

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, November 1, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The gates to the **Mammoth transfer station** need to remain **closed due to the bear activity** in the area. The cooler that the Wolf Projects uses is going out and they are working on getting it repaired in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Until then please close and lock all the gates so no animals can get in.

Indulged a little too much?

Come down to the Gardiner Community Center next Sunday, November 3, 8-9:30am, and burn off a few calories! All for only \$10!

Join Jessi for a heart-pumping round of Turbo Kickboxing followed immediately by a Restorative Yoga class with Amanda.

Mats and props will be provided, all levels welcome!

Long awaited **Taco Tuesday** is beginning this Tuesday at the Mammoth General Store. Stop by and indulge!

Snoopy School, our community's cooperative preschool is holding its **Gift Basket Silent Auction** again this year but with an addition of online bidding! Bidding opened on October 28 and will continue with live bidding at the Library Bazaar at the Gardiner School on November 5. We have some amazing stuff this year, so check out the website, do some holiday shopping for friends and family and support a great cause! www.32auctions.com/snoopyschool

The Yellowstone Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Program is teaming up with the Yellowstone Federal Employees Association (YFEA) to participate in the Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program during winter 2013-2014. This is an excellent opportunity to keep healthy and social over the winter months.

What it is:

This program offers \$40.00/day tickets (\$11.00 off the regular ticket price) to employees of eligible organizations (must have a Wellness Program in place). These ticket coupons may be used by employees, their spouses, and dependent children. Coupons are not refundable and are not for resale. There are no "black out" days. Coupons are good through 2013-2014 season. Note: all ski days must be used on days off from work.

What we need:

Step 1: YELL must have a **minimum order of 100 coupons in order to participate in the program**. If you are interested in purchasing coupons, please go to here: P:\Safety Committee (Employee)\Wellness\Bridger Wellness

Discount Ticket Program 2013-2014 and fill in the appropriate information. **We need this information by NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8th.**

Step 2: IF we get enough for the minimum order, I will send another email with specific instructions for payment. Checks for the exact amount will need to be made out to YFEA and delivered to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth between November 12-15. She will give you a receipt. Coupons would then be delivered prior to Thanksgiving. Please do not deliver any checks to YFEA until you hear back from me.

Thanks to Bennett for providing program information.

Stacey Gunther
Employee Safety Committee Chair

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:41 am MDT Nov 1, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 38. West wind 9 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 19. South southwest wind 6 to 8 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 44. Southwest wind 7 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow after midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Snow likely, mainly after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 31. South southwest wind 6 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Sunday Night: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11. West wind around 9 mph.

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

Monday, November 4, 2013



The roads (and access to Old Faithful) closed today at 8 am, hope you got out and enjoyed the park this weekend.
(photo by Bob Fuhrmann)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the recent “fall back” in time and the dark skies, employees (especially in our dark uniforms) are hard to see and should wear something reflective, carry flashlight, etc. Make yourself visible!

Snoopy School is holding its **Gift Basket Silent Auction** again this year but with an addition of online bidding! Bidding opened on October 28 and will continue with live bidding at the Library Bazaar at the Gardiner School **tomorrow**. We have some amazing stuff this year, so check out the website, do some holiday shopping for friends and family and support a great cause! www.32auctions.com/snoopyschool

The Wolf Project will begin our 18th Early Winter Study starting November 15th and ending December 14th, 2013. Winter Study is our intensive 30-day study where researchers monitoring several wolf packs on the northern range daily. Winter study's objectives are to monitor long-term wolf predation patterns, territorial movements, behavior, interactions with other species, and characteristics of their prey. We have 12 field technicians for the study. Additionally, several of our year-round technicians (Matt Metz, Kira Quimby, Caitlin Ruhl, Rick McIntyre) will assist. Three technicians will be stationed at Tower Ranger Station to reduce drive time on winter roads and the remaining will be based at Mammoth or Gardiner. Each crew will be driving YCR fleet vehicles, using park radios, and using telemetry to monitor wolf packs ranging from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. Our crews will also be hiking off-road to collect samples from wolf kills, conduct elk counts, and observe wolves. In addition, Dan Stahler and Doug Smith will be monitoring wolf packs from the air during aerial telemetry flights throughout the 30-day study period, weather permitting. Wolf Project will conduct a two-day training session beginning on November 13. Safety is the primary focus of this training, accompanied by information on park regulations, data collection, and other research specific topics. We would like to thank all involved Yellowstone employees beforehand for their support and patience with our staff during this busy time. In particular, we would like to thank both the Maintenance and Resource and Visitor Protection divisions for their assistance and cooperation with our field crews, as their support is essential for safe and productive field seasons.

The following is a list of our technicians and the vehicles which will be out in the field:

Colby Anton, Brenna Cassidy, Lizzie Cato, Elizabeth Flesch, Sara Eno, Shannon Forshee, Dane Horowski, Molly McDevitt, Peter Mumford, Brandon Navratil, Donny Perret, Kersten Schnurle.

Chevrolet Suburban, I264690
Chevrolet GSA 4x4 Gray GSA Truck, G62-1227L
Dodge Durango, I510975
Chevrolet Equinox I516724
Chevrolet Silverado Truck, I513287
Dodge Dakota I264731

For questions concerning our winter study, you can contact Erin Stahler (x 2243), Dan Stahler (x 2719), or Doug Smith (x 2242).

The gates to the **Mammoth transfer station** need to remain **closed due to the bear activity** in the area. The cooler that the Wolf Projects uses is going out and they are working on getting it repaired in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Until then please close and lock all the gates so no animals can get in.

FM Update: Currently a radio engineer is working on the channels broadcast from Elk Plaza, 106.3 (KXLB), 103.9 (KEMC), and 107.1 (KGLT). The intent is to improve the transmission of KXLB from Bozeman. This frequency, in spite of the introduction of a new receiver, is currently being over ridden by the other 2 frequencies, because of the closeness and relative power of the frequencies on which we receive them. For the next day or so, KEMC may be received on 103.9 or 104.9 depending on the work being done. So search your dial for possible reception on either frequency.

The new communications building on Bunsen Peak is moving toward completion. NPS Telecom personnel and the contractor have done a great job on this project in less-than-ideal weather conditions. When this is completed we hope to have KEMC broadcast from Bunsen again. This has proven to reach areas in Mammoth that the Elk Plaza transmission has had difficulty with.

Thanks for your patience! Please feel free to call Rick McAdam if you have any questions.

Long awaited **Taco Tuesday** is beginning tomorrow at the Mammoth General Store. Stop by and indulge!

The Yellowstone Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Program is teaming up with the Yellowstone Federal Employees Association (YFEA) to participate in the Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program during winter 2013-2014. This is an excellent opportunity to keep healthy and social over the winter months.

What it is:

This program offers \$40.00/day tickets (\$11.00 off the regular ticket price) to employees of eligible organizations (must have a Wellness Program in place). These ticket coupons may be used by employees, their spouses, and dependent children. Coupons are not refundable and are not for resale. There are no "black out" days. Coupons are good through 2013-2014 season. Note: all ski days must be used on days off from work.

What we need:

Step 1: YELL must have a **minimum order of 100 coupons in order to participate in the program**. If you are interested in purchasing coupons, please go to here: P:\Safety Committee (Employee)\Wellness\Bridger Wellness Discount Ticket Program 2013-2014 and fill in the appropriate information. **We need this information by NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8th.**

Step 2: IF we get enough for the minimum order, I will send another email with specific instructions for payment. Checks for the exact amount will need to be made out to YFEA and delivered to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth between November 12-15. She will give you a receipt. Coupons would then be delivered prior to Thanksgiving. Please do not deliver any checks to YFEA until you hear back from me.

Thanks to Bennett for providing program information.

Stacey Gunther
Employee Safety Committee Chair

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone To Host Meetings For Permit Holders

Yellowstone National Park is set to host two meetings to review the park's Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) Program with current and potential new permit holders.

The program was updated last April in order to improve consistency with federal laws, policies, and guidelines.

Updates include an open application process, new operating plans, new fee schedules, new reporting requirements, National Park Service (NPS) staff evaluations, NPS provided training, resource impact monitoring, and increased competition for CUAs if the park determines that the number of authorizations for a particular service category must be limited.

Both current permit holders and commercial operators who may be interested in conducting business inside the park are encouraged to attend one of the following meetings:

Wednesday, November 6 in Jackson, WY at the Lexington Hotel, 285 N. Cache
Thursday, November 7, in Bozeman Montana at the Comfort Inn, 1370 N. 7th

Both meetings will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

More information and a copy of the agenda is available by sending an email to [Sue F Williams@nps.gov](mailto:Sue_F_Williams@nps.gov).

IN THE NEWS

A clear path to Yellowstone

Planned projects would provide continuous route from Livingston to YNP

Published: Wed, 10/30/2013 - 2:00pm Natalie Storey - Enterprise Staff Writer

When Dale Sexton, owner of Timber Trails, rides his bike into Paradise Valley, he takes the Carter's Bridge Bike/Pedestrian Path until it dead-ends just outside of Livingston.

Then he crosses U.S. Highway 89, a dangerous road for bikers, to get to the less busy East River Road.

But if several Park County projects move forward, bikers will have a contiguous route leading to Yellowstone National Park.

"As it currently exists, it's a bit of a bike path to everywhere and, at the same time, to nowhere," Sexton said.

Park County has applied for \$650,000 from the Montana Department of Transportation, or MDOT, to extend the Carter's Bridge path to Old Yellowstone Trail, said Mike Inman, Park County planning director.

The Old Yellowstone Trail is a two-lane gravel road extending from just south of Carter's Bridge to Gardiner.

The county hopes to hear in November whether MDOT has approved the project, Inman said.

In addition, the Park County Commission on Tuesday approved a project that would resurface the existing bike trail that leads from the Livingston Depot Center to mile marker 50 on U.S. Highway 89 South.

"Our long-term goal is to establish a linear path from our county all the way to Yellowstone Park," Inman said.

A path leading to Yellowstone could draw bikers from all over the world, said Storrs Bishop, a local biker.

"My dream would be to extend that trail from the Depot all the way down to Gardiner," Bishop said. "That would be a world-class trail. It would draw people from Europe and Asia."

The extension and resurfacing of the bike path would be a boon to Park County residents as well, local officials say. A survey conducted by the Parks and Recreation Board identified trail connectivity as a high priority for county residents, Inman said. The existing trail already gets a lot of use, Sexton said.

“For the biking community, it would be tremendous,” Sexton said. “But I think the greater picture is what it would mean not just for the biking community, but for Park County and Livingston in general. To have a recreational corridor there would be outstanding.”

The Carter’s Bridge Bike/Pedestrian Path was built on the site of old railroad tracks about 20 years ago at a cost of \$90,000, said Kristen Galbraith, of Nittany Grant Works, who helped the county secure funding for the project.

The county built the trail using money allocated by the Community Transportation Enhancement Program, an MDOT initiative that sought to fund projects “designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of Montana’s intermodal transportation system.”

That program will end this year. MDOT is replacing it with the Transportation Alternatives Program. Park County applied for funding for the larger \$650,000 project from that program.

The bike path extension project would include putting in retaining walls and a culvert over a ditch, Inman said.

The Carter’s Bridge path was originally finished with a chip seal, which isn’t the best surface for bikes, Inman said.

The resurfacing, which will cost \$20,724, will create a smoother path. The county commissioners on Tuesday approved a plan to use \$11,000 in leftover CTEP money for the project.

The rest of the cost will be covered by donations and the county, Inman said.

The project should begin this spring.

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/clear-path-yellowstone>

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:26 am MST Nov 4, 2013

Today: A 50 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 21. North wind 6 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the morning. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Tonight: Scattered snow showers before 11pm, then a chance for flurries, and then a slight chance of snow showers again after 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 4. Wind chill values as low as -5. Southwest wind around 8 mph becoming east after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tuesday: Occasional flurries before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 23. Wind chill values as low as -5. East wind 7 to 16 mph becoming west in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph.

Tuesday Night: A 50 percent chance of snow, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. West southwest wind 8 to 14 mph becoming east northeast in the evening. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Wednesday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29. East northeast wind 8 to 13 mph becoming west southwest in the morning. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. Southwest wind 7 to 9 mph.

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

Tuesday, November 5, 2013



Even the elk have trouble respecting the turkey. No decorations until after Thanksgiving!
(photo by Craig Mott)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the recent “fall back” in time and the dark skies, employees (especially in our dark uniforms) are hard to see and should wear something reflective, carry flashlight, etc. **Make yourself visible!**

Snoopy School is holding its **Gift Basket Silent Auction** tonight. Online bidding ends today at 3pm, with live bidding continuing at the Library Bazaar at the Gardiner School **tonight**. We have some amazing stuff this year, so check out the website, do some holiday shopping for friends and family and support a great cause!

www.32auctions.com/snoopyschool

I have an **acrylic floor mat** (intended to protect the carpet under a rolling office chair) that I no longer need. It has no cracks or chips. The supply center is undergoing a move/renovation, so they are not able to take it.

It is free to the first taker. Please stop by the YELL Research Permit Office at YCR and ask for Zehra.

Photographs and video wanted - can you help?

Do you have a camera? Would you like to share your Yellowstone pics with others? As winter settles in and it's a bit more challenging to get into the interior, our social media team is looking for photos and video to post on our Facebook page. Examples include wildlife, landscapes, staff working, visitors recreating, or anything else that is the essence of Yellowstone. We will provide you with a photo and/or video credit on our page. Please email your submissions to yell_socialmedia@nps.gov. If you have any other questions or ideas for content on our page, please contact David Restivo in Mammoth at x2540, and be sure to check out and "like" the park's Facebook page if you haven't already (<http://www.facebook.com/YellowstoneNPS>). Thanks!

Library Crafts Bazaar and Book Sale

Tuesday, November 5th from 5-8pm at the
Gardiner Public School

Spaghetti Dinner/Hot Dogs/Salad/Pies

Book Signings by:

Walter Weise and Dru Robidou

Fly Tying Demonstrations

Locally Handcrafted Items:

baskets, dog collars, jewelry, wood scrolling, silk scarves,
Home-canned jellies and pickles, baked goods

For More Information call 848-7378



The Wolf Project will begin our 18th Early Winter Study starting November 15th and ending December 14th, 2013. Winter Study is our intensive 30-day study where researchers monitoring several wolf packs on the northern range daily. Winter study's objectives are to monitor long-term wolf predation patterns, territorial movements, behavior, interactions with other species, and characteristics of their prey. We have 12 field technicians for the study. Additionally, several of our year-round technicians (Matt Metz, Kira Quimby, Caitlin Ruhl, Rick McIntyre) will assist. Three technicians will be stationed at Tower Ranger Station to reduce drive time on winter roads and the remaining will be based at Mammoth or Gardiner. Each crew will be driving YCR fleet vehicles, using park radios, and using telemetry to monitor wolf packs ranging from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. Our crews will also be hiking off-road to collect samples from wolf kills, conduct elk counts, and observe wolves. In addition, Dan Stahler and Doug Smith will be monitoring wolf packs from the air during aerial telemetry flights throughout the 30-day study period, weather permitting. Wolf Project will conduct a two-day training session beginning on November 13. Safety is the primary focus of this training, accompanied by information on park regulations, data collection, and other research specific topics. We would like to thank all involved Yellowstone employees beforehand for their support and patience with our staff during this busy time. In

particular, we would like to thank both the Maintenance and Resource and Visitor Protection divisions for their assistance and cooperation with our field crews, as their support is essential for safe and productive field seasons.

The following is a list of our technicians and the vehicles which will be out in the field:

Colby Anton, Brenna Cassidy, Lizzie Cato, Elizabeth Flesch, Sara Eno, Shannon Forshee, Dane Horowski, Molly McDevitt, Peter Mumford, Brandon Navratil, Donny Perret, Kersten Schnurle.

Chevrolet Suburban, I264690

Chevrolet GSA 4x4 Gray GSA Truck, G62-1227L

Dodge Durango, I510975

Chevrolet Equinox I516724

Chevrolet Silverado Truck, I513287

Dodge Dakota I264731

For questions concerning our winter study, you can contact Erin Stahler (x 2243), Dan Stahler (x 2719), or Doug Smith (x 2242).

- - - - -

The gates to the **Mammoth transfer station** need to remain **closed due to the bear activity** in the area. The cooler that the Wolf Projects uses is going out and they are working on getting it repaired in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Until then please close and lock all the gates so no animals can get in.

- - - - -

FM Update: Currently a radio engineer is working on the channels broadcast from Elk Plaza, 106.3 (KXLB), 103.9 (KEMC), and 107.1 (KGLT). The intent is to improve the transmission of KXLB from Bozeman. This frequency, in spite of the introduction of a new receiver, is currently being over ridden by the other 2 frequencies, because of the closeness and relative power of the frequencies on which we receive them. For the next day or so, KEMC may be received on 103.9 or 104.9 depending on the work being done. So search your dial for possible reception on either frequency.

The new communications building on Bunsen Peak is moving toward completion. NPS Telecom personnel and the contractor have done a great job on this project in less-than-ideal weather conditions. When this is completed we hope to have KEMC broadcast from Bunsen again. This has proven to reach areas in Mammoth that the Elk Plaza transmission has had difficulty with.

Thanks for your patience! Please feel free to call Rick McAdam if you have any questions.

- - - - -

Long awaited **Taco Tuesday** is beginning today at the Mammoth General Store. Stop by and indulge!

- - - - -

The Yellowstone Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Program is teaming up with the Yellowstone Federal Employees Association (YFEA) to participate in the Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program during winter 2013-2014. This is an excellent opportunity to keep healthy and social over the winter months.

What it is:

This program offers \$40.00/day tickets (\$11.00 off the regular ticket price) to employees of eligible organizations (must have a Wellness Program in place). These ticket coupons may be used by employees, their spouses, and dependent children. Coupons are not refundable and are not for resale. There are no "black out" days. Coupons are good through 2013-2014 season. Note: all ski days must be used on days off from work.

What we need:

Step 1: YELL must have a **minimum order of 100 coupons in order to participate in the program**. If you are interested in purchasing coupons, please go to here: P:\Safety Committee (Employee)\Wellness\Bridger Wellness Discount Ticket Program 2013-2014 and fill in the appropriate information. **We need this information by NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8th.**

Step 2: IF we get enough for the minimum order, I will send another email with specific instructions for payment.

Checks for the exact amount will need to be made out to YFEA and delivered to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth between November 12-15. She will give you a receipt. Coupons would then be delivered prior to Thanksgiving. Please do not deliver any checks to YFEA until you hear back from me.

Thanks to Bennett for providing program information.

Stacey Gunther
Employee Safety Committee Chair

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Free Entry to Yellowstone For Veterans Day Weekend

In honor of all past and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the National Park Service is waiving all entrance fees during the Veterans Day weekend, November 9-11. Free admission is offered to all visitors, not just to veterans or military personnel.

The road from the park's North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana, through Mammoth Hot Springs, Tower Junction, the Lamar Valley and the Northeast Entrance to Silver Gate and Cooke City, Montana, is open to wheeled vehicle travel all year. All other park roads and entrances closed for the season Monday morning, November 4.

The National Park Service provides active duty members of the military and their dependents with an annual national park pass, an \$80 value, at no charge. The passes provides entrance to all national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and many other Federal lands – more than 2,000 in all. The passes can be acquired at Yellowstone or any national park that charges an entrance fee. Information about all national park passes is available at www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm.

Yellowstone has a long and proud association with our nation's military. After struggling for years with limited staff and budget in an effort to thwart souvenir hunters and poachers in Yellowstone's early years, the U.S. Army was called upon to protect the park in 1886.



Fort Yellowstone in the 1890s. From the park photo collection available online at <http://go.usa.gov/WWmB>

During the 32 years the U.S. Army was present in the park, it set the tone for conservation and protection of special places like Yellowstone which still guides National Park Service to this day. Among the most visible reminders of the military presence in the park are the stone and tile roofed structures of historic Fort Yellowstone in Mammoth Hot Springs, which are still used by the park for administration and residences. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the fort all year long.

Additional information on the military era and on Fort Yellowstone can be found online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/historyculture/ftyell.htm>.

IN THE NEWS

Grizzly deaths down by half in Yellowstone area

Researchers cite large numbers of berries

1 hour ago • By CHRISTINE PETERSON Casper Star-Tribune

CASPER, Wyo. -- The number of grizzly bear deaths declined by more than 50 percent this year in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, according to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team.

The numbers are particularly notable because trees produced fewer than normal whitebark pine cones, an important grizzly bear food. Grizzly bears' reaction to declines in whitebark pine cones will help determine if the bear is removed from the endangered species list. The finding will come about two months before a possible delisting proposal.

Twenty-four grizzly bears have died so far in 2013 compared to 56 in 2012. Rates of females with cubs are also high this year, said Frank van Manen, leader of the grizzly bear study team.

It's risky to draw long-term conclusions from one year's numbers, van Manen said.

"These systems are complex, and there are a lot of interrelations we can't predict," he said. "This isn't a trend, but it is a noteworthy observation."

The Yellowstone ecosystem did have a large crop of berries, which helped provide additional food, he said.

The interagency study team will present its paper on how grizzly bears respond to changes in available food at a Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee meeting Wednesday and Thursday in Bozeman.

Conflicts between grizzly bears and humans are also down this year in Wyoming, said Dan Thompson, large carnivore section supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. He in part credits continued education on how to bear-proof food while recreating in the backcountry.

Hunters are generally responsible for the largest number of bear deaths, but were second to livestock conflicts this year, van Manen said.

Grizzlies injured two people in Wyoming and two people in Yellowstone National Park in 2013.

Bear deaths from 2013 are not final since grizzlies are still active. They should begin hibernating soon.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed grizzlies from the endangered species list in 2007. A federal judge put them back on the list in 2009 because of several concerns including the future of whitebark pine, which is dying from blister rust and the mountain pine beetle.

An appeals court dismissed some of the concerns in 2011 but upheld the whitebark pine ruling. The court told the Fish and Wildlife Service it needed to know more about bears' reaction to the tree's decline before grizzlies could be removed.

If the interagency study team reports that plentiful whitebark pine is not critical to grizzly bears' survival, the Fish and Wildlife Service could move toward a delisting proposal. The Fish and Wildlife Service likely will not make a decision on a delisting proposal until late December or early January, said Chris Servheen, the service's grizzly bear coordinator.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/grizzly-deaths-down-by-half-in-yellowstone-area/article_89f44481-9f5e-5634-a7db-c10d429e22bc.html#ixzz2jmyB1e2h

Long-lost manuscript from first Yellowstone expedition comes to MSU

Posted: Tuesday, November 5, 2013 12:15 am

GAIL SCHONTZLER, Chronicle Staff Writer

Imagine writing the first accurate description of the wonders of Yellowstone, its dramatic waterfalls, geyser basins and hot springs, yet being almost forgotten by history.

That is what happened to David E. Folsom, a 30-year-old mining engineer, who made a daring expedition from Montana territory to Yellowstone in September 1869 with friends Charles Cook and William Peterson. The three went to investigate outlandish but persistent rumors circulated by prospectors in the gold mining camp of Diamond City, near Helena.

The three miners went on the four-week adventure, even though a planned military escort from Bozeman's Fort Ellis canceled and everyone else who'd signed up dropped out rather than travel into what might be hostile Indian country.

The three friends not only witnessed and measured the wonders of Yellowstone, but also were the first to write about them for the wider world.

After several of the nation's major magazines rejected the story, apparently skeptical of the incredible discoveries, their report was published in June 1870 by a small Chicago magazine, Western Monthly.

That led to two well-known government expeditions, the Washburn-Doane-Langford expedition of 1870 and the Hayden scientific expedition in 1871, whose dramatic descriptions prompted Congress to create the world's first national park in 1872.

Folsom's earliest draft describing Yellowstone, written in longhand in pencil on lined paper in 1869, was recently delivered by Folsom's great-grandson, David A. Folsom, to Montana State University's Renne Library Special Collections.

"This is a pretty cool thing," said Kim Allen Scott, university archivist. "We're pretty excited about it."

Folsom's 1869 handwritten manuscript begins: "The headwaters of the Yellowstone, although occasionally visited by small parties of prospectors and mountain men, and being within a few days ride of Virginia City, is still to the world of letters a terra incognita."

The three miners measured the height of Yellowstone Falls with a rope tied to a rock, fished in Yellowstone Lake, made the first fish chowder in Yellowstone history, and described the geyser basin. They met Shoshoni Indians and described them in unflattering terms typical of frontiersmen.

That the Folsom manuscript has survived 144 years seems a minor miracle. The only two other copies made at the time burned up – one in a fire at the Chicago publisher's in 1870, and the other in a 1916 fire that gutted the chemistry building at Montana State University (then College) and office of chemistry professor Victor Chesnut.

Folsom gave his copy of the Chicago magazine to the infant Montana Historical Society, and it also burned in a disastrous Helena fire in 1874.

Scott wrote of "A Missing Piece of a Yellowstone Puzzle" in 1999 for Yellowstone Science. He described the discovery of four pages of the missing Folsom-Cooke-Peterson story, and speculated that it "may not be the last word," since a missing memo book carried on their Yellowstone exploration had yet to be found

About a year and a half ago, Scott said, he was surprised to get an email from a retired David A. Folsom from San Diego, who'd read the "Missing Piece" article online. He described the three-dozen handwritten pages handed down to him, plus letters from early Yellowstone officials to his great-grandfather. As they corresponded, Scott became more excited.

"He didn't quite realize what he had," Scott said. "I couldn't believe it was true –that this long lost document was coming to the surface."

In September, David A. Folsom and his aunt, Martha Folsom Saudek, granddaughter of the mining engineer, traveled from California to Bozeman to deliver the papers to MSU. Scott said the library paid \$5,000 for the documents, though they could have been sold for many times more. Scott called it "an incredible gift of generosity" from the Folsom family.

"Historians agree it was these three expeditions that are what led to establishment of the first national park," Scott said. "So it's quite a contribution to history."

The documents will be available to historical and environmental researchers and posted online for the public, along with the MSU Library's [growing Yellowstone collection](#).

Scott said MSU's archive now includes original reports from two of the three key expeditions – Doane's journal and Folsom's manuscript. The papers are kept in a fireproof vault.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/montana_state_university/article_ca963304-45b0-11e3-9804-0019bb2963f4.html

Missing couple found alive on the Beartooth Highway

Posted: Monday, November 4, 2013 5:48 pm

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer

A Wisconsin couple may abandon their GPS after being stuck in the snows of the Beartooth Mountains. Mark and Kristine Wathke were safe Monday night in Cody, Wyo., but after five days in a survival situation, their story could have turned bad.

On Oct. 29, after enjoying a visit to Yellowstone National Park, the couple drove out of the Northeast Gate at about 4 p.m. They had reservations for a Miles City hotel room that night but never showed up.

Spokesman Lance Mathess of the sheriff's office in Park County, Wyo., said the sheriff didn't get a call from the family until Friday at 10 a.m.

Knowing the couple was traveling the highways from Cooke City to Billings, a deputy "did a cursory drive to Cooke City," Mathess said.

When that turned up nothing, a search and rescue crew conducted a "detailed highway search," following the same route but stopping to look around every bridge, cliff and ravine.

The problem was that the couple was nowhere along that route.

After they drove past Cooke City, rather than continuing southeast on Wyoming Route 296, they veered left to stay on the Beartooth Highway to Red Lodge. Unfortunately, the Beartooth Highway had been closed to traffic in mid-September.

"Over the years, we've had to rescue a number of people. It usually happens in the fall," said K Bar Z Ranch owner Troy Barnett. "It's the GPS and the Google maps – it sends them the wrong way if the routes aren't updated."

In the late afternoon light, the Wathkes might not have seen the sign saying the road was closed. As they drove up the mountain road in their KIA Forte, the snow got deeper.

Silver Gate business owner Tom Wolf said a first layer of snow had been laid down the previous weekend and successive winds and warm weather developed a crust that the car could drive on for a while.

But soon, they were stuck.

Although temperatures hovered around freezing for a few days, the couple was lucky in many respects.

They had packed for a long trip so they had plenty of clothes and some food. They had just stopped for gas in Cooke City so they had a full tank.

They would later tell Barnett that they would run the engine for about 10 to 15 minutes at a time to warm up and then turn it off. They rationed their food.

“They had plenty of clothes piled around them, and they'd only burned a quarter of a tank,” Barnett said. Meanwhile, on Sunday, five days after the couple was last seen, the Park County, Wyo., Sheriff's Office published a missing poster on social media sites.

No posters were posted in the towns or at the park entrances.

“That's when we finally learned of it. There were no posters, no alerts. We were open when the sheriff drove by the first time, but he never said anything,” Wolf said.

Yellowstone National Park spokesman Al Nash said the park offered its services but could do nothing because the Park County Sheriff's Office had jurisdiction.

Wyoming resident Vicky Kraft posted the missing notice to her Facebook page and then called Barnett.

“The family said there were no cellphone calls after leaving Cooke City, so I knew they hadn't made it out of Sunlight Basin. There's a dead space there,” Kraft said. “I talked to the people at Big Moose Resort, but they were leaving for the season. They said to call the K Bar Z.”

Once Barnett learned the situation, he knew what to do.

Early Monday morning, he loaded his snowmobile onto the trailer and drove as far up the Beartooth Highway as he could before getting on the snowmobile.

Four miles up the road, Barnett saw the car. But he didn't know what he'd find.

“I was about three-quarters of a mile away when I saw it and went racing up to it. I kept thinking I'd see them flash their lights. They said they didn't hear me until I was right next to them,” Barnett said. “They were pretty relieved.”

Kraft and Wolf said the story could have ended badly.

“No one at the sheriff's office thought to look on the Beartooth Highway because it's closed. The locals knew to look there but no one asked us,” Wolf said. “Communication needs to be better. We have Amber Alerts for kids. It shouldn't be any different just because they were adults.”

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/article_0f769cf4-45b4-11e3-a585-0019bb2963f4.html#user-comment-area

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:26 am MST Nov 5, 2013

Today: Occasional flurries between 10am and 3pm, then a slight chance of snow showers after 3pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 23. Wind chill values as low as zero. West southwest wind 10 to 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: A 50 percent chance of snow, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. Wind chill values as low as zero. North northeast wind 11 to 14 mph becoming west after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 27. Wind chill values as low as zero. West wind 14 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Wednesday Night: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19. West southwest wind 7 to 13 mph becoming east in the evening. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35. Southwest wind 9 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Thursday Night: Snow likely, mainly before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Southwest wind 8 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

- - - - -

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

Wednesday, November 6, 2013



Alpenglow on Electric Peak
(photo by Neal Herbert)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign

Until November 19th, 2013 the annual Combined Federal Campaign will be conducted for federal employees in the Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign region.

What is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)?

The CFC is the world's largest and most successful workplace fundraising campaign, enabling millions of federal civilian, postal, and military employees to support their favorite charitable organizations. The CFC is really your campaign because you can choose among thousands of local, national and international pre-screened charitable organizations. You also decide exactly how much to give and whether to contribute via payroll deduction (recommended), cash or check. Campaigns are conducted regionally and regulated by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Washington, D.C. Participation is completely voluntary.

What does my CFC look like?

The CFC in your region is called the Intermountain. We reach approximately 50,000 federal employees throughout Utah, western Colorado, southeast Idaho, southwest Idaho and most of Wyoming. Federal employees in our campaign raise about \$2.5 million annually and growing!

The Intermountain CFC is administered by a committee of volunteers from local federal agencies called the Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC). The committee ensures that the campaign is run efficiently, effectively, and ethically.

Which charities can I contribute to?

Think of the causes or issues that matter most to you personally. Chances are you'll find many organizations in the Intermountain CFC Charity List that support your values and concerns. There are thousands of local, national, and international charities that support medical research, the arts, environmental causes, community health, animal welfare, youth development, civil rights, recreation, and solutions to poverty and homelessness, among others. Charities are carefully screened to make sure that they are certified by the IRS and that they meet certain organizational and reporting standards.

How do I contribute?

It's easy! During the campaign you will receive a booklet called the CFC Charity List, which contains the names and descriptions of all eligible CFC charities. Once you have selected your charities, simply complete a pledge form and return it to your agency's campaign coordinator. You can give by payroll deduction, cash or check. The pledge form and a searchable Charity List can also be found at www.intermountaincfc.org.

Where can I find more information?

You can find detailed campaign information at www.intermountaincfc.org. You can also contact Darl Williams, Human Resources, (307)344-2042.

Hello Again Yellowstone Employees,

We have reached the 100 coupon minimum necessary to participate in the **Bridger Wellness Discount Ticket Program**. Surprise Surprise!

What's next:

Beginning next week (November 12-15), employees may drop off a check to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth. Leigh Anne is not in this week so don't jump the gun! Checks should be made out to YFEA. Please make the check out for the exact amount (# coupons purchased X \$40.00). Leigh Anne will then issue you a receipt.

If you are an interior employee:

You may send checks beginning this week to Leigh Anne via blue envelope so we are sure to get them in time to go in with the order. Please include a note including your name, phone number and duty station so Leigh Anne will know where to send the receipt.

You can still sign up through this week on the P Drive (see below)....

All money for tickets must be received by COB November 15th in order to receive coupons.

Again, Leigh Anne will be able to accept checks November 12-15th at Albright VC.

I have an **acrylic floor mat** (intended to protect the carpet under a rolling office chair) that I no longer need. It has no cracks or chips. The supply center is undergoing a move/renovation, so they are not able to take it.

It is free to the first taker. Please stop by the YELL Research Permit Office at YCR and ask for Zehra.

Photographs and video wanted - can you help?



Do you have a camera? Would you like to share your Yellowstone pics with others? As winter settles in and it's a bit more challenging to get into the interior, our social media team is looking for photos and video to post on our Facebook page. Examples include wildlife, landscapes, staff working, visitors recreating, or anything else that is the essence of Yellowstone. We will provide you with a photo and/or video credit on our page. Please email your submissions to yell_socialmedia@nps.gov. If you have any other questions or ideas for content on our page, please contact David Restivo in Mammoth at x2540, and be sure to check out and "like" the park's Facebook page if you haven't already (<http://www.facebook.com/YellowstoneNPS>). Thanks!

Community Pizza, Root beer float and Family-Friendly Movie Potluck! Thursday, November 14th at 6 pm at the MCC. Bring a pizza to share (and a salad or side if you would like) - the MCC will provide the Root beer floats. All welcome!

The Wolf Project will begin our 18th Early Winter Study starting November 15th and ending December 14th, 2013. Winter Study is our intensive 30-day study where researchers monitoring several wolf packs on the northern range daily. Winter study's objectives are to monitor long-term wolf predation patterns, territorial movements, behavior, interactions with other species, and characteristics of their prey. We have 12 field technicians for the study. Additionally, several of our year-round technicians (Matt Metz, Kira Quimby, Caitlin Ruhl, Rick McIntyre) will assist. Three technicians will be stationed at Tower Ranger Station to reduce drive time on winter roads and the remaining will be based at Mammoth or Gardiner. Each crew will be driving YCR fleet vehicles, using park radios, and using telemetry to monitor wolf packs ranging from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. Our crews will also be hiking off-road to collect samples from wolf kills, conduct elk counts, and observe wolves. In addition, Dan Stahler and Doug Smith will be monitoring wolf packs from the air during aerial telemetry flights throughout the 30-day study period, weather permitting. Wolf Project will conduct a two-day training session beginning on November 13. Safety is the primary focus of this training, accompanied by information on park regulations, data collection, and other research specific topics. We would like to thank all involved Yellowstone employees beforehand for their support and patience with our staff during this busy time. In particular, we would like to thank both the Maintenance and Resource and Visitor Protection divisions for their assistance and cooperation with our field crews, as their support is essential for safe and productive field seasons.

The following is a list of our technicians and the vehicles which will be out in the field:

Colby Anton, Brenna Cassidy, Lizzie Cato, Elizabeth Flesch, Sara Eno, Shannon Forshee, Dane Horowski, Molly McDevitt, Peter Mumford, Brandon Navratil, Donny Perret, Kersten Schnurle.

Chevrolet Suburban, I264690
Chevrolet GSA 4x4 Gray GSA Truck, G62-1227L
Dodge Durango, I510975
Chevrolet Equinox I516724
Chevrolet Silverado Truck, I513287
Dodge Dakota I264731

For questions concerning our winter study, you can contact Erin Stahler (x 2243), Dan Stahler (x 2719), or Doug Smith (x 2242).

IN THE NEWS

Retiring superintendent leaves ‘political’ park post

Posted: Wednesday, November 6, 2013 12:15 am Jackson Hole News and Guide

[Retiring superintendent leaves ‘political’ park post](#) By Angus M. Thuermer Jr.

Retiring Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott has had a parks career that saw her serve in places like San Francisco and New York, where bashing officials was a blood sport.

She had the wind knocked out of her long before she came to Grand Teton, where she also got plenty of advice — and criticism too. Serving here wasn’t the first time she experienced “body blows,” she said this week.

Of all the places she’s been a public servant in the last 33 years, “this park,” she said, “is one of the most political animals I’ve ever seen.”

She leaves after serving as the first female superintendent of Grand Teton and the third-longest-serving superintendent of the reserve. She started her job here in 2004, her career in 1980.

“The Park Service had just started allowing women to wear the same uniform as men,” she said of the era when she joined.

She came to Grand Teton as a member of the elite Senior Executive Service of the National Park Service, a group of 10 officers. With her retirement, that cadre will have no female members, which riles her.

Why there aren’t more is “a question the agency should be asking,” she said.

Grand Teton is sometimes called a “bastard” park because of its many incongruous uses, including a commercial airport, hunting and grazing that are allowed by law.

Some of those bring pressures on the superintendent, as when unnamed Wyoming residents floated the idea of swapping state lands inside Grand Teton for Jackson Hole Airport.

The topic came up during consultation with representatives of the Rockefeller family, which donated more than 14,000 acres to the government to expand Grand Teton decades ago. The meetings continue because the donation contains a “reverter clause” that stipulates the property will return to the family if it is not used for park purposes.

While under political pressure to propose actions like a swap for the airport, the superintendent also answers to Rockefeller heirs who guard their family’s “investment” in the Grand Teton gift, Scott said. She assured trustees of the Rockefellers’ Jackson Hole Preserve Inc. that any notion that Grand Teton would cede its airport property was a “nonstarter” in discussions about the landing strip, the only such commercial facility in a national park.

“We don’t give up park land,” Scott said.

The park prepares an annual report on the status of Rockefeller gifts to Grand Teton, including the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve. The family donated 1,160 acres around Phelps Lake that used to be a family retreat.

“It’s a different relationship than anywhere else I’ve worked,” she said of the ties with the family. “It’s a marriage. It’s been a very delightful part, and very enlightening part, of this job.”

Keeping the airport in the park through a lease agreement also allows Grand Teton to have a significant say in operations. Swapping it out of the park would undermine the superintendent’s ability to control activities there, she said.

Criticism sometimes comes from people with different perspectives on natural resource issues, or those expressing emotional reactions, but it often is misplaced.

“There’s a huge need for improved understanding on how the government works,” Scott said.

The park’s elk reduction program — a hunt — is an example. It is authorized by law “when necessary.”

When is it necessary? “Let’s ask that,” she said. It will likely be necessary as long as there is supplemental feeding of elk on the National Elk Refuge and possibly also state feedgrounds.

“It’s distasteful to our staff,” Scott said of the shooting of elk in Grand Teton. “It creates a lot of anger.”

That shouldn’t be directed at the park, at her or at rangers, she said.

“If you don’t like the law, people should move to change it,” she said. “I think it’s misplaced to take it out on somebody.”

With a community of 20,000 living at its doorstep, including high-powered business leaders Jackson Hole has attracted in recent years, the park hears from a lot of people who have strong opinions and think highly of them.

“There’s not a time they don’t hesitate to tell me what to do as superintendent,” Scott said.

On her list of accomplishments, she includes reducing the park's infrastructure backlog by \$100 million, improving relationships with the airport board and setting a course for the purchase of state school trust lands in Grand Teton. She also saw the return of the David T. Vernon collection of Indian artifacts and the transfer of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve to the park.

Operating the park in a "crisis" budget mode is frustrating, Scott said. She hasn't had a budget in advance of the fiscal year in half a decade. She can't plan ahead, buy in bulk.

She's had to put up with sequestration cuts, a government shutdown during which she couldn't go to work. The latest budget agreement in Washington is good for 105 days.

"That's not a solution," she said. "We need to get government functioning."

Grand Teton is looking at a budget that's down 8 percent in the coming year.

"The cuts and all that are taking our parks backward," she said.

Personnel in Grand Teton are tops, Scott said. Jenny Lake rangers, who are famous for their derring-do, are emblematic of the dedication of the rest of the troops, she said.

For example, when rangers rescued more than a dozen climbers after a lightning storm on the Grand Teton, more than 80 park personnel, most of whom weren't climbing rangers, were on hand to assist.

Grand Teton remains magical. Her favorite spot is Moose-Wilson Road.

"I was awestruck," she said of her first trip down the byway, unparalleled in the country in her view.

If she could wave a magic wand, she would produce \$91 million and buy the two remaining school trust sections in the park.

"We would go out and sit on new park property and enjoy it," Scott said.

She would restore more agricultural acreage on the east side of Grand Teton to its natural, sagebrush condition. She would see the feeding of elk end. She would spend more money on grizzly bear research.

She also would see her NPS Academy, a program she started for students to learn about parks, flourish. It has expanded beyond Grand Teton.

"That's where we are going to build our constituency in the 21st century," she said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:41 am MST Nov 6, 2013

Today: A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly between 2pm and 3pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28. West northwest wind 13 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. West southwest wind 9 to 13 mph becoming east northeast after midnight.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 36. South southwest wind 10 to 14 mph becoming north in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Thursday Night: Snow likely, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. West wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Friday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 30. Southwest wind 8 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. West southwest wind 6 to 8 mph.

- - - - -

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

Thursday, November 7, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign

Until November 19th, 2013 the annual Combined Federal Campaign will be conducted for federal employees in the Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign region.

What is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)?

The CFC is the world's largest and most successful workplace fundraising campaign, enabling millions of federal civilian, postal, and military employees to support their favorite charitable organizations. The CFC is really your campaign because you can choose among thousands of local, national and international pre-screened charitable organizations. You also decide exactly how much to give and whether to contribute via payroll deduction (recommended), cash or check. Campaigns are conducted regionally and regulated by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Washington, D.C. Participation is completely voluntary.

What does my CFC look like?

The CFC in your region is called the Intermountain. We reach approximately 50,000 federal employees throughout Utah, western Colorado, southeast Idaho, southwest Idaho and most of Wyoming. Federal employees in our campaign raise about \$2.5 million annually and growing!

The Intermountain CFC is administered by a committee of volunteers from local federal agencies called the Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC). The committee ensures that the campaign is run efficiently, effectively, and ethically.

Which charities can I contribute to?

Think of the causes or issues that matter most to you personally. Chances are you'll find many organizations in the Intermountain CFC Charity List that support your values and concerns. There are thousands of local, national, and international charities that support medical research, the arts, environmental causes, community health, animal welfare, youth development, civil rights, recreation, and solutions to poverty and homelessness, among others. Charities are carefully screened to make sure that they are certified by the IRS and that they meet certain organizational and reporting standards.

How do I contribute?

It's easy! During the campaign you will receive a booklet called the CFC Charity List, which contains the names and descriptions of all eligible CFC charities. Once you have selected your charities, simply complete a pledge form and return it to your agency's campaign coordinator. You can give by payroll deduction, cash or check. The pledge form and a searchable Charity List can also be found at www.intermountaincfc.org.

Where can I find more information?

You can find detailed campaign information at www.intermountaincfc.org. You can also contact Darl Williams, Human Resources, (307)344-2042.

Hello Again Yellowstone Employees,

We have reached the 100 coupon minimum necessary to participate in the **Bridger Wellness Discount Ticket Program**. Surprise Surprise!

What's next:

Beginning next week (November 12-15), employees may drop off a check to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth. Leigh Anne is not in this week so don't jump the gun! Checks should be made out to YFEA. Please make the check out for the exact amount (# coupons purchased X \$40.00). Leigh Anne will then issue you a receipt.

If you are an interior employee:

You may send checks beginning this week to Leigh Anne via blue envelope so we are sure to get them in time to go in with the order. Please include a note including your name, phone number and duty station so Leigh Anne will know where to send the receipt.

You can still sign up through this week on the P Drive (see below)....

All money for tickets must be received by COB November 15th in order to receive coupons.

Again, Leigh Anne will be able to accept checks November 12-15th at Albright VC.

Photographs and video wanted - can you help?



Do you have a camera? Would you like to share your Yellowstone pics with others? As winter settles in and it's a bit more challenging to get into the interior, our social media team is looking for photos and video to post on our Facebook page. Examples include wildlife, landscapes, staff working, visitors recreating, or anything else that is the essence of Yellowstone. We will provide you with a photo and/or video credit on our page. Please email your submissions to yell_socialmedia@nps.gov. If you have any other questions or ideas for content on our page, please contact David Restivo in Mammoth at x2540, and be sure to check out and "like" the park's Facebook page if you haven't already (<http://www.facebook.com/YellowstoneNPS>). Thanks!

Community Pizza, Root beer float and Family-Friendly Movie Potluck! Thursday, November 14th at 6 pm at the MCC. Bring a pizza to share (and a salad or side if you would like) - the MCC will provide the Root beer floats. All welcome!

The Wolf Project will begin our 18th Early Winter Study starting November 15th and ending December 14th, 2013. Winter Study is our intensive 30-day study where researchers monitoring several wolf packs on the northern range daily. Winter study's objectives are to monitor long-term wolf predation patterns, territorial movements, behavior, interactions with other species, and characteristics of their prey. We have 12 field technicians for the study. Additionally, several of our year-round technicians (Matt Metz, Kira Quimby, Caitlin Ruhl, Rick McIntyre) will assist. Three technicians will be stationed at Tower Ranger Station to reduce drive time on winter roads and the remaining will be based at Mammoth or Gardiner. Each crew will be driving YCR fleet vehicles, using park radios, and using telemetry to monitor wolf packs ranging from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. Our crews will also be hiking off-road to collect samples from wolf kills, conduct elk counts, and observe wolves. In addition, Dan Stahler and Doug Smith will be monitoring wolf packs from the air during aerial telemetry flights throughout the 30-day study period, weather permitting. Wolf Project will conduct a two-day training session beginning on November 13. Safety is the primary focus of this training, accompanied by information on park regulations, data collection, and other research specific topics. We would like to thank all involved Yellowstone employees beforehand for their support and patience with our staff during this busy time. In particular, we would like to thank both the Maintenance and Resource and Visitor Protection divisions for their assistance and cooperation with our field crews, as their support is essential for safe and productive field seasons.

The following is a list of our technicians and the vehicles which will be out in the field:

Colby Anton, Brenna Cassidy, Lizzie Cato, Elizabeth Flesch, Sara Eno, Shannon Forshee, Dane Horowski, Molly McDevitt, Peter Mumford, Brandon Navratil, Donny Perret, Kersten Schnurle.

Chevrolet Suburban, I264690
Chevrolet GSA 4x4 Gray GSA Truck, G62-1227L
Dodge Durango, I510975
Chevrolet Equinox I516724
Chevrolet Silverado Truck, I513287
Dodge Dakota I264731

For questions concerning our winter study, you can contact Erin Stahler (x 2243), Dan Stahler (x 2719), or Doug Smith (x 2242).

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

November 6, 2013

Yellowstone Seeking Public Comments On Utility Service Upgrades

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comment on a plan to implement infrastructure upgrades to improve the reliability, safety and overall service quality of NorthWestern Energy's (NWE) electrical power distribution within Yellowstone National Park.

NorthWestern Energy, an investor-owned utility that provides electricity and natural gas in the northwest quadrant of the United States, has provided electrical power to Yellowstone National Park since the late 1950s using both aerial and buried transmission lines. Much of NWE's existing power infrastructure in the park has not been updated since the 1950's and is prone to frequent outages because of the remote nature of the park, inhospitable terrain, climate, and tree cover near transmission lines. Additionally, the park's system lacks modern communication infrastructure that would normally facilitate diagnosing and correcting the cause of power outages from NWE's central offices in Montana. Further, the lack of reliable communications inside the park can make it difficult for NWE employees to safely implement repairs when outages occur. The purpose of the Environmental Assessment (EA) is to evaluate alternatives that may reduce the duration of power outages, improve system reliability, and improve visitor and employee safety.

Alternatives proposed include technology to incorporate an automated, remote monitoring and control system, as well as the installation of equipment buildings, back-up power generators and propane fuel tanks. Proposed communication technology upgrades include the potential construction of new metal lattice towers at each of the seven existing NWE electrical substations located within the park and the upgrade of a repeater site outside the park on U.S. Forest Service property.

The NPS is inviting public comment and engagement on the proposed plan pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The EA can be found online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NWEPlan>. A hard copy can also be requested by calling (307) 344-7147, or by writing to Compliance Office, Attention: Electric Transmission/Distribution System-Communication & Automation EA, National Park Service, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.

Respondents are encouraged to submit their comments through the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NWEPlan>. Comments may also be mailed to the address above or hand-delivered during normal business hours to the Mailroom in the park's Administration Building in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming.

Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any manner other than those specified above. Bulk comments submitted in any format on behalf of others will not be accepted. Comments must be received by midnight MDT, Friday, December 6, 2013. After this date, public comments will be evaluated and a decision on whether to implement the plan will be made by the Regional Director of the Intermountain Region of the NPS.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 9:41 am MST Nov 7, 2013

Update on approaching winter storm: <http://ow.ly/i/3EAyS/original>

Today: Snow likely before 2pm, then rain and snow between 2pm and 3pm, then snow after 3pm. High near 35. West wind 11 to 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow. Low around 25. Breezy, with a west wind 18 to 24 mph, with gusts as high as 32 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Friday: Snow likely, mainly before 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29. Breezy, with a west wind 13 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21. West southwest wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 35. Southwest wind 9 to 11 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. South southwest wind 7 to 10 mph.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40. Southwest wind 3 to 8 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21.

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, November 8, 2013

Thank You Veterans!

The National Park Service has strong roots in the military; the first park rangers were soldiers and our uniforms still reflect the Cavalry units that protected national parks. Today, more than 17 percent of our employees are veterans.

The National Park Service is the keeper of America's stories, many of which recount the valor and sacrifice of those who served our nation. We are proud to be the stewards of nearly 100 of these places that have intrinsic value to our veterans; hallowed ground like Saratoga, Fort McHenry, Vicksburg, and the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

As our nation honors our veterans this weekend, I add my voice to say thank you to the men and women of the National Park Service who have come to us from the military. We are grateful for your service in the protection of our nation, and now in the protection of its most treasured places.

This weekend we will honor America's veterans by offering free entrance to all 401 national parks. Whether you are working or spending time with family and friends, please be safe and take time to remember the reason for the holiday. Keep in your thoughts those still on active duty, and for those deployed around the world, let's wish them a safe return home.

-Director Jon Jarvis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supply is on the move: This winter the Supply Center will undergo a major rehab for seismic stabilization. To accommodate the work we will relocate to the Canteen building where we'll run a smaller scale Supply operation along with shipping/receiving and the Property Office. At this point we have started packing up supply stock items and dismantling shelves in preparation for our temporary move to the Canteen gym. That move will be in full swing the week of November 18th after the Contracting Office has moved to the Garage. By December we hope to be up and running again in the Canteen. In the meantime, we have a limited selection of items readily available but their status changes hourly as we box things up and dismantle the shelving. If you can wait until December to fill your supply orders, please do. Otherwise we suggest you call ahead to see what's readily available. If you need to fill a larger order in the next few weeks, please call or email us your shopping list (YELL_Supply@nps.gov) at least 3 business days before you plan to pick things up. We'll make every effort to retrieve what you need from temporary storage but with limited staff we can't do this on short notice. Please call Karin Schwartz at 344-2081 or Jane Olson at 344-2083 to check availability of supplies and/or to schedule a pick up. We will continue to serve as the park's central shipping and receiving office, but we ask that you pick up incoming packages promptly. Also, in order to provide adequate temporary storage for us Maintenance is upgrading our outbuilding. Until that's done we don't have covered storage for building materials such as lumber and sheetrock. We apologize for this major inconvenience to our customers and thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have other questions or concerns, please call Barb Agle at 344-2085.

- - - - -

Verizon Wireless Service news for Canyon, Gardiner, and Mammoth

Canyon Signal propagation mapping predicts significant coverage improvements in the cellular geographic service area (CGSA) around Mount Washburn (Canyon developed area) if Verizon Wireless proceeds with a proposed conversion to sector panel antennas on Mount Washburn. Verizon is making progress towards obtaining authorizations from the NPS, WY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Union Wireless, and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) for the physical installations and new CGSA contours. Pending authorizations and access to the site, Verizon says that they have the materials on hand and intend to begin work without delay.

Gardiner Verizon Wireless is moving forward with Park County zoning approvals and lease agreements towards their objective of installing new wireless facilities on existing infrastructure in the Gardiner area. Many Verizon customers lost service last year when AT&T discontinued their Alltel (CDMA) service which supported roaming for Verizon customers. Gardiner residents and some residents of Lower Mammoth relied heavily on the Alltel CDMA site for their service. When it was discontinued, the Mammoth Elk Plaza site became the only CDMA service provider in the CGSA. In the interim, Verizon has deployed a Cell-on-Wheels (COW) but it lacks the elevation needed to provide an equivalent service footprint. Verizon estimates that it is possible that they could begin providing permanent service in Gardiner as early as the beginning of the second quarter of the 2014 calendar year.

Mammoth Verizon continues to build a microwave path to the Mammoth-Elk Plaza tower with the goal of increased capacity and a service upgrade from 3G to 4G LTE. Customers with 4G capable Verizon phones and devices within the CGSA will experience faster downloads and better service during high visitation periods. There are no plans to extend the cellular footprint at this site. All proposed and existing wireless services in Yellowstone National Park are required to be consistent with Yellowstone's Wireless Communications Plan which was signed into effect in April of 2009.

- - - - -

The next **United Blood Services Blood Drive will take place on Monday, November 18th** from noon to 3:45 PM in the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #2. Please note that the ending time is earlier than most drives (3:45 PM). This should be only for this blood drive.

You can log onto www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth) to schedule an appointment or give me a call.

Any food or drink donations are also appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding if you can donate due to current meds or illnesses, you can call Becky Springer, UBS Senior Donor Recruitment Representative at (406)723-3264.

Start the holiday season off right by donating the gift of life....

- - - - -

Going Away Party/Ice Cream Social for Sean Heath - Please join us in sending off Sean Heath to his new job at the Western Area Power Administration in Phoenix, Arizona. We will be serving cake and ice cream in the **YCR Conference Room at 3pm on Thursday, November 14, 2013**. Sean's last day at work in Yellowstone is Friday the 15th so make sure to come out and wish him well!

- - - - -

Hello Again Yellowstone Employees,

We have reached the 100 coupon minimum necessary to participate in the **Bridger Wellness Discount Ticket Program**. Surprise Surprise!

What's next:

Beginning next week (November 12-15), employees may drop off a check to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth. Leigh Anne is not in this week so don't jump the gun! Checks should be made out to YFEA. Please make the check out for the exact amount (# coupons purchased X \$40.00). Leigh Anne will then issue you a receipt.

If you are an interior employee:

You may send checks beginning this week to Leigh Anne via blue envelope so we are sure to get them in time to go in with the order. Please include a note including your name, phone number and duty station so Leigh Anne will know where to send the receipt.

You can still sign up through this week on the P Drive (see below)....

All money for tickets must be received by COB November 15th in order to receive coupons.

Again, Leigh Anne will be able to accept checks November 12-15th at Albright VC.

- - - - -

Photographs and video wanted - can you help?



Do you have a camera? Would you like to share your Yellowstone pics with others? As winter settles in and it's a bit more challenging to get into the interior, our social media team is looking for photos and video to post on our Facebook page. Examples include wildlife, landscapes, staff working, visitors recreating, or anything else that is the essence of Yellowstone. We will provide you with a photo and/or video credit on our page. Please email your submissions to yell_socialmedia@nps.gov. If you have any other questions or ideas for content on our page, please contact David Restivo in Mammoth at x2540, and be sure to check out and "like" the park's Facebook page if you haven't already (<http://www.facebook.com/YellowstoneNPS>). Thanks!

- - - - -

Come inside and warm up with back to back **Turbo Kickboxing and Pilates classes!**

When: Sunday, November 17, 8:00am-9:30am

Where: Gardiner Community Center

Cost: Only \$10!

Bring yourself, a bottle of water and a friend!

See you there!

- - - - -

Community Pizza, Root beer float and Family-Friendly Movie Potluck! Thursday, November 14th at 6 pm at the MCC. Bring a pizza to share (and a salad or side if you would like) - the MCC will provide the Root beer floats. All welcome!

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:26 am MST Nov 8, 2013

Today: Scattered snow showers, mainly before 11am. Cloudy, with a high near 31. West southwest wind 11 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Tonight: Cloudy, with a low around 19. West southwest wind 3 to 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. Light south southwest wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. Southwest wind 3 to 8 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 41. Southwest wind 5 to 11 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. Southwest wind 3 to 7 mph.

Veterans Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Southwest wind around 6 mph.

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

Tuesday, November 12, 2013



Sunrise over Mammoth HQ on Friday
(photo by Bonnie Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supply is on the move: This winter the Supply Center will undergo a major rehab for seismic stabilization. To accommodate the work we will relocate to the Canteen building where we'll run a smaller scale Supply operation along with shipping/receiving and the Property Office. At this point we have started packing up supply stock items and dismantling shelves in preparation for our temporary move to the Canteen gym. That move will be in full swing the week of November 18th after the Contracting Office has moved to the Garage. By December we hope to be up and running again in the Canteen. In the meantime, we have a limited selection of items readily available but their status changes hourly as we box things up and dismantle the shelving. If you can wait until December to fill your supply orders, please do. Otherwise we suggest you call ahead to see what's readily available. If you need to fill a larger order in the next few weeks, please call or email us your shopping list (YELL_Supply@nps.gov) at least 3 business days before you plan to pick things up. We'll make every effort to retrieve what you need from temporary storage but with limited staff we can't do this on short notice. Please call Karin Schwartz at 344-2081 or Jane Olson at 344-2083 to check availability of supplies and/or to schedule a pick up. We will continue to serve as the park's central shipping and receiving office, but we ask that you pick up incoming packages promptly. Also, in order to provide adequate temporary storage for us Maintenance is upgrading our outbuilding. Until that's done we don't have covered storage for building materials such as lumber and sheetrock. We apologize for this major inconvenience to our customers and thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have other questions or concerns, please call Barb Agle at 344-2085.

Verizon Wireless Service news for Canyon, Gardiner, and Mammoth

Canyon Signal propagation mapping predicts significant coverage improvements in the cellular geographic service area (CGSA) around Mount Washburn (Canyon developed area) if Verizon Wireless proceeds with a proposed conversion to sector panel antennas on Mount Washburn. Verizon is making progress towards obtaining authorizations from the NPS, WY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Union Wireless, and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) for the physical installations and new CGSA contours. Pending authorizations and access to the site, Verizon says that they have the materials on hand and intend to begin work without delay.

Gardiner Verizon Wireless is moving forward with Park County zoning approvals and lease agreements towards their objective of installing new wireless facilities on existing infrastructure in the Gardiner area. Many Verizon customers lost service last year when AT&T discontinued their Alltel (CDMA) service which supported roaming for Verizon customers. Gardiner residents and some residents of Lower Mammoth relied heavily on the Alltel CDMA site for their service. When it was discontinued, the Mammoth Elk Plaza site became the only CDMA service provider in the CGSA. In the interim, Verizon has deployed a Cell-on-Wheels (COW) but it lacks the elevation needed to provide an equivalent service footprint. Verizon estimates that it is possible that they could begin providing permanent service in Gardiner as early as the beginning of the second quarter of the 2014 calendar year.

Mammoth Verizon continues to build a microwave path to the Mammoth-Elk Plaza tower with the goal of increased capacity and a service upgrade from 3G to 4G LTE. Customers with 4G capable Verizon phones and devices within the CGSA will experience faster downloads and better service during high visitation periods. There are no plans to extend the cellular footprint at this site. All proposed and existing wireless services in Yellowstone National Park are required to be consistent with Yellowstone's Wireless Communications Plan which was signed into effect in April of 2009.

The next **United Blood Services Blood Drive will take place on Monday, November 18th** from noon to 3:45 PM in the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #2. Please note that the ending time is earlier than most drives (3:45 PM). This should be only for this blood drive.

You can log onto www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth) to schedule an appointment or give me a call.

Any food or drink donations are also appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding if you can donate due to current meds or illnesses, you can call Becky Springer, UBS Senior Donor Recruitment Representative at (406)723-3264.

Start the holiday season off right by donating the gift of life....

Going Away Party/Ice Cream Social for Sean Heath - Please join us in sending off Sean Heath to his new job at the Western Area Power Administration in Phoenix, Arizona. We will be serving cake and ice cream in the **YCR Conference Room at 3pm on Thursday, November 14, 2013**. Sean's last day at work in Yellowstone is Friday the 15th so make sure to come out and wish him well!

Community Pizza, Root beer float and Family-Friendly Movie Potluck! Thursday, November 14th at 6 pm at the MCC. Bring a pizza to share (and a salad or side if you would like) - the MCC will provide the Root beer floats. All welcome!

Hello Again Yellowstone Employees,
We have reached the 100 coupon minimum necessary to participate in the **Bridger Wellness Discount Ticket Program**. Surprise Surprise!

What's next:

This week (November 12-15), employees may drop off a check to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth. Checks should be made out to YFEA. Please make the check out for the exact amount (# coupons purchased X \$40.00). Leigh Anne will then issue you a receipt.

If you are an interior employee:

You may send checks to Leigh Anne via blue envelope. Please include a note including your name, phone number and duty station so Leigh Anne will know where to send the receipt.

All money for tickets must be received by COB November 15th in order to receive coupons.

Again, Leigh Anne will be able to accept checks today through the 15th at Albright VC.

Photographs and video wanted - can you help?



Do you have a camera? Would you like to share your Yellowstone pics with others? As winter settles in and it's a bit more challenging to get into the interior, our social media team is looking for photos and video to post on our Facebook page. Examples include wildlife, landscapes, staff working, visitors recreating, or anything else that is the essence of Yellowstone. We will provide you with a photo and/or video credit on our page. Please email your submissions to yell_socialmedia@nps.gov. If you have any other questions or ideas for content on our page, please contact David Restivo in Mammoth at x2540, and be sure to check out and "like" the park's Facebook page if you haven't already (<http://www.facebook.com/YellowstoneNPS>). Thanks!

Come inside and warm up with back to back **Turbo Kickboxing and Pilates classes!**

When: Sunday, November 17, 8:00am-9:30am

Where: Gardiner Community Center

Cost: Only \$10!

Bring yourself, a bottle of water and a friend!

See you there!

IN THE NEWS**Repairs completed on Yellowstone road between Sylvan Pass, Fishing Bridge**

Posted: Monday, November 11, 2013 2:00 pm Cody Enterprise

[Repairs completed on Yellowstone road between Sylvan Pass, Fishing Bridge](#)

By RUFFIN PREVOST - Yellowstone Gate

Though Yellowstone Park was closed to visitors during the government shutdown, contractors were able to continue working, allowing them to complete repairs to a damaged portion of the road between the park's East Entrance and Fishing Bridge.

Part of the eastbound lane along a section of road known as "Nine Mile," near Lake Butte Overlook and Sedge Bay, was washed away in May 2011, just days after the park's East Entrance had opened for the summer season.

Travel at that spot had since been restricted to a single lane, with an automated traffic light controlling vehicle flows, typically resulting in brief delays of five minutes or less.

The \$1.3 million repair job was awarded HK Contractors Inc. from Idaho Falls, Idaho, said Yellowstone spokesman Dan Hottle. Subcontractors included Hayward-Baker and Sletten Construction.

Hottle said the job was finished Oct. 11, six days ahead of schedule, and that work came in slightly under budget thanks to savings realized from value engineering.

Some business owners in the gateway community of Cody, Wyo. had expressed frustration over the wait of nearly 2 1/2 years for repairs to be completed, but most said the temporary single-lane solution had not diminished tourist traffic along the East Entrance Road.

Park officials have said that repairs were complex and that securing funding took considerable time. An initial round of bids came in over budget, further delaying the fix.

Scott Balyo, executive director of the Cody chamber, said disruptions during the repair work were minimal.

"It probably did take longer than anyone would have liked, but we never faced a road closure from it," Balyo said. "Having a minute or two delay at the light was a minor inconvenience, and it appears they've done a great job on it."

The road failed when saturated sub-surface soils slid along a section of bedrock angled toward Yellowstone Lake, Hottle said.

Water from spring precipitation and melting snow traveled between the bedrock and granular soils closer to the surface, hastening the road failure, he said.

Repairs required removing the unstable soil down to the bedrock and creating a flat bench to provide a firm base for the new road.

“A mechanically-stabilized earth wall system was constructed from the flat bench, up to the existing roadway elevation, approximately 45 feet at maximum depth,” Hottle said.

Contractors installed a new drainage system beneath the road to direct water away from the road surface and to the lake below.

The Federal Highway Administration installed a monitoring well and made other borings around the road in 2008 as part of a geotechnical investigation into previously existing problems with the road, Hottle said.

Data gathered from that process helped guide designs for the reconstructed road.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 9:11 am MST Nov 12, 2013

Today: Sunny, with a high near 44. South wind 7 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Increasing clouds, with a low around 22. South southwest wind 10 to 14 mph.

Wednesday: A slight chance of rain and snow showers after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. West southwest wind 9 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow showers before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly clear, with a low around 21. West wind 7 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 32. West southwest wind 8 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow showers before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. West wind around 7 mph.

- - - - -

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

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today through November 15th, the YELL Contracting Office will be moving to the Mammoth Garage Conference room. Our office hours will be limited during this time. **TODAY** the office will be closed, a moving company will be here to move us out. We appreciate your patience during this busy time. We will back up and fully operational as soon as possible.

Our office hours will remain the same, Monday-Thursday 6:30 am- 6pm, Friday 7:30-6

There will be a send-off for the **Gardiner High volleyball girls at/near 8:00am tomorrow - Thursday morning** (11/14). Ranger..lights...sirens...Those that might be in Gardiner at or between 8 and 8:15, step out and wave/cheer on your Gardiner High VB girls in their quest to be repeat State Champions. If you're in your car and want to follow through town, that works too! Pass the word to people who would be interested.

Please join us in **sending off Sean Heath** to his new job at the Western Area Power Administration in Phoenix, Arizona. We will be serving cake and ice cream in the YCR Conference Room at 3pm on Thursday, November 14, 2013. Sean's last day at work in Yellowstone is Friday the 15th so make sure to come out and wish him well!

Community Pizza, Root beer float and Family-Friendly Movie Potluck! Thursday, November 14th at 6 pm at the MCC. Bring a pizza to share (and a salad or side if you would like) - the MCC will provide the Root beer floats. All welcome!

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Incentive Program Awards and Participation in Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program

WIP

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the months of September and October (combined drawing)! Names have been drawn from among those who participated in the program. The following employees will receive an award for their participation.

Jane Olson-Admin.
Christine Farrar-RVP
Jenny Hill-Admin.

Claire Stout-RVP
Beth Coombs-RVP

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. All employees are encouraged to participate. If you would like to schedule a training with your staff on the use of the program, contact Stacey Gunther (x2239). **Certification forms for the month of November are due to Stacey Gunther by December 5th.**

Bridger Discount Ticket Program

The Yellowstone Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Program is teaming up with the Yellowstone Federal Employees Association (YFEA) to participate in the Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program during winter 2013-2014. This is an excellent opportunity to keep healthy and social over the winter months.

What it is:

This program offers \$40.00/day tickets (\$11.00 off the regular ticket price) to employees of eligible organizations (must have a Wellness Program in place). These ticket coupons may be used by employees, their spouses, and dependent children. Coupons are not refundable and are not for resale. There are no "black out" days. Coupons are good through 2013-2014 season. Note: all ski days must be used on days off from work.

What's next:

This week (November 12-15), employees may drop off a check to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth. Checks should be made out to YFEA. Please make the check out for the exact amount (# coupons purchased X \$40.00). Leigh Anne will then issue you a receipt.

All money for tickets must be received by COB November 15th in order to receive coupons. No exceptions here!

Contact Stacey Gunther or Leigh Anne Dunworth with questions about payment.

Here's to your health!

As all of you know **uniform ordering** has been delayed and there have been a lot of questions as to why, so here's the answer...

First it's important to know that the uniform contract does not just involve NPS, but FWS, COE, and BLM. Prior to FBMS the NPS would put up all the funds with the other DOI agencies reimbursing the NPS later in the FY. With FBMS all of the funding must be provided and available (loaded) prior to spending. So, we already knew that we would have a delay because FBMS is down at the beginning of the FY and a memo was sent out from WASO informing everyone.

October 1st rolls around and before the DOI agencies have a chance to meet to work out funding we were furloughed causing a further delay. A meeting is scheduled for this week and WASO is hoping to have everything back up and running by the end of the month at the latest.

Having trouble deciding what to get for Christmas for that hard to buy for person? Need some new threads? The **new Yellowstone Helitack Sweat Shirts and T Shirts** have arrived just in time for Christmas. T shirts run in

size from Med to Triple XL and come in sage, black, maroon and burnt orange. Sweatshirts run med to 2xl and are Maroon or Black. All are heavy cotton. T shirts are \$20 Sweatshirts \$45

The next **United Blood Services Blood Drive will take place on Monday, November 18th** from noon to 3:45 PM in the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #2. Please note that the ending time is earlier than most drives (3:45 PM). This should be only for this blood drive.

You can log onto www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth) to schedule an appointment or give me a call.

Any food or drink donations are also appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding if you can donate due to current meds or illnesses, you can call Becky Springer, UBS Senior Donor Recruitment Representative at (406)723-3264.

Start the holiday season off right by donating the gift of life....

All employees and volunteers who will be operating a snowmobile in Yellowstone are required to complete snowmobile training. All Mammoth trainings will be held in the Mammoth Garage conference room. Please do not delay in signing up for the trainings because class size is limited. Sign-up sheets can be found on the park network drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training\Snowmobile Training 2013-2014 Sign-up

Initial Snowmobile Training

This class is subject to change depending on the road and weather conditions.

This class is 4 hours and consists of classroom and hands-on training. Those attending the Initial Snowmobile Training must be prepared for hands-on riding by bringing the necessary gear with them to the training. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet. For any questions or concerns regarding the trainings, please feel free to contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029 or (307) 344-2030.

December 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 12, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 18, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 19, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Refresher Snowmobile Training

November 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

November 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 14, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

November 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

November 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

Verizon Wireless Service news for Canyon, Gardiner, and Mammoth

Canyon Signal propagation mapping predicts significant coverage improvements in the cellular geographic service area (CGSA) around Mount Washburn (Canyon developed area) if Verizon Wireless proceeds with a proposed conversion to sector panel antennas on Mount Washburn. Verizon is making progress towards obtaining authorizations from the NPS, WY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Union Wireless, and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) for the physical installations and new CGSA contours. Pending authorizations and access to the site, Verizon says that they have the materials on hand and intend to begin work without delay.

Gardiner Verizon Wireless is moving forward with Park County zoning approvals and lease agreements towards their objective of installing new wireless facilities on existing infrastructure in the Gardiner area. Many Verizon customers lost service last year when AT&T discontinued their Alltel (CDMA) service which supported roaming for Verizon customers. Gardiner residents and some residents of Lower Mammoth relied heavily on the Alltel CDMA site for their service. When it was discontinued, the Mammoth Elk Plaza site became the only CDMA service provider in the CGSA. In the interim, Verizon has deployed a Cell-on-Wheels (COW) but it lacks the elevation needed to provide an equivalent service footprint. Verizon estimates that it is possible that they could begin providing permanent service in Gardiner as early as the beginning of the second quarter of the 2014 calendar year.

Mammoth Verizon continues to build a microwave path to the Mammoth-Elk Plaza tower with the goal of increased capacity and a service upgrade from 3G to 4G LTE. Customers with 4G capable Verizon phones and devices within the CGSA will experience faster downloads and better service during high visitation periods. There are no plans to extend the cellular footprint at this site. All proposed and existing wireless services in Yellowstone National Park are required to be consistent with Yellowstone's Wireless Communications Plan which was signed into effect in April of 2009.

Photographs and video wanted - can you help?

Do you have a camera? Would you like to share your Yellowstone pics with others? As winter settles in and it's a bit more challenging to get into the interior, our social media team is looking for photos and video to post on our Facebook page. Examples include wildlife, landscapes, staff working, visitors recreating, or anything else that is the essence of Yellowstone. We will provide you with a photo and/or video credit on our page. Please email your submissions to yell_socialmedia@nps.gov. If you have any other questions or ideas for content on our page, please contact David Restivo in Mammoth at x2540, and be sure to check out and "like" the park's Facebook page if you haven't already (<http://www.facebook.com/YellowstoneNPS>). Thanks!

Come inside and warm up with back to back **Turbo Kickboxing and Pilates classes!**

When: Sunday, November 17, 8:00am-9:30am

Where: Gardiner Community Center

Cost: Only \$10!

Bring yourself, a bottle of water and a friend! See you there!

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:41 am MST Nov 13, 2013

Today: A slight chance of snow before 11am, then a chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 41. West southwest wind 8 to 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tonight: A slight chance of snow showers before 11pm, then a chance for flurries. Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. West wind 9 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 32. West southwest wind 9 to 14 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow showers before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. West wind 8 to 10 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 28. West southwest wind 9 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. Southwest wind around 13 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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

Thursday, November 14, 2013



What does the fox say? Not much with his mouth full of hare! Want more great pics, park history, and events like this? 'Like' Yellowstone National Park on Facebook!
(photo by Dan Smith)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today and tomorrow, the **YELL Contracting Office** will be moving to the Mammoth Garage Conference room. Our office hours will be limited during this time. We appreciate your patience during this busy time. We will back up and fully operational as soon as possible.

Our office hours will remain the same, today 6:30 am- 6pm, tomorrow 7:30-6

Please join us in **sending off Sean Heath** to his new job at the Western Area Power Administration in Phoenix, Arizona. We will be serving cake and ice cream in the YCR Conference Room at 3pm **TODAY**. Sean's last day at work in Yellowstone is tomorrow so make sure to come out and wish him well!

Community Pizza, Root beer float and Family-Friendly Movie Potluck! **TONIGHT** at 6 pm at the MCC. Bring a pizza to share (and a salad or side if you would like) - the MCC will provide the Root beer floats. All welcome!

When dropping off a **vehicle for repair** or service at any of the garages (Mammoth, Lake, Madison) we need **three things**, Keys, Plate number and mileage. Without these items we cannot generate a work order.

Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday November 21, 2013. To schedule work for a Government vehicle please call Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work call Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Incentive Program Awards and Participation in Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program

WIP

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the months of September and October (combined drawing)! Names have been drawn from among those who participated in the program. The following employees will receive an award for their participation.

Jane Olson-Admin.
Christine Farrar-RVP
Jenny Hill-Admin.
Claire Stout-RVP
Beth Coombs-RVP

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. All employees are encouraged to participate. If you would like to schedule a training with your staff on the use of the program, contact Stacey Gunther (x2239). **Certification forms for the month of November are due to Stacey Gunther by December 5th.**

Bridger Discount Ticket Program

The Yellowstone Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Program is teaming up with the Yellowstone Federal Employees Association (YFEA) to participate in the Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program during winter 2013-2014. This is an excellent opportunity to keep healthy and social over the winter months.

What it is:

This program offers \$40.00/day tickets (\$11.00 off the regular ticket price) to employees of eligible organizations (must have a Wellness Program in place). These ticket coupons may be used by employees, their spouses, and dependent children. Coupons are not refundable and are not for resale. There are no "black out" days. Coupons are good through 2013-2014 season. Note: all ski days must be used on days off from work.

What's next:

This week (November 12-15), employees may drop off a check to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth. Checks should be made out to YFEA. Please make the check out for the exact amount (# coupons purchased X \$40.00). Leigh Anne will then issue you a receipt.

All money for tickets must be received by COB TOMORROW in order to receive coupons. No exceptions here!

Contact Stacey Gunther or Leigh Anne Dunworth with questions about payment.

Here's to your health!

- - - - -

As all of you know **uniform ordering** has been delayed and there have been a lot of questions as to why, so here's the answer...

First it's important to know that the uniform contract does not just involve NPS, but FWS, COE, and BLM. Prior to FBMS the NPS would put up all the funds with the other DOI agencies reimbursing the NPS later in the FY. With FBMS all of the funding must be provided and available (loaded) prior to spending. So, we already knew that we would have a delay because FBMS is down at the beginning of the FY and a memo was sent out from WASO informing everyone.

October 1st rolls around and before the DOI agencies have a chance to meet to work out funding we were furloughed causing a further delay. A meeting is scheduled for this week and WASO is hoping to have everything back up and running by the end of the month at the latest.

- - - - -

Having trouble deciding what to get for Christmas for that hard to buy for person? Need some new threads? The **new Yellowstone Helitack Sweat Shirts and T Shirts** have arrived just in time for Christmas. T shirts run in size from Med to Triple XL and come in sage, black, maroon and burnt orange. Sweatshirts run med to 2xl and are Maroon or Black. All are heavy cotton. T shirts are \$20 Sweatshirts \$45

- - - - -

The next **United Blood Services Blood Drive** will take place on **Monday, November 18th** from noon to 3:45 PM in the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #2. Please note that the ending time is earlier than most drives (3:45 PM). This should be only for this blood drive.

You can log onto www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth) to schedule an appointment or give me a call.

Any food or drink donations are also appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding if you can donate due to current meds or illnesses, you can call Becky Springer, UBS Senior Donor Recruitment Representative at (406)723-3264.

Start the holiday season off right by donating the gift of life....

- - - - -

All employees and volunteers who will be operating a snowmobile in Yellowstone are required to complete snowmobile training. All Mammoth trainings will be held in the Mammoth Garage conference room. Please do not delay in signing up for the trainings because class size is limited. Sign-up sheets can be found on the park network drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training\Snowmobile Training 2013-2014 Sign-up

Initial Snowmobile Training

This class is subject to change depending on the road and weather conditions.

This class is 4 hours and consists of classroom and hands-on training. Those attending the Initial Snowmobile Training must be prepared for hands-on riding by bringing the necessary gear with them to the training. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet. For any questions or concerns regarding the trainings, please feel free to contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029 or (307) 344-2030.

December 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 12, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 18, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 19, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Refresher Snowmobile Training

November 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

November 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 14, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

November 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

November 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

Come inside and warm up with back to back **Turbo Kickboxing and Pilates classes!**

When: Sunday, November 17, 8:00am-9:30am

Where: Gardiner Community Center

Cost: Only \$10!

Bring yourself, a bottle of water and a friend! See you there!

IN THE NEWS**Livestock groups pull out of Park County bison appeal**

Posted: Thursday, November 14, 2013 12:15 am

[Livestock groups pull out of Park County bison appeal](#) Bozeman Daily Chronicle

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Staff Writer

Out of three original plaintiffs, only Park County remains to appeal a district court ruling that allowed bison to roam outside Yellowstone National Park.

On Tuesday, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation requested that that Montana Supreme Court dismiss its portion of an appeal challenging a ruling that allowed bison to roam north of the park in the winter. The court granted the request on Wednesday.

As part of a 10-count lawsuit, attorneys for the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, the Park County Stock Growers Association and Park County itself had argued in August 2012 that the state -- namely Fish, Wildlife & Parks and

the Department of Livestock -- hadn't carried out its responsibility to limit brucellosis and had violated residents' rights to a clean and healthful environment by allowing bison to wander through private property.

Bison, elk and cattle carry and transmit brucellosis, a disease that can cause cows to abort their calves. It can be transmitted only through physical contact with diseased tissue.

Fergus County District Court Judge E. Wayne Phillips dismissed all charges in a January ruling, saying the plaintiffs failed to prove the state had violated any law.

Montana Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Hanson responded in January with disappointment, saying the ruling made it clear that the state Legislature needed to consider mandates to protect livestock producers.

In March, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation announced it would appeal the ruling.

The Park County Stock Growers declined, but Park County joined the appeal.

The plaintiffs presented their case in an Oct. 31 brief.

They argued that Phillips erred in his ruling because he didn't limit his decision to the law as written, particularly a Montana law that limits where FWP can place bison. They claimed Phillips gave too much consideration to the legislative discussion that went into making the law to interpret its intent.

Attorney Tim Preso, who argued as an intervenor on the side of FWP, said the defense brief would be filed sometime in December.

"We'll do our best to show that their argument has no merit," Preso said.

Calls to the Montana Farm Bureau Federation were not returned.

Wolves top agenda at elk meeting

http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/wolves-top-agenda-elk-meeting?cookie_check=1

Published: Fri, 11/08/2013 - 2:00pm Livingston Enterprise

Natalie Storey - Enterprise Staff Writer

A meeting to discuss a work plan to manage elk and brucellosis in the Paradise Valley turned to the subject of wolves Thursday night, with local landowners blaming the large concentrations of elk in the valley on the reintroduction of the predator in Yellowstone National Park.

Park County Commissioner Jim Durgan said he and other landowners are seeing larger numbers of elk in higher concentrations than ever before.

"Growing up, we were seeing 100 head," Durgan said. "But 1,000 head? Five hundred head? We never saw that and that's part of the problem, the huge numbers that come in."

He added, "The 800-pound elephant in the room starts with a 'w' and ends with an 'f'."

Quentin Kujala, Fish Wildlife and Parks spokesperson, said it was unclear whether predator-prey relationships in the valley were affecting elk behavior. Wolves were reintroduced in Yellowstone National Park in 1995 and 1996, starting in the Lamar Valley, according to Yellowstone's website. There are now more than 300 wolves living in the Greater Yellowstone area.

Thursday's meeting, attended by about 50 people, was hosted by a wildlife subcommittee of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin and moderated by Park County extension employees. Kujala explained that the goal of the meeting was to figure out how to best implement tools FWP identified in its 2014 work plan to mitigate the risk of brucellosis infection in the Paradise Valley. The plan describes ways to move elk away from areas where they could come into contact with cattle, Kujala said.

"The tools aren't about eradicating elk," Kujala said. "The tools aren't about large-scale reductions in elk numbers."

The 2014 FWP work plan identifies actions such as elk hazing, fencing, lethal elk management removals, kill permits, habitat management, education and outreach, elk surveillance and evaluating public hunting access.

The Paradise Valley contains one of the last pockets of infected cattle in the country. Since 2007, four infections have been detected in Park County, according to the Montana Department of Livestock.

Brucellosis can be transmitted to humans through contact with an infected animal's bodily fluids or by consuming unpasteurized milk, according to the Center for Food Security and Public Health website.

The disease, sometimes called undulant fever or Malta fever, has variable symptoms in humans that sometimes includes fever, night sweats and fatigue. In cattle, the disease can cause abortions. In elk, it seems to have little measurable effect.

Transmission risk is highest in the winter months when elk begin to calve and cattle are gathered together on their winter pastures. The disease is usually transmitted during birthing, when a cow comes into contact with elk fetal tissue infected with the brucellosis bacteria.

During the meeting, the ranchers and FWP officials seemed to be speaking different languages. At one point, most of the audience started laughing when a rancher's cell phone ringtone — a mooing cow — sounded.

Jerry O'Hair, a Paradise Valley rancher, said brucellosis came into the valley from animals in Yellowstone National Park.

"I'm pretty darn confused about this whole thing," O'Hair said. "I've got an elk problem. I've got a brucellosis problem also. Fish, Wildlife and Parks refuses to address it."

Audience members asked for the work group to create a map that identifies the areas in the valley where there is the greatest risk of co-mingling between elk and cattle. Druska Kinkie, of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Basin Group, said identifying ranchers who have brucellosis in their herds or whose herds are at risk could be detrimental to their operations. Kinkie said that when local ranchers tried to partner with the Department of Agriculture several years ago, the agency used information provided by the ranchers to draw the boundaries of the designated surveillance area for brucellosis, which includes much of Park County. Ranchers inside the DSA are subject to additional testing.

"I don't know to what extent you can be secretive about co-mingling," Kinkie said. "It's out there, it's happening." But conversation about co-mingling is "not comfortable," she said.

Several audience members called for more research, especially regarding the relationship between elk and wolves in the valley and for numbers of elk and cattle concentrations and co-mingling.

“Observation is good — that’s where all research starts,” said Hayes Goosey, of the Park County Rod and Gun Club. “But we shouldn’t base any decision on that. We need hard numbers.”

Other suggestions by local ranchers were reconsideration of hunting quotas and FWP’s objective numbers for elk in Paradise Valley, giving local FWP officials more flexibility to act in a timely manner and creating better habitat for elk on public land by reseeding burned areas and limiting hunting.

Kinkie said the risk period is fast approaching and that people needed to communicate better with each other to reduce the risk of brucellosis infections.

“Sometimes I think communication is the biggest gap we have,” Kinkie said. “People won’t pick up the phone ... we need to get past that.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MST Nov 14, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36. Southwest wind around 13 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: A slight chance of snow showers between 11pm and 2am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. West southwest wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 28. Southwest wind 10 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

Friday Night: Scattered snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. Southwest wind around 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Saturday: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a high near 27. Southwest wind 11 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Saturday Night: Snow likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 8. West wind 7 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

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, November 15, 2013



One Stays: A big **CONGRATULATIONS** to Willie Burkhardt for 30 years of NPS service!



While Another Goes: Goodbye to **Sean and Tracey Heath** and family on their way to sunnier horizons!

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RIVERTON WY

201 AM MST FRI NOV 15 2013

ANOTHER RATHER FAST MOVING STORM SYSTEM WILL BRING A SHOT OF ACCUMULATING SNOW AND STRONG WIND AS WELL AS BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW TO THE AREA BY SATURDAY MORNING. EXPECT 5 TO 10 INCHES OF SNOW OVER THE TETON...GROS VENTRE...AND ABSAROKA MOUNTAINS...AND 3 TO 5 INCHES IN THE

WIND RIVER...SALT AND WYOMING RANGES. THIS SNOWFALL COMBINED WITH STRONG WEST TO SOUTHWEST WINDS GUSTING OVER 45 MPH AT TIMES WILL AFFECT HUNTERS...TRAVELERS...AND OTHERS WITH OUTDOOR INTERESTS THROUGH SUNDAY MORNING.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, the **YELL Contracting Office** will be moving to the Mammoth Garage Conference room. Our office hours will be limited during this time. We appreciate your patience during this busy time. We will back up and fully operational as soon as possible. Our office hours will remain the same, today 6:30 am- 6pm, tomorrow 7:30-6.

- - - - -

Canyon Ranger Station is in need of a paper shredder. Please contact Pat Navaille if you have a surplus shredder that you are willing to transfer. Office: 307-344-2504, Mobile: 406-241-2003, Dispatch: 307-344-7381.

- - - - -

When dropping off a **vehicle for repair** or service at any of the garages (Mammoth, Lake, Madison) we need **three things**, Keys, Plate number and mileage. Without these items we cannot generate a work order.

- - - - -

Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday November 21, 2013. To schedule work for a Government vehicle please call Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work call Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

- - - - -

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Incentive Program Awards and Participation in Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program (WIP) during the months of September and October (combined drawing)! Names have been drawn from among those who participated in the program. The following employees will receive an award for their participation.

Jane Olson-Admin.
Christine Farrar-RVP
Jenny Hill-Admin.
Claire Stout-RVP
Beth Coombs-RVP

Full WIP program details can be found here:<http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. All employees are encouraged to participate. If you would like to schedule a training with your staff on the use of the program, contact Stacey Gunther (x2239). **Certification forms for the month of November are due to Stacey Gunther by December 5th.**

Bridger Discount Ticket Program

The Yellowstone Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Program is teaming up with the Yellowstone Federal Employees Association (YFEA) to participate in the Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ticket Program during winter 2013-2014. This is an excellent opportunity to keep healthy and social over the winter months.

What it is:

This program offers \$40.00/day tickets (\$11.00 off the regular ticket price) to employees of eligible organizations (must have a Wellness Program in place). These ticket coupons may be used by employees, their spouses, and dependent children. Coupons are not refundable and are not for resale. There are no "black out" days. Coupons are good through 2013-2014 season. Note: all ski days must be used on days off from work.

What's next:

This week (November 12-15), employees may drop off a check to Leigh Anne Dunworth at the Albright VC in Mammoth. Checks should be made out to YFEA. Please make the check out for the exact amount (# coupons purchased X \$40.00). Leigh Anne will then issue you a receipt.

All money for tickets must be received by COB TODAY in order to receive coupons. No exceptions here!

Contact Stacey Gunther or Leigh Anne Dunworth with questions about payment.

Here's to your health!

- - - - -

As all of you know **uniform ordering** has been delayed and there have been a lot of questions as to why, so here's the answer...

First it's important to know that the uniform contract does not just involve NPS, but FWS, COE, and BLM. Prior to FBMS the NPS would put up all the funds with the other DOI agencies reimbursing the NPS later in the FY. With FBMS all of the funding must be provided and available (loaded) prior to spending. So, we already knew that we would have a delay because FBMS is down at the beginning of the FY and a memo was sent out from WASO informing everyone.

October 1st rolls around and before the DOI agencies have a chance to meet to work out funding we were furloughed causing a further delay. A meeting is scheduled for this week and WASO is hoping to have everything back up and running by the end of the month at the latest.

- - - - -

Having trouble deciding what to get for Christmas for that hard to buy for person? Need some new threads? The **new Yellowstone Helitack Sweat Shirts and T Shirts** have arrived just in time for Christmas. T shirts run in size from Med to Triple XL and come in sage, black, maroon and burnt orange. Sweatshirts run med to 2xl and are Maroon or Black. All are heavy cotton. T shirts are \$20 Sweatshirts \$45

- - - - -

The next **United Blood Services Blood Drive** will take place on **Monday, November 18th** from noon to 3:45 PM in the Mammoth Community Center - Classroom #2. Please note that the ending time is earlier than most drives (3:45 PM). This should be only for this blood drive.

You can log onto www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth) to schedule an appointment or give me a call.

Any food or drink donations are also appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding if you can donate due to current meds or illnesses, you can call Becky Springer, UBS Senior Donor Recruitment Representative at (406)723-3264.

Start the holiday season off right by donating the gift of life....

- - - - -

All employees and volunteers who will be operating a snowmobile in Yellowstone are required to complete snowmobile training. All Mammoth trainings will be held in the Mammoth Garage conference room. Please do not delay in signing up for the trainings because class size is limited. Sign-up sheets can be found on the park network drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training\Snowmobile Training 2013-2014 Sign-up

Initial Snowmobile Training

This class is subject to change depending on the road and weather conditions.

This class is 4 hours and consists of classroom and hands-on training. Those attending the Initial Snowmobile Training must be prepared for hands-on riding by bringing the necessary gear with them to the training. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet. For any questions or concerns regarding the trainings, please feel free to contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029 or (307) 344-2030.

December 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 12, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 18, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 19, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Refresher Snowmobile Training

November 14, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

November 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 14, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

November 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

November 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

- - - - -

Come inside and warm up with back to back **Turbo Kickboxing and Pilates classes!**

When: Sunday, November 17, 8:00am-9:30am

Where: Gardiner Community Center

Cost: Only \$10!

Bring a bottle of water and a friend! See you there!

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:11 am MST Nov 15, 2013

Today: A 40 percent chance of snow, mainly after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 31. Southwest wind 11 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tonight: Scattered snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. Southwest wind 11 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Saturday: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a high near 27. Southwest wind 15 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Saturday Night: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 10. Wind chill values as low as -5. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 21. West southwest wind 11 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. Southwest wind around 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

- - - - -

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

Monday, November 18, 2013



The Yellowstone and Cooke City Fire Companies were able to perform some live fire training this weekend at the Canyon cabin area thanks to some planned cabin demolition.
(photo by Jerry Bartlett)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I am very sorry for the inconvenience....but **today's blood drive has been cancelled** due to the illness of a United Blood Services Supervisor who has to attend the drive. They are short staffed so no one else is available to fill in for her. Kathleen Cunningham

Canyon Ranger Station is in need of a paper shredder. Please contact Pat Navaille if you have a surplus shredder that you are willing to transfer. Office: 307-344-2504, Mobile: 406-241-2003, Dispatch: 307-344-7381.

Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday November 21, 2013. To schedule work for a Government vehicle please call Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work call Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

Having trouble deciding what to get for Christmas for that hard to buy for person? Need some new threads? The **new Yellowstone Helitack Sweat Shirts and T Shirts** have arrived just in time for Christmas. T shirts run in size from Med to Triple XL and come in sage, black, maroon and burnt orange. Sweatshirts run med to 2xl and are Maroon or Black. All are heavy cotton. T shirts are \$20 Sweatshirts \$45

All employees and volunteers who will be operating a snowmobile in Yellowstone are required to complete snowmobile training. All Mammoth trainings will be held in the Mammoth Garage conference room. Please do not delay in signing up for the trainings because class size is limited. Sign-up sheets can be found on the park network drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training\Snowmobile Training 2013-2014 Sign-up

Initial Snowmobile Training

This class is subject to change depending on the road and weather conditions.

This class is 4 hours and consists of classroom and hands-on training. Those attending the Initial Snowmobile Training must be prepared for hands-on riding by bringing the necessary gear with them to the training. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet. For any questions or concerns regarding the trainings, please feel free to contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029 or (307) 344-2030.

December 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 12, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 18, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 19, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Refresher Snowmobile Training

TOMORROW at 1:00 p.m.

TOMORROW at 3:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

November 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

IN THE NEWS

Twice as nice: Gardiner repeats as Class C Volleyball Champion

Published: Sat, 11/16/2013 - 4:00pm | Section:

By Anthony Varriano - Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/twice-nice-gardiner-repeats-class-c-volleyball-champion>

Two years. Sixty consecutive wins. Two consecutive championships.

The Gardiner Lady Bruins repeated as Montana Class C Volleyball champions with a four-set win over the Belt High Lady Huskies at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman on Saturday.

After dropping a tight first set, as they did against Belt on Friday night, the Lady Bruins bounced back to rally past the Lady Huskies, 22-25, 25-19, 25-17, 25-21.

“Yesterday was a little nerve-racking,” said Gardiner junior Tess Thomas about dropping the opening sets, “but after today we felt that we did it yesterday, we can do it again.”

They did do it again, but Belt hung even tighter than they did Friday night. Gardiner took some of the momentum from Belt by getting out to an early lead in set two, but despite being down as much as five, the Lady Huskies were able to cut the deficit to one at 19-18.

Thomas responded, scoring on a quick set to a hole in Belt’s defense. Belt answered with a side-out, but junior standout Hannah Dean smashed a kill from the outside on a nice pass from Thomas to make it 21-19. The Lady Huskies wouldn’t score again, as Tess’s sister PJ scored a kill to close out a long, well-contested game point for the Bruins.

PJ would be clutch again in the third set, saving a ball for her teammates with her team down 6-8, and with her effort, the momentum shifted in Gardiner’s favor. After an ace by Harbach, a huge stuff block by sophomore Taylor Swainson, and a giant kill by Dean, the Lady Bruins had pulled out to a lead they would never relinquish.

The outside stayed open for Gardiner the rest of the way, as their hitters saw great success against single blockers on the wings.

“I think we started passing better. We were able to run our offense,” Harbach explained, “and I think that really made a difference for our outside, because our middle could run the middle and hold (Belt’s) blockers, and the outside can get a single blocker out there, which is really what we want.”

Senior Kelly Harbach got a good dose of passes from Tess Thomas on the outside, scoring two big kills in the deciding fourth set to make it 14-10 and force Belt to take a timeout. Gardiner pulled away on the back of Hannah Dean from there, and the champions were crowned despite a premature celebration on a long game point for the Bruins.

Having been so composed throughout the season, the Lady Bruins nearly erupted before they won the final point, but as they’ve done so well, recovered to take home the hardware.

When Gardiner head coach Carmen Harbach was asked if the second championship is twice as nice as the first, she said, “Yeah, it is.”

Harbach got a big hug from her daughter Kelly after the match.

“I hadn’t thought much about it, but with every match we played, it felt like we were taking a chunk of rock off our shoulders,” Harbach said, “but I’m proud of the girls. They worked hard today.”

The Lady Bruins’ run to consecutive championships has been a family affair, not only for the Harbachs, but for the Thomases as well.

“The chance to have Tess on my team is just great,” PJ Thomas said. “I love having my sister here.”

Dean echoes PJ’s sentiment and understands the importance of her setter.

“I’m so happy she’s in my junior class,” Dean said.

Dean was dominant throughout the season, thanks to the nice passes from Thomas, but she’s not letting the star treatment she received at state go to her head. Dean said it was the team’s work ethic that was most responsible for the consecutive championships.

"I don't want to take any of the credit, really," she said. "My team deserves it all."

Though the thought of three straight championships was on nobody's mind, it wasn't too difficult for the Lady Bruins to visualize.

"We have some really strong players coming up," said Tess Thomas, "so I think we have a really good chance."

"We have a great team," echoed PJ Thomas. "Everyone is just wonderful, and our chances are pretty high. I hope we can do it."

Even coach Harbach won't rule it out.

"I'm pretty lucky. We've got a lot of players," Harbach said. "We've got a lot of players on the bench that are waiting for their turn, and I know if I put them in they would be just fine."

Kelly Harbach, Ashley Kilwine, and Taylor Perius will all graduate this year, but coach Harbach has already indicated who can and will step into those roles, with PJ Thomas doing a great job at libero and Taylor Swainson logging big minutes in tournament play and emerging as a force at the net. Kelly Harbach may be the toughest to replace, since she was one of the most effective servers and a quality hitter for the Bruins her entire career.

"You know they're going to work hard in the offseason," said Harbach, "and we'll see who replaces our three seniors."

WEATHER

Zone Forecast: **Yellowstone National Park**

Last Update: 804 AM MST MON NOV 18 2013

Rest Of Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Lows 20 to 26. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tuesday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 27 to 33. Temperatures falling into the mid teens in the afternoon. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 11 to 17. Chance of snow 40 percent.

- - - - -

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

Tuesday, November 19, 2013



The North Entrance at sunrise yesterday morning!
(photo by Jim Williams)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign

TODAY is the LAST DAY the annual Combined Federal Campaign will be conducted for federal employees in the Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign region.

What is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)?

The CFC is the world's largest and most successful workplace fundraising campaign, enabling millions of federal civilian, postal, and military employees to support their favorite charitable organizations. The CFC is really your campaign because you can choose among thousands of local, national and international pre-screened charitable organizations. You also decide exactly how much to give and whether to contribute via payroll deduction (recommended), cash or check. Campaigns are conducted regionally and regulated by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Washington, D.C. Participation is completely voluntary.

What does my CFC look like?

The CFC in your region is called the Intermountain. We reach approximately 50,000 federal employees throughout Utah, western Colorado, southeast Idaho, southwest Idaho and most of Wyoming. Federal employees in our campaign raise about \$2.5 million annually and growing!

The Intermountain CFC is administered by a committee of volunteers from local federal agencies called the Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC). The committee ensures that the campaign is run efficiently, effectively, and ethically.

Which charities can I contribute to?

Think of the causes or issues that matter most to you personally. Chances are you'll find many organizations in the Intermountain CFC Charity List that support your values and concerns. There are thousands of local, national, and international charities that support medical research, the arts, environmental causes, community health, animal welfare, youth development, civil rights, recreation, and solutions to poverty and homelessness, among others. Charities are carefully screened to make sure that they are certified by the IRS and that they meet certain organizational and reporting standards.

How do I contribute?

It's easy! During the campaign you will receive a booklet called the CFC Charity List, which contains the names and descriptions of all eligible CFC charities. Once you have selected your charities, simply complete a pledge form and return it to your agency's campaign coordinator. You can give by payroll deduction, cash or check. The pledge form and a searchable Charity List can also be found at www.intermountaincfc.org.

Where can I find more information?

You can find detailed campaign information at www.intermountaincfc.org. You can also contact Darl Williams, Human Resources, (307)344-2042.

- - - - -

Employee Safety Committee-

Do you want to learn how to **make stress your friend**? Watch this TED Talk that summarizes recent findings on how stress affects our bodies and what you can do to allow stress to help you rise to the occasion rather than have a negative response (titled Kelly McGonigal 2013G):<http://inpyellshare/emsc/Presentations%20and%20Training/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

- - - - -

Canyon Ranger Station is in need of a paper shredder. Please contact Pat Navaille if you have a surplus shredder that you are willing to transfer. Office: 307-344-2504, Mobile: 406-241-2003, Dispatch: 307-344-7381.

- - - - -

Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday November 21, 2013. To schedule work for a Government vehicle please call Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work call Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

- - - - -

All employees and volunteers who will be **operating a snowmobile** in Yellowstone are required to complete snowmobile training. All Mammoth trainings will be held in the Mammoth Garage conference room. Please do not delay in signing up for the trainings because class size is limited. Sign-up sheets can be found on the park network drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training\Snowmobile Training 2013-2014 Sign-up

Initial Snowmobile Training

This class is subject to change depending on the road and weather conditions.

This class is 4 hours and consists of classroom and hands-on training. Those attending the Initial Snowmobile Training must be prepared for hands-on riding by bringing the necessary gear with them to the training. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet. For any questions or concerns regarding the trainings, please feel free to contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029 or (307) 344-2030.

December 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 12, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 18, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 19, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Refresher Snowmobile Training

TODAY at 1:00 p.m.

TODAY at 3:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

November 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

November 21, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Reminder: Yellowstone To Launch A Collaborative Adaptive Management Program For Winter Use**

Yellowstone National Park is preparing to kick-off a collaborative Adaptive Management Program to evaluate the implementation and environmental impacts of its new winter use management rule.

Collaborative adaptive management will allow the National Park Service (NPS) to gather more information about park resource conditions through scientific monitoring and to seek additional public input on what resources are most important to monitor going forward.

An initial public meeting about Yellowstone's Adaptive Management Program will be held in Bozeman, Montana, on Friday, November 22, 2013, at the Montana State University Engineering and Physical Sciences Building (Room 126) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For people and organizations who cannot attend this initial meeting in-person, the NPS will offer the option to participate remotely. The meeting will be a first step in the process to develop a collaborative winter use adaptive management plan and will include presentations about the park's scientific monitoring on winter use and offer opportunities for public input and dialog about adaptive management.

Future winter use adaptive management meetings will be held in other communities throughout the region.

The NPS requests that all interested parties RSVP to confirm their meeting attendance or remote participation by Wednesday, November 20, using the contact information provided below.

Park managers will consider additional information obtained throughout the adaptive management planning process to assess and improve the management of winter use in Yellowstone National Park. Managers may also use this information to adjust NPS management actions in order to enhance the condition of park resources or the visitor experience.

For more information about Yellowstone's Adaptive Management Program, please visit the program web page: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/wuamp.htm>. To RSVP for the meeting and to receive login information for remote participation, please contact Rebecca Garvoille, Yellowstone's Adaptive Management Coordinator, at (307) 344-2265 or rebecca_garvoille@contractor.nps.gov, by Wednesday, November 20, 2013.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:56 am MST Nov 19, 2013

Today: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 34. South southwest wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Tonight: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. West wind 8 to 10 mph. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Wednesday: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a high near 31. Wind chill values as low as zero. West northwest wind 7 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 9. Light and variable wind.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 24. Light east northeast wind.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 0. Calm wind.

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!

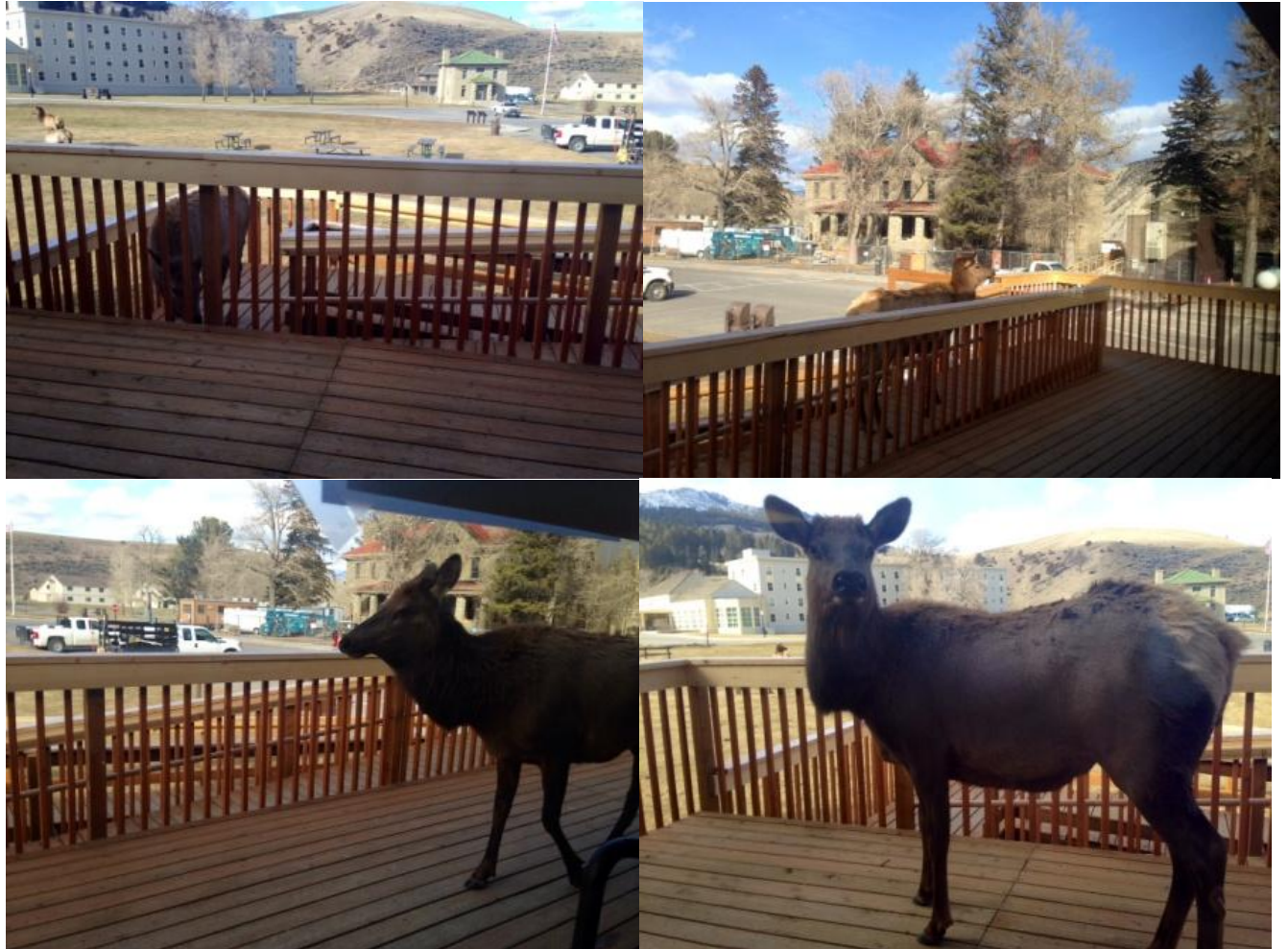
Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's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

Wednesday, November 20, 2013



With fall upon us and less visitors in our facilities,
this cow elk decided to go check out the temporary Mammoth VC. Have you?
(photo by Annie Gilliland)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employee Safety Committee-

Do you want to learn how to **make stress your friend**? Watch this TED Talk that summarizes recent findings on how stress affects our bodies and what you can do to allow stress to help you rise to the occasion rather than have a negative response (titled Kelly McGonigal

2013G):<http://inpyellshare/emsc/Presentations%20and%20Training/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

- - - - -

All employees and volunteers who will be **operating a snowmobile** in Yellowstone are required to complete snowmobile training. All Mammoth trainings will be held in the Mammoth Garage conference room. Please do

not delay in signing up for the trainings because class size is limited. Sign-up sheets can be found on the park network drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training\Snowmobile Training 2013-2014 Sign-up

Initial Snowmobile Training

This class is subject to change depending on the road and weather conditions.

This class is 4 hours and consists of classroom and hands-on training. Those attending the Initial Snowmobile Training must be prepared for hands-on riding by bringing the necessary gear with them to the training. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet. For any questions or concerns regarding the trainings, please feel free to contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029 or (307) 344-2030.

December 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 12, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 18, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 19, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Refresher Snowmobile Training

LAST CHANCE!

TOMORROW at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

- - - - -

An update on one of our own...Dana Jordan. What a wonderful job she is doing! She is an inspiring person we've been lucky to have in our community. She is representing us well. **Way to go Dana!**

Iloilo City Volunteers for Relief Efforts

From Tyler Hassig, Peace Corps Volunteer

It has been almost a week since Typhoon Yolanda hit the Philippines and for many volunteers it has been a week mixed with feelings of grief and helplessness. For the past week the Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) from Iloilo province have been consolidated in Iloilo city where (like other volunteers from affected areas) we have been forced to sit and wait. We are eagerly waiting to hear from our host families, anxiously waiting to go back to our sites to help, and waiting for the impossible to happen, for things to return to normal. Surrounded by news programs displaying footage of destruction and loss it is hard to not feel an overwhelming sense of responsibility to our communities; they took care of us and now it's our time to help them. But how can we help?

One volunteer answered this question, channeling her feelings into productivity and inspiration. While inquiring at the provincial government office as to how she can be of assistance, **Dana Jordan** met a team of volunteers who are tirelessly working to send aid to the effected municipalities in Iloilo. Without hesitation Dana volunteered and encouraged the other PCVs at our consolidation point to join the effort. So for the past few days we have been packing trucks with rice, canned sardines, noodles, and bottled water, all with the hope that some of this aid makes it into the hands of the loved ones we left behind. Packing the trucks is physically draining and often becomes too stressful for us to work very long. However, with seemingly superhuman stamina, Dana has been volunteering entire days, working some nights until 9pm. She quickly made friends at the aid dispatching center and has even taken over as a team leader.

Yesterday I went to volunteer and was inspired just watching Dana; she was speaking nearly perfect Ilongo, directing people, tallying bags of rice, and doing all of this with a contagious smile. She has become somewhat of a celebrity at the provincial office even bringing the other Filipino volunteers candy and words of encouragement during her breaks. Dana truly epitomizes the meaning of volunteer; she is determined to do whatever she can to help her community. She told me that while volunteering she had the chance to talk with her mayor who asked her “when are you coming home”. Dana said that hearing the mayor call San Dionisio her home reinforced her desire to help knowing that San Dionisio was her home and the community was her family.

Dana has been using the aid delivery trucks to send letters and personal care packages to her site, her host family, her co-workers, and her friends; inspiring other PCVs to do the same. From her work she has inspired volunteers to not give up or become discouraged, even when our small bags of rice and bottles of water seem useless against the mass destruction broadcasted on the news.

IN THE NEWS

Protesters object to ending gray wolf protection

23 minutes ago • Associated Press

DENVER — Protesters are coming out in force after federal authorities in charge of saving wolves from extinction made their case to end protection of gray wolves.

Authorities want to shift resources to the recovery of Mexican wolves.

Senior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists told people at a public hearing on Tuesday in Denver that reintroduction projects have been successful and gray wolves are no longer endangered.

More than 350 wolf advocates oppose the federal push to lift protection. They favor continued federal protection so that wolves that wander beyond their current stronghold in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho will have a better chance of survival.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/protesters-object-to-ending-gray-wolf-protection/article_26bb6619-43bf-54d6-a8c1-746f9754e4ba.html#ixzz2lCb3gCps

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:56 am MST Nov 20, 2013

Today: Snow. Temperature rising to near 31 by 11am, then falling to around 21 during the remainder of the day. Wind chill values as low as -5. West northwest wind 6 to 14 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow likely, mainly before 8pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 7. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 11am. Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 21. Wind chill values as low as -20. Calm wind becoming north around 6 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around -7. Light and variable wind.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 25. Light and variable wind.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 4. Calm wind.

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

Thursday, November 21, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A **HUGE Thank You** to those who make possible the NPS Livingston-to-Mammoth RideShare Bus—this commuter service is always appreciated by us riders, but never more so than in these first days of *true winter*. Today's **BIGGEST** thanks to bus drivers like Bob Hester, whose driving skills and safe-driving experience this morning made us feel safe the whole trip into work, despite Paradise Valley's long miles of dark icy roads, below-zero temps and a dense freezing fog that reduced visibility at times to 10 feet. Bob got us here safe and sound—and as a bonus, we even arrived pretty much on time. Thanks again!

- - - - -

Employee Safety Committee-

Do you want to learn how to **make stress your friend**? Watch this TED Talk that summarizes recent findings on how stress affects our bodies and what you can do to allow stress to help you rise to the occasion rather than have a negative response (titled Kelly McGonigal

2013G):<http://inpyellshare/emsc/Presentations%20and%20Training/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

- - - - -

Heads up! Canyon, Lake, and Grant will be without power from 10 am today till around noon. Thanks.

- - - - -

Want to help out your community? Want to learn about the operations of a non-profit? Come join the board of Little People's Learning Center and help the smallest members of our community. You do not need to be a parent to be involved (we have had several board members without children). If interested, please contact littlepeoplesboard@gmail.com. Thanks!

- - - - -

Little People's Learning Center and Snoopy School are teaming up and need your help for the **Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive** benefitting Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children and teens in need—especially those living in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

Since 2009, groups have risen to the challenge and donated nearly 250,000 pairs of new pajamas. The Scholastic Reading Club has more than matched those numbers with nearly 600,000 new books donated to Pajama Program.

If you are able to participate, please bring in a new pair of pajamas to the All Employee Meeting and Holiday Party on December 12 or arrange a drop-off or pick-up with Mary Kay Woodin x2059.

Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

Pajamas must be brand-new.

Pajamas in all sizes are needed—from newborn to adult.

Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.

Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe. Our goal is to donate 50 pajamas to the local Pajama Program.

Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a great book!

An update on one of our own...Dana Jordan. What a wonderful job she is doing! She is an inspiring person we've been lucky to have in our community. She is representing us well. **Way to go Dana!**

Iloilo City Volunteers for Relief Efforts

From Tyler Hassig, Peace Corps Volunteer

It has been almost a week since Typhoon Yolanda hit the Philippines and for many volunteers it has been a week mixed with feelings of grief and helplessness. For the past week the Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) from Iloilo province have been consolidated in Iloilo city where (like other volunteers from affected areas) we have been forced to sit and wait. We are eagerly waiting to hear from our host families, anxiously waiting to go back to our sites to help, and waiting for the impossible to happen, for things to return to normal. Surrounded by news programs displaying footage of destruction and loss it is hard to not feel an overwhelming sense of responsibility to our communities; they took care of us and now it's our time to help them. But how can we help?

One volunteer answered this question, channeling her feelings into productivity and inspiration. While inquiring at the provincial government office as to how she can be of assistance, **Dana Jordan** met a team of volunteers who are tirelessly working to send aid to the effected municipalities in Iloilo. Without hesitation Dana volunteered and encouraged the other PCVs at our consolidation point to join the effort. So for the past few days we have been packing trucks with rice, canned sardines, noodles, and bottled water, all with the hope that some of this aid makes it into the hands of the loved ones we left behind. Packing the trucks is physically draining and often becomes too stressful for us to work very long. However, with seemingly superhuman stamina, Dana has been volunteering entire days, working some nights until 9pm. She quickly made friends at the aid dispatching center and has even taken over as a team leader.

Yesterday I went to volunteer and was inspired just watching Dana; she was speaking nearly perfect Ilongo, directing people, tallying bags of rice, and doing all of this with a contagious smile. She has become somewhat of a celebrity at the provincial office even bringing the other Filipino volunteers candy and words of encouragement during her breaks. Dana truly epitomizes the meaning of volunteer; she is determined to do whatever she can to help her community. She told me that while volunteering she had the chance to talk with her mayor who asked her "when are you coming home". Dana said that hearing the mayor call San Dionisio her home reinforced her desire to help knowing that San Dionisio was her home and the community was her family.

Dana has been using the aid delivery trucks to send letters and personal care packages to her site, her host family, her co-workers, and her friends; inspiring other PCVs to do the same. From her work she has inspired volunteers to not give up or become discouraged, even when our small bags of rice and bottles of water seem useless against the mass destruction broadcasted on the news.

All employees and volunteers who will be **operating a snowmobile** in Yellowstone are required to complete snowmobile training. All Mammoth trainings will be held in the Mammoth Garage conference room. Please do

not delay in signing up for the trainings because class size is limited. Sign-up sheets can be found on the park network drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training\Snowmobile Training 2013-2014 Sign-up

Initial Snowmobile Training

This class is subject to change depending on the road and weather conditions.

This class is 4 hours and consists of classroom and hands-on training. Those attending the Initial Snowmobile Training must be prepared for hands-on riding by bringing the necessary gear with them to the training. Dress in layers of clothing for warmth, bring a snowmobile suit and helmet. For any questions or concerns regarding the trainings, please feel free to contact the Safety Office at (307) 344-2029 or (307) 344-2030.

December 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 12, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 18, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

December 19, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

December 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:41 am MST Nov 21, 2013

Today: Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 20. Wind chill values as low as zero. North northeast wind 8 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around -11. Calm wind.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 25. Wind chill values as low as -10. Calm wind.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around -6. Calm wind.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 27. Light south wind.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 7. Calm wind.

- - - - -

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, November 22, 2013

ROAD UPDATE:

As of 10:00 a.m. yesterday, the section of road from the Grant Village Junction to the South Entrance has been switched to oversnow vehicles ONLY. No wheeled vehicles are allowed. Wheeled vehicles can still access Grant Village from West Thumb Junction from the Lake area.

The section of road over Craig Pass (West Thumb Junction to Old Faithful) has been closed to ALL traffic - including administrative travel. There is too much snow on one side for wheels, and too little snow for snowmobiling on the other.

Dunraven Pass remains closed to ALL travel. Sylvan Pass has deep snow and drifting in some areas. Travel is not advised at this time, but if absolutely necessary, vehicles must be high clearance and 4-wheel drive. Sylvan Pass could close to wheeled vehicles at any time, and we may not be able to give a full 24-hour notice.

All other roads are still open to wheeled vehicles, but drivers should be in appropriate vehicles and be prepared for changing winter conditions.

Please call the administrative travel line at 307-344-7115 for updates and current conditions.

- - - - -



LET'S MOVE! Students of Amanda Stover's Creative Movement class held at the Mammoth Community Center prepare to get some wiggles out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supply Center News: We have received no requests for town run stops for the Wednesday November 27th run. Therefore, the November 27th run has now been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Supply town run is Wednesday December 11th.

- - - - -

Want to help out your community? Want to learn about the operations of a non-profit? Come join the board of Little People's Learning Center and help the smallest members of our community. You do not need to be a parent to be involved (we have had several board members without children). If interested, please contact littlepeoplesboard@gmail.com.

- - - - -

Little People's Learning Center and Snoopy School are teaming up and need your help for the **Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive** benefitting Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children and teens in need—especially those living in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

Since 2009, groups have risen to the challenge and donated nearly 250,000 pairs of new pajamas. The Scholastic Reading Club has more than matched those numbers with nearly 600,000 new books donated to Pajama Program.

If you are able to participate, please bring in a new pair of pajamas to the All Employee Meeting and Holiday Party on December 12 or arrange a drop-off or pick-up with Mary Kay Woodin x2059.

Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

Pajamas must be brand-new.

Pajamas in all sizes are needed—from newborn to adult.

Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.

Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe.

Our goal is to donate 50 pajamas to the local Pajama Program.

Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a great book!

- - - - -

The **Federal Benefits Open Season** began Monday, November 11th. A simple checklist has been compiled a checklist to make enrolling and changing your FEDVIP plan(s) simple and easy. View the checklist today at www.BENEFEDS.com/2013.

Below are some important FEDVIP Open Season updates:

- First, there are more FEDVIP plan choices than ever this year. With 10 dental and 4 vision FEDVIP plans, you're certain to find one that's right for you.
- Second, we redesigned BENEFEDS.com to make researching, enrolling, and changing your FEDVIP plan(s) even easier. We also introduced BENEFEDS Mobile, providing you secure account access and the ability to compare FEDVIP plans while on the go.
- Third, keep in mind you do not have to do anything if you prefer to keep your current enrollment as it was for 2013. Your FEDVIP enrollment will automatically continue into the 2014 plan year, even if you retire.

- Finally, if you are currently enrolled in a FEDVIP dental plan, we recommend you research your 2014 plan to determine whether your FEDVIP dental rating region, and therefore your premium, is changing in 2014. (A rating region is a group of zip codes that corresponds to a particular rate charged by a dental plan. Vision plans have the same premium nationwide.)

Remember, the 2013 Federal Benefits Open Season (for the 2014 plan year) runs from Monday, November 11, through Monday, December 9, 2013. During this time, you can make qualified changes to your Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Plan (FEDVIP) by visiting BENEFEDS.com.

We appreciate your participation in FEDVIP. For questions, please visit our new Education and Support section at BENEFEDS.com. If you have specific questions about your enrollment, please email us at Service@BENEFEDS.com.

IN THE NEWS

Bringing Out the Big Gun: Yellowstone stations howitzer atop Sylvan Pass

Ruffin Prevost, Yellowstone Gate, November 21, 2013



Yellowstone National Park maintenance worker Eric Holdren works last month to prepare a howitzer for use this winter in avalanche mitigation along Sylvan Pass.

Shortly after the partial federal government shutdown ended last month, two Lake District maintenance workers performed an annual fall duty that most visitors to Yellowstone National Park never get to see, and is part of one of the park's most controversial management practices.

Snow had already begun to pile up on Sylvan Pass by mid-October, requiring workers to clear a road to the platform where a 105-mm howitzer cannon is used each winter to blast snow from Hoyt Peak and Avalanche Peak on the north side of the pass.



A National Park Service maintenance worker clears a path through early snow last month to allow for deployment of a howitzer used for avalanche mitigation in Yellowstone National Park.

The 1.5-mile stretch of road at an elevation of 8,524 feet lies between the East Gate and Fishing Bridge, and is subject to avalanches throughout the winter, as well as spring and summer slides of slush, rock and mud.

Though there have been no injuries or fatalities from avalanches, visitors' vehicles have been caught in spring mudslides, and a National Park Service truck was partially buried by snow in a May 2011 slide that came after winter travel had ended but before the park had opened to autos for the spring.

A 2007 draft winter-use plan proposed closing the pass, but public outcry from Cody residents and pressure from Wyoming elected officials brought about formation of a working group and discussions with park officials that later resulted in a reversal of that decision.



Yellowstone National Park maintenance worker Eric Holdren works last month to prepare a howitzer for use this winter in avalanche mitigation along Sylvan Pass.

Various conservation groups have objected to the risk, cost and environmental effects of using a howitzer to mitigate avalanche risks along the pass.

Park managers say they have carefully studied the issue, and are confident the howitzer can be safely used. While the \$125,000 annual cost of avalanche mitigation operations is an issue, it can't be the sole factor in deciding whether to keep the pass open, park officials have said.



The National Park Service uses a howitzer cannon to fire explosive shells at avalanche chutes above Sylvan Pass in Yellowstone National Park as part of avalanche mitigation efforts.

For four decades, guns have been used to bring snow down from several avalanche chutes above Sylvan Pass, allowing snowmobiles, snow coaches and skiers to safely enter the park from the East Gate. Under current protocols, the howitzer is positioned on a fixed firing platform that can swivel to cover the various north slope chutes where avalanches are likely to begin.

But not every shell goes off, and unexploded ordinance has been found along the pass. A sign warns visitors of the danger of encountering potential explosives on the steep slope along the north side of the pass.



A sign atop Sylvan Pass in Yellowstone National Park warns of unexploded shells from a howitzer used for avalanche mitigation.

With the pass receiving more than 300 inches of snow each year, the howitzer will continue to fire under the latest winter-use plan, and travel through the East Gate will follow a reduced winter season as agreed to by a working group formed after the 2007 plan was released.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:56 am MST Nov 22, 2013

Today: Sunny, with a high near 25. Calm wind becoming northeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around -6. Wind chill values as low as -15. Northeast wind 5 to 7 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 31. Wind chill values as low as -15. Southeast wind 3 to 5 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 2. Light south southeast wind.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 36. Light south southwest wind.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 14. Light and variable wind.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36. Light southwest wind.

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

Monday, November 25, 2013



Winter use adaptive management meeting on Friday in Bozeman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you interested in helping **make decorations for the all employee Christmas party**? Please come to a meeting today at the Chief of Administration's conference room at noon. If you can't make it today, please come tomorrow at noon. Bring your lunch and we will discuss the options and opportunities.

Supply Center News: We have received no requests for town run stops for the Wednesday November 27th run. Therefore, the November 27th run has now been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Supply town run is Wednesday December 11th.

Want to help out your community? Want to learn about the operations of a non-profit? Come join the board of Little People's Learning Center and help the smallest members of our community. You do not need to be a parent to be involved (we have had several board members without children). If interested, please contact littlepeoplesboard@gmail.com.

Little People's Learning Center and Snoopy School are teaming up and need your help for the **Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive** benefitting Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children and teens in need—especially those living in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

Since 2009, groups have risen to the challenge and donated nearly 250,000 pairs of new pajamas. The Scholastic Reading Club has more than matched those numbers with nearly 600,000 new books donated to Pajama Program.

If you are able to participate, please bring in a new pair of pajamas to the All Employee Meeting and Holiday Party on December 12 or arrange a drop-off or pick-up with Mary Kay Woodin x2059.

Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

Pajamas must be brand-new.

Pajamas in all sizes are needed—from newborn to adult.

Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.

Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe. Our goal is to donate 50 pajamas to the local Pajama Program.

Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a great book!

- - - - -

The **Federal Benefits Open Season** began Monday, November 11th. A simple checklist has been compiled a checklist to make enrolling and changing your FEDVIP plan(s) simple and easy. View the checklist today at www.BENEFEDS.com/2013.

Below are some important FEDVIP Open Season updates:

- First, there are more FEDVIP plan choices than ever this year. With 10 dental and 4 vision FEDVIP plans, you're certain to find one that's right for you.
- Second, we redesigned BENEFEDS.com to make researching, enrolling, and changing your FEDVIP plan(s) even easier. We also introduced BENEFEDS Mobile, providing you secure account access and the ability to compare FEDVIP plans while on the go.
- Third, keep in mind you do not have to do anything if you prefer to keep your current enrollment as it was for 2013. Your FEDVIP enrollment will automatically continue into the 2014 plan year, even if you retire.
- Finally, if you are currently enrolled in a FEDVIP dental plan, we recommend you research your 2014 plan to determine whether your FEDVIP dental rating region, and therefore your premium, is changing in 2014. (A rating region is a group of zip codes that corresponds to a particular rate charged by a dental plan. Vision plans have the same premium nationwide.)

Remember, the 2013 Federal Benefits Open Season (for the 2014 plan year) runs from Monday, November 11, through Monday, December 9, 2013. During this time, you can make qualified changes to your Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Plan (FEDVIP) by visiting BENEFEDS.com.

We appreciate your participation in FEDVIP. For questions, please visit our new Education and Support section at BENEFEDS.com. If you have specific questions about your enrollment, please email us at Service@BENEFEDS.com.

IN THE NEWS**State to vaccinate bison outside Yellowstone**

Published: Fri, 11/22/2013 - 3:01pm

Natalie Storey - Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/state-vaccinate-bison-outside-yellowstone>

The Department of Livestock plans to capture and vaccinate bison that leave Yellowstone National Park this winter in an attempt to curb the brucellosis infection.

Biologists criticized the plan, saying vaccination is ineffective.

Marty Zaluski, state veterinarian, said Friday his agency plans to capture and vaccinate bison in late February and early March for four to six weeks.

“Vaccination is one of the few tools we have for reducing the level of infection in park bison,” Zaluski said.

Zaluski announced the state intends to begin vaccinating at an Interagency Bison Management Plan meeting at Chico Hot Springs Resort Thursday. Yellowstone biologists and tribal representatives at the meeting said they were surprised by the announcement and wanted more discussion before the state began vaccinating.

But Zaluski said ultimately his agency has the responsibility to cope with the situation.

Testing has shown that about 60 percent of the roughly 4,600 bison in Yellowstone are infected with brucellosis.

Ranchers outside the park have long been worried that the bison will transmit the infection to their herds. Paradise Valley contains one of the last pockets of infected cattle in the country.

Since 2007, four infections have been detected in Park County, according to the Montana Department of Livestock. Zaluski said two of eight brucellosis infections statewide are still under investigation, but that his agency has confirmed the other infections came from elk.

Brucellosis is transmitted when an uninfected animal comes into contact with fetal tissue of an infected animal, usually during an abortion event.

David Hallac, the supervisor of Yellowstone’s biologists, said there were a number of problems with the Department of Livestock plan. Yellowstone National Park has been vaccinating a limited number of bison near Stephen’s Creek. Monitoring and research has shown that late winter isn’t an ideal time to give the animals the vaccine, he said.

Hallac also said the risk of infection of cattle from bison is “low and negligible,” according to recent studies. He said DOL should have a plan that includes what will be learned and which risks will be mitigated.

“You are going to be giving bison a shot of RB-51 and there’s not a lot — at least based on the plan we have today — that we’d learn,” Hallac said. “The overarching issues, ‘Should we do it?’ and ‘Can we do it?’ are really important.”

Zaluski said Friday wider-scale vaccination is needed to determine whether it’s truly effective. He said bison would be monitored by continued testing. Vaccinated bison would be given a temporary tag.

“To say the risk is from elk and therefore there is no risk from bison is a bit of a red herring,” Zaluski said. “There is a risk from both species it’s just we’ve been able to mitigate the risk from bison better.”

Hallac also pointed out the difficulty of monitoring the success of the vaccine in a herd that migrates back into the park in the spring. He asked whether DOL expected Yellowstone’s biologists to do some monitoring for the project.

Zaluski said his agency was renewing its commitment to vaccinate because Yellowstone Park Superintendent Dan Wenk asked him why his agency wasn’t doing more to manage brucellosis in bison.

During Thursday’s meeting, an exasperated Wenk said his question was intended to be rhetorical.

Majel Russell, attorney for the InterTribal Buffalo Council, said the tribes were surprised by the announcement and concerned that DOL might be unnecessarily interfering with wild bison.

“We want to make sure any of these plans don’t interfere with the hunting right,” Russell said. “But there’s also the overall issue of, ‘Is this something that warrants interference with these animals if there’s not a measurable outcome that we can identify?’”

Russell said it seemed as though DOL was going to act unilaterally, which “flies in the face” of the IBMP partnership.

The goal of the Interagency Bison Management Plan is to “maintain a wild, free ranging population of bison and address the risk of brucellosis transmission to protect the economic interest and viability of the livestock industry in Montana,” according to the plan.

Yellowstone has one of the highest populations of bison in recent memory. The objective for the park’s herd is 3,000 to 3,500 animals, according to the plan.

- - - - -

Shutdown aftermath continues to impact West Yellowstone

Posted: Friday, November 22, 2013 2:17 pm

[Shutdown aftermath continues to impact West Yellowstone](#)

By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News |

Newly released statistics from Yellowstone National Park show October visitation was down 73 percent from last year. Visitation figures for the month of October included the 16-day government shutdown, where all visitor access to the world’s first national park was prohibited. The park recorded 177,069 recreation visitors in October 2012, but only saw 47,560 visitors this October.

“There is no question that the October federal shutdown will have a visible impact in our overall annual visitation figures,” park spokesman Al Nash said. “Tens of thousands of people would have visited Yellowstone during the period of the shutdown.”

According to Nash, by this time of the year the park has a good estimate for the overall recreational visitation figures for the entire year.

“We’ll certainly know how many recreational visits through October, and we’ll look at numbers from last November and December and have a reasonable idea of our annual visitation,” he said.

Based on park figures, there were 3,159,485 visitors through October of this year. By adding 14,059 November recreational visitors from last year and 18,472 from December 2012, it’s safe to estimate 2013 recreational visitor numbers at approximately 3,192,016

In August, park spokesman Dan Hottle said Yellowstone has had around 3 million visitors annually for at least the past five years.

Once the park reopened on Oct. 17, visitor services were limited due to the fact that some park concessionaires decided to stay closed for the rest of the fall season. Nash says this decision by concessionaires was based on staff and expenses.

“The most noticeable difference between this year and last was the lack of food available in the park (once the park reopened),” Nash said.

The shutdown greatly impacted all of the gateway communities surrounding the park, and West Yellowstone was no exception. Even though the shutdown lasted only 16 days, many employees of businesses that closed their doors early in town will be feeling the impact for the entire winter season.

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce director Marysue Costello says she currently has no resort tax or TBID data to go off of, but said visitation swiftly dropped off a few days after the park closure.

Many visitors were able to salvage their trip by spending a few days in town and sightseeing nearby areas.

“The drop-off was swift, but we were able to hold visitors for a couple of days,” Costello said. “The first few days, we were going as fast as we could with people here (in the visitor center) that couldn’t change their plans.”

Even with the park closed, the director said many still had quality experiences with sights they wouldn’t have seen if Yellowstone remained open.

The chamber director said she heard from a few businesses in town that they were on track to have better-than-average seasons, but that all changed once the park shut down. Many businesses shut their doors for the summer season and reported “strong, but not great,” seasons.

With the business closures came layoffs for many employees in town.

“The biggest concern with the number of businesses that chose to close early is that it affected a lot of employees,” Costello said. “Some (businesses) who might be open through Thanksgiving, couldn’t (stay open); they have to make what will work for them.”

The local impact of the government shutdown was also felt at the West Yellowstone Job and Social Services office, where a surge of unemployment came two weeks to a month earlier than normal.

Since many started collecting unemployment at an earlier date, approximately 50 percent or more will be cut off from those benefits starting in January and February.

Unemployment benefits generally last between 12 and 16 weeks, and emergency unemployment that came with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, more commonly known as the stimulus act, is now a thing of the past. Some still qualify for the additional eight weeks of unemployment income, but Arnado said tier 1 and 2 of the service have been eliminated, leaving many without the option.

“They got (unemployment) earlier so it doesn’t last as long,” West Yellowstone Job and Social Services assistant Kathi Arnado said. “We’re seeing people we haven’t seen in years; we’ve seen a big increase in services.”

With the increasing need for services in town, it doesn’t help that the federal government made a major cut in food stamps recently either, she said. The decline in food stamps for locals has prompted the local food bank to start giving out 30 pounds of food to those in need instead of the normal 25 pounds.

“We have really been hit hard,” Arnado said. “It’s gloomy.”

- - - - -

Bison management partners agree to new procedures

Posted: Thursday, November 21, 2013 5:16 pm

[Bison management partners agree to new procedures](#)

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer

Gov. Steve Bullock is going to have to re-issue an executive order that puts requirements on bison managers without outlining how to carry them out.

After two hours of discussion Thursday, the partners of the Interagency Bison Management Plan agreed to new operating procedures, which they are scheduled to approve on Dec. 15.

The plan was delayed by the government furlough in October.

While state and federal partners agreed to the details of this year's bison plan, discussion of some changes highlighted areas of contention.

A troublesome issue surfaced when Department of Livestock executive director Christian MacKay pointed out to Yellowstone National Park supervisor Dan Wenk that notifying the governor wasn't enough when moving bison into Montana. The park also has to comply with a 2011 executive order that prohibits transfer without prior approval, MacKay said.

Wenk said his attorneys didn't interpret the order that way.

Intertribal Buffalo Council attorney Majel Russell said the executive order was too vague. “It has no process or time frame,” Russell said. “It's hard to agree that we have to get transfers approved when we don't know the process.”

The tribes have interests in transfers of bison from the park for their own herds, but they also transplant other species on their land.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 3 supervisor Pat Flowers said the transfer order could apply to multiple species so more guidance was needed.

MacKay said he would notify the governor of the problem.

The tribal members – the Nez Perce, the Confederated Salish-Kootenai and the Intertribal Buffalo Council – also objected to a paragraph in the plan that said 50 bison would migrate out of the park before park managers would start capturing bison.

“We're looking for a larger commitment (for the hunt),” said Keith Lawrence, Nez Perce wildlife director. “It's 50 animals total, not just on the west or the north. That's a 75 percent reduction.”

Park wildlife biologist P.J. White said he wouldn't quantify the number of bison that end up outside the park. Bison move back into the park as soon as the hunt begins and park biologists weren't going to stop them, White said.

It was agreed that bison would be allowed to migrate out for hunting purposes but no quantities were specified. State veterinarian Marty Zaluski didn't want to include mention of a 2006 plan that set 3,000 bison as a guideline for the park population.

Zaluski said the 2006 plan was temporary and that 3,000 bison should be a target for culling action, not just a guideline.

Flowers said the population number was intended as a guideline under adaptive change.

Flowers was the only partner present Thursday who signed the 2006 plan.

It was decided that the partners would follow up on the issue of population guidelines.

Some partners questioned the need for some of the hazing language. Now that bison can roam farther outside the park in winter, the majority of hazing occurs in the spring when the Department of Livestock hazes bison back into the park.

Flowers said the need could still exist at other times of year.

“With 4,200 bison in the park, 2,000 bison migrating north of the park line would be unmanageable. So there could be a mid-winter haze,” Flowers said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:26 am MST Nov 25, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. Calm wind becoming west 5 to 8 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 10. Wind chill values as low as zero. West wind around 7 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 35. Wind chill values as low as zero. South southwest wind 5 to 8 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. South southwest wind around 6 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36. Southwest wind around 6 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 18. South southeast wind 3 to 6 mph.

- - - - -

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

Tuesday, November 26, 2013



Gibbon Falls.

(photo by David Restivo)

Follow Yellowstone National Park on Facebook (and Twitter)
to see this and many other great images and stories.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please help **make decorations for the all employee Christmas party**. Come to a meeting **today** at the Chief of Administration's conference room at noon (third floor Admin building by HR).

A group of kids from the Gardiner School, along with their advisor Dorothy Dears, has collected clothing to ship to **those in need in the Philippines** on behalf of Dana Jordan, a Peace Corps volunteer from community who's work there was highlighted in YNP@work last week. Unfortunately, shipping costs were higher than anticipated (\$1500 for 15 boxes) and donations are needed. You may designate whether you would like these donations to go directly to the effort as cash or whether or not you'd like them to go towards shipping. The Destination Imagination kids raised \$600 at a bake sale this weekend but would welcome any help that the community feels moved to offer. For more information contact Dorothy Dears at 406-546-2898 or orddears@gardiner.org. Thank you.

In December, **Martha Powell will celebrate her 40th anniversary at Yellowstone Federal Credit Union!** Please join us at Yellowstone Federal Credit Union on Monday, December 2, to celebrate this milestone. We will be serving refreshments between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The **Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ski Coupons have arrived.** If you purchased coupons and you have not already received them in hand, you may stop by the Albright VC in Mammoth to pick them up.

Weather permitting, Montana State University and Leading Edge may **conduct capture operations** (helicopter net-gunning; darting) **of bighorn sheep and mountain goats** next Monday, December 2, 2013, in the northwest portion of Yellowstone National Park (YNP). NPS staff will provide guidance from the helibase at the Gardiner, Montana airport. The objective of these capture operations is to collar approximately 3 bighorn sheep and 7 mountain goats for collecting information on their distribution, habitat use, movements, reproduction, and survival.

Montana State University is responsible for the capture operations, which will be conducted by Leading Edge with an experienced pilot, net and dart-gunner, and handlers. We anticipate capture operations inside the park will occur between 0800 and 1700 hours. Helicopter operations and refueling will be based outside of YNP at the Gardiner, Montana airport. Flight following will occur with Yellowstone Dispatch (Fire Cache).

The area of operations consists of the (1) Sepulcher Mountains, Electric Peak, and Bannock/Quadrant Mountains, (2) Sheep Mountain region along the park boundary on the Gallatin Crest, and perhaps, (3) the Mt. Everts area (see attached map). All captures will occur within the boundary of YNP.

Safety is always the primary consideration during wildlife capture operations. All personnel involved with capture operations will be responsible for implementing the procedures outlined in the capture plan (available on request) submitted to the Yellowstone Center for Resources to ensure a safe and healthful work environment. If any unsafe working conditions or equipment are observed, then the problem(s) should be corrected, if possible, and immediately reported to the one of the following personnel:

Montana State University Investigators – Robert Garrott, Professor, Ecology Department (406/994-2270 [w], 406/581-5295 [c]); Carson Butler, Technician, 406/471-5257 [c])

Helicopter Capture Team – Jim Pope, Pilot, Leading Edge, Clarkston, WA, 509/758-1900 [w], 208/790-2121 [c]

Veterinarian – No veterinarian will be on-site during the capture operations. However, several veterinarians will be available via phone for consultation.

Park Liaisons –

P. J. White, Wildlife and Aquatic Resources, Yellowstone Center for Resources (307/344-2442 [w]; 406/223-2512 [c]; Radio call sign = 3A41)

Doug Smith, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Yellowstone Center for Resources (307/344-2242 [w]; 406/581-3402 [c]; Radio call sign = 3A60)

Park Onsite Monitoring – Travis Wyman, Wildlife Biologist, Yellowstone Center for Resources (307/344-2167 [w]; 406/581-0761 [c]; Radio call sign = 3A51)

Aviation Safety – John Cataldo, Aviation Operations (Aviation Safety Officer), Yellowstone National Park (307/344-2182 [w]; 406/581-1890 [c]; Radio call sign = 4F20)

Aviation Radio Dispatch (flight following) – Laura Dooley, Radio Dispatch, Yellowstone National Park (307/344-2181 [w]; Radio call sign = 700 Fox)

Law Enforcement Rangers –

Eric Morey, North District, Mammoth (307/344-2133 [w]; 406/581-8406 [c]; Radio call sign = 5H10)

Tara Ross, West District, West Yellowstone (307/344-2881 [w]; 406/581-1644 [c]; Radio call sign = 6W10)

Public Affairs Office – Al Nash, Public Affairs Office, Yellowstone National Park (307/344-2010 [w]; 406/581-9030 [c]; Radio call sign = 1A51)

- - - - -

With winter conditions prevailing, it is animal capture season again. Elk capture is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 and wolf capture the week of December 16. Both operations depend on suitable weather, so will be adjusted (or cancelled) accordingly (plus or minus a day or two) should poor weather occur on days of scheduled operation.

Elk Capture

Elk capture will be accomplished via a contractor (Leading Edge of Clarkston, Washington) and is the same one used the last two years. The pilot and crew are, therefore, familiar with YNP. Leading Edge has a Hughes 500 helicopter and a fuel truck that will be on site for the operation (see below for info on heli-bases). 20 cow elk are planned for capture via net gunning. Operational details are presented in the Elk Capture Plan available upon request (just reply to this email requesting one).

Objectives are to continue long-term monitoring of the elk population, specifically to examine movements, distribution, survival, pregnancy rate, calf survival, and to aid in sightability studies aimed at improving the annual elk count. Wolf-elk interactions are an important objective of the study/collaring effort.

All elk will be captured on the northern range: Gardiner area inside YNP, Mt Everts area, Blacktail Deer Plateau, Oxbow-Geode creeks area, Tower, and possibly (unlikely) Lamar Valley. Heli-bases will be Gardiner airport and Tower. Flight following will be conducted by the Fire Cache and questions the day of the operation can be directed to them and either dealt with or forwarded appropriately.

Wolf Capture

Wolf capture is scheduled the week of December 16 and will likely occur only 1-2 days that week based on weather conditions. Depending on the number of wolves captured then, wolf capture will occur periodically after the New Year during January and February (possibly March) based on pilot availability and weather. Sky Aviation (Worland, Wyoming) supplies the Jet Long Ranger (IV model) helicopter and pilot and YNP provides staff for capture and handling. This combination of helicopter/pilot/staff has been in place since the early 2000s. 15-20 wolves are slated for capture park-wide. The Wolf Capture Plan is available upon request.

Objectives are to continue long-term monitoring of wolves which includes an annual count, assessment of reproduction, survival, movements, and wolf-prey interactions. The goal is to have a collar in each of the 10 park wolf packs, which requires >1 collar /pack due to collar loss and failure.

Capture will occur park-wide but likely take place in the Gardner's Hole area, Blacktail, Oxbow-Geode creek areas, Hellroaring, Tower, Lamar Valley, Pelican Valley, Thorofare, Bechler, Firehole, Cougar Creek- Campanula Creek -Madison Flats areas. Like elk capture, the Fire Cache will conduct flight following and be aware of day-of details and plans should immediate contact be necessary.

Thank you and if more specific details are needed contact the Wolf Office in YCR.

- - - - -

Want to help out your community? Want to learn about the operations of a non-profit? Come join the board of Little People's Learning Center and help the smallest members of our community. You do not need to be a parent to be involved (we have had several board members without children). If interested, please contact littlepeoplesboard@gmail.com.

- - - - -

Little People's Learning Center and Snoopy School are teaming up and need your help for the **Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive** benefitting Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children and teens in need—especially those living in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

Since 2009, groups have risen to the challenge and donated nearly 250,000 pairs of new pajamas. The Scholastic Reading Club has more than matched those numbers with nearly 600,000 new books donated to Pajama Program.

If you are able to participate, please bring in a new pair of pajamas to the All Employee Meeting and Holiday Party on December 12 or arrange a drop-off or pick-up with Mary Kay Woodin x2059.

Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

Pajamas must be brand-new.

Pajamas in all sizes are needed—from newborn to adult.

Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.

Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe. Our goal is to donate 50 pajamas to the local Pajama Program.

Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a great book!

- - - - -

The **Federal Benefits Open Season** began Monday, November 11th. A simple checklist has been compiled a checklist to make enrolling and changing your FEDVIP plan(s) simple and easy. View the checklist today at www.BENEFEDS.com/2013.

Below are some important FEDVIP Open Season updates:

- First, there are more FEDVIP plan choices than ever this year. With 10 dental and 4 vision FEDVIP plans, you're certain to find one that's right for you.
- Second, we redesigned BENEFEDS.com to make researching, enrolling, and changing your FEDVIP plan(s) even easier. We also introduced BENEFEDS Mobile, providing you secure account access and the ability to compare FEDVIP plans while on the go.
- Third, keep in mind you do not have to do anything if you prefer to keep your current enrollment as it was for 2013. Your FEDVIP enrollment will automatically continue into the 2014 plan year, even if you retire.
- Finally, if you are currently enrolled in a FEDVIP dental plan, we recommend you research your 2014 plan to determine whether your FEDVIP dental rating region, and therefore your premium, is changing in 2014. (A rating region is a group of zip codes that corresponds to a particular rate charged by a dental plan. Vision plans have the same premium nationwide.)

Remember, the 2013 Federal Benefits Open Season (for the 2014 plan year) runs from Monday, November 11, through Monday, December 9, 2013. During this time, you can make qualified changes to your Federal

Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Plan (FEDVIP) by visiting BENEFEDS.com.

We appreciate your participation in FEDVIP. For questions, please visit our new Education and Support section at BENEFEDS.com. If you have specific questions about your enrollment, please email us at Service@BENEFEDS.com.

IN THE NEWS

Feds establish no-shooting zone in response to bison hunt

Published: Mon, 11/25/2013 - 8:45pm

Natalie Storey – Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

The U.S. Forest Service announced last week it has marked off a no-shooting zone in the Beattie Gulch area in part to assuage danger from grizzly bears attracted to entrails left over from bison hunting in the area.

Ron Hecker, district ranger for the Gardiner area, said there was “a lot of protein on the landscape in a small area” that attracted grizzly bears to Beattie Gulch last hunting season.

He said the Forest Service frequently closes the area due to grizzly bear and human contact. After last year’s bison hunt, 8,000 pounds of entrails, bones, hides and other leftover material were removed by Forest Service employees from Beattie Gulch, Hecker said.

“I believe it was an anomaly that we didn’t have a grizzly bear/hunter conflict last season,” Hecker said at an Interagency Bison Management Plan field trip last week. More than 580 grizzly bears live in the greater Yellowstone area, according to the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee website.

The no-shooting zone, which will go into effect Dec. 1, covers a corridor between the Yellowstone River and Old Yellowstone Road next to the Beattie Gulch trailhead. Several homes surround the area.

Michael Lopez, a staff attorney for the Nez Perce Tribe, said his tribe had just learned of the new restrictions last week and are waiting for formal communication from the Forest Service describing the exact area of the closure and the reasons behind it.

He said the Forest Service has agreed to consult with the Nez Perce about the decision. A majority of the bison harvested by the Nez Perce — about 70 animals — were taken in the Beattie Gulch area, Lopez said.

“It’s still unclear to us how it will be implemented and how it will impact the Nez Perce hunt,” Lopez said Monday.

Hecker said hunting in Beattie Gulch created other public safety issues last year, including worries that hunters were shooting too close to the Beattie Gulch trailhead, already a federal no-shooting zone, and residences in the area.

In 2005, the Montana Legislature enacted a law that legalized bison hunting.

The Nez Perce and the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes were the first tribes to exercise their treaty-based hunting rights, establishing their own hunting seasons and regulations. Tribal members hunted bison in Montana under the new law during the 2007-2008 hunting season.

The Umatilla and the Shoshone-Bannock tribes also have treaty rights to hunt bison in the Yellowstone area.

More than 9,000 people applied for 50 bison hunting licenses through Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the 2013-2014 season, said FWP Public Affairs Specialist Andrea Jones.

The state's bison hunting season is staggered in the Gardiner area with six licenses for Nov. 15 to Dec. 13, six licenses for Jan. 1 to Jan. 22 and 12 licenses for Jan. 23 to Feb. 15.

The territory for state bison hunters and tribal hunters mostly overlaps. Tribal members hunt on public, unclaimed lands, which is mostly Forest Service land in the Gardiner Basin. While state license holders also hunt on Forest Service land, they can seek permission from private landowners to hunt bison on their property. Federal law prohibits hunting in Yellowstone National Park.

During last year's hunt, 227 bison were killed, including 37 that were taken with state licenses and at least 190 taken by tribal members, according to the Interagency Bison Management Plan.

Bonnie Lynn, a landowner in the Beattie Gulch area who spoke at the IBMP field trip last week, said bison were shot in front of her driveway and that the hunt drove people who were staying in her vacation rentals to leave Montana.

"That slaughter, which was not a hunt, was disturbing," she said.

John Harrison, a staff attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, said the tribe he represents is willing to see parts of the Beattie Gulch area closed to hunting because of the public safety issues. Harrison said CSKT members harvest a limited number of bison in the Gardiner Basin because tribal hunting regulations specify that their season lasts until Jan. 31. Most bison don't enter the Gardiner Basin until late winter, after Jan. 31, Harrison said.

The Nez Perce bison hunting season runs from Nov. 8 to March 18, Lopez said.

http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/feds-establish-no-shooting-zone-response-bison-hunt?cookie_check=1

Grand Teton to charge fees for backcountry camping

19 hours ago • Yellowstone Gate

Getting away from it all in Grand Teton National Park will cost a little more next year, as the park has announced hikes in fees for backcountry camping and permits for other activities, from weddings to commercial filming.

Starting Jan. 8, backcountry camping permits will be \$25, with an additional \$10 fee for advanced reservations, according to a statement released by the park's public affairs office.

A recent evaluation showed that Grand Teton was not covering the cost of issuing the permits and managing the related activities based on the fees charged.

The annual revenue under the current permit system does not fully cover the operational costs of managing permitted programs, park officials said. Cost-recovery includes all expenses incurred to process a permit application, monitor a permitted activity, and perform site restoration, when necessary.

Backcountry permits had previously cost nothing when issued in person, or \$25 for an advance reservation.

Grand Teton will begin booking backcountry camping reservations through Recreation.gov, managed by Reserve America. Transition to Recreation.gov will allow users to plan their trip and receive immediate confirmation. The statement did not detail what additional steps, if any, have been taken to increase efficiency or productivity in the permitting process.

Charges for special use permits have not been updated since 2002.

Approximately 250–300 special-use applications are received annually, all of which require review. Applications for permits include weddings, commercial filming and special events. Park officials said most of the applications result in the issuance of a permit, and the need for monitoring of the permitted activity.

The adjusted special-use charges for 2014 are: \$100 for weddings, \$175 for events, \$275 for commercial filming less than 6 months, \$325 for commercial filming 6–12 months. There is no charge for scattering ashes or First Amendment requests.

Permit fees are a one-time, nonrefundable payment submitted by the applicant with the completed application. If the application is approved, the permittee may be responsible for additional cost-recovery charges associated with monitoring the activity and for site restoration, if necessary.

In the future, all cost-recovery charges may be evaluated annually and adjusted when necessary

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/grand-teton-to-charge-fees-for-backcountry-camping/article_9a1772be-f024-5f89-a654-8a9d559399db.html#ixzz2llhPplVM

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 5:40 am MST Nov 26, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36. Southwest wind 6 to 9 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. South southwest wind around 7 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37. South southwest wind 6 to 8 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. South southwest wind 3 to 6 mph.

Thanksgiving Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39. South wind 3 to 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. South southwest wind 3 to 5 mph.

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!

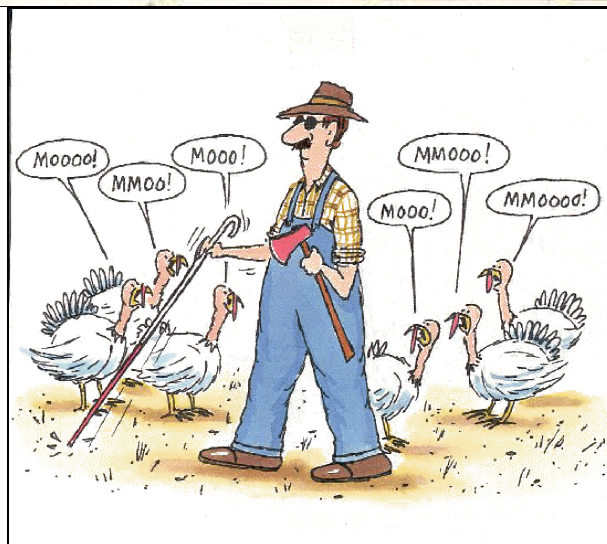
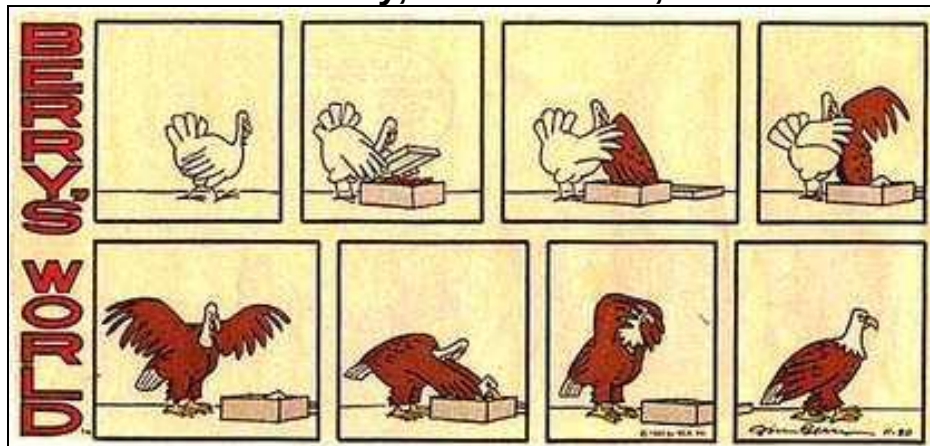
Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's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

Wednesday, November 27, 2013



Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorandum

To: All Employees

From: Director

Subject: Happy Thanksgiving

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy Thanksgiving, and hope that this holiday will find you among loved ones and friends. In recognition of your contributions and hard work throughout the year, I am authorizing an early release of employees on Wednesday, November 27, 2013.

Subject to meeting our operational requirements, maintaining safe working conditions, and ensuring the safety of our visitors, supervisors may release employees who report to them up to two (2) hours in advance of the employee's normal departure time without charge to the employee's leave. Early release should not exceed two (2) hours before the normal end of the employee's workday.

The early dismissal applies only to employees who are present for work and who telework on November 27. Employees who are on previously approved absence (e.g., annual leave, sick leave, leave without pay, credit hours, or comp time) will be charged the appropriate category of leave/absence for the amount requested and approved for that day.

I am thankful for *your* efforts on behalf of the National Park Service as well as the opportunity to work alongside extraordinary people. So here's to you, and I offer my best wishes for a happy and safe Thanksgiving Holiday.

- - - - -

A group of kids from the Gardiner School, along with their advisor Dorothy Dears, has collected clothing to ship to **those in need in the Philippines** on behalf of Dana Jordan, a Peace Corps volunteer from community who's work there was highlighted in YNP@work last week. Unfortunately, shipping costs were higher than anticipated (\$1500 for 15 boxes) and donations are needed. You may designate whether you would like these donations to go directly to the effort as cash or whether or not you'd like them to go towards shipping. The Destination Imagination kids raised \$600 at a bake sale this weekend but would welcome any help that the community feels moved to offer. For more information contact Dorothy Dears at 406-546-2898 orddears@gardiner.org. Thank you.

- - - - -

In December, **Martha Powell will celebrate her 40th anniversary at Yellowstone Federal Credit Union!** Please join us at Yellowstone Federal Credit Union on Monday, December 2, to celebrate this milestone. We will be serving refreshments between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- - - - -

The Bridger Bowl Wellness Discount Ski Coupons have arrived. If you purchased coupons and you have not already received them in hand, you may stop by the Albright VC in Mammoth to pick them up.

- - - - -

Weather permitting, Montana State University and Leading Edge may **conduct capture operations** (helicopter net-gunning; darting) **of bighorn sheep and mountain goats** next Monday, December 2, 2013, in the northwest portion of Yellowstone National Park (YNP). NPS staff will provide guidance from the helibase at the Gardiner, Montana airport. The objective of these capture operations is to collar approximately 3 bighorn sheep and 7 mountain goats for collecting information on their distribution, habitat use, movements, reproduction, and survival.

Montana State University is responsible for the capture operations, which will be conducted by Leading Edge with an experienced pilot, net and dart-gunner, and handlers. We anticipate capture operations inside the park will occur between 0800 and 1700 hours. Helicopter operations and refueling will be based outside of YNP at the Gardiner, Montana airport. Flight following will occur with Yellowstone Dispatch (Fire Cache).

The area of operations consists of the (1) Sepulcher Mountains, Electric Peak, and Bannock/Quadrant Mountains, (2) Sheep Mountain region along the park boundary on the Gallatin Crest, and perhaps, (3) the Mt. Everts area (see attached map). All captures will occur within the boundary of YNP.

Safety is always the primary consideration during wildlife capture operations. All personnel involved with capture operations will be responsible for implementing the procedures outlined in the capture plan (available on request) submitted to the Yellowstone Center for Resources to ensure a safe and healthful work environment. If any unsafe working conditions or equipment are observed, then the problem(s) should be corrected, if possible, and immediately reported to the one of the following personnel:

Montana State University Investigators – Robert Garrott, Professor, Ecology Department (406/994-2270 [w], 406/581-5295 [c]); Carson Butler, Technician, 406/471-5257 [c])

Helicopter Capture Team – Jim Pope, Pilot, Leading Edge, Clarkston, WA, 509/758-1900 [w], 208/790-2121 [c]
Veterinarian – No veterinarian will be on-site during the capture operations. However, several veterinarians will be available via phone for consultation.

Park Liaisons –

P. J. White, Wildlife and Aquatic Resources, Yellowstone Center for Resources (307/344-2442 [w]; 406/223-2512 [c]; Radio call sign = 3A41)

Doug Smith, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Yellowstone Center for Resources (307/344-2242 [w]; 406/581-3402 [c]; Radio call sign = 3A60)

Park Onsite Monitoring – Travis Wyman, Wildlife Biologist, Yellowstone Center for Resources (307/344-2167 [w]; 406/581-0761 [c]; Radio call sign = 3A51)

Aviation Safety – John Cataldo, Aviation Operations (Aviation Safety Officer), Yellowstone National Park (307/344-2182 [w]; 406/581-1890 [c]; Radio call sign = 4F20)

Aviation Radio Dispatch (flight following) – Laura Dooley, Radio Dispatch, Yellowstone National Park (307/344-2181 [w]; Radio call sign = 700 Fox)

Law Enforcement Rangers –

Eric Morey, North District, Mammoth (307/344-2133 [w]; 406/581-8406 [c]; Radio call sign = 5H10)

Tara Ross, West District, West Yellowstone (307/344-2881 [w]; 406/581-1644 [c]; Radio call sign = 6W10)

Public Affairs Office – Al Nash, Public Affairs Office, Yellowstone National Park (307/344-2010 [w]; 406/581-9030 [c]; Radio call sign = 1A51)

- - - - -

With winter conditions prevailing, it is animal capture season again. Elk capture is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 and wolf capture the week of December 16. Both operations depend on suitable weather, so will be adjusted (or cancelled) accordingly (plus or minus a day or two) should poor weather occur on days of scheduled operation.

Elk Capture

Elk capture will be accomplished via a contractor (Leading Edge of Clarkston, Washington) and is the same one used the last two years. The pilot and crew are, therefore, familiar with YNP. Leading Edge has a Hughes 500 helicopter and a fuel truck that will be on site for the operation (see below for info on heli-bases). 20 cow elk are planned for capture via net gunning. Operational details are presented in the Elk Capture Plan available upon request (just reply to this email requesting one).

Objectives are to continue long-term monitoring of the elk population, specifically to examine movements, distribution, survival, pregnancy rate, calf survival, and to aid in sightability studies aimed at improving the annual elk count. Wolf-elk interactions are an important objective of the study/collaring effort.

All elk will be captured on the northern range: Gardiner area inside YNP, Mt Everts area, Blacktail Deer Plateau, Oxbow-Geode creeks area, Tower, and possibly (unlikely) Lamar Valley. Heli-bases will be Gardiner airport and Tower. Flight following will be conducted by the Fire Cache and questions the day of the operation can be directed to them and either dealt with or forwarded appropriately.

Wolf Capture

Wolf capture is scheduled the week of December 16 and will likely occur only 1-2 days that week based on weather conditions. Depending on the number of wolves captured then, wolf capture will occur periodically after the New Year during January and February (possibly March) based on pilot availability and weather. Sky Aviation (Worland, Wyoming) supplies the Jet Long Ranger (IV model) helicopter and pilot and YNP provides staff for capture and handling. This combination of helicopter/pilot/staff has been in place since the early 2000s. 15-20 wolves are slated for capture park-wide. The Wolf Capture Plan is available upon request.

Objectives are to continue long-term monitoring of wolves which includes an annual count, assessment of reproduction, survival, movements, and wolf-prey interactions. The goal is to have a collar in each of the 10 park wolf packs, which requires >1 collar /pack due to collar loss and failure.

Capture will occur park-wide but likely take place in the Gardner's Hole area, Blacktail, Oxbow-Geode creek areas, Hellroaring, Tower, Lamar Valley, Pelican Valley, Thorofare, Bechler, Firehole, Cougar Creek- Campanula Creek -Madison Flats areas. Like elk capture, the Fire Cache will conduct flight following and be aware of day-of details and plans should immediate contact be necessary.

Thank you and if more specific details are needed contact the Wolf Office in YCR.

- - - - -

Want to help out your community? Want to learn about the operations of a non-profit? Come join the board of Little People's Learning Center and help the smallest members of our community. You do not need to be a parent to be involved (we have had several board members without children). If interested, please contact littlepeoplesboard@gmail.com.

- - - - -

Little People's Learning Center and Snoopy School are teaming up and need your help for the **Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive** benefitting Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children and teens in need—especially those living in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

Since 2009, groups have risen to the challenge and donated nearly 250,000 pairs of new pajamas. The Scholastic Reading Club has more than matched those numbers with nearly 600,000 new books donated to Pajama Program.

If you are able to participate, please bring in a new pair of pajamas to the All Employee Meeting and Holiday Party on December 12 or arrange a drop-off or pick-up with Mary Kay Woodin x2059.

Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

Pajamas must be brand-new.

Pajamas in all sizes are needed—from newborn to adult.

Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.

Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe. Our goal is to donate 50 pajamas to the local Pajama Program.

Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a great book!

- - - - -

The **Federal Benefits Open Season** began Monday, November 11th. A simple checklist has been compiled a checklist to make enrolling and changing your FEDVIP plan(s) simple and easy. View the checklist today at www.BENEFEDS.com/2013.

Below are some important FEDVIP Open Season updates:

- First, there are more FEDVIP plan choices than ever this year. With 10 dental and 4 vision FEDVIP plans, you're certain to find one that's right for you.
- Second, we redesigned BENEFEDS.com to make researching, enrolling, and changing your FEDVIP plan(s) even easier. We also introduced BENEFEDS Mobile, providing you secure account access and the ability to compare FEDVIP plans while on the go.
- Third, keep in mind you do not have to do anything if you prefer to keep your current enrollment as it was for 2013. Your FEDVIP enrollment will automatically continue into the 2014 plan year, even if you retire.
- Finally, if you are currently enrolled in a FEDVIP dental plan, we recommend you research your 2014 plan to determine whether your FEDVIP dental rating region, and therefore your premium, is changing in 2014. (A rating region is a group of zip codes that corresponds to a particular rate charged by a dental plan. Vision plans have the same premium nationwide.)

Remember, the 2013 Federal Benefits Open Season (for the 2014 plan year) runs from Monday, November 11, through Monday, December 9, 2013. During this time, you can make qualified changes to your Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Plan (FEDVIP) by visiting BENEFEDS.com.

We appreciate your participation in FEDVIP. For questions, please visit our new Education and Support section at BENEFEDS.com. If you have specific questions about your enrollment, please email us at Service@BENEFEDS.com.

IN THE NEWS

Ranchers: Plan for winter bison grazing

Published: Thu, 11/21/2013 - 3:00pm

By Natalie Storey – Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

Ranchers criticized projects to restore native grasses along the edges of Yellowstone Park Wednesday, saying federal and state agencies aren't doing enough to plan for winter forage for bison who leave the Park each year.

Ranchers, other concerned citizens and officials working on the Interagency Bison Management Plan, or IBMP, met at the Western Heritage Center just inside the Park's boundary.

The impromptu meeting room was set up with a circle of chairs after a field trip for IBMP members was cancelled because of snowfall.

The field trip was intended to show members and the public progress that's being made on range restoration in the Gardiner Basin, but snow cover prevented visitors from getting a good view of the grasses.

Instead, agency members discussed their projects to restore native grasses, while ranchers said the grasses cannot be restored so long as the agencies continue to allow bison to overgraze areas in the Gardiner Basin.

The areas discussed were three pilot projects to restore native grasses — 50 acres just north of Gardiner that Yellowstone National Park acquired in the 1970s, and two plots of land in the Gallatin National Forest, Cutler Meadows and Beattie Gulch.

Exotic European grasses like crested wheat grass and cheat grass have taken over in the areas.

Roy Renkin, a vegetation management specialist in Yellowstone National Park, said the park was using a strategy of “patience, persistence and pray for precipitation.” After experts were consulted, the park decided not to irrigate the project, but began in 2009 by applying herbicide and then planting a cover crop. They then planted bluebunch wheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, Western wheatgrass and green needle grass.

Renkin said there are many “goblin” challenges, like grasshoppers and climate change, that are difficult to predict.

“It’s more than just killing weeds and planting seeds,” Renkin said. “You have to take a systems approach.”

A systems approach is what members of the audience said they were asking for, including considering how much grazing bison do in the area.

Hal Hunter, a retired range ecologist who attended the meeting as a concerned citizen, said native grasses in the Gardiner Basin have been depleted by grazing bison.

“There’s a long-term history of overgrazing and now we want to let the bison spend more time there?” Hunter said.

Hunter said wildlife prefer to eat native grasses and would concentrate on the newly planted area and deplete it again as soon as fences are removed.

Marty Malone, a Park County commissioner, said the IMBP must include winter grazing as part of their range restoration plans.

He said the native grasses the Park Service planted are “one- or two-bite plants,” meaning they cannot withstand heavy grazing.

“There’s a lot of grazing mouths out there,” Malone said.

He said unless winter grazing is written into policy and considered during range restoration, the money spent on planting native grasses is being wasted.

“You might as well start a bonfire and get drunk,” he said.

Commissioner Jim Durgan said he thought there was a lot of good “give and take” at the meeting, but that the forage situation is “very alarming.”

“I don’t know how you guys are going to manage the forage resource and the wildlife resource,” he said. “The forage resource as far as I’m concerned is inalterably damaged. I don’t envy you guys.”

Renkin said he appreciated constructive criticism, agreed there was heavy utilization and said the park would consider including wildlife utilization in its plans.

http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/ranchers-plan-winter-bison-grazing?cookie_check=1

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:41 am MST Nov 27, 2013

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36. Southwest wind 6 to 8 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15. Southwest wind 6 to 8 mph.

Thanksgiving Day: Partly sunny, with a high near 39. South southwest wind 7 to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19. South wind 5 to 7 mph becoming east northeast after midnight.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 34. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: Occasional flurries before 11pm, then a slight chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. Southwest wind around 6 mph. 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?

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](#)