there are always “a few people who were eager to talk about the stories in my book.”

“Every time I speak or sign books, people share personal stories,” he said.

“Some of the stories are unique,” Miller said, like the ones shared by a man who drove one of the original yellow tour buses several decades ago.

“He said one day, the brakes went out and he took his passengers on a rollicking ride down a mountain,” Miller said. “He also said he saw more than 30 grizzlies at a dump in Hayden Valley.”

Even though modern-day visitors may never enjoy the same experiences as the park’s first travelers, they still cherish their time in Yellowstone, Miller said.

“People know that their Yellowstone experiences are special and are eager to share them. Uniques experiences like seeing geysers, waterfalls and bears get etched into people’s memories and they like to talk about them,” he said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/montana-author-shares-historic-tales-of-adventurous-travels-in-yellowstone/article_98088e67-b17e-568f-9059-7374ca16ad9b.html#ixzz2bls72Fsj

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Aug 12, 2013

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Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. Southwest wind around 7 mph becoming east after midnight.

Tuesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 73. South southeast wind around 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tuesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce small

hail and gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. North northwest wind 6 to 13 mph becoming south southeast after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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Tuesday, August 13, 2013



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Pilates 5:30pm-6:30pm

Yoga 6:45pm-7:45pm

...And don't forget to visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes!

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

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

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IN THE PRESS

Fatal Attraction: Georgia man's love of Montana ends in tragedy

Published: Mon, 08/12/2013 - 8:50pm | Macy Ricketts - Enterprise Staff Writer

Austin Parker's hair was standing on end.

Standing atop the craggy, nearly-11,000-foot-high Electric Peak in Yellowstone National Park, Parker could see everything — for miles in every direction — including the black, billowing storm clouds that threatened to spit bolts of lightning at his exposed position on the rocky peak. In that moment, the static-charged air swirling around Electric Peak was — literally — electric.

Austin called Aaron.

“Aaron? Get on Google Earth and look up that other trail. I’m on the summit and I’m making my way down now,” the 23-year-old said shakily as the wind whipped around him.

Aaron Davis, a 33-year-old Port St. Joe, Fla., transplant and one of Parker’s closest friends in his new Montana home, looked up the alternate route, describing to Parker where to meet up with the trail.

“I see a lake down there — does the trail take off from there?” Parker asked. “All right, man, I’m heading down there.”

After spending some time scrambling down the slopes of loose scree — broken rock fragments that accumulate from rockfalls on many high mountain peaks — Parker called Davis again at around 2:30 p.m.

“Hey, I’m going into this bowl here. I might lose cell reception,” he told Davis.

“OK ... If you’re not back in four hours, I’m calling search and rescue,” Davis replied.

An hour later, Davis called Parker.

There was no answer.

At 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., he called again.

No answer either time.

At 6:30, he called one more time.

No answer.

Davis called search and rescue.

“ (Yellowstone) prevails with this radiant, holistic beauty that defies all logical assessments of its individual parts.” – Austin Parker’s Tumblr blog, July 2

Perfect day in Gardiner

The morning of July 16 in Gardiner was brisk and clear. Twenty-three-year-old Joseph Austin Parker, known as Austin to his family, friends, co-workers and the patrons he waited on in the K-Bar eatery, left his basement apartment.

Parker — attractive, blond and athletic — was clad in the hiking gear that had become his Montana signature over the last month: a faded leather jacket, durable pants and his Indiana Jones-esque wide-brimmed hat. He carried a light day pack on his back, properly equipped with sufficient food, water, bear spray, his cell phone and his 10mm Glock, as he treaded lightly on the stairs to meet the day.

He took a breath of the early-morning, 43-degree mountain air before slipping into his beloved 1999 Mercedes.

Car named Molly

He’d made more than 200,000 miles in this baby — affectionately named Molly — traveling from his hometown of Valdosta, Ga., to Ithaca, N.Y., where he had attended Ivy League Cornell University for the past four years, countless trips between Valdosta and Atlanta, where he’d worked for SecurAmerica, and then, just three and a half weeks earlier, more miles by making the trip in Molly from Valdosta to Gardiner.

On July 16, Parker drove Molly past the scenic Roosevelt Arch and through a snapshot of Yellowstone National Park, taking in the wonders of another Montana sunrise — something he’d daydreamed about while sitting in his office in Atlanta before he had embarked on this adventure. The calm air promised another beautiful Montana day, and for today at least, Parker was free from the bustling noise of the K-Bar.

A 20-minute drive into Yellowstone put Parker at the Glen Creek trailhead, his path of choice for the 10-mile trek to the top of Electric Peak. “My greatest challenge yet,” Parker wrote of the mountain in his Tumblr blog on July 14, two days before his ascent.

Parker grabbed his gear and set off on another of his great adventures.

“I have no doubts that my move to Montana has given most people that know me pause, as it is as strange and desolate place to them as the wilds of Denali ... Having never been to this frontier, this place of natural beauty and little human interaction, one would be easily misled into believing that all that awaits me here are the twin specters of loneliness and (possibly) death.” – Austin Parker blog, July 3.

Meeting Austin

Austin Parker grew up in a classic south Georgia family in Valdosta, a town of 54,518 at the last census. The oldest of three boys, Parker graduated from Lowndes High School in 2008 and attended Georgia Tech before transferring to Cornell.

“My middle son got an athletic grant from Cornell, so I kind of negotiated a 2-for-1 deal,” Steve, Austin Parker’s father, said on the phone — sitting in his air-conditioned car and attempting to escape the suffocating summer south Georgia heat — after dropping one of his sons off at football practice.

Austin Parker majored in applied economics and management and graduated from Cornell in December 2012. In March 2013, he clinched a job as a manager-in-training with SecurAmerica LLC, a large private security firm.

He answered an online ad for a guest-room rental in Atlanta. Shortly after, he moved to the house, which belonged to Craig Mendel, a 37-year-old commercial real estate agent and Parker’s roommate during his four-month tenure.

“He was the kind of person that struck me as ‘beyond his years,’” Mendel said. “He was very thoughtful — he thought on a different level than most 23-year-olds.”

During his tenure with SecurAmerica, Parker was like any other bright, aspiring businessman.

“He would come home and make spreadsheets and charts, thinking of ways to make the company better,” Steve Parker said.

Ron Hall, a SecurAmerica human relations manager at the company’s corporate offices in Atlanta, and who served as Parker’s mentor during his time with the company, said he quickly realized Parker was “smart as a whip.”

“He’s very knowledgeable and action oriented,” Hall said. “He’s a go-getter. A very smart kid. When he got into a project, he might be at the office until anywhere from 7 to 9:30 at night. He’s fresh out of college, and he wanted to fix the world. He taught me more than I taught him.”

After a while, Parker realized the corporate world wasn’t for him.

“He’d come home from the office, and he’d be like, ‘I can do this, I can do that,’ and I’d be like, ‘Wait your turn,’ but he wouldn’t want to. His reaction was ‘Why? Why do I need to wait — why can’t it happen now?’ In a sense, he was very impatient to make his mark,” Mendel said.

“He knew what he wanted to do and who he wanted to be, in the context that it wasn’t in Atlanta,” Mendel added.

According to Steve, when Parker announced his resignation, company CEO Frank Argenbright Jr., a legendary entrepreneur who founded the company — which serves Fortune 500 Companies all over the world — in 2005,

“tried his best to keep Austin from resigning.” Still, Parker insisted. On his last day of employment, Argenbright called the company heads together and had Parker pitch his ideas on how to strengthen the company.

“That’s the kind of kid he was,” Steve said.

After saying goodbye to Atlanta, Parker made the three-and-a-half- hour drive in Molly back to Valdosta before embarking on his journey to Montana.

“He had a job, he had a place to live, all lined out,” Mendel said.

“I will be leaving Atlanta and going out to Montana to live simply for a while. Mountains and valleys and rivers and endless prairies ...Small wonder that I have long felt the call to “Go West!”. From there, the wind (and a few promising offers of employment and shelter fulfilling my dreams of sailing) should take me out to sea to sail about.” – Austin Parker blog, June 26

On to Montana

Parker’s 2,271-mile cross-country journey took him from Atlanta to South Dakota to the Beartooth Highway in Montana before he finally arrived in Gardiner. A town of 851 people, Gardiner was established in 1880 as an outpost for visitors to Yellowstone National Park. Parker used his connections with Davis, the Florida transplant — whom he had met while working for Davis’ father when he was a teenager, and who, like Parker, was drawn to the scenic landscape of Montana — to land a job at the K-Bar in Gardiner. Davis was working as a waiter at the K-Bar at the time. Parker also scored a lease from Davis on a basement apartment below the business.

“When Austin went hiking, I hadn’t spoken to him since the night before, at around 9 p.m., in his apartment,” Davis said. “He was going to bed. I stopped in to say ‘Hey, what are you up to?’ He was like, ‘I’m going to bed, going to go hike Electric Peak in the morning.’”

Davis was fishing at McConnell Landing on the Yellowstone River with some friends the next day when he saw weather approaching the Electric Peak summit.

“There was only a 20 percent chance of rain that day, but it turned out to be a 100 percent chance for him,” Davis said. “I saw the clouds (around Electric Peak), and I thought, I hope Austin’s not caught in that.”

“See the bison as they ramble across the roads, stopping up traffic of minivans and RVs for miles ... They, as a part of the more natural state of things, command and control every aspect of this place, and it only takes some ... tourist attempting to pet the wild animal ... for that brutalistic force of nature to assert itself.” – Austin Parker’s blog, July 2

Electric Peak

Electric Peak, a 10,969-foot mountain, is the tallest point in the Gallatin Range. Author Cedron Jones described it as “huge, and an anomaly — it’s over 500 feet higher than anything else in the range.”

The first ascent of Electric Peak was made in 1872 by Henry Gannett during the Hayden Survey. The first ascenders of the peak were nearly killed by lightning when they reached the summit, and experienced electrical discharges on their hands and in their hair, hence the name Electric Peak, according to summitpost.org.

“Electric Peak, while primarily sedimentary, has intruded igneous rock formations that were once molten into the sedimentary rocks,” Yellowstone National Park geologist Hank Heasler said.

“Those rocks — separate from the Yellowstone Volcano — are relatively higher in iron and magnesium. Any high isolated peak, whether it be the Grand Teton or Mount Moran or Granite Peak, tends to get hit by lightning a lot more. You add to that the iron associated with the Absaroka volcanics, and you have a chance for significant lightning strikes. You gotta be darn careful if you are out there,” Heasler added.

There are two standard routes to the top — the Glen Creek Trail, which follows the south face and southeast ridge of the mountain, which Parker ascended, and the Beattie Gulch trail, which ascends up the mountain’s north flank, up to the west summit.

For even strong hikers, it’s a climb — Glen Creek Trail’s 10-mile trek to the peak requires a bit of hiking before even reaching the base of the mountain. It’s physically taxing, too — there are 6,000 feet of elevation gained from the Glen Creek trailhead to the peak.

“Electric Peak is a peak like many peaks in the area — it doesn’t necessarily have a trail to the top,” Yellowstone National Park chief ranger Tim Reid said. “It’s important to take the path of least resistance and stay within your comfort zone.”

Ivan Kowski, Yellowstone’s backcountry program manager, thought back to the last time he had summited Electric Peak.

“It’s a pretty steady climb — once you get above the tree line, you get up into the scree-rocky slope section, and hikers have placed rock cairns up there to identify the easiest route. There’s a couple of places where you have to climb up and over some cliffy areas.

“It’s not too difficult, but there’s some exposure. If you were to fall, it could be a bad thing,” Kowski said.

Going up the mountain requires hikers to get as early of a start as possible, so they are back in lower elevations by, at the latest, noon, before afternoon thunderstorms roll in, Kowski said. Because the 20-mile, round-trip hike can be lengthy for some hikers, many camp along the nearby Gardiner River to shorten the distance.

Reid recommended standard hiking gear for those planning to summit — water, food, bear spray, layered clothing, and a map and a compass, regardless of if you have a GPS unit or not. He encouraged people to hike with a partner. He also recommended hikers stop in at the backcountry offices in the park and get information. The weather in the area can be a major factor, he said, since it can often be unpredictable.

“The weather is a big issue. There’s often an afternoon buildup with thunder and lightning. It’s good to leave early and be off the slopes early to mid-afternoon,” Reid said.

He also encouraged hikers to follow the basic golden rule of lightning.

“While there’s no guarantees of where lightning will or won’t strike, be in lower elevations when it’s there,” Reid said. “Don’t be the highest elevation object in the path of the storm.”

Searching for Austin

At approximately 7:15 p.m., 45 minutes after he had placed his initial distress call, Aaron Davis heard his phone ring.

The Park Service had sent out a Search and Rescue team to find Austin Parker.

Davis explained to them what had happened before Parker stopped picking up his phone.

Parker had summited Electric Peak, he said, but there was a thunderstorm quickly rolling in.

On the summit, Austin told Davis, he was experiencing static discharge, much like what the Hayden Party experienced when they first discovered the mountain. Realizing he needed to get out of the open, Parker called Davis and had him look up an alternate route to descend the mountain.

“When Austin hiked Mount Washburn (another peak in the Yellowstone area), he went up one trail and down another. I think it was that he didn’t like going back over his same footsteps. He was like, ‘I came here to explore new places,’” Davis explained.

“He was nervous and scared, but he wasn’t a rookie — he’d hiked in the Adirondacks in New York, he’d been out here (in Montana) before. I wasn’t too concerned about him — initially,” Davis added.

With that information and Davis’ description of where he thought Parker was — based on what Parker had told him over the phone — the search for Parker began.

“But there are people here (in Montana). Fine people, of a breed that no longer exists in the outside world. Montana seems to be where people go when they are fed up, and have had enough of the outside world, and wish to escape it. These words (to a careful reader) ought to ring true as ones that I myself gave as a reason for leaving my proper life in Atlanta and ending up here ... This place, it would seem, attracts the very people that have similar frustrations and disillusionment as I do with the rest of the world. As a result, I am closer than I have maybe ever been to finding people of a like mind to mine.” – Austin Parker’s blog, July 3

Family ties

Steve Parker was at a doctor’s appointment with another of his sons when his phone rang, 24 hours after Austin had gone missing.

It was his sister-in-law, Charlotte Parker.

“Austin’s missing,” was all she said.

Back at home, Steve started communicating with the park rangers who were looking for Parker.

At dusk on Tuesday, rangers called off the search due to darkness, a routine procedure.

They were back on the site early the next morning, searching by foot and by helicopter for any sign of Parker.

After searching for all of Wednesday — until lack of light once again prohibited their search — there was still no sign of Parker.

Thursday midmorning, in good light, searchers in an overhead helicopter spotted something — Parker's backpack and jacket on a scree slope near the summit, in an impossible location of the mountain.

Sad news

Eric Morey, a park ranger who was actively involved in the search for Parker, had been exchanging texts and phone calls with Steve throughout the entire search for his son. He texted Steve the news, but said that because of the steep location of Parker's gear, the helicopter crew would have to go back and pick up search and rescue personnel to search for Austin, which would take about 30 minutes.

Steve began frantically texting Morey for updates.

All he got was one simple reply: "Stand by."

Minutes later, Steve's phone rang. It was Morey.

"Mr. Parker, are you sitting down?" Morey asked.

"Your mind plays tricks on you," Steve later said. "What I heard was, 'Austin's sitting down.'"

Then, Steve heard something no parent should ever have to hear.

"We have found your son," Morey said. "He is deceased."

"There really is something to being able to step out your door and walk to one of the most beautiful places on earth ... the sheer magnitude of the place, with only precious few spots of human intervention to delineate it from its original, permanent state, boggles the mind." – Austin Parker's blog, July 2

Search and Rescue personnel found Austin Parker's remains at the bottom of a scree cliff. His jacket and backpack had been torn away from his tumbling body and shredded to pieces when Parker fell 300 feet.

According to Steve, Austin died from massive head trauma and was dead before he even hit the bottom.

Search and Rescue team members who retrieved Parker's body were dodging falling rock from the slopes above, hinting at the conditions Parker was dealing with during his hurried descent off the mountain.

Rescuers managed to retrieve Parker's backpack and gun, both which were badly damaged, but couldn't get to his jacket, which was at an inaccessible point on the slopes far above Austin's body.

High above, a lone mountain goat watched the rescuers work.

According to Morey, during Parker's fateful descent of the mountain, he had bailed off the face of the ridge to get out of the lightning around him.

"He lost his way and went to the left of the trail, where he fell," Morey said.

"The Park Service did everything humanly possible to find Austin alive," Steve said.

"The tops of the mountains are remarkably navigable thanks to the monumental engineering task that it must have required to construct (Beartooth) highway. It gives a uniquely American feeling, one of humanistic triumph over the wilds of nature in even its most desolate places." – Austin Parker's blog, June 26

On an August day in the muggy heat of Valdosta, Austin Parker's best and lifelong friend, Hunter Colson, lifted the bandages of his new tattoo to see how it was healing.

The tattoo, on Colson's arm, was of Austin's signature hat, and a gun, a cross, and his initials.

"Austin was the best person I've met in my entire life," said Colson, 23, who became friends with Parker when they were 8 years old.

"He's the kind of person that if I had a \$1 million to my name in cash, I could leave him alone in the room with it for five days, and when I came back, all of the money would still be there. There's not many people like that," Colson said.

Colson's father died 10 months to the day before Parker's fall.

"Austin was the first one there for me. He was the reason I got through it ... He called me within an hour of the news. He was crying as hard as I was. I would have never made it through without him."

"Do not fear. I must always return to my roots, my family, my friends, and other loved ones — because it is you that allows me to persevere when no one else thinks that I can do it or make it. You are, and will remain, my touchstones, beacons in stormy seas, and cool respites in the blistering heat that life can at times force us to endure. That fact will never change ... I love and respect each of you, and I will see you again." – Austin Parker's blog, June 26

Remembering Austin

Steve Parker fought back tears as he remembered his oldest son's tenacity and compassion. Three weeks after he got the call telling him his son was dead, on this particular Georgia Tuesday, the Parker family was trying their best to live life as normal.

“It’s been a pretty rough day today,” Steve said. “I don’t think I’ll ever have a good day again, to tell you the truth.

“This kid would light up a room the moment he walked in. I know a lot of people say that about their kids, but with Austin, it was true. He died way too soon. I would have jumped off that cliff a million times to save him.”

Steve pictured what it would have been like when Austin reached the summit of Electric Peak in the afternoon of July 16.

“You have to imagine — all he heard was the wind. He probably realized what an insignificant speck he was in this world, surrounded by God’s creation,” he said.

“He said to me on the phone the day before he went hiking, ‘Dad, this is heaven to me.’ Little did I know, one day later, he would be in heaven.”

“The (Beartooth)highway launches straight into the sky, unfurling into an expansive valley floor with mountains that seem to support the heavens themselves ... an intricate series of switchbacks leads you straight up into that sacred hall of the gods on high, straight to the top of the very mountains that seemed impassible mere moments before ... I have experienced a life-changing event that is indelibly marked on my soul.

“It is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen.” – Austin Parker’s blog, June 26

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:26 am MDT Aug 13, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce small hail, gusty winds, and heavy rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 71. South wind 5 to 9 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce small hail, gusty winds, and heavy rain. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. North northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. South wind 5 to 14 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Wednesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. West wind 5 to 9 mph becoming calm after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 76. Calm wind becoming west around 6 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. West wind 5 to 7 mph becoming southeast 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, August 14, 2013

Wildland fire crews are investigating a report of smoke on the Promontory on the southeast side of Yellowstone Lake, where lightning strikes were heavy with yesterday afternoon's storms. More details will be provided soon.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Radio Station Report: Sunday, August 11, the FM radio stations rebroadcast from Bunsen Peak - KMTN (105.5 from Jackson) & KEMC (104.9 from Billings) were taken off the air, so that NPS Telecommunications personnel can replace the current equipment shed on top of Bunsen. The deconstruction of the current shed and construction of a new structure will take until sometime in October to complete.

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We have a new transmitter ordered for KXLB, in hopes of improving the reception, but it has been slow in arriving. It will be installed as soon as we receive it from the supplier.

Thanks for your patience with this process.

Please contact Charissa Reid (Charissa_Reid@nps.gov or yellowstonemcc@gmail.com) to schedule the **Mammoth Community Center** Classroom 2 and/or the gym. And please send an email to joinus@mammothcommunity.org if you are interested in receiving the newsletter, updates and news about what's going on in our community and at the Mammoth Community Center. Thanks for helping us update our mailing list!

Thanks for supporting Yoga, Pilates and Dance classes in our community!

Hard to believe, but we've been in the Mammoth Community Center Studio for one year. Help us celebrate by participating in FREE YOGA AND PILATES CLASSES, Friday, August 16!

Pilates 5:30pm-6:30pm

Yoga 6:45pm-7:45pm

...And don't forget to visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes!

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

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

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The Loons of Yellowstone:

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

Who: Vincent Spagnuolo, M.L.A
Biodiversity Research Institute

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

Where: YCR Conference Room

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

- - - - -

Thanks to all who participated in the **Wellness Incentive Program** during the month of July! Names have been drawn from among those who participated in the program. The following employees will receive an award for their participation.

Jenny Hill-Admin
Peggy Hall-RVP
Andrea Eide-REYP
Dylan Corbin-REYP
Sally Hens-RVP

Full Wellness Incentive Program program details can be found at <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. Check out the updates to the program that took effect July 1st! As always, all employees are encouraged to participate. Certification forms for the month of August are due to Stacey Gunther by September 5th.

New Wellness Resources for employees: The Mayo Clinic Embody Newsletter as well as the Mayo Clinic Guide to Self-Care will be distributed to your work areas soon. The newsletter is a monthly resource that contains short articles about health information. The Guide to Self-Care is a book that contains information on 300 common

health concerns and conditions. Both are put together by a host of physicians and health care professionals at Mayo Clinic.

Also consider accessing the free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Topics can be tailored to your health interests. Sign up at <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health-information/> scroll down to Free E Newsletter and click sign up now. Stay tuned for additional Wellness Resources from Mayo Clinic coming in the near future.

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The **Employee Safety Committee and Livingston Healthcare** have teamed up to offer the following hands-on Office Ergonomics session here in Yellowstone. If interested, please sign up here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Office Ergonomics](#). There are 50 slots available for the session! Please obtain supervisory approval prior to attendance.

Do you sit at a desk for the majority of each day? If so, this session is for YOU. Join Physical Therapist, Bill Lewis, from Livingston Healthcare as he provides hands-on instruction to help office workers identify some basic issues they are faced with and take steps to reduce the risk of injury (i.e. stretching, taking breaks).

August 21, 2013 noon-12:45

Mammoth Community Center Gym

- - - - -

Call for photos of 1988 fires in Yellowstone:

The West Yellowstone Economic Development Council, in collaboration with the Yellowstone Historic Center and Hebgen Basin Fire District, is sponsoring an event recognizing the 25th anniversary of the wildland fires that swept through Yellowstone in 1988.

The event, set for Monday, Sept. 2, will feature a free showing of the IMAX film, "Wild Fires" starting at 3 p.m. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served for program attendees at the Union Pacific Dining Lodge in West Yellowstone from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and evening presentations are also on the event schedule for the evening. WYED member Clyde Seely is trying to collect photos and slides taken during the 1988 fires. WYED would like to compile the photos and slides into a slideshow to be shown simultaneously with a film on the evening of the event on Sept. 2.

If you have photos of the 1988 fires and would like to share them for the event, they can be dropped off at Three Bear Lodge, located at 217 Yellowstone Ave. in West Yellowstone. You can also e-mail digital copies of photos to clyde@threebearlodge.com. Please label photos or slides with names and contact information so that photos can be returned to owners following the event. Photos may also be used for displays related to the 1988 fires at the event on Sept. 2. Contact Clyde Seely at 406-640-1700 with any questions or for more information.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:41 am MDT Aug 14, 2013

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Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 10pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 75. Light and variable wind becoming west 5 to 9 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West wind 7 to 9 mph becoming south southeast after midnight.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 76. South southeast wind 7 to 9 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38. West southwest wind 5 to 9 mph becoming light south after midnight.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, August 16, 2013

Expect a fire update later today



At least the smoke provides a beautiful sunrise (photo by Lori Wilkinson)



Alder Fire on 08/15/2013 (photo by Dan Hottle)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Pilates 5:30pm-6:30pm

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...And don't forget to visit <http://amandastover.weebly.com> for a complete schedule of classes!

Monday morning, August 19th between 5:00 and 6:45 a contractor will begin moving 12x60-foot modular units from Stephen's Creek to Mammoth. The 5 modular units will serve as a temporary visitor center during construction on the Albright Visitor Center. Temporary road closures and delays of up to 1/2 hour can be expected between Gardiner and Mammoth. There is a possibility that some of the units will be moved between **8:30 and 10:00** and then again on Tuesday morning **August 20th between 5:00 and 6:45**. Questions or Concerns call Vickie's office or cell 307 250 7483.

Please contact Charissa Reid (Charissa_Reid@nps.gov or yellowstonemcc@gmail.com) to schedule the **Mammoth Community Center** Classroom 2 and/or the gym. And please send an email to joinus@mammothcommunity.org if you are interested in receiving the newsletter, updates and news about what's going on in our community and at the Mammoth Community Center. Thanks for helping us update our mailing list!

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Dylan Corbin-REYP
Sally Hens-RVP

Full Wellness Incentive Program program details can be found at <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. Check out the updates to the program that took effect July 1st! As always, all employees are encouraged to participate. Certification forms for the month of August are due to Stacey Gunther by September 5th.

New Wellness Resources for employees: The Mayo Clinic Embody Newsletter as well as the Mayo Clinic Guide to Self-Care will be distributed to your work areas soon. The newsletter is a monthly resource that contains short articles about health information. The Guide to Self-Care is a book that contains information on 300 common health concerns and conditions. Both are put together by a host of physicians and health care professionals at Mayo Clinic.

Also consider accessing the free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Topics can be tailored to your health interests. Sign up at <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health-information/> scroll down to Free E Newsletter and click sign up now. Stay tuned for additional Wellness Resources from Mayo Clinic coming in the near future.

The **Employee Safety Committee and Livingston Healthcare** have teamed up to offer the following hands-on Office Ergonomics session here in Yellowstone. If interested, please sign up here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Office Ergonomics](#). There are 50 slots available for the session! Please obtain supervisory approval prior to attendance.

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August 21, 2013 noon-12:45
Mammoth Community Center Gym



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LPLC gets to keep 100% of the proceeds!

RECENT PRESS RELEASES

Subsequent to further investigation... it was determined that while a party of four walked out to the trailhead Thursday, they had started out as two individual parties of two.

The second group was near the first group when the bear encounter occurred, and quickly came upon the injured hikers and provided assistance and support.

Two Hikers Injured In Yellowstone Bear Encounter

Two people were treated for injuries after a backcountry bear encounter Thursday morning in Yellowstone National Park.

A group of four people was a few miles down the Cygnet Lakes Trail southwest of Canyon Village when they saw an approaching grizzly bear cub-of-the-year about 11:30 Thursday morning. A sow grizzly then appeared at very close range and charged the group.

Two of the hikers immediately discharged their canisters of bear spray and the sow and cub left the area after an encounter which lasted about a minute.

All four members of the group hiked out to the trailhead under their own power. One person was treated at the scene, while the second injured hiker was transported by ambulance to an area hospital with bite and claw wounds. All four have asked that their identities not be released.

Yellowstone bear biologists say the sow's behavior is consistent with purely defensive actions taken after a surprise encounter with people. This was the first report of any bear-caused human injuries in Yellowstone this year. The incident remains under investigation.

Yellowstone regulations require visitors to stay 100 yards from black and grizzly bears at all times. The best defense is to stay a safe distance from bears and use binoculars, a telescope or telephoto lens to get a closer look. These hikers were heeding the park's advice to hike in groups of three or more, make noise on the trail, keep an eye out for bears and carry bear spray. Bear spray has proven to be a good last line of defense, if kept handy and used according to directions when a bear is approaching within 30 to 60 feet.

There had been no recent reports of grizzly bear activity in the area. As a precaution the Cygnet Lakes Trail and the surrounding area have been temporarily closed. In addition, the park has closed the nearby Mary Mountain area to any off trail travel.

IN THE PRESS**Two griz attacks; 4 hurt**

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyoming

August 16, 2013

Four people — two hikers and two researchers — were attacked by grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem on Thursday.

Two different encounters with bears about 30 minutes apart, one in Yellowstone National Park and one near Island Park, Idaho, left four people injured, but no one with life-threatening wounds.

The attack in Yellowstone happened at about 11:30 a.m. on the Cygnet Lakes Trail several miles southwest of Canyon Village. A party of four hikers came across a grizzly cub on the trail, when its mother appeared at very

close range and charged the group. "They saw the cub first and then that sow was right there," Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said. "The area this occurred at is very dense forest that has regrown since 1988. That type of environment would make it difficult for them to see at a very great distance."

The incident lasted all of a minute. Two of the hikers deployed bear spray, but two of the four sustained injuries. One person required hospitalization. All four were able to hike to the trailhead without assistance from emergency personnel, Nash said.

"They had bear spray and the end result is they walked out of the trailhead," the spokesman said.

The Cygnet Lakes Trail and the surrounding area have been temporarily closed as a precaution, as well as off-trail areas of nearby Mary Mountain.

Yellowstone officials, Nash said, have begun an investigation and will try to determine if the grizzly involved has a history with humans.

The second grizzly attack occurred about a half-hour later some 50 miles to the west on Bureau of Land Management land in Idaho.

Two contracted habitat technicians were collecting information in the Shotgun Valley west of Island Park Reservoir when a grizzly charged, biting one person on the thigh and backside and the second on the hands.

The bruin knocked both men to the ground, though one man was able to discharge his bear spray as the grizzly fled the scene. The men's injuries were minor enough that they were able to drive themselves to Madison Memorial Hospital in Rexburg.

Names of people in both the Yellowstone and Idaho incidents have not been disclosed by authorities.

Both attack locations have a recent history of grizzly-human encounters.

Several miles away from Thursday's attack in Yellowstone, a 59-year-old Michigan man was found dead on Aug. 26, 2011. He had been hiking along the Mary Mountain trail.

The Island Park attack happened about 10 air miles north of a July 29 encounter that left a wildlife technician with minor injuries.

Thursday's incidents were the third and fourth publicized grizzly attacks this year in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In mid-June, a 63-year-old man was irrigating fields southwest of Cody when a grizzly attack left him with non-life-threatening injuries.

Yellowstone, with more than four million visitors a year, averages about one bear-caused human injury a year, Nash said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Aug 16, 2013

Today: Sunny, with a high near 77. West southwest wind 7 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 41. South southwest wind 6 to 13 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. South wind 6 to 15 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. West southwest wind 5 to 11 mph becoming south after midnight.

Sunday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 73. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 9 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West wind 5 to 8 mph becoming calm after midnight.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, August 19, 2013



Picture of the Alum Fire on 8/17/13 at about 16:30 hours by West Thumb Back Basin
(photo by Margie Fey)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOMORROW between 5:00 and 6:45 a contractor will be moving 12x60-foot modular units from Stephen's Creek to Mammoth. The 5 modular units will serve as a temporary visitor center during construction on the Albright Visitor Center. Temporary road closures and delays of up to 1/2 hour can be expected between Gardiner and Mammoth. Questions or Concerns call Vickie's office or cell 307 250 7483.

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August 21, 2013 noon-12:45

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The Loons of Yellowstone:

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

Who: Vincent Spagnuolo, M.L.A

Biodiversity Research Institute

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

Where: YCR Conference Room

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



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IN THE PRESS**County to air bison letter**

Published: Fri, 08/16/2013 - 2:59pm | Section:
Rose Brown - Enterprise Staff Writer

Park County commissioners will discuss and possibly vote Monday on a recommendation to the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and Department of Livestock to maintain bison restrictions on Gardiner Basin public lands.

A letter with the commission's recommendation written by Commissioner Marty Malone is a response to an Interagency Bison Management Plan environmental assessment that proposes allowing bull bison to roam year-round on Gardiner Basin public lands north of Yellowstone National Park.

Under current regulations, all bison are hazed into the park every spring. According to the new plan, bulls would be permitted to stay in the area at that time.

Cattle ranchers frequently oppose sharing land with bison because of the threat of brucellosis. Bull bison who carry the disease, however, are said not to be contagious.

Malone, in his recommendation, which he first proposed at a commission meeting last Monday, argues that opening the Gardiner Basin to bulls year-round "is just another step in allowing bison free access into Park County."

Loosening bison restrictions would not be in the best interest of private landowners in the Gardiner Basin area, Malone said in the recommendation.

The IBMP environmental assessment also proposes increasing bison access to other areas surrounding Yellowstone National Park, including portions of the Gallatin National Forest near West Yellowstone.

The suggested habitat adjustments are mainly the recommendations of the Yellowstone Bison Citizens Working Group, which states that the current bison population does not have access to enough year-round habitat.

Park County commissioners are scheduled to discuss the commission's response to the bison management proposal at 3 p.m. in the Commissioners Chambers Monday.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:41 am MDT Aug 19, 2013

Today: Areas of smoke before noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. West wind 5 to 11 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. West wind 5 to 9 mph becoming light and variable.

Tuesday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Light and variable wind becoming south around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. West wind around 6 mph becoming calm after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. Light south southwest wind. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Wednesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Fire Update

August 20, 2013 – 11:00 a.m.



Alum Fire: The Alum Fire burned less actively Monday compared to the weekend. Absent was the towering afternoon smoke column which developed both Saturday and Sunday. It grew by about 500 acres and the fire perimeter is now estimated to cover 4,500 acres. The fire perimeter remains within a mile of the Grand Loop Road south of Mud Volcano and there is the potential for temporary closures of the road between Canyon Village and Fishing Bridge Junction. The latest road status information is available 24-hours a day by calling 307-344-2117.

Mud Volcano, LeHardy Rapids, and several picnic areas and pullouts, as well as some backcountry trails in the area are temporarily closed.

More firefighting personnel and equipment are arriving daily, with an estimated 150 fire personnel expected to be on hand in Yellowstone by Tuesday evening. Multiple structural and wildland fire engines and portable pumps and hoses are now located in the Lake, Fishing Bridge, and Bridge Bay area.

Fire managers continue focus on protection of the road corridor, the boardwalk in Mud Volcano, and on structure protection efforts in Fishing Bridge, Lake Village, and Bridge Bay.

While area evacuations are not imminent, preparations are underway to assist residents and visitors in leaving the Fishing Bridge, Lake Village, and Bridge Bay area in the event that an evacuation is necessary in the coming days.

This lightning caused fire was discovered in the backcountry west of Mud Volcano on Wednesday, August 14. (The fire name is pronounced AL-umm, not ah-LUM).

Alder Fire: The Alder Fire burned actively Monday afternoon, moving northward all the way to the north and west shoreline of Yellowstone Lake. It is now estimated to cover 3,000 acres. This fire is on a peninsula at the south end of the lake and is therefore hemmed in by water on three sides and by a recently burned area to the south. All backcountry campsites on The Promontory have been temporarily closed. This lightning caused fire was discovered on August 14.

Druid Fire: This fire grew to the west on Monday, but remains high above the Northeast Entrance road on Druid Peak. It is now estimated at 100 acres and is situated on the north side of the peak. This fire was started by lightning and was discovered on Friday, August 9.

Other Fires: The Passage Fire was discovered Thursday at the south end of Yellowstone Lake. This lightning caused fire remains quiet and is just half an acre in size. A little smoke was again seen on the Snake Fire, located three miles east of the South Entrance along the boundary with the Bridger-Teton National Forest. It remains estimated at 200 acres. At times some of the park fires are visible on the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout Web Cams <http://www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>.

Weather: Some clouds, slightly cooler temperatures and slightly higher afternoon relative humidity are forecast for Yellowstone for Tuesday. There is a slight chance of isolated thunderstorms, mainly to the south and east of the park, which could bring some gusty winds over the fires.

Impacts to visitors and area residents: All roads leading into and through the park and the surrounding forest and all campgrounds, lodging, stores, and visitor services are open. Updated park road information is available 24-hours a day by calling 307-344-2117.

Additional information: Maps, photos, and update information can be found on the web at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/unit/5382>. You can also follow us on Twitter @YellowstoneNPS. The next fire update will be prepared and distributed by Noon Wednesday, August 21.



Emigrant fire from Dry Creek on 08/19. (photo by Kathy Cunningham)

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Biodiversity Research Institute

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

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IN THE PRESS

Park County commissioners delay bison comment again

Posted: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 12:15 am

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer

LIVINGSTON — Park County commissioners have until Sept. 13 to submit comments on a state proposal to allow bison to roam year-round outside Yellowstone National Park, and it appears they may need the entire four weeks.

Sixteen people squeezed into the Park County commission meeting room Monday afternoon to weigh in on Commissioner Martin Malone's response to a recent environmental assessment.

The assessment, written by Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Department of Livestock, proposed options for allowing bison full access to areas around West Yellowstone and Gardiner.

Malone included eight points of contention in his response, which encouraged the state to leave things the way they are with bison being hazed back into the park before May 15.

However, the majority of those in attendance, including at least four Gardiner residents, opposed that conclusion.

“Gardiner residents are kind of on the front lines, and we feel like this is being pushed through without the opportunity for you to hear our concerns,” said Barbara O'Grady of the Bear Creek Council in Gardiner. “We're still in the midst of a very busy tourist season. At least come and listen to our side.”

Only Jerry O'Hara was present to represent the county's livestock producers, and he supported Malone's comments.

“I think this is very dangerous to the livestock industry, and I'm a little surprised that it's come to this point that the county commissioners are debating this issue even,” O'Hara said. “If you want to expand the park, then why doesn't the park service do it on an up-and-up basis rather than a takings?”

Former Livingston city commissioner Tim Stevens said Malone's points didn't reflect the scientific and regulatory changes that have occurred in the 13 years since the Interagency Bison Management Plan was created.

Stevens also suggested that the commissioners could raise some of their concerns about bison without supporting any particular alternative.

“There's a group of citizens with varied backgrounds who spent a lot of time and effort trying to figure out how we can move forward together,” Stevens said. “None of that new information is reflected in those eight points, and it's a bit of a disappointment. I would hope that the county would see this as an opportunity to take a leadership role on how this is going to happen.”

The commissioners voted to back off until they'd heard from more people. They approved two additional meetings in Gardiner and Paradise Valley.

Commissioner Clint Tinsley said he wanted particularly to hear from Park County livestock producers, whose calves live in an area where brucellosis occurs in elk and bison.

“I’ve had veterinarians tell me that ranchers in the Paradise Valley get less money for their calves than ranchers in other parts of Montana,” Tinsley said. “I can’t support this letter but I can tell you that there are serious issues in Paradise Valley.”

That comment prompted people to accuse the commissioners of confusing the issue by bringing up the Paradise Valley, while the assessment deals only with the Gardiner basin.

“The reason I muddied the water is due to how fast FWP is moving north,” Malone said. “I wouldn’t trust FWP as far as I could throw them.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 10:41 am MDT Aug 20, 2013

This Afternoon: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 75. West wind 7 to 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 9pm, then isolated showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44. West wind 5 to 9 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 71. Light south wind becoming west southwest 5 to 9 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Wednesday Night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Calm wind becoming south southeast 5 to 7 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. South wind 7 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. South wind 5 to 8 mph.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park Fire Update

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

Recorded Fire Information Line 307-344-2580



August 21, 2013 – 12:00 p.m.

Overview: A National Incident Management Organization team headed by Incident Commander Bill Hahnenberg will take over management of all five active fires in Yellowstone National Park on Thursday morning, August 22. Approximately 150 fire personnel are assigned.

Alum Fire: The Alum Fire moved a little closer to the Grand Loop Road south of Mud Volcano on Tuesday afternoon, prompting a temporary road closure which was lifted Wednesday morning. Due to ongoing fire growth and better mapping, the fire perimeter is now estimated to cover 7,500 acres. When actively burning, the Alum Fire can produce a tall smoke column visible for several miles. There is an ongoing potential for the temporary closure of the road linking Fishing Bridge Junction and Canyon Village. The latest road status information is available 24-hours a day by calling 307-344-2117.

Mud Volcano, LeHardy Rapids, and several picnic areas and pullouts, as well as some backcountry trails in the area are temporarily closed.

Multiple structural and wildland fire engines and portable pumps and hoses are now located in the Lake, Fishing Bridge, and Bridge Bay area.

Fire managers continue focus on protection of the road corridor, the boardwalk in Mud Volcano, and on structure protection efforts in Fishing Bridge, Lake Village, and Bridge Bay.

While area evacuations are not imminent, preparations are underway to assist residents and visitors in leaving the Fishing Bridge, Lake Village, and Bridge Bay areas in the event that an evacuation is necessary in the coming days.

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Alder Fire: The Alder Fire grew another 500 acres during Tuesday afternoon and evening. It is now estimated to cover 3,500 acres. This fire is on a peninsula at the south end of the Yellowstone Lake and is therefore hemmed in by water on three sides and by a recently burned area to the south. All backcountry campsites on The Promontory have been temporarily closed. This lightning caused fire was discovered on August 14.

Druid Fire: This fire high above the Northeast Entrance road on Druid Peak can produce a smoke column visible when actively burning in the afternoon and early evening. The fire remains situated on the north side of the peak. Estimated at 150 acres, it was started by lightning and was discovered on Friday, August 9.

Other Fires: The Passage Fire was discovered August 15 at the south end of Yellowstone Lake. This lightning caused fire remains quiet and is just an acre in size. Tuesday was another quiet day on the 200 acre Snake Fire, which is located three miles east of the South Entrance along the boundary with the Bridger-Teton National Forest. At times some of the park fires are visible on the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout Web Cams <http://www.nps.gov/yell/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>.

Weather: The forecast for Wednesday calls for slightly cooler temperatures and a chance of isolated showers or thunderstorms. There is an increasing chance of thunderstorms on Thursday, which could bring some measurable rain, but also the possibility of gusty winds and lightning.

Impacts to visitors and area residents: All roads leading into and through the park and the surrounding forest and all campgrounds, lodging, stores, and visitor services are open. Updated park road information is available 24-hours a day by calling 307-344-2117.

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Tent city for the 700 Cycle Greater Yellowstone cyclists in Gardiner last night
(photo by Lori Wilkinson)

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August 21, 2013 noon-12:45

Mammoth Community Center Gym

Hello all! This is just a reminder that judging for the **2013 Summer Employee Photo Contest** has begun. Be sure to stop by one of these locations in the coming days to check out the finalists and vote on your favorites.

• Today :	LL Employee Rec Hall	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
• Today :	CL Employee EDR / Rec Hall	4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
• Thursday, August 22:	OF Employee Rec Hall	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
• Thursday, August 22:	GV Grayling Dorm Lobby	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Please relay this information to anyone who does not have e-mail.

The Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Program (YCERP)

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www.ycerp.org



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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:42 am MDT Aug 21, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 3pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds and heavy rain. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. South southwest wind 5 to 8 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 10pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds and heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Calm wind becoming south southeast 5 to 7 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Thursday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Southwest wind 7 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday Night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 7pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 7am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. South southeast wind 6 to 11 mph becoming southwest 13 to 18 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 24 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. South southwest wind 12 to 17 mph decreasing to 5 to 10 mph after midnight.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park Fire Update

Thursday, August 22, 2013



Congratulations Paula Tobin on thirty years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

LPLC gets to keep 100% of the proceeds!

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

Who: Vincent Spagnuolo, M.L.A

Biodiversity Research Institute

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

Where: YCR Conference Room

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

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RECENT PRESS RELEASES

It's Our Birthday, But You Get The Present

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone boosts efforts to remove lake trout invaders

9 hours ago • By Brett French

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“There’s a lot of effort out here.”

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

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Friday, August 23, 2013



Incredible photos of the **Druid Complex** fires can be found on Yellowstone's Flickr photo page at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/yellowstonenps/sets/72157635186710997/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Racal Battery Update: Supply has 50 batteries on order at this time with an anticipated delivery date of late September. The only company that is manufacturing these batteries is waiting on the components to make them. We understand that many of you would like to use FY13 monies to purchase batteries. We are approving the "pre-purchase" of batteries so that FY13 funds may be used. If you need to purchase with FY13 monies, please either stop by Supply or call Jane or Karin at x2083 and we will write up a ticket for the number you are requesting. When the batteries arrive we will let you know. These first 50 batteries will be at a cost of \$138.00/each. Please be aware that we have completed a purchase request for an additional order of batteries but we do not know their cost yet.

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Where: YCR Conference Room

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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone National Park's Winter-Use Plan Meets With Tempered Approval

Kurt Repanshek, National Parks Traveler, August 23, 2013



Snowmobiles will still roam Yellowstone National Park under the park's latest winter-use management plan, but their impacts should be reduced, according to concerned groups. Kurt Repanshek photo.

Yellowstone National Park's latest winter-use management plan has drawn measured approval from two groups that had been concerned that its draft version was too weak to adequately protect the park's resources.

"There's much to celebrate here. The park is going to require higher standards for both snowmobiles and snowcoaches," Rick Smith, a member of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, said after reviewing the Record of Decision released Thursday.

Under the plan, which won't take effect until the winter of 2014-15, a group of 10 snowmobiles would be seen as one "transportation event" instead of 10 snowmobiles entering the park.

The plan would allow up to 110 transportation events per day; these events are defined as a group of seven snowmobiles or one snowcoach. However, the seven-snowmobiles-per-event would be the seasonal average; there could be times when as many as 10 snowmobiles are packaged in one group. Up to 50 of these events could involve groups of snowmobiles.

By clustering snowmobilers in groups of 7-10 machines, overall noise should be reduced across the park since it wouldn't be spread out across the Grand Loop, proponents say.

"I think a large part of why we can live with the idea of a 'transportation event' vs. a cap on a number of vehicles is the noise issue. It's a huge issue in the park," said Kristen Brengel, senior director of legislative and government relations for the National Parks Conservation Association. "Trying to figure out the best way to minimize it, I think the park has made a strong case for it. Especially ratcheting down the decibel limit per snowmobile to 67 is huge."

How best to manage recreational snowmobile and snowcoach traffic in the world's first national park has been debated, and litigated, for over a decade, with related costs to the National Park Service estimated at more than \$10 million.

The latest plan is far removed from the proposal in 2008 that a federal judge tossed out, saying bluntly that while the National Park Service Organic Act does call for public enjoyment of the national parks, "This is not blanket permission to have fun in the parks in any way the NPS sees fit."

"This winter use plan is the product of hundreds of hours of public involvement, is based on sound science, and is a different approach to winter use management," Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said in a prepared statement Thursday. "The Plan/SEIS and ROD provide mechanisms to make the park cleaner and quieter than ever before authorized, allow greater flexibility for commercial tour operators, reward oversnow vehicle innovations and technologies, and permit increases in visitation."

Not everything in the plan pleased the Coalition and NPCA.

"Would we have liked to see fewer transportation events and fewer vehicles per transportation event? Absolutely, because we do think that snowcoaches provide the Park Service better options in terms of visitor experience and reducing some of the impacts we see in the park," Ms. Brengel said. "But they have a defensible alternative here."

"There are a couple of things that are regrettable in my judgment," added Mr. Smith. "One is that Sylvan Pass is still open, regrettable for three reasons. One, even the revised cost figures for what it costs to keep the pass open in the winter are way too high for the small number of visitors that enter through the East Entrance. Second of all, it's dangerous for the rangers to do the avalanche control. And the third thing is that unexploded ordnance, which is the inevitable result of using the control methods that they're using, in the world's first national park seems to me to be the very opposite of what we should be doing in a national park."

Mr. Smith, who during his lengthy Park Service career served a stint as Yellowstone's acting superintendent, also was disappointed that "best available technology" standards won't be required for snowmobiles until 2017.

"I think that it could have been better," he said in summation. "But it certainly has been a lot worse in the past."

Congratulations to Superintendent Wenk and his staff for coming up with a plan that at least addresses a lot of the concerns that many of us had about previous plans."

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:56 am MDT Aug 23, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 73. Southwest wind 8 to 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 9pm. Some of the storms could produce small hail and gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44. South southwest wind 7 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Saturday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. South wind 7 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 42. South wind 7 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. South southwest wind 6 to 13 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. South wind 6 to 9 mph.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, August 26, 2013



Full moon over terraces last week as seen from Lower Mammoth housing (photo by David Kelser)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Who: Vincent Spagnuolo, M.L.A.
Biodiversity Research Institute

When: **TODAY** at Noon (Bring your lunch!)

Where: Albright Visitor Center Auditorium

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

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The Yellowstone Co-Operative Employee Recreation Program provides activities and events for all Yellowstone employees. Below you can find a few upcoming events or catch all of our scheduled activities at www.ycerp.org.

Parkwide Cornhole Tournament

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 13th for the 5th Annual Dale Fowler Cornhole Tournament. This year the tournament leaves its birthplace at Lake and hits the road for Old Faithful—where geysers shoot high and bean bags fly! This isn't any old tournament so grab a partner and get ready to challenge teams from around the park. 1st place winners receive a t-shirt. 1st and 2nd place winners receive cash prizes. *There are no preliminary tournaments. Simply be at the Old Faithful employee pub between 8:30 and 8:45 pm to register for a 9:00 pm tournament start. The tournament style (double elimination, single elimination, cancellation scoring) will be determined by the number of registered teams.*

Location Offices Still Going Strong

The parkwide cornhole tournament is the last all-park event of the season, but that doesn't mean location offices aren't still cranking out fun activities. On Tuesday, August 27th the Mammoth office hosts a canoeing trip on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Island Park, Idaho (space is still available!). J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* plays at Big Screen Movie Night in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall on Friday, August 30th at 7:00 pm.

And that's just a sneak peek at the fun found on location activity calendars available on the YCERP website!

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IN THE NEWS**Yellowstone's new winter use plan 'officially completed'**

Posted: Thursday, August 22, 2013 12:03 pm | *Updated: 8:58 pm, Thu Aug 22, 2013.*

The Park Service Intermountain Regional Director John Wessels signed a record of decision Thursday for the winter use plan/supplemental environmental impact statement.

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

"This winter use plan is the product of hundreds of hours of public involvement, is based on sound science, and is a different approach to winter use management," Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said.

"The plan/SEIS and ROD provide mechanisms to make the park cleaner and quieter than ever before authorized, allow greater flexibility for commercial tour operators, reward oversnow vehicle innovations and technologies, and permit increases in visitation."

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

For more information and an electronic copy of the plan/SEIS and ROD, visit parkplanning.nps.gov/yell.

Wildfires gain acreage with steady hot, dry conditions

Posted: Friday, August 23, 2013 10:50 am

By ABBIE TUMBLESON West Yellowstone News | [0 comments](#)

Wildfires throughout the region have grown in acreage this week with steady hot, dry conditions. Several smaller fires have also been added to the list for this year's fire season.

The lightning caused Alum fire in Yellowstone National Park grew an additional 1,000 acres last Sunday with the help of winds and continual hot, dry weather. The fire had formed two heads, one to the east and one leading the main body of the fire, bringing it to an estimated size of 7,500 acres as of Thursday. Approximately 150 fire personnel are assigned to the fire and a National Incident Management Organization team was set to take over control of all five fires in the park on Thursday morning.

A seven-and-a-half mile portion of the Grand Loop Road in the park was closed late Tuesday afternoon due to increased activity from the fire. The fire started out at a small three acres in size until critical fire weather conditions on Saturday afternoon prompted it to expand to 3,000 acres in a matter of hours, according to park officials. The fire was discovered in the backcountry west of Mud Volcano last Wednesday. Mud Volcano, LeHardy Rapids and several picnic areas and pullouts, as well as some backcountry trails in the area are temporarily closed due to the fire. There is still potential for temporary closures of the road between Canyon Village and Fishing Bridge as fires continue to burn. Structure protection efforts have already started in Fishing Bridge, Lake Village, and Bridge Bay should the fire advance toward those areas in the coming days. Yellowstone officials said while area evacuations are not imminent, preparations are underway to assist residents and visitors in leaving those areas in the event that an evacuation is necessary in the coming days.

A series of other fires, including the 3,500-acre Alder fire at the south end of Yellowstone Lake, and the smaller Druid, Passage and Snake fires continue to be monitored by fire managers in the park.

On the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, the Eureka fire has expanded to more than 6,000 acres in size and was 25 percent contained as of Thursday.

Most of the fire activity is going on near East Fork Ruby River, according to public information officer Pat McKelvey. The fire is being managed by a Northern Rockies Type 2 Incident Management Team and is located southwest of Black Butte on the Gravelly Range. McKelvey said he hopes the fire stays to the west of the Gravelly Range Road.

"The fire hasn't come past that yet. Our main objective is to keep it west of there," he said from the incident command post near Lyons Bridge along U.S. Highway 287. "If it were to come over and spot into this stuff, it will be a game changer."

He said fire crews are trying to interrupt and break that cycle and get ahead of the fire, adding that spotting as far away as a mile occurred on both Sunday and Monday this week.

“That’s what we’re doing this morning. Firefighters are going in and burning to but black between that heat. We have to stop that spotting,” he said Tuesday.

McKelvey said the area’s green grasses aren’t burning and that’s a good thing, but also makes the fire a little different because of the spotting distances. Crews were able to protect the historic West Fork Cabin, located south of Black Butte.

An area closure is in place in the vicinity of the Eureka Fire. All roads and trails within the closure area are closed to the public.

The Miner Paradise Complex fires, which now includes the Emigrant, North Eightmile, Horsetail and Sheep Creek fires, continue to grow in acreage as well.

The Emigrant fire ballooned to more than 7,000 acres on Tuesday with heavy afternoon winds and significant fire growth in the afternoon and evening. The fire is located south of Emigrant Peak. As of Thursday morning, the fire had grown to almost 10,000 acres in size.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock declared a fire emergency for 31 western and southwestern Montana counties this week. Gallatin County along with nearby Madison and Park Counties are on the list. The Lolo Creek Fire Complex in Western Montana and the Rock Creek fire located five miles south of Red Lodge along U.S. Highway 212 continue to be concerns as well.

Visit www.inciweb.org for detailed updates about area wildfires. Updated Yellowstone National Park road information is available 24 hours a day by calling 307-344-2117.

Grizzly bear trapping to begin on Aug. 28 in Yellowstone

August 23, 2013 10:26 am

Biologists with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team will begin trapping grizzly bears on Aug. 28 at several remote sites in Yellowstone National Park as part of the ongoing monitoring of the animals' activities and population.

The trapping will continue through Oct. 31. Once trapped, the bears are anesthetized to allow wildlife biologists to radio-collar and collect scientific samples for study.

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. Potential access points will also be posted with warning signs. Backcountry users who come upon any of these posted areas need to stay out of the area.

The gathering of 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.

For more information regarding grizzly bear research efforts, phone 406-994-6675.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/grizzly-bear-trapping-to-begin-on-aug-in-yellowstone/article_c40d4da0-f155-5be2-8019-8894cac4a677.html#ixzz2d5R7cx1a

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:11 am MDT Aug 26, 2013

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 69. North northeast wind 8 to 13 mph becoming southwest in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. North northwest wind 6 to 10 mph becoming south southwest after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. West southwest wind around 6 mph becoming east in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. South southwest wind around 5 mph becoming light and variable. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. South southwest wind 6 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. Southwest wind around 6 mph becoming calm after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, August 27, 2013



Groundwork USA is in the park for a week conducting a variety of work projects. This is the second year partnering with this organization. This group is staying at YCC and is led by YCC staff.

This year, 9 trusts of 31 youth and leaders are installing bear boxes, conducting trail work, removing chip seal gravel from thermal waters along Firehole Lake Drive, assisting with the trail stabilization project across from Liberty Cap, constructing roadside bumper logs, building buck-n-rail fence, and hauling rock at Calcite Springs.

Nine trusts are represented from: Yonkers, NY; Anacostia (DC); Dallas; Denver; Dona Ana, NM; Milwaukee; Portland, OR; Somerville, MA; and Bridgeport CT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Racal Battery Update: Supply has 50 batteries on order at this time with an anticipated delivery date of late September. The only company that is manufacturing these batteries is waiting on the components to make them. We understand that many of you would like to use FY13 monies to purchase batteries. We are approving the "pre-purchase" of batteries so that FY13 funds may be used. If you need to purchase with FY13 monies, please either stop by Supply or call Jane or Karin at x2083 and we will write up a ticket for the number you are requesting. When the batteries arrive we will let you know. These first 50 batteries will be at a cost of \$138.00/each. Please be aware that we have completed a purchase request for an additional order of batteries but we do not know their cost yet.

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Parkwide Cornhole Tournament

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 13th for the 5th Annual Dale Fowler Cornhole Tournament. This year the tournament leaves its birthplace at Lake and hits the road for Old Faithful—where geysers shoot high and bean bags fly! This isn't any old tournament so grab a partner and get ready to challenge teams from around the park. 1st place winners receive a t-shirt. 1st and 2nd place winners receive cash prizes. *There are no preliminary tournaments. Simply be at the Old Faithful employee pub between 8:30 and 8:45 pm to register for a 9:00 pm tournament start. The tournament style (double elimination, single elimination, cancellation scoring) will be determined by the number of registered teams.*

Location Offices Still Going Strong

The parkwide cornhole tournament is the last all-park event of the season, but that doesn't mean location offices aren't still cranking out fun activities. On Tuesday, August 27th the Mammoth office hosts a canoeing trip on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Island Park, Idaho (space is still available!). J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* plays at Big Screen Movie Night in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall on Friday, August 30th at 7:00 pm.

And that's just a sneak peek at the fun found on location activity calendars available on the YCERP website!

IN THE NEWS

Mud Volcano reopens as Yellowstone fire simmers nearby

19 hours ago • Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Cooler weather continues to help keep fires in Yellowstone under control, allowing park officials to reopen the Mud Volcano area north of Fishing Bridge.

The Mud Volcano and other areas along the Yellowstone River have been closed for over a week because of the Alum Fire. Some trails, picnic areas and road pullouts remain closed Monday.

The Alum Fire has burned about 12 square miles. The fire is only a few hundred yards from the Grand Loop Road but isn't growing much.

Park officials are allowing the fire to burn without interference to help the ecosystem. Meanwhile, they're clearing vegetation northwest of Bridge Bay to protect buildings in case the fire moves that way.

Four smaller fires continue to burn slowly in mostly remote areas of Yellowstone.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/mud-volcano-reopens-as-yellowstone-fire-simmers-nearby/article_b707131e-8e9b-5a15-9824-a5b07fc9bd36.html#ixzz2dB6oAFQe

Habituated wolf shot near Jardine

17 hours ago • By Brett French

A 2-year-old female gray wolf that had strayed from Yellowstone National Park months ago was shot by a Jardine-area resident on Saturday after it killed a chicken, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

This wasn't the first incident involving the collared wolf in the community, where it had also killed other chickens and a cat.

"It had shown up at a number of properties since April," said Andrea Jones, FWP information officer.

There will be no charges filed against the shooter, Jones said, since the wolf was becoming increasingly more bold.

While roaming near the mountain community northeast of Gardiner and just north of the park border, the wolf displayed unusual behavior, Jones said. Attempts were made by FWP and residents to haze the animal, yet it wasn't frightened.

"It has not shown normal wolf behavior when confronted," Jones said.

Until this spring, wolf 820F lived primarily in the northeast corner of Yellowstone National Park as a member of the Lamar Canyon pack. Young wolves often disperse to start their own packs.

Two other members of the Lamar Pack were shot last fall during Wyoming's hunting season, one of which was the pack's alpha female and 820F's mother.

All together, hunters in surrounding states shot 12 wolves last year that spent part of their time inside Yellowstone's boundaries.

Six of the 12 were collared wolves that park staff use to study wolf movements and interactions. Another four that were shot spent part of their time in Yellowstone or along its borders.

FWP investigated the wolf shooting in consultation with USDA-Wildlife Services. An FWP veterinarian will examine the wolf's general condition but a necropsy is not planned, Jones said.

Wolf shootings to protect livestock as well as wolf hunting are divisive issues that have prompted death threats in the past to those involved. Consequently, FWP was not releasing the name of the individual who shot the wolf.

Under Montana law, wolves can be shot without a license and out of season to protect life or property, Jones said.

FWP recently approved an expanded hunting and trapping season that will run from Sept. 15 to March 15, with hunters allowed up to five licenses to remove more wolves from the state out of concern that the animals are depressing elk populations in the West.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/habituated-wolf-shot-near-jardine/article_0094c478-102d-5a3c-9a43-7bd06deaad7c.html#ixzz2dB714vWq

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:56 am MDT Aug 27, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly between 2pm and 5pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. Light and variable wind becoming southeast around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. South southeast wind around 7 mph becoming north in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 70. South wind 6 to 9 mph becoming west northwest in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. Southwest wind 5 to 9 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Southwest wind 5 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. South wind 3 to 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, August 28, 2013



Jaime Roper cleaning fire equipment from the Alum Fire
(photo by Margie Fey)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The fall season of bull elk rutting activity has begun. During this period, it is not uncommon for bull elk to mock fight with many types of household items found in employee's yards. As a consequence, bull elk often get household items wrapped in their antlers. This can result in bull elk getting tied to each other, or to brush, trees, or other objects and, ultimately lead to their death. Over the last few years bull elk have had to be captured to remove extension cords, cloths lines, shrubbery baskets, leashes, wire, nets, cloth bags, swings, hammocks, coaxial cable, bicycles, and badminton nets from their antlers. During the fall rut, please make an effort to remove all such items from your yards when not in use.

Bull elk are also much more aggressive towards people and vehicles during the breeding season. Please use caution when walking near elk and look around corners before exiting buildings or walking around blind spots.

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

Thank you for your help in reducing these incidents.

William Henry Jackson's Yellowstone: Through the Lens of Time

Wednesday, September 25: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Join Jackson Hole photojournalist Brad Boner on his journey to find and re-photograph William Henry Jackson's images from the 1871 Hayden Survey, the first government-funded expedition to the region that is today Yellowstone National Park. Boner's contemporary images provide a remarkable platform for comparison and reveal how the landscape and iconic landmarks have remained relatively unchanged over the past 142 years. The presentation, which will take place at the Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center auditorium, will also include contemporary images of Jackson's first photographs of the Teton Range taken in 1872.

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And that's just a sneak peek at the fun found on location activity calendars available on the YCERP website!

IN THE NEWS**Hope for grayling**

After poisoning a creek in Yellowstone, biologists plan to restore rare grayling, westslope cutthroat.

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyo.

August 28, 2013

On paper, restoring native fish species into a creek looks simple.

Step one: Kill everything with poison. Step two: Put the stuff you want back.

In practice, it's a mighty undertaking.

Last week at Yellowstone National Park's Grayling Creek about two dozen fisheries biologists were hard at work on the cleansing portion of a native fish restoration project.

The mountain stream, perhaps 20 feet across on average, was flowing with rotenone, a fish poison targeted at the nonnative rainbow-cutthroat hybrid and brown trout population. In their place one day will go native Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout.

Mike Ruhl, a fisheries biologist who works for Yellowstone through Montana State University, had been on the shores of Grayling Creek for more than a week planning and trying to kill fish.

"The opportunities to try to do a restoration project that is successful for grayling are extraordinary limited," Ruhl said.

Grayling Creek, which feeds into the Madison River, likely had its grayling wiped out around the time Hebgen Dam was put up in 1914, Yellowstone fisheries manager Todd Koel said.

“For Arctic grayling that are fluvial, they’re gone,” Koel said. “There’s not a lot [of habitat] left for grayling to do what grayling do, which is run.”

Yellowstone has tried — and failed — to bring self-sustaining populations of grayling back to several of its running waters before. A number of lake-dwelling populations do exist today.

Then there’s the cutthroat that Koel, Ruhl and company plan to bring back to Grayling Creek. Pure westslope cutthroat, which, confusingly, are native to the east-flowing Missouri River drainage, have also been knocked out of the main stem of the creek. The last stronghold of westslope cutthroat in all of Yellowstone is the 4-mile-long Last Chance Creek, a tiny tributary of Grayling Creek. Last Chance is believed to host a population of about 750 westslope cutthroat.

“The beauty of this project is that, from a westslope cutthroat perspective, it’s definitely worth it,” Ruhl said. “Even if we try and fail to bring grayling back, the project will be a success.”

Because trout run and breed in just about any size of tributary that they can find to swim up, there’s a lot of water that needs to be poisoned on Grayling Creek. Some “30 to 40 miles” spread out over “20 to 30 tributaries” needed treating last week, Koel said.

A crew of about two dozen fisheries professionals under the employ of Yellowstone, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Turner Enterprises were on site at Grayling Creek to complete the task. Funds for the project came mostly from the Yellowstone Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Jackson Hole One Fly, Koel said.

All told, between staging, testing water flows and administering the poison, it took the crew more than 10 days to finish.

Then, next year, they’ll get to do it all over again, Koel said.

“You have to treat two years in a row to get all the hybrids out of the system,” he said.

The following year, 2015, a multi-year stocking program will begin that will reintroduce grayling from other Upper Missouri waters and westslope cutthroat eggs from Last Chance Creek and elsewhere.

Perhaps five years from now, Koel said, the project will be complete.

Radio-collared wolf killed near Jardine

Posted: Tuesday, August 27, 2013 5:30 pm

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer

Another collared wolf was shot and killed near Yellowstone National Park on Saturday.

A collared female from the Lamar Pack was shot near Jardine while feeding on a chicken, said Fish, Wildlife & Parks spokeswoman Andrea Jones. Jardine is a small community five miles northeast of Gardiner and the park entrance.

The wolf has reportedly remained in the Jardine area since spring and had been getting more habituated to the presence of humans, Jones said.

“It had shown up in this area very close to buildings. People had tried to scare it away, yelling and throwing things. Typically, a wolf will disperse, but it kept coming back,” Jones said.

The person who shot the wolf reported the shooting, and FWP investigated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services. They ruled the person was allowed to shoot the wolf in defense of his property. The wolf had reportedly killed a cat and several chickens.

“If this had not happened, we would have probably taken some action to deal with this animal,” Jones said. [Another collared female wolf was shot north of Gardiner in May](#) after wolves killed a number of sheep. The sheep owner, William Hoppe, lives in Jardine but was not involved in Saturday's incident, Jones said

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:26 am MDT Aug 28, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 73. South southwest wind 7 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 9pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming clear, with a low around 43. Southwest wind 6 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Southwest wind 6 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. South southeast wind 5 to 14 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. West southwest wind 6 to 14 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. South wind 6 to 13 mph.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, August 29, 2013



Produced and distributed weekdays except holidays by the Public Affairs Office



Obviously this elk took offense...or wanted to lure people to her.
(photos by Craig Mott)

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Set For Summer's Swan Song

Shorter days, the sight of school busses on area roads, and the shift in Yellowstone visitation from families to couples and tour groups all signal that summer is drawing to a close.

All campgrounds, lodging, stores, shops, service stations, restaurants, and other services and activities in and around the park remain open for the start of the Labor Day weekend.

With a favorable weather forecast, visitors can expect that campgrounds and lodging in and around the park to fill very early in the day. Advance reservations are highly recommended. Visitor should plan to arrive early at

campgrounds that do not take reservations. The current status of available camping and lodging in the park is available by calling (307) 344-2114.

Some visitor services begin to close for the season starting Sunday, September 1. Details are available in the park newspaper handed out at entrance stations, from the staff at visitor centers and information stations in and near the park, or online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/index.htm>.

All roads leading to and in the park are open. Brief construction delays are possible on the section of road between Tower Fall and Tower-Roosevelt Junction. Updated road information is available 24 hours a day at (307) 344-2117.

Recent weather conditions have resulted in limited activity on fires in and around the park. Smoke impacts have been minimal. These fires pose no threat to visitors or area residents.

The National Weather Service forecast is for sunshine on Saturday and Sunday and a slight chance of thunderstorms on Labor Day, with daytime highs near 70 and overnight lows in the mid 40s. Visitors can get the latest weather forecast by calling (307) 344-2113, or by listening to the NOAA Weather Radio station broadcasts from transmitters located at Mammoth Hot Springs and Grant Village.

Yellowstone Releases Summer 2013 Bison Population Estimate

Yellowstone National Park has completed its annual summer bison population abundance monitoring.

The population is estimated to be 4,600 bison. The estimate is based on a series of aerial surveys.

There are approximately 3,200 bison in the Northern herd and 1,400 in the Central herd this summer. There were about 700 calves-of-the-year observed in a June aerial survey.

This year's observations represent an increase of 8.75% over last year's count. The peak population estimate of 5,000 bison was recorded in the summer 2005.

The observed rate of population change this past year is within the natural range of expectation for wild bison.

This population estimate is used to inform adaptive management strategies under the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP). The IBMP is a cooperative plan designed to conserve a viable, wild bison population while minimizing the risk of brucellosis transmission between bison and cattle.

The cooperating agencies operating under the IBMP are the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Montana Department of Livestock, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the InterTribal Buffalo Council, the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes, and the Nez Perce Tribe. More information on the IBMP can be found at <http://ibmp.info>.

IN THE NEWS

YNP fires cover 11K acres

Posted: Wednesday, August 28, 2013 3:13 pm

By BETSY SIMON

Fire activity in Yellowstone Park and the Shoshone Forest continues to moderate.

The Druid Complex is comprised of five fires: the Snake, Passage and Alder fires, which are fairly inactive due to recent rains, and the Alum and Druid fires. The complex covers 11,671 acres in Yellowstone.

Operations personnel flew over the fires Tuesday afternoon and found only the Alum, Druid and Alder fires producing smoke.

The Alum Fire received up to 0.3 inches of rain in the past week, however no rain was recorded for the past two days, allowing Alum's potential to persist.

As temperatures increase and dry conditions persist heading into Labor Day weekend, the fires could flare up and approach the road north of Fishing Bridge junction.

Pullouts along a six-mile stretch between Fishing Bridge and Mud Volcano remain closed, as backcountry travel in the areas in the fire's predicted path are not safe.

The closures affect LeHardy Rapids, as well as several picnic areas and trails along the river.

Pelican Creek Nature Trail, Natural Bridge, Lake Village to Bridge Bay Trail, and the Lake Lodge Meadows Trail are open and all roads leading into and through the park and all visitor services also are open.

An indirect fireline is nearing completion between the fire and the Lake government housing area, with 2-4 log trucks hauling material throughout the workday.

Bridge Bay indirect fireline improvements were expected to wrap up Wednesday afternoon and will ensure that park facilities aren't affected if the fire advances south.

Monday was the last regular update on the Shoshone Forest fires due to minimal acreage growth.

Both the Hardluck and Lost Lake fires were expected to transition from Type 3 management to Type 4, indicating a lower complexity level on Wednesday. The White River fire crew from Colorado will monitor and manage both fires.

In Montana, Rock Creek Fire activity was minimal Tuesday due to low wind speeds and cloud cover. The fire is 910 acres.

The southern flank of the fire's perimeter is contained and handline behind the homes in the West Fork Rock Creek is complete.

Efforts Wednesday turned to the eastern flank of the fire, where most of the fire is, and structure protection crews continued to slash removal work in West Fork Rock Creek.

The Rock Creek Fire, which started Aug. 20 five miles southwest of Red Lodge along US 212 for unknown reasons, is under investigation.

Air not filled with smoke by Yellowstone wildfires

August 27, 2013 10:00 am • Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — Yellowstone National Park officials report that wildfires burning in the park aren't putting up much smoke.

The National Park Service says visitors have been finding good air quality and visibility in the park in recent days.

Clouds and rain have helped keep a lid on five wildfires burning within the park.

The fires have burned a combined 18 square miles. But they haven't affected any of the main visitor areas in the park and have been allowed to burn for the most part.

There's a chance for the weather to turn hotter and drier in the coming weeks, which could lead to an increase in fire activity. So firefighters have been taking measures to protect valuable resources and structures in the park.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/air-not-filled-with-smoke-by-yellowstone-wildfires/article_8d8ad38a-323e-5b18-8e7f-f8b8084d7c17.html#ixzz2dNBXacdP

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:26 am MDT Aug 29, 2013

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Southwest wind 5 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 9pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind 5 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. West southwest wind 6 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 42. South wind 6 to 11 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 72. Southwest wind 5 to 9 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 41. West southwest wind 5 to 7 mph becoming light and variable.

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, August 30, 2013



NEW FIRE START: Lightning from a passing storm started at least one new wildfire in the park yesterday. The only *confirmed* start, the Caldron Fire, was reported by eyewitnesses and is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the Mud Volcano Area.

It will be managed with the other five fires currently burning in the park under the Druid Fire Complex. Observed by recon aircraft, the new fire is burning in heavy, fallen fuels in a lodgepole pine stand. A second start is thought to exist southward in the LeHardy area, but that smoke was inconsistent and could not be verified. The incident meteorologist recorded over 700 cloud-to-ground strikes in the park yesterday afternoon, so additional starts elsewhere in the park should be expected. All the individual wildfires in Druid Fire Complex, now over two weeks old, continue to receive afternoon thunder showers and increased relative humidity.



Groundwork USA youth crews worked with the Green Team and YCC staff to install a test area for an environmentally friendly soil stabilizer material. It will set hard to create a firm walking surface preventing erosion on the historic path across the road from Liberty Cap. The material uses local stone aggregate and an organic binder - no oil based products to leach out and none of the embedded energy needed to make concrete. It is a permeable product, allowing some natural water percolation, is inexpensive and relatively easy to install. We hope it performs well in this high-use area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is a reminder to post your AUGUST miles/hours in Miles Manager by the absolute latest on Saturday, August 31, 2013. Maintenance will pull reports on Tuesday, September 3, and if you wait to post that day it will be too late for our reports. Washington officials have mandated that all plated vehicles are required to post their mileage, no exceptions.

The fall season of bull elk rutting activity has begun. During this period, it is not uncommon for bull elk to mock fight with many types of household items found in employee's yards. As a consequence, bull elk often get household items wrapped in their antlers. This can result in bull elk getting tied to each other, or to brush, trees, or other objects and, ultimately lead to their death. Over the last few years bull elk have had to be captured to remove extension cords, cloths lines, shrubbery baskets, leashes, wire, nets, cloth bags, swings, hammocks, coaxial cable, bicycles, and badminton nets from their antlers. During the fall rut, please make an effort to remove all such items from your yards when not in use.

Bull elk are also much more aggressive towards people and vehicles during the breeding season. Please use caution when walking near elk and look around corners before exiting buildings or walking around blind spots.

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

Thank you for your help in reducing these incidents.

The **Yellowstone Co-Operative Employee Recreation Program** provides activities and events for all Yellowstone employees. Below you can find a few upcoming events or catch all of our scheduled activities at www.ycerp.org.

Parkwide Cornhole Tournament

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 13th for the 5th Annual Dale Fowler Cornhole Tournament. This year the tournament leaves its birthplace at Lake and hits the road for Old Faithful—where geysers shoot high and bean bags fly! This isn't any old tournament so grab a partner and get ready to challenge teams from around the park. 1st place winners receive a t-shirt. 1st and 2nd place winners receive cash prizes. There are no preliminary tournaments. Simply be at the Old Faithful employee pub between 8:30 and 8:45 pm to register for a 9:00 pm tournament start. The tournament style (double elimination, single elimination, cancellation scoring) will be determined by the number of registered teams.

Location Offices Still Going Strong

The parkwide cornhole tournament is the last all-park event of the season, but that doesn't mean location offices aren't still cranking out fun activities. **J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit plays at Big Screen Movie Night in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall on Friday, August 30th at 7:00 pm.**

And that's just a sneak peek at the fun found on location activity calendars available on the YCERP website!

William Henry Jackson's Yellowstone: Through the Lens of Time

Wednesday, September 25: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Join Jackson Hole photojournalist Brad Boner on his journey to find and re-photograph William Henry Jackson's images from the 1871 Hayden Survey, the first government-funded expedition to the region that is today Yellowstone National Park. Boner's contemporary images provide a remarkable platform for comparison and reveal how the landscape and iconic landmarks have remained relatively unchanged over the past 142 years. The presentation, which will take place at the Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center auditorium, will also include contemporary images of Jackson's first photographs of the Teton Range taken in 1872.

Auditorium seating is limited to 150 and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For planning purposes, please let us know if you'll be joining us: laura@gtnpf.org, 307-732-8869.

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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:11 am MDT Aug 30, 2013

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 3pm. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds and frequent lightning. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. West southwest wind 11 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before 3am. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming light after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 71. Light west northwest wind becoming west 8 to 13 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 39. West northwest wind 6 to 11 mph becoming light and variable.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 74. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 42. West wind 5 to 9 mph becoming light and variable.

Labor Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73. Light and variable wind becoming south southwest around 6 mph in the afternoon.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44.

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