

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 3, 2013



Joe and Temia Keel assist in removing a fence in a pronghorn migration corridor last month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer to help improve Yellowstone Pronghorn Migration!

Come to BLM's Carbella Recreation Site on Hwy 89 north of Yankee Jim Canyon on September 5, 6, and 7 to help! The project will run from 9:30 am-4pm. Join us for a half day, full day, or multiple days. Join NPCA on **September 5, 6, and 7** for an active, multi-day volunteer project to restore a historic pronghorn migration corridor and improve public land! We will remove outdated fencing and reconstruct a wildlife-friendly fence to help improve wildlife migration north of Yellowstone National Park. The project will take place near Yankee Jim Canyon on the Bureau of Land Management's Carbella Recreation Site. No experience is necessary as a wildlife-friendly fencing expert will be on hand to assist with fence construction.

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clothes and shoes, hat, sunglasses, water, rain coat or layers in case of inclement weather and a fun energetic attitude are all you need to bring! Lunch, snacks, gloves and necessary work equipment provided.

RSVP to Stephanie Adams at SAdams@npca.org or 406-224-8661

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NEW YOGA CLASS!

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This class focuses on stillness and deepening into a pose to allow the muscles to relax and the soft tissues to open. Most poses are seated and held between 3 to 5 minutes to allow the body to soften. Yin Yoga is rooted in the Taoist belief that energy (aka "chi") runs through the various meridians housed in our connective tissues and the practice helps release any blockages to allow the energy to flow freely. The generous use of props (blankets, bolsters, straps) to support the body allows gentle relaxation with gravity, rather than against it. Appropriate for all levels.

Please visit amandastover.weebly.com for a complete schedule.

William Henry Jackson's Yellowstone: Through the Lens of Time **Wednesday, September 25: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

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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.

IN THE NEWS

Is another summer of '88 possible in Yellowstone?

Posted: Friday, August 30, 2013 2:59 pm

By BETSY SIMON

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fifth and final story in a series this summer about the 25th anniversary of the Yellowstone Fires in July-August 1988.)

“Oh, no. Not close.”

That’s how Yellowstone Park supervisory vegetation specialist Roy Renkin would rate the chances of wildfire like the park experienced in 1988 happening today.

“We are extremely far from the conditions we experienced that year,” said Renkin, who was in the park during the infamous ’88 blazes. “The moisture levels are definitely higher and not nearly as dry now. That was quite an event.”

The huge Clover Mist Fire, the largest of all the blazes in the park, eventually burned into an area of Crandall at the bottom of the Beartooth Highway.

At one time thousands of Army soldiers had been moved into a camp nearby in case the fire got out of control.

This summer, Renkin said more moisture has been recorded in Yellowstone Park than there was 25 years ago when drought had the park in a chokehold.

By the time the fires were contained, they’d burned about 793,000 acres (or 36 percent) of the park, destroyed 67 structures, and killed more than 400 animals, according to the Park Service.

When the fires swept through, Renkin said Yellowstone was experiencing decreased precipitation levels that compounded the situation.

There are six current fires in the park, most caused by lightning.

Average July and August precipitation levels in the park are 1 1/2 inches, according to the NPS.

Prior to the drought, between April and May of ’88, Yellowstone Park received higher-than-normal rainfall amounts, according to the Park Service.

When June rolled around and a severe drought sucked once saturated soils dry, it created a breeding ground for fires in what is already the fifth driest state in the nation.

But there’s no telling if a repeat event like what happened in Yellowstone Park then could happen today because times are different, said Chris Nicholson, director of the Water Resources Data System and Wyoming State Climate Office.

“Even with similar climatic conditions, fuels may be different, policy on how fires are handled may be different, among many other variables that would predict if this could happen again,” Nicholson said.

Still, 25 years later, Yellowstone’s summer of ’88 remains in a class by itself.

“Around this time in 1988, we had 30,000-40,000 acres of active fires burning in the park and more fires burning outside,” Renkin said. “Those conditions we had in the park that allowed for that to happen just aren’t present today.”

Fires cost \$120M, burned 793K acres

- A total of 248 fires started in the greater Yellowstone area in 1988 – 50 of them in the park.
- Seven major fires were responsible for more than 95 percent of the burned acreage.
- More than 25,000 firefighters, as many as 9,000 at one time, fought the ’88 fires.
- Total cost of the fires was about \$120 million.
- No park visitors or nearby residents died but two firefighters were killed – one by a falling tree and one piloting a plane with other personnel.
- About 1.2 million acres of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem was scorched.
- 793,000 acres – or 36 percent – of the park’s more than 2 million acres burned.
- 67 structures were destroyed, and property damage was estimated at more than \$3 million.
- Animal deaths from the fires included 345 elk, 36 deer, 12 moose, nine bison and six black bears.

Source: NPS

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:56 am MDT Sep 3, 2013

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Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. Light and variable wind becoming south 10 to 15 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: Isolated showers, then scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. Light south southwest wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Wednesday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. Southeast wind 6 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Isolated showers, then scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. South southeast wind 7 to 11 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. South southeast wind 5 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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Wednesday, September 4, 2013



Congratulations Dr. Keel on becoming a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine!

This initiative offers a means to identify those who have achieved a demanding set of requirements validating their training and experience in Wilderness Medicine for the assurances of patients, clients, and the public at large. Society members enroll in the Academy and, by completing lessons from a pre-established Wilderness Medicine curriculum as well as receiving credit for specific, identifiable experience; accumulate credit toward becoming a Fellow. Wonderful for you and for our community! Take a moment and congratulate Dr. Keel on his hard work!

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Friday: Free Talk at 7:30 p.m. by Billy Mills (Olympic gold medalist 10,000 meter) at the Gardiner School. Optional dinner at 6p.m. \$10.

Be inspired and bring you family for a life-changing presentation.

Saturday: Community Walk, 5K and 8K competitive Trail Run, and 1K kids run.

Free Breakfast at Eagle Creek Campground after the run.

Saturday Night come hear Cure for the Commons at 7:30 p.m. at the Two Bit Saloon, all ages welcome! \$5 cover = first beer.

Register today at bigbearstampede.org

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IN THE NEWS

Young Yellowstone, 25 years after fires

Legacy of 1988 is a youthful forest that will last lifetimes, park ecologist says.

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyo.

September 4, 2013

A quarter century after September snows extinguished the most widespread fires in Yellowstone National Park's history, the regeneration of the park's forests remains in its infancy.

The post-1988 forests are not recovered or more in balance, park ecologist Roy Rankin said. He doesn't like to use anthropomorphic terms like good, bad, devastated or recovered. Fire is simply part of the natural cycle. And today, slowly in some places and quickly in others, the forests are growing back in.

"The forests are fine," Rankin said. "They are still very young — they're babies in the stand-regeneration process.

"That'll continue for another 25 years, and then they'll move into another phase," he said.

The '88 blazes elevated the discussion about fire policy and educated the public about wildfire's role in fire-adapted ecosystems. The forests that the fires — the North Fork, Fan, Hell Roaring, Storm Creek, Clover-Mist, Red, Snake Complex, Mink and Huck — left behind are not just younger, but more of a mosaic.

Twenty-five years later signs of the fires, which affected 36 percent of the 2.2-million-acre park, abound. Branchless blackened trunks tower over meadows and young groves of pine. Fallen trunks litter much of the park's burnt areas.

The fire scars will persist for years, Rankin said.

"That pattern will be evident on the landscape for, oh jeez, for a long time," he said. "We're at a point now where somebody can look at it and really not know what they're looking at, but that pattern will be evident for 200 years."

The fires of '88 caused little long-term damage to Yellowstone's man-made infrastructure. They burned 67 buildings. Nobody died inside the park.

Rich Jehle, Yellowstone's south district resource education ranger, was a cub park ranger at Madison in 1988 when the North Fork Fire closed in from three sides within an hour. He sat at the crossroads last month recalling when the largest blaze drove with a fury, pushed by strong winds.

"It was pretty crazy," Jehle said. "All the burn area, all the regrowth in sight here was all [burned] that day."

A tree cutter's discarded cigarette started the North Fork Fire, which burned 400,000 acres.

Shade-intolerant and thin-barked, lodgepole pine, which are account for about 80 percent of all the tree cover in Yellowstone, are dependent on fire for regeneration. They can also burn furiously when dry.

With no measurable precipitation in July and August 1988, Yellowstone's grasses and forest understory had a moisture content of 2 to 3 percent. Downed trees were 7 percent water, less than that of kiln-dried lumber.

At peak staffing levels in July, there were 9,000 firefighters combating the fires of Yellowstone. The effort cost more than \$120 million.

The crews cut 802 miles of lines to try to control the blazes, but they had little effect. Had Yellowstone let the fires burn themselves out, Jehle said, the burn scars would have been largely the same.

"The fires jumped every major road, every major river system," Jehle said. "The only feature [the fires] didn't jump in 1988 was Yellowstone Lake."

The fires of '88 made Rankin a believer in the role of fire in forest health, he said. Even the areas of Yellowstone that burned the hottest were quick to bounce back, the forest ecologist said.

Rankin used a swath of forest that blew down in 1984 between Norris and Canyon as an example. With timber on the ground, fire burned hot in the area.

"When the fires burned through this blow-down area, it left behind just ash," Rankin said of the forest. "It looked like the bottom of your barbecue grill."

Some experts at the time, Rankin said, believed that the soil was too scorched and devoid of nutrients to allow for any regrowth for decades if not centuries.

"But it's coming back," Rankin said, "so much so that you can't even tell today that this area looked like the bottom of your barbecue 25 years ago."

"Tree densities are not as great," he said, "but you go in there and you look at the performance of the plant communities, and it's like these things ate their Wheaties. Trees that are now only 25 years old are 18 to 20 feet tall."

"We really didn't know as much as we'd like to think to know about fire," Rankin said.

Because of the fires of 1988, considered a once every 200- or 250-year event, it's unlikely that Yellowstone will soon again burn on such a large scale.

"Fire is not random on the landscape," Rankin said. "Old growth is very susceptible to it, and the opposite is true for young forest. And forests that are 200 years old can still be considered young."

The forest's relative immunity to fire, Rankin said, will be the imprint the '88 fires will leave on Yellowstone that will outlast anyone living today.

"These fires of 1988 will leave a legacy on the landscape," he said. "This legacy will be felt by future fires up until 200 years from now."

The other legacy of 1988, Rankin said, will be how people perceive wildfire.

The 1988 Yellowstone fires were largely portrayed by the media as a devastating natural disaster. "Catastrophic," "destroyed" and other incendiary words were commonly used to describe the flames that charred some 3,400 square miles in the ecosystem.

An education about fire's natural role in Western forests, however, also came along with the press.

"We've got to learn how to live with fire," Rankin said. "There was none of that talk 25 years ago."

Bison are focus of meetings

Camden Easterling - Enterprise Staff Writer

Attend meetings in Emigrant and Gardiner next week to gather more comments on bison management in the Gardiner Basin.

Commissioners have said citizen input collected at the meetings will help them form a decision on what bison management practices to recommend to state officials.

The first of the two meetings is 7 p.m. Wednesday at Emigrant Hall. The second is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Gardiner Community Center.

The meetings follow recent discussions by commissioners about whether to recommend to state officials that bison should be permitted to roam year-round outside Yellowstone National Park in the Gardiner Basin.

Commissioners have said they plan to submit to officials with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Department of Livestock their comments on proposed changes to the Interagency Bison Management Plan. Commissioners have said state officials want comments submitted by Sept. 13.

The IBMP is the strategy used by state, federal and tribal agencies for managing wild bison that spend much of each year in Yellowstone but which leave the park at certain times of the year due to changes in season and habitat availability.

In July, the Citizens Working Group — members of which represent varying opinions on bison management practices and which makes suggestions to the agencies that implement the IBMP — outlined suggestions for managing bison in the Gardiner area.

The group's suggestions, which are included in an environmental assessment, include members' preferred alternative of allowing bull bison in the Gardiner Basin year-round. The environmental assessment, though, also includes options such as continuing an existing practice of allowing bison to move out of Yellowstone during the winter and hazing them back into the park in May.

People who oppose free-roaming bison contend the animals put livestock at risk of acquiring brucellosis, which can cause animals to abort. Proponents of free-roaming bison say the risk is overstated and contend that there are no documented cases of bison in the wild transmitting brucellosis to cattle.

Commissioner Clint Tinsley on Thursday said commissioners will listen to public opinion at the meetings in order to decide what recommendation to make to state officials.

“I’m there to listen,” he said. “I’m going to get all the information I can from both sides.”

The Upper Yellowstone Watershed group is hosting the Wednesday meeting, and the bison discussion will be part of the group’s general meeting, Tinsley said. He said he isn’t sure who is hosting the Thursday meeting.

At a recent meeting on the matter, Commissioner Marty Malone has said he opposes permitting bison to roam in the Gardiner Basin all year. Commissioner Jim Durgan said he tends to agree with Malone that bison should not be allowed access to the Gardiner Basin year-round. Tinsley said he needed more information before forming an opinion.

Bison population is up

- By Enterprise Staff

Bison population numbers in Yellowstone National Park are up over last year, the National Park Service announced Wednesday.

The park’s annual summer population monitoring effort shows Yellowstone has about 4,600 bison — about 8.75 percent more than last year, according to a park news release. NPS creates its estimates from a series of aerial surveys.

Yellowstone’s Northern herd this summer numbered some 3,200 bison while the Central herd had about 1,400, according to the news release. About 700 calves born this year were observed in a June aerial survey.

The park’s bison population peaked in 2005 when Yellowstone was home to 5,000 bison.

“The observed rate of population change this past year is within the natural range of expectation for wild bison,” according to the NPS.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Sep 4, 2013

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Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. South southeast wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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Thursday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47. South southeast wind 5 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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Friday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind 3 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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Yeehaw! There are still a few tickets left for the Old West Roosevelt Cookout this Saturday, September 7th to benefit Little People's Learning Center. Come and enjoy a wonderful and abundant dinner and lively entertainment in the beauty of Yancy's Hole. Reserve your tickets at 866-Geyserland or 307-344-7311.

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IN THE NEWS

Druid Complex continues to smolder in Yellowstone National Park

Gazette Staff - 15 hours ago

Fire officials reported Wednesday that the six fires smoldering in Yellowstone National Park are not impacting visitors and that the number of firefighters monitoring the blazes is being drawn down.

Three of the six fires, all started by lightning strikes, that make up the Druid Complex showed no smoke Tuesday, fire officials said in a Wednesday morning news release.

The most active of the fires, the Alum fire, was burning a few concentrations of heavier fuels and isolated stumps and roots in the ground, officials said.

Cooler weather and rain in the Park over the last few days has allowed fire managers to downsize the number of firefighters working the complex.

As of Tuesday, just short of 60 firefighters were involved in controlling the Druid Complex. Some of those firefighters were scheduled to move on to higher priority fires or begin taking time off Wednesday.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/druid-complex-continues-to-smolder-in-yellowstone-national-park/article_41d9e7dd-fe01-5c90-ae29-e063448e0fd5.html#ixzz2e1yVAqAn

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety?

Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion.

Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

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Yeehaw! There are still a few tickets left for the Old West Roosevelt Cookout **TOMORROW** to benefit Little People's Learning Center. Come and enjoy a wonderful and abundant dinner and lively entertainment in the beauty of Yancy's Hole. Reserve your tickets at 866-Geyserland or 307-344-7311.

We will be **reconstructing a portion of boardwalk leading to the viewing platforms at Le Hardy Rapids**. The project will begin Wednesday, Sept. 4th, and should take two to three weeks. Parking and trail heads are currently closed due to fire activity - so there is no need for trail construction detours or closures. Once reopened, there will be limited access to viewing platforms.



Touch Rugby is back! Starting Monday, September 9th 6:00 PM and every Monday at the Gardiner school field. No experience necessary. Good fun and exercise at the same time! All welcome!

All Yoga, Pilates and Dance classes will resume this **Monday, September 9.**

NEW YOGA CLASS!

Relax and Restore Yoga, Wednesdays 6:45pm-8:00pm

this class focuses on stillness and deepening into a pose to allow the muscles to relax and the soft tissues to open. Most poses are seated and held between 3 to 5 minutes to allow the body to soften. Yin Yoga is rooted in the Taoist belief that energy (aka "chi") runs through the various meridians housed in our connective tissues and the practice helps release any blockages to allow the energy to flow freely. The generous use of props (blankets, bolsters, straps) to support the body allows gentle relaxation with gravity, rather than against it. Appropriate for all levels.

Please visit amandastover.weebly.com for a complete schedule.



Big Bear Stampede! September 20-21, 2013

Friday: Free Talk at 7:30 p.m. by Billy Mills (Olympic gold medalist 10,000 meter) at the Gardiner School. Optional dinner at 6p.m. \$10.
Be inspired and bring you family for a life-changing presentation.

Saturday: Community Walk, 5K and 8K competitive Trail Run, and 1K kids run. Free Breakfast at Eagle Creek Campground after the run.

Saturday Night come hear Cure for the Commons at 7:30 p.m. at the Two Bit Saloon, all ages welcome! \$5 cover = first beer.

Register today at bigbearstampede.org

GRTE NEWS RELEASE

Temporary Travel Delays to Occur on Teton Park Road over Jackson Lake Dam

MOOSE, WY — A brief travel closure on the section of Teton Park Road that crosses over Jackson Lake dam in Grand Teton National Park will occur on Tuesday, September 10, Tuesday, September 17 and Thursday, September 19. This temporary delay will take place between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and last for 30 to 45 minutes.

The brief closure is scheduled to accommodate the staging of materials needed for routine maintenance on a section of Jackson Lake dam—a structure managed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Local residents and park visitors are advised to plan ahead and use an alternate route because this temporary closure prevents the ability to make a ‘through trip’ on the Teton Park Road between Jackson Lake Junction and Signal Mountain Lodge. Travelers can also plan to simply wait for the 30 to 45 minutes that the road section is closed.

For current information on road closures and other road conditions in Grand Teton National Park or the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, please call 307.739.3614.

WEATHER

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly sunny, with a high near 72. South wind 6 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce gusty winds. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. South southeast wind 5 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 69. Southeast wind 5 to 8 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Saturday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind 5 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. South wind 5 to 9 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. West southwest wind 5 to 9 mph becoming light after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 64. Calm wind becoming west around 6 mph in the afternoon.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, September 09, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Register today at bigbearstampede.org

IN THE PRESS**Opinions mixed at bison meeting**

Fri, 09/06/2013 - 3:03pm By Camden Easterling - Enterprise Staff Writer

Opinions were mixed as the Park County Commission gathered public comment on bison management practices at a meeting in Gardiner Thursday night.

Commissioners heard from people who oppose bison roaming much beyond Yellowstone National Park as well as from Gardiner-area residents who said they want bison to be able to range. Other speakers said they fall somewhere in the middle on the issue.

“Just letting them go is not a management (practice),” said a man whose sentiments were echoed by several other speakers. Not hazing them back into Yellowstone is “a step toward a free-roaming herd,” the man said.

But other citizens told commissioners that Gardiner businesses rely on bison-related tourism.

“Please don’t underestimate how key this is to this area especially, but also to the state,” Ilona Popper said.

About 35 people attended the meeting at the Gardiner Community Center. Commissioners organized the gathering to collect public input on proposed changes — including that bull bison be allowed to roam in the Gardiner Basin year-round — to the Interagency Bison Management Plan. The IBMP is the strategy used by state, federal and tribal agencies for managing wild bison that spend much of each year in Yellowstone but which leave the park at certain times of the year due to changes in season and habitat availability.

Commissioners said they will submit to officials with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Department of Livestock their comments on proposed changes to the Plan.

With help from the Citizens Working Group, the two state agencies have crafted an environmental assessment that outlines suggestions.

The options include limiting bison to certain zones outside Yellowstone and hazing them back to the park each spring. Another proposal would permit bull bison to roam year-round in the Gardiner Basin.

Most of the people who addressed the commission Thursday spoke generally about bison management rather than advocating for specific options included in the environmental assessment.

Most of the comments focused on property damage from roaming bison rather than on the controversial topic of the risk of bison transmitting brucellosis to cattle in the area.

Several ranchers at Thursday’s meeting told commissioners they are tired of bison breaking irrigation equipment, rubbing up on house siding and threatening the safety of people and domestic animals. Some people also said their large properties provide bison habitat and that people who own property in town don’t appreciate the costs private property owners are saddled with as a result of roaming bison, some speakers said.

“It’s one thing to own a sidewalk and it’s another thing to own a piece of property where you can provide habitat,” rancher Bill Hoppe said.

“None of the tree huggers come down and say, ‘Can I give you a hand?’” another landowner said.

However, several residents said they sympathize with ranchers. They suggested that much of the money spent on arguing about how to manage bison instead be spent on paying for damage done by bison so the animals can roam but property owners can have some relief.

Other speakers said they've suffered property damage but consider it part of the cost of living with the area's wildlife.

Montana Rep. Alan Redfield, R-Paradise Valley, told commissioners he worries about the impacts bison have on grazing and forage in the greater Gardiner area. Yellowstone has more bison than the land can support, he said.

Commissioners also held a meeting in Emigrant Wednesday night to gather comment from residents of that area.

They heard from ranchers who said they don't support allowing bison to roam outside YNP, Redfield said Thursday.

Commissioners Marty Malone and Jim Durgan, both ranchers, have said they don't believe bison should be allowed year-round access to the Gardiner Basin.

At Thursday's meeting, Commissioner Clint Tinsley did not definitively say which management option he supports.

However, he said he's concerned roaming bison negatively impact grazing lands and forage resources for ranchers. He also worries bison wandering on or near private ranches creates the perception of brucellosis risk, which makes selling livestock difficult, he said.

Comments due Sept. 13

The deadline for public comment on proposed changes to bison management in the areas around Yellowstone National Park is 5 p.m. Sept. 13.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the state Department of Livestock have drafted an environmental assessment that outlines options for managing bison.

The options range from making no changes, and therefore confining bison to particular zones and hazing them back into YNP each spring, to allowing bull bison to roam in the Gardiner Basin year-round and not hazing them back into the park.

To read the full plan or to submit comment electronically, go to http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmentalAssessments/plans/pn_0...

Hard copies are available at FWP offices in Bozeman and Helena.

Running Brave: Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills to speak at Gardiner School

Published: Fri, 09/06/2013 - 3:00pm By Anthony Varriano

Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills will speak during a free event at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20 at Gardiner School.

Mills became the second Native American to win an Olympic gold medal, and did so in comeback fashion, beating world champion runners in the 10,000-meter race of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He is the only American to win gold in the event, and it's largely considered the greatest upset in Olympic history.

Mills is an Oglala Lakota (Sioux) and serves as the spokesman for Running Strong for American Indian Youth. President Barack Obama awarded Mills the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2012 for his work with the organization.

Mills is speaking in Gardiner as a part of the first annual Big Bear Stampede race being held there Saturday, Sept. 21 to raise awareness of depression and suicide prevention. The race commemorates the life of Geoffrey Faerber.

Faerber suffered from depression until taking his own life in 2011. Despite the disease, Faerber went on to accomplish incredible feats in both sport and life. He was a husband and father and owned the Flying Pig Adventure Company with his wife, Liza.

"He once kayaked from Montana to the Gulf of Mexico," said Faerber's mother, Pam Faerber. "Most people had no idea he was depressed ... One day he came up to me and said, 'Mom, you have no idea what it feels like to wake up each morning and think you are supposed to kill yourself.'"

The suicide rate in Montana is the highest in the country and nearly twice the national average.

"This is an epidemic," said Faerber, "and until we raise awareness of depression as a life-threatening illness ... and find medications that work, suicide will continue to be a problem in our community."

According to the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, from 2000 to 2007, Park County had the fifth highest suicide rate among Montana counties.

"I want to make sure families can be empowered to help their loved ones," said Faerber. "Families should face this just as if the illness were cancer."

The competitive Trail Run will be held overlooking Paradise Valley and Yellowstone National Park at the Eagle Creek Camp Ground. It will be a fun but challenging event with both 8K and 5K distances. Also, there will be a 1K Kids Run and a 3K Community Walk.

This run is "not for the faint of heart," race director Nick Ricardi said.

The prizes certainly convey Ricardi's message, with a \$1,000 total purse that was donated by a sponsor.

Top prize is \$150 for winning the 8K and \$100 for winning the 5K. Second- and third-place finishers will also receive cash awards, and \$100 gift certificates to Bozeman Running Company will be awarded to the top overall male and female finisher. The first male and female over 60 to cross the finish line in the 5K will also win \$50.

All proceeds are being used to bring a year-round program of education into the schools and communities of Park County to create awareness of depression.

"We just want this race to be a fun, but enlightening event, where people go and realize that depression is a disease, and it's OK to talk about it," said Faerber. "If we can create awareness that depression is a true medical illness needing the same support as other critical illnesses ... to lose that stigma that surrounds depression would be a great victory."

Those interested in registering for the race can do so at www.bigbearstampede.org.

Remembering the 1988 Yellowstone fires 25 years later

Saturday, September 7, 2013 11:14 am By Abbie Tumbleson West Yellowstone News

Clyde Seely remembers the night of Sept. 1, 1988 well – Wildfires were sweeping through Yellowstone National Park and a thick cloud of smoke blanketed West Yellowstone.

Now, 25 years later, Seely reflects on the fires and says he realizes that he now understands that wildland fires are beneficial to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. On that September night in 1988, however, he was worried that the North Fork fire threatened to burn down the town.

“I think it is good for us all to remember what it was like then and learn from the past. Fire is a good thing,” Seely said as he stood on a platform in front of a crowd of people gathered at the Union Pacific Dining Lodge to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the fires Monday night. “The National Park Service was right in the end, the park is a healthier place than it was back then.”

Seely attended a town council meeting on the evening of Sept. 1, 1988 and told council members that he could help with the fires threatening the community. After the meeting Seely called his church superior, and through the emergency preparedness program that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has and a lot of phone calls, he was able to get the word out to Idaho farmers about an idea that could help keep the wildfires from reaching West Yellowstone.

“At 9 o’clock the next morning trailer load after trailer load of pipe came rolling into town,” Seely said.

He had called on the Idaho farmers to haul sprinkler pipe to West Yellowstone. By 3 p.m. that afternoon, Seely said a crew of 150 volunteers put down more than 16 miles of pipe around the east side of town, pumped water from the Madison River and wetted down the forest enough that the fire never reached town. Additional lines of sprinkler pipe were setup on the opposite side of town as fires were coming down toward the town from the South Plateau area.

Retired Yellowstone National Park superintendent Bob Barbee attended Monday’s event and provided audience members with his memories of the 1988 fires.

“It was a very different feeling here 25 years ago. It was rather gloomy. We knew that there was a great fire (in Yellowstone) in 1705 and a big fire in 1850, but hadn’t noticed any major events since then,” Barbee said. “The summer of ’88 started like summers we had a number of years before... Soon there was fire everywhere.”

Barbee said the North Fork fire did not follow the fire managers’ predicted path and the fire flew over the cliffs near the Madison River in the park and spotted for distances of up to two miles.

“Over the course of the summer of 1988 there were 25,000 individuals who had a role to play, all with their own stories,” he said.

More images of the 1988 fires flickered across the big screen in a new video featuring the North Fork fire and more than six hours of news coverage from September of 1988 was condensed into the 34-minute film.

From their seats in the audience, other longtime West Yellowstone residents like Jerry Schmier and John Greve quietly recalled what it was like to live just outside the park that summer. And, with the Two Top fire burning southwest of town on the same night 25 years later, the community was again reminded that fire is part of the ecosystem.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:11 am MDT Sep 9, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. Calm wind becoming west northwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 33. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 67. Calm wind.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40. Light and variable wind.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 68. Calm wind becoming east around 6 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Isolated showers after midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. East wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 65. East wind 3 to 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Supply Center will be **closed for inventory** Noon Thursday 9/12 AND all day Friday 9/13. 7am Monday 9/16 we will reopen for FY2014 purchasing.

The **move of the temporary restroom modular** from Old Faithful to Mammoth had to be re-scheduled due to a truck breakdown. The new date is September 11th early morning beginning at 5:00 a.m.. If all goes well we should be off the road by 7:00 a.m.



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Register today at bigbearstampede.org

IN THE PRESS

YNP to remove illegal trail in Bechler area

*By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyoming
September 10, 2013*

In coming weeks, Yellowstone National Park trail crews will take steps to remove an illegal trail that's been established in the Bechler River area.

Unsanctioned trails, also known as "social trails," are a common occurrence in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. They branch off of mainstem trails to overlooks, give anglers easier access to trout holes and lead rock climbers to alpine walls. Typically the trails are tolerated, but in the case of the Bechler trail in the southwest corner of the park, use had gotten out of hand.

“The Bechler trail is a little different in that it’s been cut in,” said Ivan Kowski, Yellowstone’s backcountry manager. “It’s been engineered by somebody, to an extent.”

Examples of social trails that have been worn into Yellowstone include paths in the Lamar and Hayden valleys, which are typically used by wolf watchers, Kowski said.

“I don’t think we have a good grasp on the number of miles there are,” he said. “There’s a lot of social trails, and I think we’ll take steps to eliminate those that have big safety concerns or have the potential for environmental damage.”

In Grand Teton park, there are no social trails that are a priority for park staff at this time, spokeswoman Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles said.

“We’re not trying to limit anyone’s access to the backcountry,” Anzelmo-Sarles said. “We don’t expect to have any closures of any of these unmaintained trails any time soon.”

While there’s no set schedule for restoration of the Bechler trail, a remote section of the area along the southwest boundary of the park will be closed while repairs are underway.

Signs and maps will be posted at access points along that section of the park boundary.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:11 am MDT Sep 10, 2013

Today: Sunny, with a high near 67. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the morning.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. East wind 3 to 6 mph.

Wednesday: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after noon. Sunny, with a high near 67. East wind 5 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday Night: Isolated showers after midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. East wind 6 to 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 63. East southeast wind 3 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. East southeast wind 5 to 7 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

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Presidential Proclamation -- Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance

PATRIOT DAY AND NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE, 2013

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Twelve years ago this month, nearly three thousand innocent men, women, and children lost their lives in attacks meant to terrorize our Nation. They had been going about their day, harming no one, when sudden violence struck. We will never undo the pain and injustice borne that terrible morning, nor will we ever forget those we lost.

On September 11, 2001, amid shattered glass, twisted steel, and clouds of dust, the spirit of America shone through. We remember the sacrifice of strangers and first responders who rushed into darkness to carry others from danger. We remember the unbreakable bonds of unity we felt in the long days that followed -- how we held each other, how we came to our neighbors' aid, how we prayed for one another. We recall how Americans of every station joined together to support the survivors in their hour of need and to heal our Nation in the years that followed.

Today, we can honor those we lost by building a Nation worthy of their memories. Let us also live up to the selfless example of the heroes who gave of themselves in the face of such great evil. As we mark the anniversary of September 11, I invite all Americans to observe a National Day of Service and Remembrance by uniting in the same extraordinary way we came together after the attacks. Like the Americans who chose compassion when confronted with cruelty, we can show our love for one another by devoting our time and talents to those in need. I encourage all Americans to visit www.Serve.gov, or www.Servir.gov for Spanish speakers, to find ways to get involved in their communities.

As we serve and remember, we reaffirm our ties to one another. On September 11, 2001, no matter where we came from, what God we prayed to, or what race or ethnicity we were, we were united as one American family. May the same be said of us today, and always.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day," and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, the Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized "National Day of Service and Remembrance."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2013, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I call upon all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. I invite the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and interested organizations and individuals to join in this observance. I call upon the people of the United States to participate in community service in honor of those our Nation lost, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46

a.m. Eastern Daylight Time to honor the innocent victims who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Supply Center will be **closed for inventory** Noon **Thursday 9/12 AND all day Friday 9/13.** 7am Monday 9/16 we will reopen for FY2014 purchasing.



At the end of September, Green Team members will host and participate in the "**Greening Yellowstone 2013—A Climate Friendly Workshop**," to further develop our sustainability program and to become a Climate Friendly Park. We would like your ideas on what we can do to become more sustainable with how we all work and provide for visitors.

The workshop will focus on:

- ☐ Energy reduction
- ☐ Climate change messaging
- ☐ Water use reduction
- ☐ Greening visitor rides
- ☐ Improving waste diversion.

We are still working out the details of the workshop and would like your thoughts. What improvements would you like to see carried out in Yellowstone by either the NPS or our concession partners?

We have calculated our overall greenhouse gas emissions for 2003 and 2011 and continue to look for opportunities to reduce fossil fuel use and the environmental impacts of our operations.

Thanks for your help,
Yellowstone Green Team



Big Bear Stampede! September 20-21, 2013

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Saturday: Community Walk, 5K and 8K competitive Trail Run, and 1K kids run begin at 9 a.m.. Free Breakfast at Eagle Creek Campground after the run.

Saturday Night come hear Cure for the Commons at 7:30 p.m. at the Two Bit Saloon, all ages welcome! \$5 cover = first beer. **Register today at bigbearstampede.org**

RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Yellowstone Seeks Volunteers For National Public Lands Day Project***Entrance fee waived for all visitors Saturday, September 28*

The National Park Service will waive park entrance fees on Saturday, September 28, in conjunction with National Public Lands Day.

Yellowstone National Park is looking for volunteers for one work project which will occur as part of the 20th annual event.

Volunteers will participate in trail restoration work along the Purple Mountain Trail located in the Madison Junction area. Volunteers will work from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., installing water bars and other trail structures that will greatly improve the conditions on the trail. This work is strenuous, requiring the use of hand tools including shovels and picks, lifting heavy timbers and bags of rock, and working at high altitudes and in variable weather conditions.

Space is limited to 20 volunteers. Volunteers are asked to register by September 19. If interested in volunteering for this trail project please email your name and phone numbers to Yell_Volunteer_Office@nps.gov or call 307-344-2729 and leave a voice mail with your name and phone number.

Drinks and snacks will be provided. All volunteers should bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and sturdy footwear, and be prepared with adequate clothing for variable weather conditions.

Those who participate in a National Public Lands Day volunteer activity will receive a coupon good for a one-time free entrance to Yellowstone or another federally managed area of their choice.

To learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities on public lands throughout the region, visit the National Public Lands Day website at <http://www.publiclandsday.org>.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:56 am MDT Sep 11, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. East wind 6 to 9 mph.

Tonight: Isolated showers after midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. East wind 6 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Isolated showers, then scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 64. East southeast wind 6 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. East southeast wind 5 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 62. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Friday Night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms before midnight, then isolated showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 12, 2013



Hoppy Gifford in the trench at the Northeast Entrance yesterday 9/10/13.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supply Center will be **closed for inventory Noon TODAY AND all day TOMORROW.** 7am Monday 9/16 we will reopen for FY2014 purchasing.



CLIMATE Friendly PARKS

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Thanks for your help,
Yellowstone Green Team



Big Bear Stampede! September 20-21, 2013

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Saturday: Community Walk, 5K and 8K competitive Trail Run, and 1K kids run begin at 9 a.m.. Free Breakfast at Eagle Creek Campground after the run.

Saturday Night come hear Cure for the Commons at 7:30 p.m. at the Two Bit Saloon, all ages welcome!
\$5 cover = first beer. **Register today at bigbearstampede.org**

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Available foods will bring bears to lower elevations this fall

Unlike the last two years which produced abundant crops of whitebark pine seeds, this year few cones were produced by the high elevation trees.

Due to the low yield whitebark pine crop, we are expecting an increase in human-bear encounters in the backcountry this fall as bears seek alternative foods common at lower elevations. In the last week Park and Forest officials have observed a significant increase in bear activity at lower elevations near trails, roads, and developments where bears are foraging for berries, rut killed bison carcasses, digging ant hills, and ripping open logs for ants. Berry production has been especially good this year. In addition, apple trees have been highly productive this year. However, since berry producing shrubs and apple trees are generally found at lower elevations more frequently inhabited by people, we expect human-bear encounters to be more common this fall.

Whether enjoying a day with friends hunting on National Forest System lands or hiking on your public lands remember to follow food storage guidelines. These guidelines have been in place for many years in Yellowstone National Park, the Gallatin National Forest, and the Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer National Forest and are intended to help keep both you and bears safe.

When hiking on National Park lands or hiking or hunting National Forest System lands, carry bear spray, hike in groups of 3 or more people, be alert for bears at all times, and make noise so you don't surprise bears. If you encounter a bear, do not run, slowly back away to put distance between you and the bear. This often diffuses the confrontation. If the bear charges, stand your ground and use your bear spray. In most cases the bear will break off the charge or veer away. If the bear makes contact, drop to the ground face down on your stomach, with your hands clasped behind your neck and lie still. Make sure the bear is gone before moving.

When camping in the backcountry, hang all food and garbage from food storage poles or bear boxes that are provided at every Yellowstone Park backcountry campsite and some National Forest campsites. Food should be hung at all times except during preparation and consumption. If a bear approaches your campsite, yell and bang pots, pans, or other objects to discourage it from entering.

For more information you can visit the park and forest web sites at www.nps.gov/yell, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin> and <http://www.fs.usda.gov/custer>.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:26 am MDT Sep 12, 2013

Today: Scattered showers before noon, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between noon and 5pm, then scattered showers and thunderstorms after 5pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65. East southeast wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. South southeast wind 5 to 8 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Friday: Scattered showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62. Calm wind becoming east 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Friday Night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Saturday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 61. Calm wind becoming north northeast around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Saturday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 13, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IN THE NEWS

West Yellowstone Police Department draws sheriff's scrutiny

Clair Johnson, Billings Gazette, Sept. 12, 2013

Concerns over public safety and training issues with the West Yellowstone Police Department have drawn the scrutiny of Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin and prompted the National Park Service to suspend its mutual aid agreement with the department.

Tim Reid, Yellowstone National Park's chief ranger, said this week that until the police department's program meets the sheriff's requirements, the Park Service will not be calling on the town's police officers as special deputies to respond to calls within the park. The suspension became effective Sept. 6.

"We opted to take a prudent approach until things settle out to ensure protection of our agency and our staff," Reid said.

Under the mutual aid agreement, West Yellowstone police officers could respond to park calls and stabilize a situation until rangers arrived, Reid said.

Park Service rangers will continue to respond to fire and emergency medical calls in West Yellowstone, to life safety calls and to law enforcement incidents under a Gallatin County agreement, Reid said.

“We would respond under a Good Samaritan clause,” he said, but not to lesser matters.

West Yellowstone, located 90 miles south of Bozeman and at the west gate of Yellowstone Park, has a population of about 1,300 people. The town sees millions of tourists who visit the park each year, mostly in the summer. The police department has a chief, a sergeant, four officers and six dispatchers. The sheriff’s office has two resident deputies in West Yellowstone, while the Park Service has rangers at its western district office.

“We are the three primary law enforcement agencies. It’s such a small community,” Gootkin said. “We would never not back up an officer in danger or who needs help,” he said.

Gootkin has met with Police Chief Gordon Berger and the Park Service. This week, the sheriff sent two lieutenants to meet with Berger to review his training records and to offer assistance.

The sheriff also said he has invited Berger to fill two slots at a firearms instructor course.

Berger declined to comment Thursday. He has been with the police department for 27 years and became chief in 2006.

One of the concerns, Gootkin said, is lack of officer training and certifications on weapons including firearms, stun guns, pepper spray and batons.

“I think it’s a combination of not being qualified and no or very little record keeping,” Gootkin said.

“The number one concern is the safety of the public. If an officer is not being trained, then what level of service is being provided?” Gootkin said.

Liability is another issue. If there were a situation where force was used and a lawsuit was filed, “the first thing they go after is policy and training,” Gootkin said.

While declining to identify specific problems or complaints, the sheriff said the concern about the police department is “something that has been building for a long period of time.”

Citizens, law enforcement in the West Yellowstone area and also the Park Service had contacted him with officer safety and training issues, Gootkin said. What he heard gave him enough concern that he went to West Yellowstone to meet with Berger, he said.

As sheriff, Gootkin is the chief law enforcement officer in the county and has jurisdiction over West Yellowstone. Berger, the sheriff said, has been open to assistance.

“We’re going to do everything we can to help him,” Gootkin said. “I am also not going to do his job for him.” Gootkin said he will prepare a list of recommendations for Berger, the town council and the mayor.

“We’re going to absolutely make sure they follow through. I’m responsible ultimately,” he said.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/west-yellowstone-police-department-draws-sheriff-s-scrutiny/article_533983be-cfd5-5a00-bb36-22c8115f2515.html

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MDT Sep 13, 2013

Today: Scattered showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 63. South wind 3 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms before midnight, then isolated showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Saturday: Scattered showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 61. Calm wind becoming north northeast 5 to 8 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.

Saturday Night: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. East northeast wind 5 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 65. East southeast wind around 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. South wind 3 to 6 mph.

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YNP@Work

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Monday, September 16, 2013



Canadensis, Cervus Canadensis, water on the rocks...tumbled not stirred.

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IN THE NEWS**ONE MOTH AT A TIME FATE OF YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLIES TIED TO KEY FOODS****Fate of Yellowstone grizzlies tied to key foods**

September 15, 2013 8:15 am • By CHRISTINE PETERSON Casper Star-Tribune

OUTSIDE OF MEETEETSE, Wyo. — High above the trees, in the rocky slopes of the Absarokas, one-calorie morsels scurried from the light. They crawled under rocks and in dark shadows.

The army cutworm moths come from as far as Kansas and Nebraska where farmers curse them as an agricultural pest. In the Absarokas, they're something very different: one of several key ingredients to the survival of the grizzly bear.

One day in late July, Cody science teacher Dale Ditolla watched as nine bears gathered in the talus of a mountain bowl, miles outside of Meeteetse.

The bears looked like dogs in search of buried bones. They lifted and heaved stones the size of frying pans between their legs, sending them tumbling down the mountainside. Their salad plate-sized paws swiped at scampering moths.

Counting multiple grizzlies at this site is a relatively new trend. Few lived in this part of Wyoming 30 years ago.

"It's amazing to me that a bear can live up here and survive and put on weight," Ditolla said.

The greater Yellowstone ecosystem's bears are hardy, making a living in the West's harshest conditions.

Their expansion into new regions comes as grizzlies may once again face removal from the endangered species list. Researchers already know grizzlies eat nearly everything from ants to fish to elk to snowmobile seats. What researchers don't know, and what keeps grizzlies on the list, is what key foods the bears need to survive.

King of the omnivores

A bear's diet generally varies by season. In the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, they eat big game, elk calves and cutthroat trout in the early summer; anything from moths to berries to grass in the summer; and a whitebark pine cone's fatty nuts in the fall, said Gary Beauvais, director of the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, a research institute at the University of Wyoming specializing in sensitive species.

Cutthroat trout used to be a spring staple. Invasive lake trout drastically cut down the number of cutthroats, which may mean grizzlies are switching to eating more elk calves, he said.

But it is the future of the whitebark pine that keeps bears on the endangered species list.

Whitebark pine nuts give grizzlies a critical meal as they start to fatten up for hibernation. Researchers using radio collars found bears will spend weeks in whitebark pine forests looking for nuts and cones, Beauvais said.

That was until white pine blister rust and the mountain pine beetle devastated swaths of forest.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed grizzlies from the endangered species list in 2007, but a federal judge put them back on the list in 2009, citing several concerns including the future of whitebark pine. An appeals

court dismissed some of the concerns in 2011, but upheld the whitebark pine ruling. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needed to know more about the tree's decline before grizzlies could be removed, the appeals court ruled.

Nut production on whitebark pine trees naturally cycles. During bad years, bears tend to move out of the high country looking for food. Game and Fish officials have already alerted hunters and backpackers about the possibility of more conflicts because production is limited this fall.

Conservationists worry about how grizzlies will behave with the tree's permanent loss, said Chris Colligan, wildlife program manager for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a Yellowstone-based conservation group that was involved in the 2009 relisting of grizzly bears.

"The concern is the increasing conflicts with humans that may be in part due to the loss of the primary food source," he said.

More conflicts mean more grizzly deaths.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, a group of federal and state researchers, may have an answer by the end of October. They're also looking at such effects on grizzlies as changes in body fat or reproduction.

Officials with the Fish and Wildlife Service will then disseminate the team's information and decide whether it will propose a delisting, said Chris Servheen, the service's grizzly bear coordinator.

The feds hope to make a decision by early 2014, he said.

After a possible delisting

If grizzlies do come off the list, the federal government and states have a plan in place for their management, Servheen said.

"Delisting doesn't mean we throw our hands up and say, 'We're done, you do whatever you want now,'" he said. "I don't know what's going to happen in the future, but I do know we do have a system in place to respond to those changes if and when they occur."

Those changes include issues like a decline in whitebark pine or cutthroat trout.

The agreement also says only a certain number of bears can die each year from anything, including car accidents, natural death or hunting. If more than the allowed number dies for a certain number of years, bears could go back on the endangered species list, he said.

Unlike the gray wolf, which is managed individually by each state, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana would all work together to maintain one bear population.

Wyoming hunting season quotas would need to consider bear deaths in other states, said Brian Nesvik, chief of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's wildlife division.

"All states would have the same skin in the game, and if any of the three states' management plan didn't support maintaining a population, all would suffer," he said.

Wyoming officials may discuss a grizzly bear hunting season if bears are delisted, but nothing has been decided, and it would be a slow and deliberate process, Nesvik said.

The season would be different than Wyoming's controversial wolf season, which started in 2012 with a goal of reducing the animal's population. Grizzlies give birth less frequently than wolves and have far fewer young.

Game and Fish officials believe allowing hunting could create advocates for the grizzly among sportsmen. It gives the public an opportunity to appreciate bears not just for their intrinsic natural value, but also for sport, said Dan Thompson, large carnivore section supervisor for the department.

Colligan, the wildlife program manager for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, wants to maintain a level of public interest in grizzlies that doesn't exist with wolves. But he sees other avenues.

"People care about bears in a different way. We need to keep that," he said. "For us it leads to us reducing the conflicts that give bears a negative image. We need to find creative ways and find ways to partner with land management agencies to try and improve those conditions."

Artificial borders

Some animals in the United States will likely never leave the endangered species list. The Kendall Warm Springs dace, a fish with a natural habitat in about 300 yards of stream north of Pinedale, will probably always be protected because its home range is so tiny. The California condor also may never leave the list because of its limited numbers and slow reproductive rate, said Beauvais, the director of the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.

Some species left the list long ago because they became extinct.

Grizzly bears are different. Their rebound is hailed as one of the great conservation success stories. Many people, managers and conservationists alike, agree one day grizzlies could be delisted in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

Unlike species such as the dace, managers aren't trying to preserve or improve the only habitat in which bears can live. Wildlife managers are trying to preserve the only place people will let grizzlies live, Beauvais said.

And conservationists worry if Yellowstone grizzlies cannot reach other isolated populations such as those in northern Montana, their recent successes will be short-term, Colligan said.

The Yellowstone ecosystem is an island with limited genetic diversity. Their ultimate survival may depend on each population's ability to reach the other, he said.

Historically, bears lived nearly everywhere. They wandered in the tundra, prairies, deserts and forests across the northern hemisphere, Beauvais said.

The Yellowstone ecosystem is, in fact, not ideal grizzly habitat.

"Grizzly bears live where we let them live," Beauvais said. "If you were to ask the grizzly bear, the Yellowstone plateau is pretty marginal habitat. They'd rather be out by the Missouri River eating winter kill bison and plums."

Whitebark pine and cutthroat trout weren't the key to grizzly bear survival worldwide. Grizzlies in the Black Hills, for example, never saw a whitebark pine tree or ate a cutthroat trout.

Even fewer lapped army cutworm moths from rocks in Wyoming's steepest terrain. But in the absence of a spot on the Missouri eating plums and bison, Yellowstone's grizzlies will continue to fill their bellies with moths, plants, elk and ants.

It remains to be seen if that will be enough.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/fate-of-yellowstone-grizzlies-tied-to-key-foods/article_1b1aded3-c470-5091-8923-0d0eac351d18.html#ixzz2f4JGWTr6

Yellowstone jolted with small earthquake

18 hours ago • Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — A small earthquake jolted Yellowstone National Park near Old Faithful geyser on Sunday.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the 3.6 magnitude temblor occurred just before 10 a.m. with the epicenter located about 6 miles north of Old Faithful, one of the park's main attractions.

Yellowstone National Park officials didn't return a call from The Associated Press on Sunday.

A live video feed provided by the National Park Service showed Old Faithful erupting later in the day in front of several hundred onlookers.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-jolted-with-small-earthquake/article_72115df1-f1eb-569e-a66e-3e74a2298023.html#ixzz2f4JDo9z

Sure, you like the park; now you can 'like' it on Facebook, too

Published: Fri, 09/13/2013 - 3:00pm | By Liz Kearney - Enterprise Staff Writer

Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, WYO. — You could say Yellowstone National Park got its first “like” when Congress passed the bill creating it in 1872. And the congressmen were moved to create the park when the Hayden Survey “shared” their photos and sketches of the natural wonders of the area.

Nearly 150 years later, Yellowstone continues to gather “likes” and “shares” through Facebook. The park utilizes other social media, including YouTube, Flickr and Twitter, but Facebook is the most popular, with more than 121,000 Facebook users clicking on the page's button to “like” it, receiving updates when the park posts on Facebook.

Yellowstone's online presence is managed by a committee of 13 — the Social Media Team — which was created in June 2012, explained the park's New Media Specialist David Restivo.

Restivo came to work in Yellowstone earlier this year. He had previously worked in Glacier National Park, first as a graphic designer, then gradually morphing into the social media leader there.

Glacier got into Facebook relatively early, in 2009, Restivo explained Tuesday. A private citizen had created a Facebook profile named Glacier National Park. The information on the site, park leaders came to learn, was inaccurate. Glacier had to create its own official page to make sure correct information was shared.

Some of Restivo's work on Glacier's social media policy was incorporated into systemwide guidelines and parameters for the National Park Service. Restivo and experts from the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center, which creates interpretive tools for national parks, came to Yellowstone last June to help the social media team craft policies and create a Facebook presence, Restivo said.

Yellowstone's Facebook page went up with one photo and a title, "Yellowstone National Park." And before there was much content at all, the page generated 30,000 likes, said team member Tami Blackford, deputy chief of Interpretive Planning and Media Development.

Chief Public Affairs Officer Al Nash said Thursday it's important for Yellowstone to have a social media presence in order to reach the people who care about the park. "We need to be where the people are to engage them," Nash said. "Stephen Mather and Horace Albright (early directors of the NPS) believed that for the national park system to survive and thrive, we needed to develop a constituency."

In their day, Albright, who was also a Yellowstone Park superintendent, believed the way to build a constituency was to build roads, campgrounds and hotels, Nash said.

"Today, we need people who appreciate and support protecting the places that are special," he said.

The social media team members — who gather every other week and welcomed an Enterprise reporter and photographer to their Tuesday afternoon meeting — all hold regular NPS jobs in addition to their Facebook responsibilities. The members hold a variety of positions that have to do with interpretation — that is, visitor information such as ranger programs, education and publications. There is no single person whose job is solely to post to Facebook, Blackford explained. Instead, the team members work mostly independently on their posts. The goal is for each to make two posts per week. Sometimes they check with other team members who have a particular expertise before posting to a crowd of 121,000.

"If I get a shot of a bird," explained Park Photographer Jim Peaco, "I run it by Katy (Duffy)," an interpretive planner and team member with a wildlife background in ornithology.

Members put their initials in parentheses at the end of their posts, for accountability. And each "poster" is responsible for watching the comments made on their posts. The social media team has a lengthy "Page Expectations and Guidelines" section on its page. Commenters, in brief, are asked to keep remarks clean, noncommercial and on-topic.

The commenters form their own community, Publications Program Manager Janine Waller said. She cited a Yellowstone fan from Brazil who was voluntarily translating posts for other Portuguese speakers. And asked if they had, as many public Facebook pages do, any "crazies," team members seemed ready to talk about some of their favorites — before remembering there was a reporter in the room.

"We have a lot of people who are incredibly passionate about one thing," a team member said diplomatically.

Social media is continually evolving, Restivo said, and so does the social media team's approach to its Facebook posts. At their Tuesday meeting, nine of the team's 13 members held a lively, give-and-take discussion about the past week's posts and upcoming events.

There was a lot of discussion about the "tone" and "personality" of the Facebook page, as well as other social media. For example, Waller had experimented recently with a more personal tone, using the first person "I" when she described a photo she had taken near Old Faithful. Some team members liked the personal touch, saying people like to hear about the staff who live and work in Yellowstone.

Waller had also just posted the page's first "meme," which is an idea, behavior, style, or usage that spreads from person to person within a culture. All those Facebook photos with funny captions are "memes." Waller posted a block of four photos of a cow elk at Mammoth Hot Springs knocking over a sign stating, "Danger: Do Not Approach Elk." It was cute and funny, the team agreed, but discussed whether cute and funny was the proper tone to use on the site.

Chief of Public Affairs Al Nash said he thinks of Facebook more like an entertainment channel in a cable TV package. He prefers to post tweets on Twitter with links to official news releases on the park's website, www.nps.gov/yell.

'Hard news' on Facebook?

And since Facebook has a lighter tone, this led to a discussion about when or whether to post "hard news" on Facebook, such as the Grant Village campground tragedy last week, where a mother reported a 3-year-old accidentally shot herself with a handgun and died. Nash thought Facebook was an inappropriate place to post such news. But rather than ignore it completely, the team posted a message of condolence and a link to the news release on the park's website.

The team members often post their own photos. Restivo caught a dramatic photo of a double rainbow over Mammoth and posted it, garnering a lot of comments and shares. People thought it was Photoshopped, he laughed. Other recent personal photos included shots from the southeast corner of Yellowstone, taken by Diane Renkin, who works as an office assistant with Peaco, on a kayaking and hiking trip she took there recently.

Demographics

Facebook users span a range of ages, with the highest concentration ranging from 25 to 64. Restivo said the most represented age group is 25-34, but the 35-44-year-olds share Yellowstone Facebooks more often. Women outnumber men 58 to 41 percent.

Most fans are in the U.S., followed by Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, India and Brazil. The largest number of fans from a single U.S. city is Chicago, with 1,004.

Other media

The park also uses Flickr and YouTube, but not so much YouTube lately while the park's videographer position has been vacant. A new hire is due to start soon, Restivo said.

Several webcams are up around Yellowstone, and may be accessed through the park's website.

Staff at Old Faithful use Twitter to tweet the predicted eruption times of Old Faithful Geyser. Follow them at GeyserNPS on twitter.com.

And in the middle of Tuesday's meeting, Nash received a text on his smartphone. It was an automatic notification he had signed up for through a free service of the United States Geological Survey. He receives a text whenever an earthquake of magnitude 3.0 or higher is recorded in Yellowstone.

"There was a 3.1 (quake) 22 kilometers southeast of Old Faithful," Nash announced, thanks to the wonders of modern technology.

Follow Yellowstone National Park on Facebook. There are several Facebook page names that start with "Yellowstone National Park." Look for the one that has about 121,000 likes.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

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

Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 2pm. Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 66. West southwest wind 10 to 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. South southwest wind 8 to 13 mph.

Tuesday: Isolated showers, then scattered showers and thunderstorms after noon. Some of the storms could produce small hail. Partly sunny, with a high near 64. South southwest wind 9 to 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tuesday Night: Scattered rain showers before midnight, then a slight chance of rain and snow showers. Some thunder is also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. South wind 5 to 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Wednesday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 52. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. West wind 5 to 9 mph.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 17, 2013



Some people have guard dogs... we have guard elk!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROADS: With hopes of good weather **TODAY** and **TOMORROW** (although the weather doesn't look that good right now!), Special Projects will try to complete chip sealing for 2013. The work will take place from West Thumb Junction to Grant Village YPSS. The work will include both Grant Village and West Thumb Junctions and the main road into Grant Village. There will be delays of no more than 30 minutes, pilot car and reduced speeds. If there are changes an update will be issued.

For Immediate Release

September 16, 2013

Presidential Proclamation -- Honoring the Victims of the Tragedy at the Washington Navy Yard
HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAGEDY AT THE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

As a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on September 16, 2013, at the Washington Navy Yard, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, **I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, September 20, 2013.** I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

Dear BisonConnect user,

We are pleased to announce that the "do not delete" policy has been deleted! You can **now delete email messages in BisonConnect!**

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Thank you,

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Big Bear Stampede! September 20-21, 2013

Friday: Free Talk at 7:00 p.m. (Time changed from 7:30 p.m.) by Billy Mills (Olympic gold medalist 10,000 meter) at the Gardiner School. Optional dinner starts at **5 p.m. till (time changed from 6 p.m.)**. \$10.

Be inspired and bring you family for a life-changing presentation.

Saturday: Community Walk, 5K and 8K competitive Trail Run, and 1K kids run begin at 9 a.m.. Free Breakfast at Eagle Creek Campground after the run.

Saturday Night come hear Cure for the Commons at 7:30 p.m. at the Two Bit Saloon, all ages welcome! \$5 cover = first beer. **Register today at bigbearstampede.org**



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We would like your ideas on what we can do to become more sustainable with how we all work and provide for visitors.

The workshop will focus on:

- ☐ Energy reduction
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We are still working out the details of the workshop and would like your thoughts. What improvements would you like to see carried out in Yellowstone by either the NPS or our concession partners?

We have calculated our overall greenhouse gas emissions for 2003 and 2011 and continue to look for opportunities to reduce fossil fuel use and the environmental impacts of our operations.

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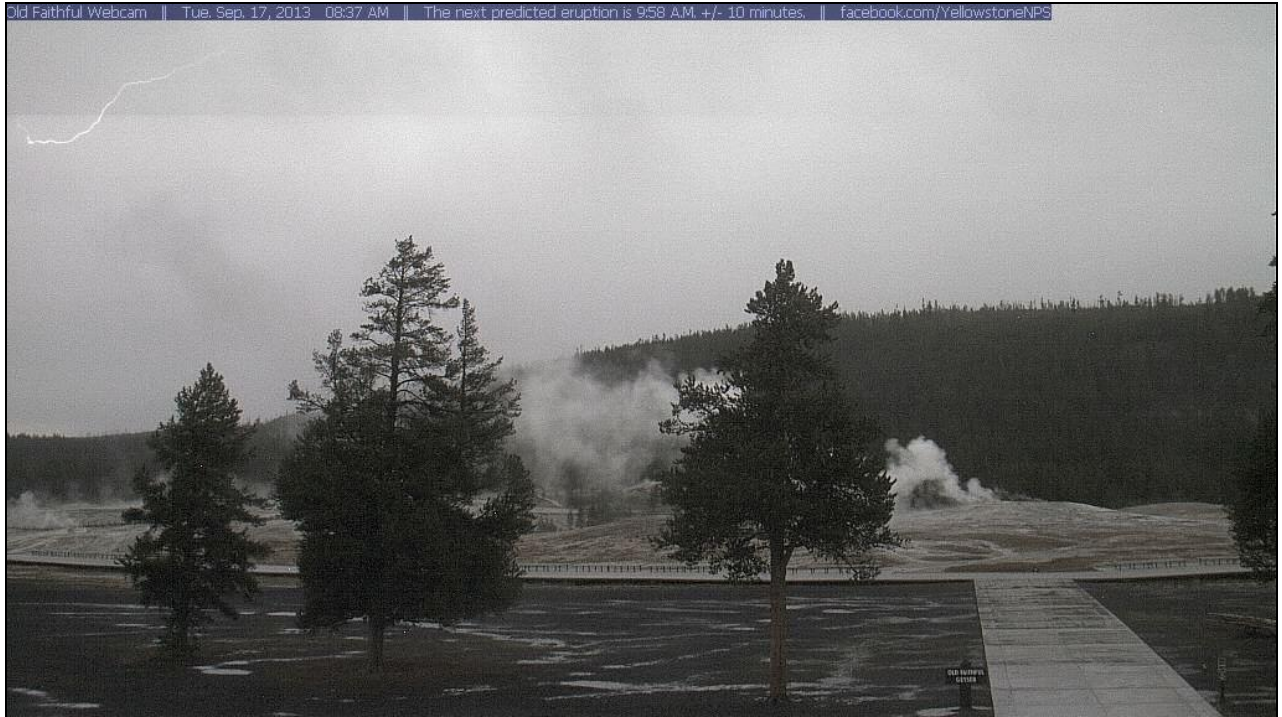
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A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 18, 2013



Lightning caught on the Old Faithful webcam yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Even Cowboys Get the Blues will be a community forum on male depression, providing information on what it is, how it's treated, and mental health services available in Park County. We'll talk about prevention and stigma, and invite people to ask the hard questions (Is depression real? Why should I talk to a stranger about my problems? I figure I can deal with my own problems, etc.)! We hope both men and women will attend and join the discussion.

Date: **TOMORROW**, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Two Bit Saloon Function Hall

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- - - - -

Come to St. Louis in October for the Association of National Park Ranger's annual Ranger Rendezvous conference

Register now for Ranger Rendezvous 36 and “Explore the Possibilities.” This annual event is scheduled for Oct. 27-31 at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri.

Here are five reasons why you need to visit the ANPR website (www.anpr.org) to sign up for the Rendezvous.

1. Experience and explore new perspectives for a changing National Park Service landscape.
2. Speak with NPS leaders and be heard.
3. Participate in professional training.
4. Network with other attendees.
5. Begin to decode the hiring system.

Presentations include:

Peggy O'Dell, NPS deputy director for operations, will speak about the future of the agency. Her insights should help inform your perspectives about your park site and its operations.

Dr. Gary Machlis, NPS science adviser, will talk about preparing a contemporary version of the 1963 Leopold Report to confront modern challenges in natural and cultural resource management. Join the conversation as we rethink resource stewardship in the national parks.

This year's Rendezvous has a technology twist — Google. If you thought you knew the world's most popular search engine, join us to see and learn about emerging technologies that will help shape the NPS in the future.

Michele Weslander Quaid, Google's chief technology officer and innovation evangelist, has a copy of the director's Call to Action and will show how we can use Google technologies to better serve and protect our parks. Google also will have a team to answer questions about the technology on your computer, and how you can better use it to streamline park communications and manage your day-to-day operations.

A brief training course will be offered — **Mountain Medicine in National Parks**. No signup is necessary and it's free to Rendezvous registrants.

Breakout groups and evening events

Daily breakout groups and evening events will provide opportunities to develop professionally and personally. The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, site of Gateway Arch, will host several events.

- Hear from WASO representatives and the seasonal recruiting office about hiring processes.
- Learn more about rangers worldwide.
- Join the annual ANPR service project and show your support of the St. Louis community.
- Enjoy the ever-popular NPS film night.
- Attend an issues dinner at a popular downtown jazz venue.
- Get social during evening events — jazz, conversation and ranger trivia game

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We have calculated our overall greenhouse gas emissions for 2003 and 2011 and continue to look for opportunities to reduce fossil fuel use and the environmental impacts of our operations.

Thanks for your help,
Yellowstone Green Team

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Incentive Program and Employee Resources

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

Daniel Adams-Maint.
Bethany Gassman-RVP
Claire Stout-RVP
Michelle Eide-REYP
Sue Mills-YCR

Full Wellness Incentive Program program details can be found here: <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 September are due to Stacey Gunther by October 5th.**

New Wellness Resources for employees: The Mayo Clinic Embody Newsletter as well as the Mayo Clinic Guide to Self-Care have been distributed to your work area. 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. Please take the time to utilize these wellness tools.

There is also a free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Topics can be tailored to your health interests. Sign up here: <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.

Here's to your health!

IN THE NEWS

Wyo. a griz graveyard

Annual report highlights population, death trends for Greater Yellowstone grizzlies.

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole, Wyo.

September 18, 2013

Grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone are running into trouble with humans at very high rates, and the bulk of lethal conflict is taking place in Wyoming, a new report shows.

About 91 percent of the 34 “known or probable” human-caused grizzly deaths that occurred in the ecosystem during 2012 took place in Wyoming, according to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team’s annual report. It was published online last week.

Wyoming accounts for perhaps two-thirds of grizzlies’ current occupied habitat in the greater Yellowstone area. The bears are protected under federal law and can be killed legally only for cause.

Statistics used in this story come from the study team’s report or the Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s 2012 grizzly bear “job completion report,” released in July.

Measured by the 56 bears that had to be relocated or killed by wildlife managers, 2012 was the second-highest conflict year for grizzlies in the modern history of the ecosystem. The number of bears captured for management purposes topped out in 2010 at 75.

The third-highest year was 2011, when 46 bears were relocated or killed by wildlife officials. About half, or 16 of 34, human-caused grizzly deaths in the ecosystem were related to livestock depredation, according to the study team report.

Some bears get into garbage or other human food. Conflicts are increasing in Wyoming.

“This trend is a result of grizzly bears increasing in numbers and distribution into areas used by humans, including livestock production, both on public and private lands,” the study team report said.

Thirteen of the human-caused deaths were related to hunters. The remainder of the mortality is attributed to road kills, malicious killings and defense of property.

Using the historic protocol for counting bears, there were 610 grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone last year. Because of a revision to counting methods, the estimated population has been boosted to 718.

Rising numbers of human-grizzly conflicts is consistent with trends from recent years, according to Game and Fish’s grizzly “job completion report.”

“This year [2012] was marked by significant drought conditions and very little summer moisture,” the state’s report said. “As a result, overall annual vegetal food available was probably less than optimal.

“However, whitepark pine production was above average, and army cutworm moth aggregation site use by bears was very high in 2012,” the report said.

This year production of whitebark pine seeds, a key fall food source, fell off by 84 percent, study team biologist Frank Van Manen told the News&Guide in August.

Representatives for the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team and Wyoming Game and Fish Department did not return phone calls by press time.

Hunters are advised to keep their guards up and be bear-prepared, because low whitebark seed years can bring grizzlies down into the lowlands.

The state seeks to prevent grizzly conflicts, the reports say.

“Conflict prevention measures such as attractant storage, deterrence, and education are the highest priority for [Wyoming Game and Fish],” the study team said.

Bison group meets to discuss restoration, communication

Posted: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 9:46 pm Laura Lundquist, Staff Writer

BIG SKY – Successful bison conservation projects all have one component in common: communication with neighbors and interested parties.

That ended up being the overarching message of the three-day American Bison Society meeting at the Big Sky Resort.

Around 150 scientists and conservationists spent Tuesday listening to biologists and federal land managers detail their efforts to introduce or restore bison from Alaska to Mexico.

Speakers were asked to summarize lessons learned on their projects, and many spoke of reaching out to landowners and ranchers, who often have long-held misconceptions and distrust.

“When people encounter something new, they don’t understand it. How do we get different cultures and traditions to understand the value of bison and how do we understand them?” meeting organizer Keith Aune said. “That’s why we themed this meeting, ‘Shared Stewardship.’ We are all stewards.”

Bill Bates of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources said his project to increase the size of the Henry Mountains bison herd almost failed after several fruitless meetings with ranchers.

“We don’t want to increase numbers on the backs of unwilling participants. I finally got them to say that what they really wanted was to maintain the integrity of the range resource. I said we could do that,” Bates said. “We moved forward but only because of that mutual purpose.”

They're just getting started in Alaska, where groups are planning to restore populations of wood bison starting in spring 2015. Alaskans are eager to see bison on the landscape, but site selection is complicated by the presence of potential petroleum reserves, said Alaska wildlife biologist Tom Seaton, the state's wood bison coordinator. Farther east, Canada has established some free-ranging wood bison populations, but they're isolated, small and some are diseased.

Any chances to expand the disease-free herds are becoming further limited by growth of industry, agriculture and urbanization, said Terry Armstrong of the Northwest Territories.

But Canadians are interested in bison restoration. Monday's announcement that Banff National Park planned to re-introduce bison made national news.

David Gummer of Parks Canada said a five-year pilot project would transplant 30 to 50 free-roaming bison into a remote area of the park to see if they'd stay there and survive. Gummer said the bison need to stay in the park because the eastern border abuts private land where bison could be hunted.

"The biggest question is when will we have hooves on the ground. We have a lot of work to do addressing our neighbor concerns," Gummer said. "I'd say the time and effort for consultation up front – it can really affect what you're proposing to do and it's well worth the investment."

The two speakers who had people talking were not from groups who normally attend the biennial meeting. Gord Vaadeland is a Canadian rancher who helped write a bison management plan for the Sturgeon River region of Saskatchewan, near Prince Albert National Park.

Bison management in the area had a lot of challenges due to different land ownership: private, provincial and national park.

Ranchers don't normally lead an effort to manage bison, but Vaadeland said nonproductive stakeholders' meetings led the ranchers to form a nonprofit.

"Sometimes you have to do things yourself," Vaadeland said. "As ranchers, we needed to accept that bison were part of our life and that wasn't going to change. In order to direct this in the way we wanted it to go, we needed to become leaders."

After forming in 2006, the Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewards patched up a relationship with the Prince Albert National Park and contributed to the bison plan released in 2012.

The key was the effort and communication that the park put into the collaboration, Vaadeland said. "All we really wanted was to be heard," Vaadeland said.

Leroy Littlebear of the Blood Tribe in Alberta, closely related to the Blackfeet, emphasized the importance of communication in building relationships because bison aren't the problem – people are. He provided examples of how human interference has changed the landscape.

“I know we are talking about bison, but we also need to talk about us. It is a whole complex relational network that we need to look at,” Littlebear said. “The buffalo is not the problem – it’s us that is the problem.”

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Thursday, September 19, 2013



VUA Diana Dixon snapped this photo of A grouse outside the west entrance building.
(photo by VUA Diana Dixon on Sept 15)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Kids 1K run/obstacle course will begin at 11:00 a.m. Come grab some breakfast before their event!

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Due to weather forecasts changing on a moment's notice and given the uncertainty of the weather, the project at Grant Village has been canceled for the season.



Lady Dunraven and her daughter recently visited the park. She was very moved by the entire experience, as was her daughter Ana. Both had waited all their lives to see the Earl's namesake pass and peak in Yellowstone. She read the group passages from her husband's ancestor's book and was extremely knowledgeable about him.

Yellowstone's Earl of Dunraven (Wyndham Thomas Wyndham-Quin, 1841-1926), was the fourth such Earl. Lady Dunraven's husband was either the sixth or seventh Earl of Dunraven. In 1926, when the fourth earl died, the title moved laterally instead of directly to a son, because the fourth Earl had three daughters and the title searched for only a male heir. So the title moved to a direct forebear of Lady Dunraven's husband and he obtained it from either that forebear or the son of that forebear.

The Dunravens are well known in Ireland and they literally still live in the family CASTLE. Her husband (the sixth or seventh Earl of Dunraven) was disabled and spent much of his life in a wheel chair. For that reason, the Dunravens became very active in the affairs of disabled persons in Ireland and have left a powerful legacy in that country for disabled people.

Please join us for an Open House and Progressive Potluck at the Mammoth Community Center at 6PM on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. The MCC board will be providing appetizers in the classrooms and we'll be using the other spaces in the MCC to serve additional courses; a great chance to ask questions about the offerings at the center (yoga, anyone?), tour the facility and give us your feedback about what you'd like to see available in the

future. Please bring a dish to share - Z-S Main Dish/Entree; R-J Salad or Side Dish; I-A Dessert and join your community at play!

We are also recruiting new members for the MCC board. Board meetings are held monthly during the winter months. Please send an email about yourself and why you'd like to participate to board@mammothcommunity.org

Visit our website for more information: www.mammothcommunity.org

“What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured.”

— Kurt Vonnegut

For Immediate Release

September 16, 2013

Presidential Proclamation -- Honoring the Victims of the Tragedy at the Washington Navy Yard
HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE TRAGEDY AT THE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

As a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on September 16, 2013, at the Washington Navy Yard, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, **I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, September 20, 2013.** I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

Come to St. Louis in October for the Association of National Park Ranger's annual Ranger Rendezvous conference

Register now for Ranger Rendezvous 36 and “Explore the Possibilities.” This annual event is scheduled for Oct. 27-31 at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri.

Here are five reasons why you need to visit the ANPR website (www.anpr.org) to sign up for the Rendezvous.

1. Experience and explore new perspectives for a changing National Park Service landscape.
2. Speak with NPS leaders and be heard.
3. Participate in professional training.
4. Network with other attendees.
5. Begin to decode the hiring system.

Presentations include:

Peggy O'Dell, NPS deputy director for operations, will speak about the future of the agency. Her insights should help inform your perspectives about your park site and its operations.

Dr. Gary Machlis, NPS science adviser, will talk about preparing a contemporary version of the 1963 Leopold Report to confront modern challenges in natural and cultural resource management. Join the conversation as we rethink resource stewardship in the national parks.

This year's Rendezvous has a technology twist — Google. If you thought you knew the world's most popular search engine, join us to see and learn about emerging technologies that will help shape the NPS in the future.

Michele Weslander Quaid, Google's chief technology officer and innovation evangelist, has a copy of the director's Call to Action and will show how we can use Google technologies to better serve and protect our parks. Google also will have a team to answer questions about the technology on your computer, and how you can better use it to streamline park communications and manage your day-to-day operations.

A brief training course will be offered — **Mountain Medicine in National Parks**. No signup is necessary and it's free to Rendezvous registrants.

Breakout groups and evening events

Daily breakout groups and evening events will provide opportunities to develop professionally and personally. The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, site of Gateway Arch, will host several events.

- Hear from WASO representatives and the seasonal recruiting office about hiring processes.
- Learn more about rangers worldwide.
- Join the annual ANPR service project and show your support of the St. Louis community.
- Enjoy the ever-popular NPS film night.
- Attend an issues dinner at a popular downtown jazz venue.
- Get social during evening events — jazz, conversation and ranger trivia game



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Full Wellness Incentive Program details can be found here: <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 September are due to Stacey Gunther by October 5th.**

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Here's to your health!

IN THE NEWS

Former Yellowstone boss on '88 fires: 'Should've been fought harder'

Posted: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 2:46 pm By Betsy Simon |

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of a three-part series about the 30th anniversary of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.)

He's witnessed volcanic eruptions in Hawaii, viewed torrential rains in the Carolinas and experienced West Coast earthquakes.

But Bob Barbee said those beatings by Mother Nature paled in comparison to the 1988 fires that occurred during his 12-year tenure as superintendent of Yellowstone Park.

"In three words, the fires were unpredictable, uncontrollable and unimaginable," said Barbee, who retired in Bozeman after 42 years with the Park Service.

Barbee will share his stories about the fires and other experiences as superintendent when he's joined Sept. 21, at the Greater Yellowstone Coalition's 30th anniversary event, by two of his successors – current Yellowstone superintendent Dan Wenk and Mike Finley, who was superintendent when wolves were reintroduced into the park in the 1990s.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Union Pacific Dining Hall in West Yellowstone. (Tickets for \$50 per person can be purchased at greateryellowstone.org.)

A quarter-century after the Yellowstone fires, Barbee says he still fields questions about what happened.

"I can't believe it's been 25 years already," he said. "It was a character building summer for me that year, but 25 years later Yellowstone looks better than ever ecologically, even after the fires."

Great fires in Yellowstone were nothing new before '88, but blazes had been more tame in the year prior, lulling the public into a sense complacency, he said.

"1988 proved to be different even though it was a moist spring and there was no indication there would be huge fires that early in the summer," Barbee said. "Single-digit humidity mixed with explosively dry fuels on the forest floor, lightning and draconian winds – and away the fires went."

In retrospect, Barbee said the Fan Fire that burned the northwest part of the park and the Clover-Mist Fire, which scorched a total of 101,996 acres between July and October and caused some of the heaviest damage to personal property in the Clarks Fork Valley, should have been fought harder and sooner.

"If we knew then what we know now, we would have acted earlier on those two fires," he said. "We had 25,000 people working on the park fires that summer. Everybody did their best."

A major priority for Barbee was shielding Old Faithful Inn – a national historic landmark in the heart of the park.

"When the North Fork Fire came in to the Old Faithful area, I talked to the incident commander and said the Inn was not an option to lose if it became threatened," Barbee said. "The firefighters soaked it for three days and the inn's still here."

That summer's success stories often were overshadowed by misconceptions reported by the media, which Barbee said came to Yellowstone "looking for high-octane imagery and high drama."

"After the fires were over, I went with officials from two states to western Europe, where many Yellowstone tourists come from," he said. "The public was curious to hear about the devastation since they'd heard for months that Yellowstone was gone, so we gave programs to let people know Yellowstone was still there."

After the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska during the winter following the fires, Barbee said the media returned in the spring for a glimpse at emerging growth in the park.

“I think the media had a great deal to do with the misconceptions the public had about the park during the fires when it was often reported that Yellowstone was gone,” he said. “It seems the media today is more sophisticated with the dynamics of these fires and coverage has gotten better.”

That’s important now as reporters remain fixed on Yosemite Park, where the human-caused Rim Fire has burned 250,000 acres in the park. Containment is anticipated by the end of the week.

Barbee, who served at Yosemite on three occasions and was responsible for its fire management program, said the only comparison between the Yellowstone and Yosemite fires are the risks to firefighters.

“The Yosemite fire is burning in difficult terrain and wilderness and you can’t put crews at risk,” he added. “We had that problem in Yellowstone when deciding where to build lines and put crews. If there was any question about if the firefighters could get trapped, our call was always for safety.”

The policy served crews well during the Yellowstone blazes, where Barbee said firefighter fatalities and major incidents were largely avoided until after the fires were out.

Once the smoke cleared, the Park Service reviewed fire policies ad nauseum, Barbee says, and he had his first chance to evaluate the events for himself.

“I took shots from the public during the fires because someone had to be the lightning rod, but I knew most things were going OK as far as our efforts,” he added. “People ask, ‘Why didn’t you just put the fires out?’ I say why not stop a tornado or hurricane?”

“There always have been fires in Yellowstone and there will be big fires in the future, no matter what technology we throw at them.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:11 am MDT Sep 19, 2013

Today: Sunny, with a high near 51. West wind 6 to 9 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 28. West wind 5 to 11 mph becoming south after midnight.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 61. South wind 6 to 9 mph becoming east northeast in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. Southwest wind around 7 mph becoming southeast in the evening.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. South southwest wind 7 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow showers after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light south southwest. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety?

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 20, 2013



Moonset over the Mt. Sheridan fire lookout on Sept. 19. (Photo by Richard Jones)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Furniture for sale: Approximately forty seven lots of Xanterra furniture from the Lake Hotel and the cabins at Canyon are scheduled for sale by GSA. The on-line auction (www.gsaauctions.gov) is tentatively set to open Saturday, September 28 and to close Saturday, October 5.

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Want to Volunteer for National Public Lands Day?

If you are interested in volunteering for National Public Lands Day on September 28, please contact Bob Fuhrmann at 307-344-2256 or bob_fuhrmann@nps.gov by Monday, September 23. We still have a few slots remaining.

Volunteers will participate in trail restoration work along the Purple Mountain Trail located in the Madison Junction area. Volunteers will work from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., installing water bars and other trail structures that will greatly improve the conditions on the trail. This work is strenuous, requiring the use of hand tools including shovels and picks, lifting heavy timbers and bags of rock, and working at high altitudes and in variable weather conditions.

Space is limited to 20 volunteers. Volunteers are asked to register by September 19.

Drinks and snacks will be provided. All volunteers should bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and sturdy footwear, and be prepared with adequate clothing for variable weather conditions.

Those who participate in a National Public Lands Day volunteer activity will receive a coupon good for a one-time free entrance to Yellowstone or another federally managed area of their choice.



Big Bear Stampede! September 20-21, 2013

TODAY: Free Talk at 7:00 p.m. by Billy Mills (Olympic gold medalist 10,000 meter) at the Gardiner School.

Optional dinner starts will begin **at 5 p.m. and be served until 6:15 p.m.** Grab some food before the talk! \$10.

Be inspired and bring you family for a life-changing presentation.

Saturday: Community Walk, 5K and 8K competitive Trail Run, begin at 9 a.m. Free Breakfast at Eagle Creek Campground will **begin at 9:15 a.m.**

Kids 1K run/obstacle course will begin at 11:00 a.m. Come grab some breakfast before their event!

Saturday Night come hear Cure for the Commons at 7:30 p.m. at the Two Bit Saloon, all ages welcome! \$5 cover = first beer.

Register today at bigbearstampede.org

Due to weather forecasts changing on a moment's notice and given the uncertainty of the weather, the project at Grant Village has been canceled for the season.

Please join us for an **Open House and Progressive Potluck** at the Mammoth Community Center at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. The MCC board will be providing appetizers in the classrooms and we'll be using the other spaces in the MCC to serve additional courses; a great chance to ask questions about the offerings at the center (yoga, anyone?), tour the facility and give us your feedback about what you'd like to see available in the future. Please bring a dish to share - Z-S Main Dish/Entree; R-J Salad or Side Dish; I-A Dessert and join your community at play!

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Here's to your health!

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

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

Today: Sunny, with a high near 62. East southeast wind 8 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. Southwest wind 9 to 13 mph becoming south southeast after midnight.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. South southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow showers after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. West southwest wind 7 to 10 mph becoming north in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: Scattered showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 49. South southwest wind 8 to 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Sunday Night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. Southwest wind 6 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52. Southwest wind 6 to 14 mph.

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A black bear sow with two cubs and a single grizzly bear have been active in the Mammoth area over last week, including a considerable amount of activity last Friday.

These bears have been spotted in numerous places in the developed areas, especially around the maintenance and YCC camp area, and the Chapel.

If you encounter any of these bears, please practice good bear safety and awareness measures to keep yourself safe. Please report any significant activity you observe regarding these animals to the Comm Center or Law enforcement.

Please join us for an **Open House and Progressive Potluck** at the Mammoth Community Center at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. The MCC board will be providing appetizers in the classrooms and we'll be using the other spaces in the MCC to serve additional courses; a great chance to ask questions about the offerings at the

center (yoga, anyone?), tour the facility and give us your feedback about what you'd like to see available in the future. Please bring a dish to share - Z-S Main Dish/Entree; R-J Salad or Side Dish; I-A Dessert and join your community at play!

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Here's to your health!

IN THE NEWS

Swarm of earthquakes shake Yellowstone

23 hours ago • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — Until recently, Bob Smith had never witnessed two simultaneous earthquake swarms in his 53 years of monitoring seismic activity in and around the Yellowstone Caldera.

Now, Smith, a University of Utah geophysics professor, has seen three swarms at once.

“It’s very remarkable,” Smith said. “How does one swarm relate to another? Can one swarm trigger another and vice versa?”

Because concurrent swarms have never been detected in the past, the answers aren’t in yet, Smith said. The geophysicist said he “wouldn’t doubt” if at least two of the events were related.

Temblors from the three quake swarms mostly hit in three areas: Lewis Lake, the Lower Geyser Basin and the northwest part of Norris Geyser Basin.

The largest earthquake shook the ground near Old Faithful Geyser on Sept. 15.

The epicenter of the magnitude 3.6 quake, the largest in Yellowstone in about a year, was just 6 miles to the north of Old Faithful.

“Generally speaking it needs to be 3.0 or higher for individuals to feel it,” Yellowstone National Park spokesman Al Nash said. “This one was somewhat stronger than that and it was in an area where a lot of people are.”

Yellowstone’s recent earthquake swarms started on Sept. 10 and were shaking until about 11:30 a.m. Sept. 16.

“A total of 130 earthquakes of magnitude 0.6 to 3.6 have occurred in these three areas, however, most have occurred in the Lower Geyser Basin,” a University of Utah statement said. “Notably much of seismicity in Yellowstone occurs as swarms.”

Including smaller events that have not been verified, there were many more quakes, Smith said.

The recent swarms produced roughly four quakes that were large enough to feel.

The first, a magnitude 3.5, struck Sept. 13 about 17 miles northeast of West Yellowstone, Mont. Then, in the early hours Sept. 15, two quakes, a magnitude 3.2 and magnitude 3.4, were detected in quick succession at 5:10 and

5:11 a.m., about 15 miles southeast of West Yellowstone. The magnitude 3.6 that marked the peak of the swarm struck nearby about 4 ½ hours later.

“This is pretty unusual, to be honest,” Smith said.

None of the recent quakes, Nash said, were strong enough to cause damage or throw off the cycle of the Old Faithful geyser’s eruptions.

“We know that a significant enough earthquake in the region has potential to alter geyser activity,” the spokesman said. “A strong enough earthquake, like the one that occurred out at Hebgen Lake in 1959, did change the interval of Old Faithful eruptions.”

That quake, a 7.3 to 7.5 on the Richter magnitude scale, caused nearly 300 features on the Yellowstone landscape to erupt, 160 of which had no previous record of geysers.

Smith traced the three recent earthquake swarms to the Hebgen Lake quake.

“These are a really related,” he said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/swarm-of-earthquakes-shake-yellowstone/article_180dc0cf-eb44-5e00-ba55-42edd7d2a0c8.html#ixzz2fjFkHPEx

Yellowstone still under siege

By Angus M. Thuermer Jr., Jackson Hole, Wyoming

September 23, 2013

Yellowstone National Park will always need advocates to protect it, three men who have been superintendent of the world’s first national park told Greater Yellowstone Coalition members Saturday.

Although the park is healthy in many respects, threats to its integrity loom, the three said at a convention celebrating the 30th anniversary of the conservation organization. Park managers alone may not be able to defend Yellowstone adequately, and support from outsiders is critical, they said.

Former superintendents Bob Barbee and Mike Finley made their comments with current superintendent Dan Wenk during a “fireside chat” in West Yellowstone, Mont. Barbee served from 1982 to 1994, Finley from 1994-2001, and Wenk has been in the job since 2011.

Several hundred coalition members attended the event.

“Things are in better shape today than they ever have been,” Barbee said.

Since he first served as superintendent, grizzly bear numbers have increased and wolves are back as part of the landscape.

Wenk agreed, but said Yellowstone “still has a number of problems.”

Among those are bison herds that find natural wintering grounds outside Yellowstone are off limits and a cutthroat trout population that’s been decimated by exotic lake trout in Yellowstone Lake.

The Park Service has not decided how to cope with global warming, Wenk said. Grizzly bears remain a threatened species as key foods have dwindled for a variety of reasons.

“People who would diminish Yellowstone depend on us to be silent,” Wenk said. “These gentlemen didn’t do that, and I don’t think we’re doing it today.”

The Yellowstone ecosystem is a bigger economic engine than some urban areas — Seattle, for example — Wenk said, and that should give regional residents reason to fight for its integrity. Defending native species and ensuring the survival of predators like wolves is in neighbors’ self-interest, he said.

“It’s good for you to care about it,” Wenk said.

Self-interest drives people to act, Finley said, borrowing a philosophy he employs at the Turner Foundation, where he serves as president and treasurer. The foundation protects natural places.

“These parks are not defended forever,” Finley said. Many superintendents of parks “lack that intestinal fortitude” to stand up for what’s right in the face of short-term interests and political pressure.

“Some of our population can’t be enlightened,” Finley said. “In that case, you need to be a defender.

“If you need to, go to the courthouse,” he said. “Litigation works.”

Barbee urged the group to continue its activities. “We really need to keep the drums beating,” he said.
http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/article.php?art_id=10308

Royal relative of Dunraven Pass namesake visits Yellowstone

Fri, 09/20/2013 - 3:00pm | Liz Kearney - Enterprise Staff Writer

Yellowstone National Park Historian Lee Whittlesey says he’s glad he recently had time to re-read the Fourth Earl of Dunraven’s 1876 book, “The Great Divide: Travels in the Upper Yellowstone in the Summer of 1874.”

That’s because he escorted the widow of the seventh earl, Lady Geraldine Dunraven, around the park on Monday, including, of course, a stop by the roadside sign marking Dunraven Pass, named for her late husband’s ancestor.

“She got emotional and teary,” and she wished her husband, who was wheelchair-bound, could have lived to visit the park, Whittlesey recalled.

“We kept in our imagination chatting with the Fourth Earl of Dunraven of 1874, wondering how my husband’s wheelchair would have managed if he had made such an early trip,” Lady Dunraven said this week in a statement via Whittlesey’s office.

The fourth earl, Windham Thomas-Wyndham Quin, lived from 1841 to 1926. His home was in the Kerry-Limerick area of Ireland.

He was a hunter, traveler and writer, Whittlesey explained in a Thursday phone interview.

Whittlesey’s book, “Yellowstone Place Names,” explains that early park superintendent Philetus W. Norris named the pass, between Tower and Canyon Junctions, for Dunraven because “The Great Divide” played a large role in introducing Yellowstone to Britain and Europe and attracting foreign tourists to the park.

Whittlesey said Lady Dunraven was warm and cordial to all, including the many tourists who watched Dunraven and her party take a photo near the Dunraven Pass sign.

Whittlesey, in his National Park Service uniform, drew a number of questions and photographs himself. A woman from Illinois stopped to chat, he recalled, and Dunraven was warm and chatty with her.

‘The Great Divide’

Dunraven’s book is important, Whittlesey said, because he paints a detailed picture of Yellowstone in 1874; a time when fewer than 500 people a year visited the park, and few left written accounts.

Dunraven traveled by train from Denver — he owned a lot of property in Colorado, including a grand hotel in Estes Park — to Salt Lake City to begin his journey. There were no trains in the Livingston area in 1874, and there wasn’t even a Livingston yet, Whittlesey said.

He hired a famous guide of the day, John “Texas Jack” Omohundro and assembled supplies and horses. At Corinne, Utah Territory, they set off overland, traveling the Montana Road, which led to the gold mines at Virginia City. From there, they traveled to Fort Ellis, near Bozeman, then over Trail Creek to the Bottler Ranch in Paradise Valley.

Fred Bottler accompanied the party, which was seven people, including a medical doctor.

They proceeded south to the area soon to become Gardiner and visited Mammoth Hot Springs. At Mammoth, McCartney’s Hotel, basically a squatter’s camp, was in operation. Entrepreneurs were already creating “coated specimens,” that is, leaving objects suspended in the mineral-rich springs to acquire a coating of calcium carbonate. Such specimens were popular souvenirs of their time, but today it is illegal to create such objects in park thermal features.

Dunraven spent time at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and in the Upper and Lower Geyser Basins. He was in the area for about a month to six weeks, Whittlesey said.

Whittlesey was thrilled to meet a relative of Dunraven’s.

“I live in the 19th century. I know who these people are and what they did,” he said.

Coincidentally, Lady Dunraven’s group this week was also made up of seven people and a medical doctor.

He and Lady Dunraven exchanged information about her husband’s ancestor.

“It’s always fruitful when you meet the family of historical figures,” Whittlesey said, because they have information that is not in history books. And, as a historian, he is able to put the historical figure into context for the family, Whittlesey said.

“He was an extremely gifted writer, poetic and musical,” Whittlesey said.

http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/royal-relative-dunraven-pass-namesake-visits-yellowstone?cookie_check=1

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:56 am MDT Sep 23, 2013**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 50. West wind 6 to 10 mph.**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light south southwest after midnight.**Tuesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 55. Light south southwest wind becoming southwest 9 to 14 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph.**Tuesday Night:** Rain showers likely before midnight, then rain and snow showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind 9 to 14 mph becoming light and variable after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.**Wednesday:** Snow showers likely before noon, then rain and snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 39. Calm wind becoming east southeast around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.**Wednesday Night:** Rain and snow showers, becoming all snow after midnight. Low around 27. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 24, 2013



Gathering racers



Gardiner cross country team with 10,000 meter Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills



Sage Leapers (and future Sage Leapers) with Billy Mills



Some of the Kids Race participants with Billy Mills



L to R Josh Ricardi 8K winner, Wyatt Wilkinson 5k winner, Billy Mills, Scott Fatlip

Thank you to all the participants (over 150 runners!)
and volunteers for making the first annual Big Bear Stampede a success!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Furniture for sale: Approximately forty seven lots of Xanterra furniture from the Lake Hotel and the cabins at Canyon are scheduled for sale by GSA. The on-line auction (www.gsaauctions.gov) is tentatively set to open Saturday, September 28 and to close Saturday, October 5.

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Volunteers will participate in trail restoration work along the Purple Mountain Trail located in the Madison Junction area. Volunteers will work from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., installing water bars and other trail structures that will greatly improve the conditions on the trail. This work is strenuous, requiring the use of hand tools including shovels and picks, lifting heavy timbers and bags of rock, and working at high altitudes and in variable weather conditions.

Space is limited to 20 volunteers. Volunteers are asked to register by September 19.

Drinks and snacks will be provided. All volunteers should bring lunch, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and sturdy footwear, and be prepared with adequate clothing for variable weather conditions.

Those who participate in a National Public Lands Day volunteer activity will receive a coupon good for a one-time free entrance to Yellowstone or another federally managed area of their choice.

A black bear sow with two cubs and a single grizzly bear have been active in the Mammoth area over last week, including a considerable amount of activity last Friday.

These bears have been spotted in numerous places in the developed areas, especially around the maintenance and YCC camp area, and the Chapel.

If you encounter any of these bears, please practice good bear safety and awareness measures to keep yourself safe. Please report any significant activity you observe regarding these animals to the Comm Center or Law enforcement.

Please join us for an **Open House and Progressive Potluck** at the Mammoth Community Center at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. The MCC board will be providing appetizers in the classrooms and we'll be using the other spaces in the MCC to serve additional courses; a great chance to ask questions about the offerings at the center (yoga, anyone?), tour the facility and give us your feedback about what you'd like to see available in the future. Please bring a dish to share - Z-S Main Dish/Entree; R-J Salad or Side Dish; I-A Dessert and join your community at play!

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- ☐ Energy reduction
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We are still working out the details of the workshop and would like your thoughts. What improvements would you like to see carried out in Yellowstone by either the NPS or our concession partners?

We have calculated our overall greenhouse gas emissions for 2003 and 2011 and continue to look for opportunities to reduce fossil fuel use and the environmental impacts of our operations.

Thanks for your help, Yellowstone Green Team

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Incentive Program and Employee Resources

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the month of August! Names have been

drawn from among those who participated in the program. The following employees will receive an award for their participation.

Daniel Adams-Maint.
Bethany Gassman-RVP
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Michelle Eide-REYP
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New Wellness Resources for employees: The Mayo Clinic Embody Newsletter as well as the Mayo Clinic Guide to Self-Care have been distributed to your work area. 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. Please take the time to utilize these wellness tools.

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Here's to your health!

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Albright Visitor Center Receives An Upgrade



The Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs will be upgraded over the coming months to be retrofit for seismic activity and bring better accessibility to the building.

The facility was originally built as bachelor officer's quarters by the United States Army in 1909. Named after Horace Albright, the first Superintendent for Yellowstone and the second Director for the National Park Service, the building had been through a variety of uses before officially becoming the Albright Visitor Center in 1979.

Yellowstone National Park often encounters the unique challenge of adaptive use while protecting the historical structures. The current project will involve a seismic retrofit of the existing historic stone building, as well as, addressing some accessibility and life safety concerns. The seismic retrofit requires the installation of a steel frame inside the structure and attaching the frame to the stonework.

In addition to the structural changes, the exhibits will also be receiving a makeover. While each visitor center throughout the park has a specific focus, this visitor center will feature exhibits on park history and the Northern Range area of Yellowstone, with its diverse and abundant wildlife. A new and dynamic orientation area with

interactive displays will offer enhanced trip planning information for visitors. Rounding out the services that will be available in the renovated facility is a backcountry permit office where hikers can obtain permits and up to date information for backcountry trip planning. The park's nonprofit cooperating association, the Yellowstone Association, will operate a bookstore in which visitors will find a variety of educational materials about Yellowstone and the surrounding region.

Swank Enterprises, which also completed the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center and the Mammoth Justice Center, plans to complete the project by spring of 2015. The projected opening date for the new visitor center is the summer of 2015. During the project, the visitor center operations will be relocated into a temporary building located nearby. All visitor services, including the Yellowstone Association store, will continue in the temporary location.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 4:41 am MDT Sep 24, 2013

Today: Scattered showers, mainly after 5pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 57. Breezy, with a light south southwest wind becoming southwest 15 to 20 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Showers. Low around 30. Breezy, with a south wind 16 to 21 mph decreasing to 8 to 13 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Wednesday: Rain and snow showers. Some thunder is also possible. High near 38. South wind around 6 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 3 to 7 inches possible.

Wednesday Night: Snow showers. Low around 24. Light west southwest wind. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Thursday: Snow likely, mainly before noon. Cloudy, with a high near 32. Calm wind becoming north northwest around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

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A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

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Those who participate in a National Public Lands Day volunteer activity will receive a coupon good for a one-time free entrance to Yellowstone or another federally managed area of their choice.

Park County Health Department will be holding a **flu vaccination clinic** at the Gardiner Public School on October 3rd from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This will be open to Gardiner School staff, students, and community members and the cost will be \$15. Anyone planning on receiving the flu vaccination will need to call the school office at (406) 848-7563 to be put onto the list. Also, students wishing to receive the vaccination will need to have written and signed parental permission.



CLIMATE Friendly PARKS

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Here's to your health!

IN THE NEWS

Former Yellowstone head doubts grizzly recovery

Three superintendents describe how politics can affect decision making in key conservation post.

By Angus M. Thuermer Jr., Jackson Hole, Wyo.

September 25, 2013

The federal government can't prove that grizzly habitat is healthy enough to sustain Yellowstone ecosystem bears and thus remove their legal protection, former park Superintendent Michael Finley said Saturday.

Yet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is bent on proposing the species be removed from the list of animals classified as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, Finley said. He addressed members of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition at a convention in West Yellowstone, Mont., celebrating the organization's 30th birthday.

Federal officials, after being rejected once in their effort to "delist" the species, are rolling out the bandwagon next year in a second effort, Finley said.

"Which is incredible to me," he said. "There's nothing surer to crash than a bandwagon."

He made his comments to several hundred alongside former superintendent Bob Barbee and current Yellowstone National Park superintendent Dan Wenk. All three addressed the conservation group and answered reporters' questions as well, touching on topics ranging from political pressure they endured to controversial decisions they made.

Grizzly bears have lost 90 percent of the cutthroat trout in Yellowstone Lake, a key food source, Finley said. Scientists blame exotic lake trout.

Bears also eat up to 40,000 army cutworm moths a day at certain times of the year, he said of another important dietary staple.

Yet "nobody really understands the life cycle of the army cutworm moth," which lives part-time in the plains and is considered an agricultural pest, he said.

Whitebark pine, whose nuts are another part of the grizzly diet, are being killed by beetles and infections, Finley said.

“There’s three huge food sources for grizzly bears diminished,” he said. A federal judge has asked Fish and Wildlife to address those issues before federal protections are removed.

Hold them accountable

“Hold them accountable,” Finley said of the wildlife service. “Make them prove the habitat quality is there.

“They can’t,” he said.

Political pressure forced him to make at least one decision he disagreed with during his tenure at Yellowstone, which lasted from 1994 to 2001, Finley said. He predicted similar coercion on the grizzly issue.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife will set an Interior Department position, he predicted.

“The Park Service [will be] given the nod, ‘You will cooperate,’” Finley said.

The agency doesn’t always live up to its mandate and responsibilities of protection, he said.

“I’ve seen them not do it — act in the best interest,” Finley said.

He urged coalition members to take up the cause.

“You are all important,” he said. “Litigation works.”

Finley said political pressure forced him to make a decision he didn’t feel was in the best interest of the park when he was negotiating with the Montana governor over a plan to manage park bison. The meeting took place in a judge’s chambers.

Bison leave Yellowstone and threaten to infect neighboring cattle with the bovine disease brucellosis. Although scientists said the risk of transmission was near zero, the governor wanted the plan to set a goal of 1,000 bison in Yellowstone (today there are more than 4,000).

“I had argued it up to 3,000,” where the plan stands today, he said. “I still didn’t like that.

“It was a settlement that had to come,” Finley said. “It was against my better judgment.”

The conflict came despite recognition by Congress dating back to 1899 that six townships north of Yellowstone be designated wildlife winter range.

“We’ve never fulfilled that federal recognition,” Finley said. “We’ve wronged this species just like we wronged the wolf — just over politics.”

Barbee, who served as superintendent from 1982 to 1994, said the restoration of wolves to Yellowstone was one decision in which politics ultimately did not interfere.

Before taking his post, Barbee interviewed with Secretary of the Interior James Watt.

The controversial Watt “was always supportive of everything,” Barbee said.

Wolf reintroduction

Assistant secretary G. Ray Arnett, however, told Barbee that if even a whisper of Yellowstone wolf talk reached Washington, “You’re going to go to South Yemen as a park planner,” Barbee said.

Barbee thought he could outlive critics politically, he said. And he did, getting Bill Mott as a new director for the Park Service.

“They couldn’t shut [Mott] up,” Barbee said of the populist who handed out postcards with wolf pictures on them.

“Let’s make some more noise about this,” Mott would say, Barbee said.

Then-U.S. Rep. Dick Cheney met with Barbee under a tree in Washington to say he couldn’t support the transplant.

“You know we’re going to persist,” Barbee responded.

“He said, ‘I know,’ and that was the end of it.” Barbee said. “The most reasonable one [of the Western delegates] I dealt with was Dick Cheney.”

When Bruce Babbitt became Secretary of the Interior, “all the stars aligned” for wolves, Barbee said.

“It’s kind of a miracle that it happened,” he said of the transplant.

Wenk, who has been in his post since 2011, said he has not had to make a politically influenced decision that went against his instincts or responsibilities.

He defended the winter bombing of Sylvan Pass, the entrance to the park from Cody, as a necessary and safe activity to control avalanches.

“We believe we can do it safely,” Wenk said. Also, bombing would be required in any case to open the pass in the spring, Wenk said.

“How do you say it’s OK in spring and not OK in the winter?” he asked.

Barbee, however, underscored the pressure from neighboring Park County on the park to keep the pass open year-round.

That includes the purchase by Wyoming of a howitzer artillery piece for Yellowstone’s use in Sylvan avalanche bombing.

Need a thick skin

The Cody community has fought successfully for years to keep the east gate to the park open in winter.

Critics complain about cost, danger and the incongruity of shelling slopes in a national park.

“There are things like Sylvan Pass and the politics of Cody that, in large measure, didn’t allow [you] to do things,” like closing the pass, Barbee said.

When a later superintendent, Suzanne Lewis, said she was going to make an effort to close the pass, Barbee said all he could say was, “Well, good luck.”

Barbee recounted the ignominy he had to endure, including being named by Earth First as “bio-prostitute of the year,” being awarded a wet buffalo pie, having to tell the Wyoming Woolgrowers Association that bringing back wolves was a good idea and seeing “Barbee-cue” signs in West Yellowstone as the fires of ’88 raged.

“If you start taking these things seriously, you’ll end up in the funny farm,” Barbee said.

WEATHER

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Thursday: Snow likely, mainly after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 32. Calm wind becoming northwest around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 37. Calm wind becoming northwest 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. South southwest wind 3 to 7 mph.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 26, 2013

Given the potential for a government shutdown to occur at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1, and the ongoing media coverage of such potential, Yellowstone staff at all levels are no doubt fielding a great deal of concerned questions from visitors and other park and concessions staff.

Until otherwise directed, the **ONLY** approved response we will continue to use when addressing those questions will be:

"The specific details of what will happen to the national parks in the event of a lapse of appropriations are still under development and review."

Please refrain from elaborating beyond this approved language.

We will continue to forward further direction from WASO on this important matter to you as it becomes available. Thank you for your continued patience and professionalism during this unsettled period.



Why did the big horn sheep cross the river?
To get to the other side.
(photo by Lori Wilkinson)

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Want to help the littlest members of the community? **Become a Little People's Learning Center board member.** The center has been growing by leaps and bounds this past year. We have a great preschool program in place and an exciting Nature Explore Classroom underway. Obligations are minimal, but the rewards are priceless! Meetings are held once a month. Contact Beth Coombs (Beth_Coombs@nps.gov), Heather Kisthart (Heather_Kisthart@nps.gov), or Amy Bartlett (Amy_Bartlett@nps.gov) for further details.

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— [Kurt Vonnegut](#)

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Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Incentive Program and Employee Resources

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

Daniel Adams-Maint.
Bethany Gassman-RVP
Claire Stout-RVP
Michelle Eide-REYP
Sue Mills-YCR

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 September are due to Stacey Gunther by October 5th.**

New Wellness Resources for employees: The Mayo Clinic Embody Newsletter as well as the Mayo Clinic Guide to Self-Care have been distributed to your work area. 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. Please take the time to utilize these wellness tools.

There is also a free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Topics can be tailored to your health interests. Sign up here: <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.

Here's to your health!

IN THE NEWS

Bozeman company outfits Yellowstone picnic area with recycled concrete tables

Posted: Thursday, September 26, 2013 12:15 am Eric Dietrich, Chronicle Staff Writer

Recycled picnic tables and benches developed by Bozeman-based company GeoMatrix will greet Yellowstone National Park visitors next spring, installed as part of renovations at the park's Canyon Village.

GeoMatrix owners Jon Cross and Alexa Calio said they hope their recycled concrete — made from glass and fly ash — will become more popular as a building material.

Each table contains the remnants of 4,000 locally collected glass bottles, Cross and Calio said, totaling around 20 tons of recycled material. Each costs \$1,800, a figure they said is comparable to other options considered by the National Park Service.

Traditional concrete is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for about 5 percent of the carbon dioxide released globally. In addition to water, concrete is made of crushed rock and a binding material. Portland cement, the most common binder used, takes a lot of energy to manufacture.

The concrete developed by GeoMatrix, however, uses fly ash as a substitute for Portland cement. The ash is a flour-like powder left over when coal is burned for energy. About 70 million tons are produced in the U.S. annually, Cross said, of which only 40 percent is recycled.

In addition, using glass instead of gravel makes it possible to recycle bottles and other glass, of which only a third are recycled. Currently, GeoMatrix gets glass from Four Corners Recycling, which collects containers from, among other places, Yellowstone Park and Target in Bozeman.

Cross and Calio said they experimented briefly with collecting glass directly from Bozeman residents, but it was more practical to work with a larger-scale recycling plant.

“We did get some good data,” Calio said, particularly about how willing their 40 participants were to clean bottles and peel labels before turning them in.

To use glass in concrete, it must be free of food residues and paper scraps, which prevent binding material from sticking together. GeoMatrix also found that glass donations of the most common colors, green and brown, far outpaced demand for concrete products using those colors.

“If people have blue or clear, we’ll gladly take that,” Cross said.

Cross and Calio said much of the company’s existing business revolves around creating interior fixtures like countertops for kitchens and bathrooms, but they hope to expand into outdoor products like the Yellowstone tables.

The company’s approach is based on “doing the work and figuring it out,” Cross said, adding that they hope to set an example for the construction industry.

“If you don’t show people,” he added, “then they don’t know it’s possible.”

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/yellowstone_national_park/article_1595426c-263c-11e3-b966-0019bb2963f4.html

Whitebark pine tree’s decline documented by researchers

8 hours ago • By Brett French

TOM MINER BASIN — The soaking wet hikers had several theories about why Jesse Logan and Wally Macfarlane were carrying hatchets in their backpacks: To fend off bears? To end the misery of the clammy cold hike? To lop off frostbitten limbs?

The answer was much less dramatic. The two scientists use the hatchets to remove bark from whitebark pine trees to reveal the mountain pine beetle invasions evident underneath.

“You pull back the bark and it’s an open book of what’s happened,” Macfarlane said, describing channels bored into the tree by the beetle’s larvae, invasions that eventually lead to the death of the tree.

“It’s not subtle.”

Logan, a retired Forest Service ecologist, and Macfarlane, a University of Utah research associate, were the leaders of a hike up to 9,700-foot Packsaddle Peak in the Gallatin National Forest south of Emigrant on Wednesday. The hike was a prelude to the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation’s meeting in Bozeman on Friday.

Not a competitor

Logan and Macfarlane co-authored a study in 2009 detailing the demise of whitebark pine in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In 2011 the tree was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a species in need of protection under the Endangered Species Act, but precluded from listing because other species had higher priority.

Mountain pine beetles, white pine blister rust, fire and the gradual warming of the high elevation environment where the trees live are contributing to their rapid decline, the agency noted.

The occurrence is relatively recent. Working with the Forest Service as the head of the mountain pine beetle project in the 1990s, Logan saw few dead whitebark pine trees at high elevations. But in 2003 he saw an invasion of a whitebark pine forest in Idaho that quickly escalated and resulted in the collapse of the entire isolated forest by 2005.

“They are a hell of a survivor, but a terrible competitor,” Logan said.

The oldest whitebark pine was dated at 1,300 years, but it’s hard or impossible to age them because the center of the tree often rots out while the outside continues to live.

“I think that whitebark pine, because of the habitat it is in, is the greatest expanse of old-growth forest on the planet,” Logan said. “I have no evidence to support that, but prove me wrong.”

High environment

Whitebark grow at high mountain elevations in the Rocky Mountains where wind, cold and thin topsoil create a harsh and difficult environment.

Macfarlane’s aerial surveys put the whitebark population in the Greater Yellowstone Area (roughly 22 million acres) at 1.5 million acres of trees with the most healthy populations in the Beartooth Mountains of Montana and Wyoming’s Wind River Range.

The trees are considered a keystone species because of the animals and plants they support. Most notably, the trees produce a high-protein nut in their cones that attract grizzly bears in the fall. The cones are sometimes stored in red squirrel middens in the ground that can be as large as a double-wide trailer house, Macfarlane said.

Because the trees are at high elevations and attract bears, they are seen as a key to keeping grizzlies away from people during the fall when they are consuming loads of calories before hibernating.

But the trees also foster soils for other trees and gather snow and shade it for slower melting. In addition to feeding squirrels and bears, the whitebark's seeds are a key food for Clark's nutcrackers. The birds cache the seeds across the landscape, remembering up to 1,000 sites, Logan said. By spreading the seeds, the birds help the plant regenerate and move to new sites.

One author wrote that in concert, the whitebark pine and Clark's nutcracker build ecosystems, Logan said.

Few fans

Because the trees grow out of the view of most people, Macfarlane worries that the general population isn't concerned that the trees are disappearing.

"I think 10 years down the line, without us documenting it, nobody will know what's happening," Macfarlane said. "These are vulnerable ecosystems, and we're losing them now."

Adam Markham, director of the Climate Impacts Initiative for the Union of Concerned Scientists, participated in the hike into Tom Miner Basin and, on Friday, visited stands of whitebark pine in the Beartooth Mountains between Cooke City and Red Lodge.

"We saw clear evidence that the mountain pine beetle outbreak is still going strong in the whitebark pine forests of the Yellowstone area," he wrote in an email. "On the Beartooth plateau east of Cooke City, it was tragic to see majestic trees that have survived everything nature could throw at them for 700 or 800 years succumbing to fresh beetle attacks. Warmer winters and longer summers have allowed the beetles to expand into areas where they couldn't previously get a grip. Now some of the last, best places where the old whitebarks survive are under immediate threat."

Logan said it's an exciting time to be an ecologist, but it is also a frightening period.

"Things have speeded up so fast that the ecosystem is coming uncoupled," he said. "All of these species that adapted to century time scales" are falling apart in a matter of years.

Although the Forest Service is planting whitebark pine seedlings to ensure a seed stock and attempting to find a hybrid that is more resistant to disease and bug infestations, warmer temperatures may eventually remove all of the favorable habitat for the trees making the work irrelevant.

"The whitebark pine really established this (high elevation) ecosystem," Logan said. "It's the foundation. If you remove the foundation, you don't have much of a structure."

"They are also called the rooftop of the Rockies. So we're losing both the foundation and the rooftop. That's not a good situation."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/whitebark-pine-tree-s-decline-documented-by-researchers/article_ce237ec7-4902-5bdb-976d-2f9119165ddc.html#ixzz2g0d9jwr6

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:41 am MDT Sep 26, 2013

Today: A chance of snow before 3pm, then rain and snow likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35. Light and variable wind becoming north northwest around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Total daytime snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 17. North wind around 6 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Friday: A chance of snow before noon, then a chance of rain and snow between noon and 3pm, then a chance of rain after 3pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 39. Calm wind becoming northwest around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. Light west southwest wind becoming southwest 8 to 13 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 49. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27. West southwest wind 5 to 7 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety?

Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion.

Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

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

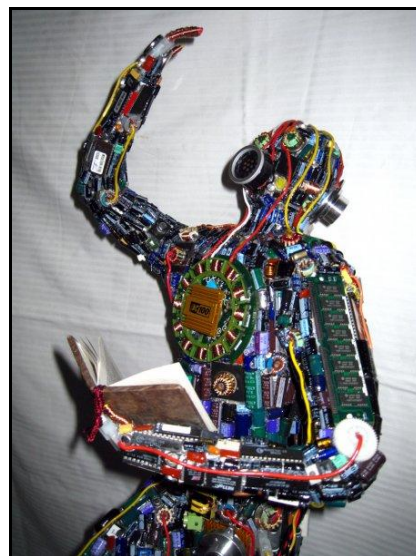
A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 27, 2013

Attention! "Hidden" Talent call

In addition to the great job you do here for the NPS, do you have a special skill or ability you keep on the DL? For instance, are you a guitar virtuoso? A master oil painter? Can do 100 push-ups in 20 seconds? Well, maybe that's stretching it a bit... But if so, YNP@Work would like to hear from you. We're constantly blown away when we find out our neighbor or co-worker whom we've known for a few years also happens to be an incredible artist, accomplished chef, climbed Everest or published an adventure book. A lot of times we never even ask! With winter rapidly approaching, we thought we'd highlight some of these hidden talents across the park in hopes that it makes people reach out and seek like-minded friends (or maybe faithful groupies!) It's not to single you out or embarrass you, but rather to let your peeps know what you're into. You don't have to be an expert or even GOOD at what you do, just that you're interested. Because there's a good chance someone else is interested in the same thing as well. Who knows, maybe an artist guild or cooking group or the next great 70s acid rock band will emerge. If you're ready to come out, drop us a note. We can even throw in photos of your work or links to your videos.

Our very own Dan Hottle will kick off the first installment. In addition to working in the Public Affairs Office, Dan is an amateur guitar god who once was the lead vocalist of a pretty popular heavy metal band in the Midwest back in the late 80s. But his passions are art, filmmaking and sculpture, which he collaborates on with his wife, Amanda, who is also a visual and performance artist. Back in 2008 he made a documentary film about the struggle of Aboriginal clans in Australia to preserve and protect their cultural heritage through digital technology. You can watch an extended trailer for the video [here](#). (Watch at home - don't tie up work Internet bandwidth!) One of Dan's sculptures (below) entitled, "Digital Storyteller," is also the centerpiece in the atrium of the Indianapolis Children's Museum, the largest children's museum in the world. It depicts the emergence of digital technology in modern-day storytelling and also calls attention to the importance of recycling electronic waste. It's made of more than 2,000 circuitboard components that were rescued from a trash bin behind a computer repair shop and is awed over by thousands of kids from around the world every day.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Furniture for sale: Approximately forty seven lots of Xanterra furniture from the Lake Hotel and the cabins at Canyon are scheduled for sale by GSA. The on-line auction (www.gsaauctions.gov) is tentatively set to open Saturday, September 28 and to close Saturday, October 5.

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Want to help the littlest members of the community? **Become a Little People's Learning Center board member.** The center has been growing by leaps and bounds this past year. We have a great preschool program in place and an exciting Nature Explore Classroom underway. Obligations are minimal, but the rewards are priceless! Meetings are held once a month. Contact Beth Coombs (Beth_Coombs@nps.gov), Heather Kisthart (Heather_Kisthart@nps.gov), or Amy Bartlett (Amy_Bartlett@nps.gov) for further details.

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Please join us for an **Open House and Potluck at the Mammoth Community Center** at 6PM on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. The MCC board will be providing appetizers in the classroom and library space of the MCC; a great chance to ask questions about the offerings at the center (yoga, anyone?), tour the facility and give us your feedback about what you'd like to see available in the future. Following the "happy hour", we'll have our first community potluck of the season in the gym. Please bring a dish to share - Z-S Main Dish/Entree; R-J Salad or Side Dish; I-A Dessert and join your community at play!

We are also recruiting new members for the MCC board. Board meetings are held monthly during the winter months. Please send an email about yourself and why you'd like to participate to board@mammothcommunity.org

Visit our website for more information: www.mammothcommunity.org

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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:26 am MDT Sep 27, 2013

Today: A 30 percent chance of snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 38. North wind 6 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. Southwest wind 11 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 45. Southwest wind 13 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. South southwest wind 13 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 51. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 16 to 26 mph, with gusts as high as 37 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 18 to 23 mph decreasing to 11 to 16 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 32 mph.

Monday: A slight chance of rain and snow showers before noon, then a chance of rain showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 47. Southwest wind 9 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

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IN THE PRESS

Regional writer gives talk on popular Yellowstone book

Posted: Friday, September 27, 2013 11:19 am

By Mike Moore West Yellowstone News |

Yellowstone National Park is full of rich history dating back to when the park was first established in 1872. With an abundance of geysers, hot springs, mountain cliffs and dangerous wildlife, the park also has a rich history of death.

Regional writer Lee Whittlesey was invited to the West Yellowstone Public Library last Tuesday to read from and discuss one of his most popular books, “Death in Yellowstone,” which was originally published in 1995.

The Friends of the Library hosted the event in an attempt to expand upon their art exhibit series by bringing in regional writers to gain exposure for the library’s offered programs. Whittlesey’s talk attracted a crowd of more than 40 people.

Whittlesey has lived and worked in Yellowstone since 1969 and has served in various positions throughout the years. He began his tenure with the National Park Service working in maintenance at West Thumb, before he took a job as a park concessionaire for 12 years. In the early ‘80s, Whittlesey went on to become a park law enforcement ranger and took a job as a ranger naturalist in 1990. In 1993, he went to work as a technical writer for the park and also began working as the acting park archivist and de facto historian that same year, as there was no official park historian position at that time. In 2000, he officially became the park historian in Yellowstone.

Whittlesey’s “Death in Yellowstone” book is independent of the park, however and he did not represent Yellowstone National Park during his presentation last week. He said the book was written on his own time.

The local author says Yellowstone has a unique history of death, since the national park has unique thermal features, weather and dangerous animals.

“There just aren’t that many places where you can get eaten by a bear, get boiled alive, die from poisonous gas or be gored by bison,” he said. “We have all the cool ways to die.”

The author went on to explain to the audience the reasons why he chose to write about such a sensitive subject as death in the park. For starters, he said the unique stories of death in Yellowstone are fascinating. The book also

serves as a tool to teach important safety and legal lessons, because people do sue the park. Lastly, he said tour guides use the book's information during guided tours.

"It teaches us important legal lessons and how the law affects the park," he said. "People sue and the park wins most of the cases because of new and old law that protects the park."

He went on to add that the NPS has a high duty, which states that the park must warn of hidden or obvious danger on land or in store. It's an old common law principle that has since been impressed into written statutory law. Many of the cases of injury in the park are instances of personal negligence, he said.

"Dangers and wilderness go hand in hand," he said. "Wilder is the old English word for wild animal. You can't sanitize wilderness. We live in one of the greatest high adventure places in the world."

Whittlesey researched Yellowstone National Park records and old newspapers to gather the majority of his information for the deaths written about in his book. He mentioned that there is a wealth of information from old newspapers, as Yellowstone visitors would write accounts of their visit to Yellowstone upon returning home. This occurred as early as the stagecoach days in the early 1900s.

The author says the second edition of "Death in Yellowstone" should be out no later than Christmas of this year, and could be released as early as November. The book is published by Roberts Rinehart Publishers out of Colorado.

"There will be at least 60 added deaths and 47 are new stories that have occurred since 1995," he said. "Thirteen or so are new-old stories that seem new, but are from old history that were lost."

The book will feature more than 350 deaths, which doesn't include snowmobile wrecks, high elevation heart attacks and illness.

Whittlesey says writing the book wasn't easy the first time, and it wasn't any easier working on the second edition. The most difficult story for Whittlesey to write about regarded personal friend Rick Hutchinson, who worked as the park geologist and died in an avalanche back in 1997.

"It was so intense that I would have to stop and go do more research to avoid grappling with writing," he said of his experience working on both the first and second edition. "(Rick's death) was hard for me because he was a personal friend and I put that story off to last."

During the talk Whittlesey read a selection of stories from his book, and gave tips such as hiking with a party of four people and carrying bear spray to avoid dangerous encounters with wildlife.

Friends of the Library chair Ken Davis said he thought the talk went well, considering it was the first regional writer event the group has hosted.

“There were a lot of non-locals there so that was pretty neat,” Davis said. “There are a lot of regional writers in the area that we would like to get in. I think this has been a good thing for the library to try and expand and see where it goes.”

http://www.westyellowstonenews.com/news/article_eab63408-2798-11e3-83d6-001a4bcf887a.html

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 3:56 am MDT Sep 30, 2013

Today: Rain and snow likely, becoming all rain after 9am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 24 to 29 mph, with gusts as high as 44 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Tonight: A slight chance of rain before 9pm, then a slight chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 16 to 26 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers before noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. Breezy, with a southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 30. South southwest wind 10 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 47. Southwest wind 7 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: A chance of rain and snow showers before midnight, then a chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph becoming southeast after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

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