

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, January 3, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECYCLE HOLIDAY TREES and GREENS! Through the end of January, natural trees and greens may be dropped off behind the Heritage and Research Center (located next to Gardiner School). Those living in Mammoth may leave trees and greens next to any Mammoth trash bin. These will be collected, chipped and reused as pathways at Yellowstone's Stephens Creek Nursery. Please remove all ornaments, lights, ribbon and wire. Questions? Call 307.344.2314

Here's a little video Neal Herbert, the park videographer, put together about the **Christmas Eve courier run**:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5kFYpb-Kgw>

The **winter recreation season** is underway! The Mammoth employee recreation hall, located behind the Mammoth Hotel, is open to all park employees and their immediate family members 5 am – 11 pm, seven days a week. The hall includes an exercise area with free weights, weight machines, ellipticals and a treadmill. You'll also find a full court basketball court, ping pong table and lending library where you can donate or pick out a book or magazine. We ask that you bring a second clean pair of shoes while using the sports court or weight and aerobic area.

We have all sorts of activities planned for you this season. First off, we'll be offering regular activities on a weekly or monthly basis. These include but are not limited to yoga, big screen movies, bingo, volleyball, pool tournaments and cornhole tournaments. We'll also have special events which include seminars, the Superbowl party in the employee pub and the 6th annual Grand Targhee Employee Ski Trip on Jan 28, 29 and 30! Call Leigh Ann at 344-5225 or Andrew at 344-5224 for more info on this trip.

In addition to all this fun, we'll have staff items for sale. We have the Yellowstone Staff Nalgens, Yellowstone Staff Koozies and near the end of the season we'll have Yellowstone Winter Staff shirts available for custom order. And if you're a smart shopper we have Yellowstone Summer Staff shirts from previous seasons at a discounted price. Just stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office, located in the recreation hall, or call us for more info.

Mammoth Clinic still has flu shots available! No appointment necessary, but feel free to call 344-7965 for info or to let us know when you are coming. Our regular hours are Mon-Thu 8:30 to 5 and Fri 8:30-1. Happy New Year!!

Yoga & Ski Morning this Sunday, January 5! We will gather at the MCC Studio at 8:00 am for a special 1.5 hour Yoga class designed just for you cross country folks, then off to Blacktail for a New Year's ski! (Carpool, anyone?) Cost is only \$10 and includes pre-ski refreshments! Call Amanda Stover for more details at 317-416-3811. Have a happy and healthy 2014!

Judy Bischoff is giving an 8 hour **ATR refresher** on January 8, 2014 from 8:30 am to 4:30 PM MST. Please contact her if you would like to participate. Her email is Judy_Bischoff@nps.gov

There is still time! **Wonderful Yellowstone inspired art work** and a calendar in one! What more could you ask for! Yellowstone Art Work Calendars created by the community's littlest people available for \$15. Please contact Mary Kay Woodin X2059 or Becky Wyman X2278 if you would like one.

All are welcome to attend the **Employee Safety Committee Meeting** scheduled for 10:00 am Wednesday January 8th at the Superintendent's Conference Room in Mammoth. Agendas and minutes can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc> If you would like to listen to the meeting via conference call, use the toll free number and participant code:

Toll free number 888 930-9220

Participant Code 1885448

Mid-Winter Bald and Golden Eagle Survey Saturday January 11, 2014

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- 2) Mammoth to Cooke City - drive
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- 4) South Entrance to West Thumb - snowmobile
- 5) West Entrance to Madison – snowmobile
- 6) Swan Lake Flat to Madison - snowmobile

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:11 am MST Jan 3, 2014

Today: Snow. Temperature falling to around 16 by 5pm. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow. Low around 1. Wind chill values as low as -10. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 13. Wind chill values as low as -10. West wind 5 to 11 mph. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around -3. Wind chill values as low as -20. West wind 8 to 11 mph.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before 11am. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 9. Northwest wind 8 to 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around -13. West northwest wind around 6 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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

Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, January 6, 2014

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MONDAY JANUARY 6TH: COLLEGE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
#1 FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES vs. #2 AUBURN TIGERS

Watch the game on a projection screen at either the Old Faithful Employee Pub or the Mammoth Employee Pub. Kickoff is at 6:30 pm.

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IN THE NEWS

Top Yellowstone Expert Takes on the Wolf Critics Speaks to “Non Native Subspecies” Charge and “Surplus Killing”

Montana Pioneer, January 5, 2014



Recently, the Montana Pioneer spoke with Doug Smith, Yellowstone National Park Wolf Project Leader and Senior Biologist at the Yellowstone Center for Resources, about the nature of the wolves introduced to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, including the “non native subspecies” charge advanced by critics, and about ongoing research on wolves in the park.

MP: What were the genetic sources of wolves introduced into YNP—where did the existing wolf population originate?

DS: Forty one wolves were introduced to YNP in 1995. There were 14 in 1995 from Alberta, and 17 in 1996 from British Columbia, and 10 in 1997 from near Choteau, Montana. We have genetic evidence that some of those wolves went on to breed. So, 10 of the wolves that were introduced were from Montana, and 31 were from Canada.

MP: What were the main characteristics that were different between the wolves from Canada and the wolves that pre-existed here in Yellowstone, say 150 years ago? Is that known?

DS: Not really. All we have are skulls to judge it from. What we know from studying the skulls are that the wolves are essentially the same. The Canadian wolves were about 7 to 8 percent larger than the pre-existing wolves of Yellowstone. Seven to eight percent is within the variation of size difference found in wolf skulls all over North America, so the difference is statistically insignificant. It is important to compare apples to apples, so-to-speak. Pups and immature animals are smaller, and males are about 20 percent larger than females, at full size. It is important to compare similar age and gender skulls to each other. So comparing the handful of skulls that were preserved here as museum samples with over 150 skulls of wolves that have died here since they were introduced, the skulls are essentially the same, but the ones from Canada are slightly bigger.

Taxonomically (classifying in categories such as genus, species, and subspecies), you get differences between species when there are limitations on their ability to mix genetically. Wolves are stopped by nothing. They will cross mountain ranges, rivers, even pack ice. That's how good this animal is at moving around. So what we have is this constant intermixing of genes that prevents them from becoming really different subspecies. Wolves originated in North America a couple of million years ago. When glaciers connected Alaska and Russia, they crossed over into Russia. They got bigger over there. In the last 600,000 to 700,000 years differently evolved wolves have crossed back to North America in three waves. The remnants of the oldest wave of wolves returning to North America are now the most southern species, and also the smallest, *Canis lupus baileyi*, the Mexican wolf. The middle wave of evolved wolves returning to this continent from Asia are the gray wolves we have here now, and the most recent are the largest, the arctic wolves.

MP: Were the wolves introduced into YNP significantly different physically or behaviorally from the wolves that were here?

DS: The short answer is no. Wolves are ecological generalists. They can live on a variety of things. We looked for wolves that were previously exposed to bison and elk. The Canadian wolves had a small percentage of bison hair in their scat, but primarily elk and deer hair. We thought that was ideal, as that is the same diet—primarily elk and deer—as we have here. The available wolves from Minnesota had no experience with mountainous terrain or herds of elk or bison. We selected wolves from the same Rocky Mountain ecosystem, with the same kind of prey, to enhance the likelihood of the introduced wolves surviving. I want to clarify the misconception that larger Canadian wolves were preying on smaller American elk [thereby reducing the elk population inordinately]. In fact, the much smaller southwestern Mexican wolf brings down elk. The elk the Mexican wolves prey on in Arizona and New Mexico originally came from Yellowstone, as did the elk in Canada. The optimal number of

adult wolves necessary to bring down an elk is only four, but a pair of wolves can also kill an elk.

MP: We hear reports that there were wolves already in Yellowstone that could have multiplied without reintroduction.

DS: There were no wolves here when we introduced the current wolves in 1995. There were no specially adapted wolves [as critics have claimed] in Yellowstone that did not run in packs, or use trails or roads, that didn't howl, and that preyed on small prey, unlike the wolves we have now. There has simply never been a wolf recorded anywhere that lives like that. Furthermore, there is no better bird dog for a wolf than a wolf itself. We had radio collars on all 41 wolves we released over a 3-year period. If there were extant wolves already on the landscape, they would have found them. The wolves we released never turned up any other wolves, dead or alive. And by the way, they rarely eat other wolves that they kill.

MP: Wolves killing other wolves is the main cause of wolf deaths in the park, correct?

DS: Yes, almost half of the 15 YNP wolves that died in 2012 were killed by other wolves. However, for wolves living outside the park, 80 percent of the wolf deaths are caused by humans, mostly by shooting them.

MP: How many wolves are in YNP now?

DS: Last year at the end of 2012 there were at least 83 wolves occupying YNP in 10 packs (6 breeding pairs). This is approximately a 15 percent decline from the previous three years when the numbers had stabilized at around 100 wolves. Wolf numbers have declined by about 50 percent since 2007, mostly because of a smaller elk population.

MP: Would the 1994 population of gray wolves that lived in Montana have naturally recovered, given the protection of the Endangered Species Act?

DS: That was a big opinion-based debate by wolf biologists at the time, led by Bob Ream of the University of Montana. In his opinion, wolves would have recovered given enough time—50, 60 or 70 years. Other people think they would not have made it. Yellowstone National Park and the five National Forests around it can be likened to a huge island. It's the most impressive wild land we have got in the lower 48, and some people say it's the most impressive temperate zone wild land in the world. But it's got an abrupt boundary to it. I frequently fly over here in an airplane, and at the boundary of a National Forest, it turns into a sea of humanity. And wolves are notoriously bad at getting through seas of humanity. Wolves get shot a lot. When we were dealing with a handful of wolves, maybe 40 to 60, how many of those would have been heading this way? So far, we have not yet documented a wolf coming from northwest Montana into Yellowstone. We have documented them coming from Idaho, but that's a lot closer and the linkages are better, primarily in the Centennial Mountains. Wolves don't do well over huge landscapes dominated by people. By introducing wolves they were legally not a fully protected species under the Endangered Species Act. People wanted to be able to shoot them when they got into livestock, which they could not have done if they were a fully protected species.

MP: Wolves from Idaho have now invaded the original Glacier National Park wolves, right?

DS: The Idaho wolf population is now fully connected to the northwest Montana wolf population. Interest-ingly, a study of historic wolf DNA from pelts and skulls shows that over 50 percent of wolf genetic diversity was lost when the continental United States population was reduced to a few hundred wolves in Minnesota. Wolves were the top carnivores in North America. Wolves evolved to adapt to the local conditions, and they will do so again.

MP: The tapeworm cysts spread by wolves that critics rail about, what risk to humans does this pose?

DS: The *Echinococcus granulosus* tapeworm was already here. Wolves didn't bring it in. The coyotes, foxes and domestic dogs likely had it before wolves. The human health risk from tapeworms is almost nil. If anyone should have *Echinococcus* tapeworm it's me. I've handled over 500 wolves in my career. I take their temperature with a rectal thermometer. That's where the tapeworm eggs come out. I now wear rubber gloves, but I wash my hands in snow, then eat my lunch. I wouldn't worry much about it.

MP: What are the primary benefits and disadvantages of having wild ranging wolf packs in the Northern Rockies?

DS: The simplest way to answer that is that there is no question that wolves made people's lives more complicated, and that's a good reason not to have them. Some people love them, some people hate them, and wolves are a polarizing animal. People have to spend a lot of time dealing with the controversy that comes with wolves. Life is simpler without wolves. I admit that if you are a rancher, having wolves around is worrisome. I understand that it's not just the cows they kill; it's the sleepless nights. I think that's the best argument to not have them. What's the ecological value of wolves? I don't know. It's a human dominated world. We control everything. So why do we need wolves? Landscapes look the way they do because of agriculture, forestry, hunting, mining, development—all those things trump things like wolves. So you really don't get huge ecological benefits of wolves outside of National Parks. In National Parks you do. So why have wolves on these huge landscapes where there are people? Good question. The best answer is, because people want them there. You know, there are a lot of people that don't like wolves. There is an equally large number that do like them, because living in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming is unique and different than living in places like Illinois, Iowa and Arkansas. You have grizzly bears, you have wolves, you have cougars. And that brings in a lot of tourism dollars. Wolves and grizzly bears are the two top attractions to Yellowstone. Idaho, Montana and Wyoming are perceived as being pristine, just because of the mere existence of the three large, toothy carnivores. It makes visiting or living here more valuable and a better experience. Economics are more important than ecology when it comes to carnivore populations in Yellowstone National Park.

Right now, it's as natural as it's ever been in Yellowstone Park. Now we have more predators than we have ever had, which means we have fewer elk, and fewer elk means we have all these other ecological benefits, like beavers and songbirds and fishes, and generally enhanced riparian habitat, because fewer elk means less browsing of riparian habitat. So it's a more balanced ecosystem. We only get that because we have natural densities of carnivores. As soon as you cross the park line, all the densities of those carnivores go down because humans manage them. And that is fine; it's not a criticism. The carnivores are on the landscape. That's the thing that the tourists like, but they are not at their normal densities that would occur if people didn't manage them.

MP: What about surplus killing by wolves [where, for example, ranchers report wolves killing or maiming a dozen sheep in one night]?

DS: Surplus killing by wolves doesn't really exist, per-se. We have watched wolves when they have killed more meat than they can immediately consume, and they always come back to finish the carcass unless they are spooked off by people. Hunting success rates for wolves are in the 5 percent to 15 percent range with elk. So they actually get about one in ten of the elk they go after. Eighty five percent to 95 percent of the time, the elk wins, and the wolves get nothing to eat. So, from an evolutionary perspective, if the wolves are not highly motivated to kill whenever they can, they will lose out. Of the 500 wolves I have handled, all across America, in the Midwest, Canada, Alaska, Yellowstone and Idaho, most of them are skinny beneath their beautiful fur. When I have felt their backbones and their pelvises, they usually are skinny. They are just getting by. The prey is better at getting away than the wolves are at killing the prey. So it is so hard to get dinner and when they do get a chance to kill, they kill. That's how you get so-called surplus killing, when the elk are weak and in deep snow, wolves will kill more than they can eat. Also, defenseless sheep will be killed in large numbers because the wolves can do so. But I would argue that if the rancher didn't come out the next day with a rifle, the wolves would eat all those sheep, even if it took them weeks to do so.

Wolves don't kill for the fun of it, when they are likely to get their head bashed in getting dinner. We have seen 15 or more wolves that have been killed by elk, bison, deer and moose. Wolves are risk averse. They don't want to try to kill something that's going to get their head bashed in or their stomach kicked in, but when it's easy, they will kill more than they can immediately eat, but those circumstances crop up pretty rarely. The wolves always cycle back to finish the carcass.

MP: What is the effect of wolves on the coyote population?

DS: Wolves kill coyotes when they approach wolf kills. Pre wolf-introduction, coyotes were living in packs in YNP, and that's something that's unusual. When there are wolves around, the coyotes pretty much live in pairs. Coyotes love coming in and stealing from wolves, and that got them killed. According to unpublished research, supposedly the coyote population dropped in half after the wolf introduction. Over 90 percent of the coyotes that are documented as being killed by wolves have been killed at wolf kill sites—they over estimated the wolves being meat drunk. So the coyotes quit running in packs, and went back to living in pairs, and became more wary around carcasses. The coyotes supposedly socially adapted to wolves, and their population went back to pre-wolf levels. This research is incomplete and inconclusive, but fascinating.

MP: Thank you, Doug. We appreciate this opportunity to present knowledge you have gained over the years about wolves, and at the same time address some of the controversies.

DS: Wolves are troublesome and controversial. I understand that. A lot of people don't like them, but a lot of people do like them, and they make money for a lot of people. What I am really after is to get as good a quality of information out there as possible, to help the debate to be a little bit better. The extreme anti-wolf person and the extreme pro-wolf person are always going to be problematic; they are never going to be happy. But this big group of people in the middle can come together on more than they think. If we can get an established group of facts about wolves correctly understood, I do think we can make progress in treating wolves just like any other animal, like a cougar, like a bear, like an elk. Sometimes and in some places their numbers need to be cut back, and just like any other form of wildlife, they need to be scientifically managed.

Interview conducted by Quincy Orhai for the Montana Pioneer.

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Woman Claims Sister Had Brucellosis Doctor Calls Illness a Medical Mystery

Montana Pioneer, January 5, 2014

The Montana Pioneer received the following report in December 2013, submitted by Joyce Queckborner of Gardiner, Montana, who alleges her twin sister, JoAn Winters (an ardent woman of the outdoors who pursued that passion as a calling in and around Yellowstone National Park), passed away in September of last year after contracting brucellosis. We realize the controversial nature of this claim, and that official medical records say otherwise. Queckborner, though, supports her claim reasonably and in detail through her account, presented here. We believe her opinions merit consideration. They read as follows.

An Experience with Buffalo/Elk Brucellosis

My twin sister JoAn Winters, age 83, was a strong, active, healthy, retired Gardiner Postmaster, and resident of Gardiner, Montana. She was a country girl at heart, who loved all of nature and the earth. JoAn passed away on

September 6, 2013 after being suddenly struck down earlier with the "mysterious disease" believed to be Buffalo/Elk Brucellosis. Her health went downhill very fast.

JoAn contacted the bacteria Brucella (Buffalo/Elk Brucellosis) either through a scratch in her skin or by inhalation while photographing wild flowers and grasses at ground level in the Yellowstone National Park/Gardiner area. From 2003 through November 2012 JoAn photographed and identified 800 wild flowers and other flora. JoAn created three volumes of Fragile Beauties of Yellowstone. Ever since the 1988 Yellowstone forest fires, JoAn also had many wildlife in her yard in Gardiner (deer and elk year round, and buffalo during winter and spring). Some become sick and a few die (and they are very destructive).

Wildlife diseases should be controlled and eliminated. All we had been told about Brucellosis was that female buffalo and livestock get it, then abort their babies. A Yellowstone National Park authority on brucellosis said that JoAn could not have brucellosis. She would have to get down on the ground and roll around in it. But that is about what she did. (JoAn also created the book We Knew Bull Elk No. 6).

All of JoAn's symptoms from November 2012 until her death point directly to Buffalo/Elk Brucellosis. Her initial symptoms were "flu-like", such as minor pains in her joints, back and neck, and not feeling up to par, which were followed suddenly in mid-May 2013 with many recurrent undulating fevers of unknown cause (which ended over a week before her discharge from the hospital on June 26 after being given antibiotics). She had great fatigue, extreme weakness, prostration, some sweating, an inability to hold her head up, a rash and itch over her entire body (which was treated with steroids), and rapidly progressing paralysis through much of her body, possible "meningitis" and immune disorder.

First, paralyzing her ability and desire to eat, and loss of appetite, and the stopping of food in her mid-esophagus, delaying its entry into her stomach, with no explanation why (as reported in the Esophageal phase of the video fluoroscopic swallow study report on June 6)—was the anorexia-like symptom of the bacteria Brucella, which is similar to anorexia, but this type is involuntary, not self induced, and caused by paralysis. JoAn's weight dropped from 120 pounds a few months earlier to 84 pounds on June 26, and eventually led to starvation by September 6 when she died. From May 20 until June 2 she had lost 8 pounds.

Second, paralysis soon progressed to loss of all movement in her legs and feet. JoAn was forced to try and stand which was impossible for her to do. This paralysis lasted until her death. Third, paralysis progressed to her abdominal/pelvic area preventing JoAn from ever sitting up again. JoAn was forced to sit in a chair from 45 minutes to three and a half hours a day. This was torture and very exhausting for JoAn. The medical professionals did not recognize paralysis. This permanent paralysis began around June 9.

Fourth, after being admitted to Deaconess Hospital on June 5, JoAn also lost movement in her hands and arms, but later regained their use and her hands and arms returned to normal. JoAn asked if she had infantile paralysis. Her doctor denied it, saying, "No, you have no paralysis at all," because JoAn could feel the doctor's hands when the doctor touched her skin. But there really are two kinds of paralysis—loss of the power of motion or loss of sensation. A person can have one or both. Because of the multiple paralysis through much of her body, JoAn had to lay flat on her back in bed for three months, not being able to move most of her body. JoAn was permanently disabled until her death.

Throughout JoAn's illness she always had her sense of feeling in her whole body. From JoAn's mid-esophagus to the top of her head JoAn's body was normal and active, and her spirit, mind and memories always remained sharp and clear, and she could make all her own decisions. She had no breathing problems and needed no oxygen. JoAn could hear and understand everything that was spoken in her presence, and she could speak to us even when her voice was weak.

On June 11, JoAn was given a Spinal Tap, a cerebral spinal fluid/lumbar puncture. In the evening of June 20 JoAn

was told her "verdict" by the specialist when she was alone, and he notified JoAn's son by telephone. The next day we were given the details. After permanent damage had already been done earlier to JoAn's physical body, they finally discovered inflammation in her spinal cord. "An inflammatory myelopathy" (disease of the spinal cord)...probably viral or post viral," and "cerebrospinal" (affecting the brain and spinal cord). It was caused by an unidentified virus, which would probably never be identified. Neither this condition, nor the permanent paralysis it caused, could be reversed nor JoAn brought back to her original condition. In the night of June 20 JoAn heard the word "Hospice" spoken, and she thought "That is what I want, to go to a Hospice." At this meeting I mentioned that all of JoAn's symptoms pointed directly to Buffalo/Elk Brucellosis, and the specialist said, "You can call it brucellosis if you want to, but brucellosis has nothing to do with the spine." Strange, because "spondylitis" (inflammation of the vertebrae—the spinal column) is a symptom of brucellosis. JoAn's death certificate read: Cause of death—Progressive Post Viral Myelopathy. This was the final clue that confirmed that JoAn really did have Buffalo/Elk Brucellosis, despite the negative blood tests.

After the Infectious Disease specialist mentioned animal rabies, I thought of brucellosis and sent a message to JoAn's doctor, since I was unable to see her, and on June 11 blood tests and blood cultures for *Brucella* were sent to labs. Some tests were pending, some negative, and two had "no growth" after fourteen days ending on JoAn's discharge date of June 26 from Deaconess Hospital.

Medical reports show the following antibiotics given to JoAn for Buffalo/Elk Brucellosis abortus: Doxycycline began June 8 for viral/ticks. On June 12 the infectious disease doctor changed her antibiotics to doxycycline and ceftriaxone for brucellosis... *Brucella abortus* antibody in lab. Blood culture are no growth to date...Antibiotics given: Levofloxa-cin started concomitantly with doxycycline to cover possible brucellosis, given her symptoms. June 13: ...*Brucella* culture—no growth after 1 day ... we added levofloxacin to the doxycycline to treat for brucellosis. However the *brucella* cultures have been negative and the antibody has been pending...

The June 26 diagnosis from Deaconess stated that JoAn had a total of 8 blood cultures, all of which were negative, including two *brucella* cultures. Ultimately it was felt she did not have a treatable infectious cause of her symptoms. All permanent damage had already been done to JoAn's body before this date, therefore it was not treatable.

Many other antibiotics were also given to JoAn throughout her stay at Deaconess Hospital. JoAn was taken off antibiotics for over a week before her discharge from the hospital on June 26.

Many questions arise. *Brucella* bacteria is difficult to test, since it "is localized intra-cellularly (within cells)" and it is difficult to locate hiding out in another part of the physical body. Perhaps the bacteria was in the mucous membranes, in the bone marrow or in other body fluids.

There are several types of *brucella* bacteria—*B. abortus* was tested, but what about *Brucella suis*? Why are a few drops of blood the only way to identify a disease? Was the bacteria in an active or dormant stage?

JoAn was given many, many blood tests and other tests for everything imaginable, and all test results were negative, except two. The spinal tap (but with an unidentified virus) and the Esophageal test (that had no explanation as to why) had positive results.

JoAn also had an "abnormal serum protein electrophoresis, significance unclear." And, of course, JoAn's many symptoms were definitely positive, but were mostly ignored by the medical staff. The "negative" tests are too numerous to list here, so only *Brucella* is mentioned.

During the last week of JoAn's stay at Deaconess Hospital, a doctor told us, "there are many mysteries in medicine that are never solved, and with the negative results of the many tests given JoAn, she is in perfect health."

Did politics and the local economy enter into their decisions? An environmental assessment debate has been and still is going on at this time on bison year round habitat in the Gardiner and Hebgen Basins on lands adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

JoAn had four visits to the Mammoth Clinic in Yellowstone, one visit to Livingston Hospital, and she spent 22 days in Bozeman Deaconess Hospital (June 5 to 26) and in the Bridger Health Care Center from June 26 to September 6.

On June 26, JoAn was quickly discharged from Deaconess Hospital (they needed her room for another patient) and moved to the care of Bridger Health Care Center, the Rocky Mountain Hospice, and the Veterans Administration where she was kept comfortable until September 6 when her physical body died, and her spirit passed into eternity, and the ashes of her cremated body were scattered to return to the earth as minerals.

The "cause" of JoAn's death was the bacteria of Buffalo/Elk Brucellosis (Brucella). The permanent paralysis of her ability to eat was a symptom of this bacteria, that eventually led to her starvation and death. There is no scientific cure for paralysis.

On June 7, JoAn told the Palliative Care at Deaconess that her goal was "to get home and get back to normal." JoAn always planned to live to be 100 years old, as her mother lacked 3 months of living 102 years.

The disease of Brucellosis in humans is rare, but it should have never happened to JoAn. Hopefully, measures can be taken to prevent it from happening to anyone else in the future.

Individuals tell me everyone should be told of our experience. Two newspapers would not print shorter similar articles, they never knew of any human being ever having brucellosis, but humans do get it. Life or death depends on where bacteria strikes in the body. Information can be found on the internet by searching for Undulant Fever (Ruminants Brucellosis—not from raw milk) and MedTerms for online medical dictionary A-Z, definitions. medicinenet.com. Also, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/brucellosis.

We cannot change the past nor bring JoAn back, we can only accept what happened and go forward with our lives.

It is nice to see wildlife, to be part of the country and nature, but it comes with a big price.

Editor's note: These statements were researched and written by JoAn's twin sister, Joyce Queckborner, a witness to JoAn's ordeal, and a resident of Gardiner, Montana. Joyce lived across the street from JoAn in Gardiner, and all the time JoAn was in Bozeman, Joyce drove to Bozeman and back to Gardiner every other day to spend four hours in the afternoons with JoAn. Another close friend visited JoAn on the other days.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 8:11 am MST Jan 3, 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 15 to 21. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

Tonight: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 1 below to 7 below zero.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25.

Tuesday Night: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 to 11.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 20 to 26.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 10 to 16.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 to 12.

Friday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, January 7, 2014



Colby Salapek and Avery Ropp, both are children of OF Rangers, very much enjoyed their visit with Santa Claus when he was making his rounds through the interior on Christmas Eve.

A special THANKS goes out to Santa's Elf (AKA Rachel Cudmore) for setting up this visit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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In case you missed it last week, here's a little video Neal Herbert, the park videographer, put together about the **Christmas Eve courier run**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5kFYpb-Kgw>

MCC Open House and Potluck TONIGHT starting at 5:30. Come take a peek at Snoopy School, Amanda's Dance and Yoga Studio, EMS classroom, Fitness Center, etc all the while snacking on appetizers and treats offered in each room. Come see what your community center has to offer you! Potluck to follow at 6pm. See you there!

SEASONAL INSTRUCTORS – Yellowstone Association Institute

The Yellowstone Association, in partnership with the National Park Service, connects people to Yellowstone National Park and our natural world through education. We are now seeking applicants for our summer seasonal instructors who share their passion for Yellowstone while working in the field. Think you might be a good fit? Check out YellowstoneAssociation.org/jobs for a complete position description.

The **winter recreation season** is underway! The Mammoth employee recreation hall, located behind the Mammoth Hotel, is open to all park employees and their immediate family members 5 am – 11 pm, seven days a week. The hall includes an exercise area with free weights, weight machines, ellipticals and a treadmill. You'll also find a full court basketball court, ping pong table and lending library where you can donate or pick out a book or magazine. We ask that you bring a second clean pair of shoes while using the sports court or weight and aerobic area.

We have all sorts of activities planned for you this season. First off, we'll be offering regular activities on a weekly or monthly basis. These include but are not limited to yoga, big screen movies, bingo, volleyball, pool tournaments and cornhole tournaments. We'll also have special events which include seminars, the Superbowl party in the employee pub and the 6th annual Grand Targhee Employee Ski Trip on Jan 28, 29 and 30! Call Leigh Ann at 344-5225 or Andrew at 344-5224 for more info on this trip.

In addition to all this fun, we'll have staff items for sale. We have the Yellowstone Staff Nalgens, Yellowstone Staff Koozies and near the end of the season we'll have Yellowstone Winter Staff shirts available for custom order. And if you're a smart shopper we have Yellowstone Summer Staff shirts from previous seasons at a discounted price. Just stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office, located in the recreation hall, or call us for more info.

Mammoth Clinic still has flu shots available! No appointment necessary, but feel free to call 344-7965 for info or to let us know when you are coming. Our regular hours are Mon-Thu 8:30 to 5 and Fri 8:30-1. Happy New Year!!

Judy Bischoff is giving an 8 hour **ATR refresher TOMORROW** from 8:30 am to 4:30 PM MST. Please contact her if you would like to participate. Her email is Judy_Bischoff@nps.go

There is still time! **Wonderful Yellowstone inspired art work** and a calendar in one! What more could you ask for! Yellowstone Art Work Calendars created by the community's littlest people available for \$15. Please contact Mary Kay Woodin x2059 or Becky Wyman x2278 if you would like one.

All are welcome to attend the **Employee Safety Committee Meeting** scheduled for 10:00 am **TOMORROW** at the Superintendent's Conference Room in Mammoth. Agendas and minutes can always be found at the Employee Safety Committee Sharepoint site at <http://inpyellshare/emsc> If you would like to listen to

the meeting via conference call, use the toll free number and participant code:
Toll free number 888 930-9220
Participant Code 1885448

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Mid-Winter Bald and Golden Eagle Survey Saturday January 11, 2014

Join this national effort to see how many bald and golden eagles winter in our area. This is an ongoing national citizen science effort that Yellowstone has participated in since 1987. Surveys begin ~ 8am and end at noon or earlier. All skill levels welcome. To sign up send Lisa Baril (Lisa_Baril@partner.nps.gov) an email with your preferred area (see below) by January 6. Observers must provide their own transportation, but we will help coordinate rides among volunteers.

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- 6) Swan Lake Flat to Madison - snowmobile

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 7:56 am MST Jan 7, 2014

Today: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 23. West southwest wind 6 to 8 mph. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 7. Wind chill values as low as -5. Southwest wind 6 to 8 mph. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Wednesday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 23. Wind chill values as low as zero. Southwest wind 7 to 11 mph. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Wednesday Night: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12. Wind chill values as low as -5. Southwest wind 9 to 14 mph. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25. West southwest wind 9 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Thursday Night: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 8. West southwest wind 8 to 10 mph.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, January 8, 2014



Sun dog at the canyon from Monday morning!
(photo by Tim Townsend)

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IN THE NEWS

Online petition seeks Yellowstone speeding crackdown

Posted: Tuesday, January 7, 2014 5:44 pm

[Online petition seeks Yellowstone speeding crackdown](#) Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer

Some national park visitors want drivers to go slow in the snow.

Since Sunday, almost 1,000 people have added their voices to a request that Yellowstone National Park and Cooke City do something to reduce the amount of perceived reckless driving along U.S. Highway 212 between Gardiner and Cooke City.

The single-sentence petition, written by Leo Leckie, makes no suggestions as to how the park and Cooke City should do that. Leckie did not return requests for comment.

A description that accompanies the petition provides insight into the rationale.

The description claims that drivers, many towing snowmobile trailers, drive too fast, tailgating slower cars, occasionally causing accidents and sometimes colliding with bison that use the road as a route between open areas.

“Signing this petition can send a message ... that We the People will no longer stand by as the lives of humans are jeopardized as well as the lives of our treasured wild legacy,” Leckie wrote on the petition site.

The increasing variety of wildlife in Yellowstone National Park, a legacy of pride for the park, has led to increased danger on constrained winter roads.

Highway 212 through the park is plowed all winter. The year-round speed limit, set by the park, is 45 mph, except where posted, such as congested areas, said park spokesman Al Nash.

Montanans have long used the 45-mile stretch of road to get from the Paradise Valley to the snowmobile trails around Cooke City, which receive snow earlier and keep it longer than many areas of Montana. Snowmobilers tend to drive over in the early morning and return in the evening.

However, over the past six to seven years, that road has also become frequented by an increasing number of wildlife watchers and photographers who troll the stretch looking mainly for wolves.

Often, visitors drive slowly, looking for wildlife and occasionally pulling off the side of the road to watch. But during the winter, piles of snow left by plows leave little room to pull over and roadsides can be icy.

Barbara O'Grady, co-owner of Wild Bear Adventures in Gardiner, signed the petition after several years of watching people speed through the park

“Folks are in a hurry to get up to Cooke, and they can be super impatient. Every year, I see people driving faster than the conditions permit, which is often slower than 45 (mph). Especially for snowmobilers towing those big rigs,” O'Grady said. “It's not everybody. I also get annoyed at people who stop dead in the middle of the road, but I try to be patient.”

Photographer Deby Dixon, who spends hundreds of days a year in the park, said she's watched trucks pulling snowmobile trailers speed through at more than 60 mph as she's photographed bison in Soda Butte Valley. When she recently asked one driver to slow down, she said he called her a vile name and said her type “wasn't needed around here.”

“Reporting (the problem) to law enforcement does not seem to do any good,” Dixon said.

Park officers are responsible for enforcing motor vehicle laws in the park.

When asked for reports of winter speeding citations or accidents along 212, Nash said the information has never been made available and the department head would not be available until next week.

A survey of Montana Highway Patrol reports over the past 10 days shows that half of the 15 incidents on U.S.

Highway 89 took place within 15 miles of the park.

Several of the petition signers wrote that they witnessed vehicles coming into contact with bison as drivers couldn't stop or tried to push animals off the road.

Park biologist Rick Wallen said the park loses an average of three to four bison to vehicle collisions each winter. People are less likely to see dark bison when traveling at higher speeds in low light.

"A couple were killed just before Christmas this year," Wallen said. "In the national park, you have to watch out for animals more than you do elsewhere. People go too fast, and bison don't move."

Wallen said the park has a policy to remove animals that die within sight of the road to avoid attracting predators that could also end up being hit. He estimated that half of the animals that are hit are critically injured.

O'Grady, who worked seven years as a park driver for Xanterra, said she's seen bison standing near the road with broken legs and other injuries.

"Even if they aren't hit, if they're panicked, their hooves can slip on the ice as they try to get off the road," O'Grady said. "Many times, I've seen things where I wished I was a park ranger."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 659 AM MST WED JAN 8 2014

Today: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thursday: Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Highs 21 to 27. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 to 12. West winds around 15 mph.

Friday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Friday Night: Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 12 to 18.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, January 9, 2014



Some humor from afar compliments of one of our vacationing employees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hi Everyone,

I need to remind you that while I appreciate you wanting to get people's mail to them, **we cannot use government postage for personal mail, even for former employees.** Please forward anything that is 1st class. For all other classes you will need to put it in an envelope with stamps on it or discard it.

Lately we have had several instances where people are putting stacks of mail in a government envelope to mail out. **Please** do not do that. If we see something that looks suspicious, we will open it, forward what we can, and discard the rest. It just isn't worth breaking the rules!

Thanks for helping us to keep the mail flowing smoothly!

Judy



Dear Yellowstone Employees,
Happy New Year! I wanted to share an observation I had while out skiing with a group on Blacktail Plateau Drive this past weekend. While skiing, our group encountered **several recent slides** of varying size and one on unassuming low angle terrain. The inserted picture is on Blacktail Plateau Drive showing the slide coming across the road. The conditions have been unstable and may continue to be for some time. I encourage you all to be alert and take precautions whether working or recreating.

Today's advisory can be found here: <http://www.mtavalanche.com/current>

Regards,
Stacey Gunther
Employee Safety Committee Chair

Please contact Al Barrie at x 2080 if you need anything taken up to **Glacier**. Al will be using the Supply Center van on Jan 14 and if he has room is willing to take items for you.
Happy New Year!!!!

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Incentive Program Awards

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

Leigh Anne Dunworth-REYP
Bonnie Schwartz-RVP
Kerry Gunther-YCR
Chris Farrar-RVP
Stacey Gunther-YCR

Full Wellness Incentive Program program details can be found here:<http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. 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 January are due to Stacey Gunther by February 5th. **Special Note: For the January drawing (held in early Feb) we will include 3 extra Bridger Bowl Ski Coupons among the awards to select from!!**

Here's to your health!

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If you've been unable to locate **the plastics recycle bin behind the Administration Building**, you may simply need to walk a bit further, it's there! The bin is located on the end, facing the Supply yard. Please remember to 'bag' plastic bags.

Thank you for your continued efforts to reduce waste sent to the landfill!

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IN THE NEWS**Snowshoe walk teaches visitors of park's wonder**

After walking on packed trails, Yellowstone ranger Marc Hanna allows first-time snowshoe walkers to test fresh, untouched powder to see how snowshoes allow the wearer to float on snow.

Posted: Friday, January 3, 2014 12:12 pm | *Updated: 12:30 pm, Mon Jan 6, 2014.*

[Snowshoe walk teaches visitors of park's wonder](#) By Mike Moore West Yellowstone News

The simple act of strapping on a pair of snowshoes allows access to a wealth of unique and fascinating treasures hidden in the lodgepole pine forests just inside Yellowstone National Park's west entrance. Last Sunday, six park visitors joined Yellowstone Resource and Education ranger Marc Hanna for a ranger-led snowshoe walk down Riverside Trail to the Madison River. Hanna has worked 14 summer seasons and 10 winter seasons as a park ranger in Yellowstone.

Shortly after departing, the group veered off the main trail and began to weave through the dense forest on ranger-created snowshoe trails.

After taking a few steps away from the main trail Hanna had already spotted numerous animal tracks in the snow. The ranger explained to the group that many small woodland animals don't hibernate, but thrive under the snow in their own subnivean world.

"Under the snow is an active world of pocket gophers, mice and voles," he said. "There are tunnels connected to the trees, which is why foxes are so prevalent in that area near town. (Foxes) can pinpoint the critters through the snow."

As the trail weaved through the calm forest, Hanna pointed out pine marten, snowshoe hare, red squirrel, fox and deer mice tracks in the fresh snow.

Hanna frequently stopped along the trail when he saw something of interest to tell the group about. Midway through the hike he began to talk about the importance of the lodgepole pine and why it makes up 80 percent of Yellowstone's tree cover.

“Lodgepole pine is all you will see on this trail,” he said. “Lodgepole have no taproot, working well here because the soil is typically only six to 12 inches deep.”

The ranger added that lodgepole can live in a variety of conditions, and that they Yellowstone’s volcanic soils that are very acidic. The tree is also a sun-tolerant tree, so when areas open up after wildfire, the tree has a large areas with a lot of sun to colonize. Other Yellowstone trees such as firs and spruce can’t tolerate the sun nearly as well, making lodgepole the dominant tree in Yellowstone, at least for now.

“Trees produce different cones due to genetic variability,” he said. “You have the one basic, normal pine cone that all trees exhibit on a two-year cycle and you see them on trees all the time. The other kind never opens up and stays on the tree indefinitely and won’t open scales unless they experience temperatures of 113 degrees Fahrenheit; those are serotinous cones.”

As the group continued down the trail they eventually came to a high bluff overlooking the Madison River. Hanna explained how Yellowstone continues to retain its wildness despite an average of 3.3 million visitors a year on 300 miles of paved roads.

“It stands as a role model for beyond its own borders,” he said. “We now have 7 billion people (on Earth) and we’re pushing the limits of the planet.”

Hanna says the park idea of enjoying it while preserving it can be used for civilization in general in regard to how the human population plans cities and towns.

“We can do it if we put our minds to it,” he said. “The key is to put limits on ourselves and show restraint on some level. It’s the park idea of preservation that’s now necessary everywhere.”

According to Hanna, ranger-led snowshoe walks blend recreation and education, and nothing is more powerful in human civilization than education.

“They’re going to come out with a much deeper and complete understanding of what the park represents,” he said. “They know how Yellowstone works and how it’s important and ties into their lives. We are dependent on the natural system.”

Snowshoe walks led by park rangers continue through March 9 in West Yellowstone, and Hanna encourages both visitors and locals to come hang out in the woods for an afternoon.

“It’s a chance for people to come hang out and ask any questions they want,” he said. “It’s an opportunity to travel safely with a ranger and learn a lot about the park and experience Yellowstone off the roads in the winter. There’s no obligation to go the whole distance; it’s very flexible.”

Even if you don’t own snowshoes, many outdoor rental shops in West Yellowstone offer snowshoe rentals for an affordable price, or you can borrow them from a friend, he added.

Walks begin at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday of each week at the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 6:26 am MST Jan 9, 2014

Today: Snow with areas of blowing snow. High near 27. Southwest wind 11 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow, mainly before 8pm. Low around 6. Wind chill values as low as -10. West northwest wind 6 to 11 mph becoming light and variable. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Friday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 22. Wind chill values as low as -10. West wind 11 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Friday Night: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 14. Wind chill values as low as -5. West southwest wind 16 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Saturday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 32. Breezy, with a southwest wind 15 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 36 mph. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Saturday Night: Snow likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11. Breezy, with a west wind 18 to 21 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, January 10, 2014

The National Weather Service says a "**potent winter storm**" is heading for Yellowstone.

A Winter Storm Watch has been issued from midnight tonight until noon Sunday for Northwest Wyoming.

The heaviest snow is expected Saturday afternoon and evening, with accumulations of 3-6 inches in Mammoth Hot Springs and as much as 1-2 feet in the southwestern portion of the park.

For details, go to <http://go.usa.gov/ZfqG>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Judy



Dear Yellowstone Employees,
Happy New Year! I wanted to share an observation I had while out skiing with a group on Blacktail Plateau Drive this past weekend. While skiing, our group encountered **several recent slides** of varying size and one on unassuming low angle terrain. The inserted picture is on Blacktail Plateau Drive showing the slide coming across the road. The conditions have been unstable and may continue to be for some time. I encourage you all to be alert and take precautions whether working or recreating.

Today's advisory can be found here: <http://www.mtavalanche.com/current>

Regards,
Stacey Gunther
Employee Safety Committee Chair

DIY Heater!

Want a cool way to keep your small space warm for just pennies a day? Try this nifty little homemade gem:

Step 1: Place 4 tea lights in a bread tin

Step 2: Cover the tin with a small flower pot

Step 3: Cover the hole on the bottom of the pot with a piece of non-flammable material (like a flattened tea light tin!)

Step 4: Place a slightly larger flower pot over the smaller one, but leave its top hole uncovered.

The heat from the tea lights traps the air intake flowing in from the pulling the concentrated heat out the much heat flows from the top with hours, so twice a day (8 tea lights) budget! Especially if it works for cheaply.



inside the smaller flower pot and gets quite hot, but sides of the larger pot create a convection current, top of the larger pot. You'll be amazed at just how just 4 tea lights. The tea lights will burn roughly 4 will generate heat for a small space on a small you, tea lights can be purchased in bulk very

Stay toasty, my friends!



Please contact Al Barrie at x 2080 if you need anything taken up to **Glacier**. Al will be using the Supply Center van on Jan 14 and if he has room is willing to take items for you.

Happy New Year!!!!

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness Incentive Program Awards

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

Leigh Anne Dunworth-REYP

Bonnie Schwartz-RVP

Kerry Gunther-YCR

Chris Farrar-RVP
Stacey Gunther-YCR

Full Wellness Incentive Program program details can be found at: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. All employees are encouraged to participate. If you would like to schedule training with your staff on the use of the program, contact Stacey Gunther (x2239). Certification forms for the month of January are due to Stacey Gunther by February 5th. **Special Note: For the January drawing (held in early Feb) we will include 3 extra Bridger Bowl Ski Coupons among the awards to select from!!**

Here's to your health!

RECYCLE HOLIDAY TREES and GREENS! Through the end of January, natural trees and greens may be dropped off behind the Heritage and Research Center (located next to Gardiner School). Those living in Mammoth may leave trees and greens next to any Mammoth trash bin. These will be collected, chipped and reused as pathways at Yellowstone's Stephens Creek Nursery. Please remove all ornaments, lights, ribbon and wire. Questions? Call 307.344.2314

If you've been unable to locate **the plastics recycle bin behind the Administration Building**, you may simply need to walk a bit further, it's there! The bin is located on the end, facing the Supply yard. Please remember to 'bag' plastic bags.

Thank you for your continued efforts to reduce waste sent to the landfill!

SEASONAL INSTRUCTORS – Yellowstone Association Institute

The Yellowstone Association, in partnership with the National Park Service, connects people to Yellowstone National Park and our natural world through education. We are now seeking applicants for our summer seasonal instructors who share their passion for Yellowstone while working in the field. Think you might be a good fit? Check out YellowstoneAssociation.org/jobs for a complete position description.

Mammoth Clinic still has flu shots available! No appointment necessary, but feel free to call 344-7965 for info or to let us know when you are coming. Our regular hours are Mon-Thu 8:30 to 5 and Fri 8:30-1. Happy New Year!!

Mid-Winter Bald and Golden Eagle Survey TOMORROW, January 11, 2014

Join this national effort to see how many bald and golden eagles winter in our area. This is an ongoing national citizen science effort that Yellowstone has participated in since 1987. Surveys begin ~ 8am and end at noon or earlier. All skill levels welcome. To sign up send Lisa Baril (Lisa_Baril@partner.nps.gov) an email with your preferred area (see below) by January 6. Observers must provide their own transportation, but we will help coordinate rides among volunteers.

Routes:

- 1) Mammoth & Jardine to Point of Rocks (drive)
- 2) Mammoth to Cooke City - drive
- 3) Canyon to Fishing Bridge - snowmobile
- 4) South Entrance to West Thumb - snowmobile
- 5) West Entrance to Madison – snowmobile
- 6) Swan Lake Flat to Madison - snowmobile

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 555 AM MST FRI JAN 10 2014

Today: Breezy. Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow late in the morning. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Lows 15 to 21. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday: Windy. Not as cold. Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 6 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph increasing to 30 to 35 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday Night: Windy. Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Lows 10 to 16. West winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 50 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Sunday: Breezy. Areas of blowing snow in the morning. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 18 to 24. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph in the morning. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Sunday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Light snow accumulations. Lows 10 to 16. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Monday: Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27.

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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

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Do you have facilitators in your parks who would benefit from the class and would like to attend?

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Each of the classes holds 12 participants. At this time we have seven participants for the February class. As valuable as this class is, I do need to fill the remaining five seats in order for the class to take place.

Please let me know if you or someone in your area of influence is available and would like to attend. I am sure this is on a first come basis.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Yellstrom, CIH
IMR Occupational Health Manager
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228
(303) 969-2484
Fax: (303) 969-2037

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Employee Seminar: “Soldiers and Sentinels: The Army at Yellowstone National Park” – Monday, January 20th, 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. Presented by Todd Smith, Supervisory Interpretive Ranger at the Albright Visitor Center.

And . . . this is the last week to sign up for the employee Ski Trip to Grand Targhee Ski Resort!! [Details below.](#)

WHEN	• Depart: Tuesday, January 28th 2014 • Return: Thursday, January 30th 2014
WHAT’S INCLUDED	• Round trip bus transportation from YNP to ski resort • Two nights lodging slopeside at the luxury Teewinot lodge • Full day / full access lift pass • Some food, snacks, and a <u>catered Southwestern buffet on ski day</u> (ask rec staff for details)
COST	• Basic Rate (Alpine Quad): \$185 per employee (Quad Occupancy) • See alternate rates below
SIGN UP DEADLINE	• You must sign up / reserve a space no later than <u>January 16, 2014</u> • You must pay in advance to reserve a space
HOW TO SIGN UP FOR MORE INFORMATION	• Call Leigh Ann Wright (YCERP Director): 344-5225 • Call Andrew Coghill (YCERP Assistant Director): 344-5224 • Please leave a detailed message and contact information if we cannot answer your call. • Stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office (in Mammoth / next to Conf. Room)

- Space is limited – so if you’re interested, don’t hesitate to sign up a.s.a.p.!
- All park employees (Xanterra, NPS, Medcor, DNC, etc.) and their immediate family members are welcome to sign up for this trip.
- Accommodations are in the main resort village, within walking distance to all chair lifts, shops, restaurants, bars & services. There are both indoor and outdoor hot tubs and a pool to enjoy.
- For those who would rather enjoy Grand Targhee’s Nordic skiing trails, an alternate “Nordic Package” is available (see alternate pricing below).

- For those who wish to sign up for just the transportation and lodging (no ski lift passes / ski access included in package) alternate pricing is available. Please see below.
- Ski / snowboard rental costs are not included in this package.

Package Pricing				
Package Type	Occupancy	Alpine Lift Pass?	Nordic Ski Access?	Price Per Person
Alpine Quad	Quad (4 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)	Yes	No	\$185.00
Alpine Triple	Triple (3 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	Yes	No	\$210.00
Alpine Double	Double (2 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	Yes	No	\$235.00
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* For those who book triple or double occupancy, all room occupants must be booked together as a group

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone microbes get their own field guide

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/yellowstone-microbes-get-their-own-field-guide>

Published: Fri, 01/10/2014 - 3:00pm Liz Kearney - Enterprise Staff Writer



This new wheel helps visitors identify microorganisms in the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park. The wheel and accompanying guide book were developed in collaboration with Montana State University Thermal Biology Institute, the Yellowstone Association and the Montana Institute on Ecosystems.

Microbes are everywhere, says Montana State University Science Outreach and Education Specialist Jamie Cornish.

But the microbes found in Yellowstone National Park's hot springs are rare because they are so visible, and because many of the microbes live in such extreme conditions — some of the harshest environments for life on Earth.

Microbial mats provide some of the colors associated with hot springs. The microbes range in color from greens and browns to the iconic oranges and yellows found in some of the more well-known Yellowstone springs, such as Grand Prismatic Spring, most often shown in full-color aerial shots.

And to help the average visitor better understand the microbes in Yellowstone's hot springs, MSU's Thermal Biology Institute, the Montana Institute on Ecosystems and the Gardiner-based Yellowstone Association partnered to produce a nature guide "to some of the tiniest residents of Yellowstone," a recent MSU news release said.

"Living Colors: Microbes of Yellowstone National Park" is a full-color guide divided by geyser basin that provides a brief description of some of the microbes, the temperatures at which they exist and other locations where they're found throughout the world.

Many of the microbes in Yellowstone are called "extremophiles" because of the extreme environments — boiling hot, acidic or sometimes both — they inhabit, Cornish said. She said they first came under study in the 1970s and emphasized that many more remain to be classified and studied.

Research on Yellowstone microbes is perhaps best known for leading to the breakthroughs in DNA studies. DNA sampling for crime scenes is one application of that research, Cornish said.

MSU scientists are currently studying Yellowstone extremophiles for other applications such as delivering cancer medicines, cleaning up toxic waste and as biofuels and alternative energy sources, Cornish said.

MSU and the Yellowstone Association got together about a year ago, YA Director of Sales and Marketing Danny Bierschwale said last week, to collaborate on the guide. MSU had worked in the past with National Park Service interpretive rangers, who had laminated information sheets they shared with visitors who attended their programs, but there wasn't a commercial product available.

"We thought it was a perfect fit for the YA," Bierschwale said. "The goal is to help visitors understand the thermal biology of Yellowstone and have a greater appreciation for why Yellowstone is the world's first national park."

The book is available at Yellowstone Association stores in Gardiner, Yellowstone and Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport and online at www.yellowstoneassociation.org. The book and color wheel may be purchased separately or in a kit including a digital infrared thermometer. The thermometer can take hot spring temperatures without actually touching the water.

"Living Colors" was recently named a top-four finalist in the "Visitor Guide" category of the Association of Partners for Public Lands annual media & partnership awards, Bierschwale said. Final winners will be announced at a ceremony in February.

Visit MSU's Thermal Biology Institute website at www.tbi.montana.edu/livingcolors to learn more as well as to see 3-D animations of Yellowstone microbes.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 712 AM MST MON JAN 13 2014

Today: Windy. Snow likely...then chance of snow late in the afternoon. Patchy blowing snow through the day. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 6 inches. Highs 23 to 29. West winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph increasing to 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight: Windy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Patchy blowing snow until early morning. Areas of blowing snow early in the morning. Lows 12 to 18. West winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph early in the morning.

Tuesday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Areas of blowing snow in the morning. Chance of snow in the morning...then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 24 to 30. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries. Lows 7 to 13. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Wednesday: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 6 to 12.

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Tuesday, January 14, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The **memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 7PM** at the Gardiner School. I will try to provide more details as I hear about them from Xanterra. Please pass this information along to your employees who might have known Pat or know his family.

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Thank you,

Elizabeth Yellstrom, CIH

(303) 969-2484 (office)/Fax: (303) 969-2037

Back by popular demand...

Join us for another Yoga and Ski Sunday!

Where: Mammoth Community Center Studio

When: Sunday, January 19, 8am-9:30am

Cost: \$10

Bring your skis and we'll shuttle to Blacktail after class and refreshments!

The **Gardiner Speech and Drama team** is hosting a meet in Gardiner on January 18.

We **need community members to volunteer as judges for the competition**. This is a great opportunity to watch some exceptional students perform. To qualify, come to a judge's training on either Tuesday, Jan. 14 or Wednesday Jan. 15 at 7:00pm in the high school library.

Rounds to be judged start at 8:00am – 2:00pm on the 18th.

You can be present to judge either all or part of the time.

Come and see our award-winning team. It's a lot of fun!

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Decides Not To Implement Remote Vaccination Of Bison

The National Park Service (NPS) has released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a Brucellosis Remote Vaccination Program for Bison in Yellowstone National Park.

The NPS preferred alternative is the No Action alternative, which would continue the currently authorized syringe vaccination of bison calves and yearlings periodically captured at the northern boundary of the park. The action alternatives, which would have implemented a remote vaccination program, were dismissed because of substantial uncertainties over vaccine effectiveness and delivery, the cost of a 30 year program, potential impacts to wildlife behavior and the visitor experience, and evaluation of public comments.

“We don’t think it makes any sense to spend millions of taxpayer dollars and invest thirty years of effort in hopes of a small reduction in the prevalence of brucellosis in bison with no significant benefit to bison conservation,” said Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk. “The fact is that by working with our federal, state, and tribal partners we have completely kept wild bison from infecting area livestock with brucellosis.”

Brucellosis can cause pregnant cattle, elk, and bison to abort their calves. Cattle brought this non-native disease to the region when pioneers settled the West. The disease was subsequently transmitted to local wildlife populations. Many bison and elk in the 28,000 square mile Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem have been exposed to the bacterium that causes brucellosis.

The preferred alternative is supported by the inclusive IBMP Citizen’s Working Group, several American Indian Tribes, the Intertribal Buffalo Council, and the conclusions of a February 2013 Bison/Brucellosis Science panel composed of disease experts and organized by the NPS and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The EIS was prepared in response to a commitment the NPS made in 2000 as part of a court-mediated settlement between the federal government and the State of Montana which resulted in the creation of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP). Additional information and an electronic copy of the Final EIS is available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BisonRemoteVacc>. You can request a printed copy of the Final EIS by contacting the National Park Service, Bison Management Program, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

The Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park will use the analysis and recommendations contained in the Final EIS to make a final recommendation to the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director regarding bison remote vaccination. The Regional Director is expected to issue a Record of Decision (ROD) in late winter or early spring.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 825 AM MST TUE JAN 14 2014

Rest Of Today: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow late in the morning... Then slight chance of snow late in the morning. Occasional flurries in the afternoon. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries until early morning. Lows 8 to 14. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening becoming southwest around 15 mph early in the morning.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 23 to 29. West winds around 15 mph early in the morning becoming southwest around 15 mph in the afternoon.

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Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 8 to 14.

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No doubt some of you have heard the tragic news that **Pat Rehmer**, Xantera's long-time Electrician, was killed in an auto accident over the weekend. Details are unknown at this time, but a memorial service has been scheduled.

The **memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 7PM** at the Gardiner School. I will try to provide more details as I hear about them from Xanterra. Please pass this information along to your employees who might have known Pat or know his family.

Xanterra will be assisting with set-up and food for Pat's service on Saturday. The Gardiner school staff will be assisting in bringing desserts for the after service reception. We'd like to extend the same offer to those of you that have offered to help ... If you wish to drop off a dessert for the reception, please do so any time after 5 PM and drop off in the Multi-Purpose room (cafeteria) at the school or just prior to the service. Thanks very much.

The Rehmer family has asked that if people wish to send condolences that they please give to the Pat Rehmer Memorial Fund. The funds will go to the Rehmer family to help with costs for their youngest son, Sean. Donations can be sent to:

**Pat Rehmer Memorial Fund
c/o Gardiner Public Schools
Attn: Janet Hoppe
510 Stone Street
Gardiner, MT 59030**

or to:

**Pat Rehmer Memorial Fund
c/o First Interstate Bank
PO Box 810
Gardiner, MT 59030**

A GATHERING OF NATURALISTS – “THERE’S A COUGAR IN MY BACKYARD”

Saturday, January 18, 19:00 (7:00PM),
Track Education Center at #9 Jardine Road, Gardiner, Montana

Come hear the free investigative analysis of a Mt. Lion in town, learn what to do in a lion-human interaction, how helpful your dog will be and how to "lion-proof" your yard!

Back by popular demand...

Join us for another Yoga and Ski Sunday!

Where: Mammoth Community Center Studio

When: Sunday, January 19, 8am-9:30am

Cost: \$10

Bring your skis and we'll shuttle to Blacktail after class and refreshments!

The **Gardiner Speech and Drama team** is hosting a meet in Gardiner on January 18.

We need community members to volunteer as judges for the competition. This is a great opportunity to watch some exceptional students perform. To qualify, come to a judge's training on either Tuesday, Jan. 14 or Wednesday Jan. 15 at 7:00pm in the high school library.

Rounds to be judged start at 8:00am – 2:00pm on the 18th.

You can be present to judge either all or part of the time.

Come and see our award-winning team. It's a lot of fun!

EMPLOYEE RECREATION -- Upcoming Events

Employee Seminar: "Soldiers and Sentinels: The Army at Yellowstone National Park" – Monday, January 20th, 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. Presented by Todd Smith, Supervisory Interpretive Ranger at the Albright Visitor Center.

And... this is the last week to sign up for the employee Ski Trip to Grand Targhee Ski Resort!! [Details below.](#)

WHEN	• Depart: Tuesday, January 28th 2014 • Return: Thursday, January 30th 2014
WHAT'S INCLUDED	• Round trip bus transportation from YNP to ski resort • Two nights lodging slopeside at the luxury Teewinot lodge • Full day / full access lift pass • Some food, snacks, and a <u>catered Southwestern buffet on ski day</u> (ask rec staff for details)
COST	• Basic Rate (Alpine Quad): \$185 per employee (Quad Occupancy) • See alternate rates below
SIGN UP DEADLINE	• You must sign up / reserve a space no later than <u>January 16, 2014</u> • You must pay in advance to reserve a space

HOW TO SIGN
UPFOR MORE
INFORMATION

- Call Leigh Ann Wright (YCERP Director): 344-5225
- Call Andrew Coghill (YCERP Assistant Director): 344-5224
- Please leave a detailed message and contact information if we cannot answer your call.
- Stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office (in Mammoth / next to Conf. Room)

- Space is limited – so if you're interested, don't hesitate to sign up a.s.a.p.!
- All park employees (Xanterra, NPS, Medcor, DNC, etc.) and their immediate family members are welcome to sign up for this trip.
- Accommodations are in the main resort village, within walking distance to all chair lifts, shops, restaurants, bars & services. There are both indoor and outdoor hot tubs and a pool to enjoy.
- For those who would rather enjoy Grand Targhee's Nordic skiing trails, an alternate "Nordic Package" is available (see alternate pricing below).
- For those who wish to sign up for just the transportation and lodging (no ski lift passes / ski access included in package) alternate pricing is available. Please see below.
- Ski / snowboard rental costs are not included in this package.

Package Pricing				
Package Type	Occupancy	Alpine Lift Pass?	Nordic Ski Access?	Price Per Person
Alpine Quad	Quad (4 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)	Yes	No	\$185.00
Alpine Triple	Triple (3 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	Yes	No	\$210.00
Alpine Double	Double (2 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	Yes	No	\$235.00
Nordic Quad	Quad (4 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)	No	Yes	\$135.00
Nordic Triple	Triple (3 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	No	Yes	\$155.00
Nordic Double	Double (2 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	No	Yes	\$185.00
No Ski Quad	Quad (4 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)	No	No	\$125.00
No Ski Triple	Triple (3 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	No	No	\$145.00
No Ski Double	Double (2 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	No	No	\$175.00

* For those who book triple or double occupancy, all room occupants must be booked together as a group

IN THE NEWS**Yellowstone says "biobullets" for bison won't work**

22 hours ago • Associated Press

Shooting wild bison with vaccine-laced "biobullets" to prevent the spread of disease to livestock would be too ineffective to justify the expense, Yellowstone National Park administrators said Tuesday.

The announcement means a program that has led to the capture and slaughter of more than 2,300 bison that migrated into Montana over the last decade will continue - with little immediate hope of eradicating the disease that's to blame.

Researchers say roughly half of the park's 4,600 bison test positive for exposure to brucellosis. The disease is feared by ranchers because it can cause pregnant cows to prematurely abort their young.

Other measures also are used to control Yellowstone's burgeoning bison herd, including hunting and using helicopters and ATVs to drive the animals back into the park. That has had little or no impact on infection rates, and with the backing of livestock interests, park officials in 2010 proposed shooting bison with absorbable, vaccine-laced bullets to prevent transmissions to cattle.

But park officials made clear Tuesday that they have lost interest in spending \$9 million over three decades on an effort they concluded would yield minimal results.

"We don't think it makes any sense to spend millions of taxpayer dollars and invest 30 years of effort in hopes of a small reduction in the prevalence of brucellosis in bison with no significant benefit to bison conservation," Yellowstone superintendent Dan Wenk said. A final decision will be made after a 30-day public review period.

Yellowstone's chief scientist, David Hallac said the government will continue "opportunistic" vaccinations of some captured bison using syringes. Only a small percentage of bison captured by state and federal workers in past years have been vaccinated.

Representatives of the Montana Department of Livestock and the cattle industry said they were disappointed with the park's rejection of remote vaccinations.

Even if brucellosis cannot be eradicated, any reduction in bison infection rates would help, said State Veterinarian Marty Zaluski. Montana Stockgrowers Association Vice President Errol Rice said the livestock industry already has done its part, by agreeing to mandatory testing and vaccinations of cattle in large areas of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho surrounding the 2.2 million-acre park.

"It's been costly for (cattle) producers," he said. "It just makes doing business in this part of the world much harder."

Bart Melton with the National Parks Conservation Association said it would make more sense for the park to use its resources to work with the state to expand bison habitat in areas with no cattle.

That idea suffered a setback Monday, when the state Board of Livestock voted against a plan to allow more bison into areas of Montana north and west of Yellowstone. The board also decided that further study is needed on a plan to more aggressively capture and vaccinate bison crossing the park's western boundary.

Brucellosis was first introduced to the Yellowstone area by infected cattle. It has been largely eradicated elsewhere in the country but persists in Yellowstone's wildlife.

Hallac pointed out that diseased elk, not bison, have been blamed for cattle infections. Those include 19 cows and 14 domestic bison that tested positive in Montana since 2007, in some cases triggering trade sanctions from other states.

Tuesday's announcement was in line with a report delivered last year by a panel of researchers and university scientists asked by the government to examine the feasibility of remotely vaccinating bison.

Besides concerns over the cost and effectiveness, the group warned of possible "behavioral" changes for bison herds targeted for vaccinations.

Panelist and bison expert Keith Aune with the Wildlife Conservation Society said existing policies to contain the spread of brucellosis have worked "pretty darned good" given the complexities of dealing with thousands of bison spread across a multimillion-acre landscape.

But the park has struggled to address the public-perception problem created by periodic slaughters of the animals by state and federal workers. Those slaughters are triggered by mass movements of the animals outside the park during hard winters, when the vegetation they eat gets covered by an impenetrable crust of snow and ice.

"Sooner or later, the numbers and demographics of this population will drive another large outmigration, which will lead to some very difficult decision about how many to send to slaughter," Aune said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-says-biobullets-for-bison-won-t-work/article_7291a444-76a0-5bbf-8b66-1ee6bf89386d.html#ixzz2qTq6JjCP

Bison area expansion on hold

Posted: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:32 pm

[Bison area expansion on hold](#) Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer

An expansion of the bison-tolerance zone west of Yellowstone National Park was hobbled this week after the Montana Board of Livestock conditionally rejected additional areas for bison to roam.

The Department of Livestock is supposed to work with Fish, Wildlife & Parks to reach a decision based on an environmental assessment that could increase the area where bison can roam outside Yellowstone National Park.

Monday's unanimous rejection is not the final word, said Department of Livestock executive director Christian MacKay, but it has caused some uncertainty on how the plan would move forward.

The next Livestock Board meeting is scheduled for March 17.

"They had some big questions that they want answered first, but it will be revisited," MacKay said. "(FWP Region 3 supervisor) Pat Flowers and I will be spending a lot of time on this, but it's hard to say what we'll be able to get done in the next two months."

Flowers said he would be talking to FWP director Jeff Hagener over the next few weeks to learn how he is to proceed.

"My continued focus at this point is how do we manage bison as wildlife while managing disease and safety issues," Flowers said.

The environmental assessment, published in July, proposed allowing bison to remain in more areas outside the park near West Yellowstone. Those areas included the Hebgen Basin, the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Unit, the Monument Mountain Unit and the southern Gallatin River corridor.

Public comment on the assessment ended Sept. 13. Almost 120,000 comments were received.

Wildlife groups favored Alternative B, which allowed bison to roam year-round in the Gallatin National Forest between West Yellowstone and the Taylor Fork drainage to the north. It would also allow bull bison to stay year-round in the recently enlarged area north of Gardiner.

Livestock groups favored the no-action alternative approved by the Board of Livestock.

Last winter was the first time that bison were allowed to migrate into a larger tolerance zone in the Gardiner basin. Bison could roam as far north as Yankee Jim Canyon until the spring, when they are annually hazed back into the park.

The DOL hazes bison back into the park to separate them from cattle herds that are moved to area pastures in the summer. The separation ensures cattle don't catch brucellosis from bison, even though elk also carry the disease.

The larger Gardiner tolerance zone was challenged in court in 2012, but a Lewistown-based district court judge ruled against the cattlemen's charges. Park County is the only plaintiff appealing the ruling to the Montana Supreme Court.

Now, the Board of Livestock wants more information related to the western expansion plan, including whether more area will lead to an increase in bison population.

Many cattlemen criticize the park's management of bison, claiming the park should keep the population below 3,000. The population is currently about 4,200.

"Would more habitat mean more bison? We don't know, and with the park's bison hovering at near-record highs, it just wouldn't be prudent to move forward without having more information on that and a few other topics," board chair Jan French said in a news release. "We're keeping the door open."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 640 AM MST WED JAN 15 2014

Today: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries. Highs 24 to 30. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries early in the evening. Lows 7 to 13. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs 25 to 31. Northwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 8 to 14.

Friday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 27 to 33.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 7 to 13.

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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

Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

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, January 16, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pat Rehmer's memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 7PM at the Gardiner School. Xanterra will be assisting with set-up and food for Pat's service on Saturday. The Gardiner school staff will be assisting in bringing desserts for the after service reception. We'd like to extend the same offer to those of you that have offered to help ... If you wish to drop off a dessert for the reception, please do so any time after 5 PM and drop off in the Multi-Purpose room (cafeteria) at the school or just prior to the service. Thanks very much.

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- - - - -

Ring, ring...have you heard? **Sonya Anderson is retiring!** Come celebrate with Sonya as she completes 22 years of service in Yellowstone!

*January 30, 2014
*Mammoth Community Center
*3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Potluck style-Bring your favorite dish to share (Sonya loves potlucks and trying new foods)

- - - - -

Back by popular demand...
Join us for another Yoga and Ski Sunday!

Where: Mammoth Community Center Studio
When: Sunday, January 19, 8am-9:30am

Cost: \$10

Bring your skis and we'll shuttle to Blacktail after class and refreshments!

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IN THE NEWS

Bison vaccination project near West Yellowstone postponed

Posted: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 5:18 pm

[Bison vaccination project near West Yellowstone postponed](#)

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

The Montana Department of Livestock will postpone its winter plans to vaccinate bison while it prepares an environmental assessment.

At a Monday meeting, the Board of Livestock voted to reassess the feasibility and effectiveness of a plan to vaccinate bison that wander west of Yellowstone National Park.

State veterinarian Marty Zaluski had announced the DOL's intent at the November meeting of the Interagency Bison Management Plan, saying the DOL would vaccinate bison for about a month, starting in late February.

Now, it appears the DOL won't vaccinate any bison this winter, said executive director Christian MacKay.

"Marty and I talked to the board and said the 2005 EA needed updating. The USDA is helping with that, but I don't know that we'll have it done in time to do anything this year," MacKay said.

The 2005 environmental assessment outlined a plan to capture young bison near West Yellowstone and inject them with the RB51 vaccine for brucellosis.

A number of changes have taken place since the assessment was written, including the easing of regulations that used to revoke a state's brucellosis-free status if cattle in the state were found to have contracted the disease.

In 2010, the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service modified its regulations so they don't penalize a state's cattle industry if the illness is found in one herd, especially if that herd resides in the area around Yellowstone National Park.

Loss of brucellosis-free status hampers cattle producers' ability to sell animals and meat out of state.

There is also a growing awareness of the extent to which elk herds carry brucellosis. Even the 2005 environmental assessment acknowledged elk as a problem, concluding a bison vaccination program wouldn't eliminate brucellosis without a program to eliminate brucellosis in elk.

A recent Yellowstone National Park decision cited the complication of the disease in elk as one reason why remote vaccination of bison would be not only expensive but also futile.

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Well-known Gardiner man dies in car accident

Published: Wed, 01/15/2014 - 8:45pm

Rebecca Miller - Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/well-known-gardiner-man-dies-car-accident>

The Gardiner community is in mourning after a longtime local man died Saturday in a rollover accident on U.S. Route 89.

Patrick "Pat" Rehmer, 50, was a husband, father and friend. He was well liked and very involved in the community, said Scott Hamilton, who knew Rehmer.

"This is hitting the Gardiner community very hard," Hamilton said.

Rehmer died Saturday afternoon when his vehicle went off the road on northbound Route 89.

Montana Highway Patrolman Erick Fetterhoff said Rehmer went off the road at the curve at mile marker 6. His vehicle rolled twice. Fetterhoff said speed was a factor.

Rehmer was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the vehicle, Fetterhoff said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

A native of Illinois, Rehmer relocated to Montana as a teenager, according to a report from The Daily Journal in Kankakee, Ill. He worked as an electrician at Yellowstone National Park. His wife, Julie, works at Gardiner School District.

“He will be missed by a lot of people,” Hamilton said. “As a community, we’re doing everything we can to support his family.”

In a statement released Tuesday, the family said, “His passion for music and the outdoors was surpassed only by his love for family and friends. He touched the lives of everyone close to him and will be greatly missed.”

A scholarship has been established in Rehmer’s honor for his youngest son, Sean, according to information posted on the Facebook “Mammoth/Gardiner Community Message Board.”

According to the message board, donations may be sent to: Pat Rehmer Memorial Fund, c/o Gardiner Public Schools, Attn: Janet Hoppe, 510 Stone St., Gardiner, MT 59030; or to: Pat Rehmer Memorial Fund, c/o First Interstate Bank, P.O. Box 810, Gardiner, MT 59030.

East gate ranger recalled

Posted: Monday, January 13, 2014 2:26 pm

By **COREY MORRIS**

http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/people/article_572a1b5e-7c99-11e3-891c-0019bb2963f4.html



It was Monday, Jan. 17, 1994, when 51-year-old Yellowstone Park Ranger Bob Mahn woke to 21 inches of fresh snow on the ground and readied himself for road patrol.

Mahn’s wife, Grace Nutting, said goodbye to her husband and returned to bed with heavy eyelids.

The whirring of the snowmobile, the sound easily spilling into their trailer at the East Entrance, faded as Mahn made his way toward Sylvan Pass for a routine patrol in search of possibly stranded visitors or avalanches.

When Mahn made it a few yards away from the trailer, only the fading sound connected him with the world. The falling snow caused such limited visibility it seemed to white him out from the world.

Sleep quickly came back to Nutting as the last sound of her working husband went away. She was left with the usual sounds – the wind and the rodents scratching in the walls – to lull her back to sleep.

Nutting had been practicing all weekend for emergency medical technician exams they were taking that night, a requirement for her Forest Service position at Wapiti Ranger Station, and she was ready to catch up on much-needed sleep.

Twenty minutes after Mahn left, another ranger woke Nutting over the radio asking if he should patrol the pass. Nutting tried to check with her husband but couldn’t reach Mahn over the radio. She called the communication center, but they too couldn’t reach Mahn.

“They said, ‘We can’t even get background noise on it,’” Nutting said.

Bob and Grace

Nutting met Mahn shortly after he moved into the trailer at the east gate. They met at Pahaska Teepee. “It was one of those things that just happened,” Nutting said. “We kind of circled around each other for two or three years before we really started to see each other.”

It was serious while not being serious.

“It really wasn’t getting anywhere,” Nutting said.

When Nutting told Mahn she had a job offer in Washington, which she intended to take, Mahn, 6 feet 4 inches and 274 pounds, started to cry. He didn’t want her to leave.

“Either it (the relationship) goes somewhere or it doesn’t,” Nutting told him.

Nutting didn’t take the job.

Some time later they were driving back from somewhere, each in their own vehicle, and about to go their separate ways – Mahn to the right, Nutting to left – when Mahn stopped his Jeep in the middle of the road.

Nutting pulled up beside him and Mahn held up a flannel-clad arm with unbuttoned cuffs, signaling to Nutting to roll down the window.

“When you want to get married?” Mahn asked her.

“I don’t know – why don’t we do it around my sister’s birthday,” she said.

“That sounds good,” Mahn said.

They rolled up the windows and went their separate ways.

They were married April 11, 1987.

They had their separate hobbies: Mahn liked antiques (specifically antique tools) and old cars, and Nutting was a birder.

Mahn had 12 running vehicles and the carcasses and pieces to about 20 others. Nutting has seen 5,126 species of birds and now has traveled internationally for birding expeditions, including to Antarctica.

Sylvan Pass

To reach the belly of the park, visitors must climb and descend Sylvan Pass. The pass rises to an elevation of 8,524 feet according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Along many of the switchbacks that make the pass are steep cliffs.

Visitor vertigo is common. At times, motorists get to the top, look down, and nerves get the best of them.

Mahn would call Nutting and she’d drive the visitors down.

“They were afraid, so I got to drive all of these cool vehicles down the pass,” Nutting said. “Racing cars, motor homes, but I drew the line at motorcycles – I’m just not that good with them.”

While Mahn and Nutting were acclimated to the danger, the seriousness of the pass was not lost on them.

“It was a risk we both took whenever we went up and down that road – that we would be hit by a rock, hit by an avalanche, hit by a rockslide,” Nutting said.

She had almost been hit by a rock shaped like a double axe coming off the pass. It passed in front of her windshield, rotating and chopping the air as it narrowly missed her.

Cars have been flattened by boulders, Nutting said.

“It’s a very dangerous road,” she added.

Mahn and Nutting checked avalanche conditions together, and they once were trapped by an avalanche. The snow, about 6-feet deep, rolled down beyond either side of the vehicle, not over them or burying the vehicle but creating a wall in both directions.

“I think he (Mahn) positioned himself – he knew where the snow would come,” Nutting said. “And we just waited until the plow came and got us out.”

It took about three hours before the plow could break through.

Jan. 17, 1994

Mahn drove the snowmobile up the road, away from the trailer, toward Sylvan Pass. It was a route he was used to traversing in any weather condition.

The horizontal snow pelted the windshield, sticking and further obstructing his view. The snow came over the front of the machine, so Mahn stood up.

Standing, the snow stuck to the visor of his helmet, so he lifted it.

The snow now pelted his eyes, slipped into the helmet and coated his cheeks to where his long, curly, graying beard started.

He could no longer see.

Five minutes after he had left the trailer, Mahn left the road and fell about 80 feet into a creek bed and an embankment of deep snow.

What happened between the fall and the bottom never will be known.

The coroner found petechial hemorrhages throughout the lining of Mahn’s chest and lungs, indicating he had taken a strike to his chest, which may have caused a heart attack.

According to an Enterprise story in 1994, the coroner said Mahn had suffered a blow to the head during the fall (a dent in his helmet was used to support the theory, Nutting said, but it’s unclear whether the dent happened before or during the fall) which had left him unconscious and face down in the snow, resulting in suffocation.

Only Mahn will ever know what really happened.

Following the radio silence, fellow ranger Art Jawad was sent to look for Mahn.

Jawad found the tracks leading off the ridge and saw a single snowmobile ski sticking out of the snow below.

Nutting and park ranger Julia Jawad, armed with poles and shovels, hopped on a light snowmobile and headed for the accident.

Frustration mounted as Nutting and Jawad climbed the pass, the snowmobile falling off the packed snow time and time again.

The Jawads and Nutting earned bruising they wore for weeks following the incident while getting to and recovering Mahn.

By the time Nutting and Jawad arrived, it was visibly too late, but Nutting and the rescue crew attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Mahn was pronounced dead at 1 p.m. Jan. 17, 1994, at West Park Hospital.

‘Roll on Iron Horse’

People knew Mahn because of YNP, the cars, railway memorabilia and his size, referring to him as a “gentle giant” in Enterprise interviews following his death.

“They talk about the car parts, the car runs, and eating,” Nutting said.

Mahn spoke slowly because of a speech impediment, Nutting said. She thinks it may have been a result of his upbringing in a German-speaking home in Athens, Ohio.

“Most people thought that he was just good-ol’-folksy Bob,” she said. “They don’t really understand him – he had a first-rate mind.”

Mahn and the perception of Mahn have conflicted since his death, many remembering a smiling, slow-talking, large man with a “hefty chuckle and burly beard,” (as quoted in an Enterprise article after his death) but Mahn was more than that.

He possessed a professional interest in trains, from his work with the Defense Intelligence Agency. That professional interest became a personal interest, and also is why he collected memorabilia – it wasn’t just a simple childhood fascination that could be lived out as an adult.

The enthusiasm earned him the nickname “Iron Horse.”

What’s most important, Nutting said, is that Mahn was a government employee who lost his life in service.

“Something like 300 law enforcement people die every year in the U.S.,” Nutting said. “And they need to be remembered and appreciated for that sacrifice.”

Mahn was a captain in the Army, 1969-72, and joined the Park Service in June 1972. He worked in Washington, D.C., and Canyonlands and Golden Spike in Utah. He started with YNP in 1976 and was assigned to the East Entrance in 1982.

Mahn, a nationally registered EMT and a firefighter, assisted on accident calls up the North Fork.

Mahn went beyond the call of duty often.

A YNP visitor was involved in a snowmobile accident up Sylvan Pass.

The 80-year-old woman had broken her arm. The plan was to load the woman onto a sled and take her down the pass, but Mahn instead had her sit in front of him on the snowmobile. He sat behind her, his arms around her shoulders, hugging and protecting her all the way down the pass.

The woman called it the most comfortable and warmest snowmobile ride of her life.

Nutting has organized a semi-private memorial breakfast for the anniversary of Mahn's death.

YNP staff from Mahn's tenure, Forest Service staff, and others who knew him well will attend.

Following brunch, well-wishers will make a pilgrimage to Mahn's grave at Valley Cemetery up the South Fork.

Before his death, Mahn had told Nutting, "Just plant me somewhere."

Mahn's gravestone, a pink granite rock with an engraving of the Jupiter (a locomotive Mahn had replicated by Disney which was placed at Golden Spike), is just one of the many old stones beneath the sagebrush and between the rocks at Valley Cemetery, marking his place among the locals. It reads, "Roll on Iron Horse."

Nutting lives in a quiet house between towns. She doesn't have a computer or a TV.

She has time to read, write and think, taking opportunities to watch the birds that fly by her windows. That's the way she likes it.

She's working on writing projects, one chronicling her life at YNP with Mahn.

"I've never found anyone that I've wanted to spend any time with since then," Nutting said.

"He was just good company ... he was just good to be around."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 824 AM MST THU JAN 16 2014

Rest Of Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 25 to 31.

Tonight: Partly cloudy until early morning then clearing. Lows 8 to 14.

Friday: Mostly sunny. Highs 27 to 33.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 8 to 14.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 32 to 38.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 10 to 16.

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, January 17, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pat Rehmer's memorial service will be held TOMORROW, at 7PM at the Gardiner School. Xanterra will be assisting with set-up and food for Pat's service on Saturday. The Gardiner school staff will be assisting in bringing desserts for the after service reception. We'd like to extend the same offer to those of you that have offered to help ... If you wish to drop off a dessert for the reception, please do so any time after 5 PM and drop off in the Multi-Purpose room (cafeteria) at the school or just prior to the service. Thanks very much.

The Rehmer family has asked that if people wish to send condolences that they please give to the Pat Rehmer Memorial Fund. The funds will go to the Rehmer family to help with costs for their youngest son, Sean. Donations can be sent to:

**Pat Rehmer Memorial Fund
c/o Gardiner Public Schools
Attn: Janet Hoppe
510 Stone Street
Gardiner, MT 59030**

or to:

**Pat Rehmer Memorial Fund
c/o First Interstate Bank
PO Box 810
Gardiner, MT 59030**

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Please use caution when traveling to and from cars and between buildings! There are several types of traction devices available at Supply Center (in the canteen) provided by the Safety Office at no cost to employees. Get some!

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Ring, ring...have you heard? **Sonya Anderson is retiring!** Come celebrate with Sonya as she completes 22 years of service in Yellowstone!

*January 30, 2014
*Mammoth Community Center
*3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Potluck style-Bring your favorite dish to share (Sonya loves potlucks and trying new foods)

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On Wednesday a **3-foot long chain with a padlock** was found in front of the plastics recycling bin outside Admin. See Karin in Supply (Canteen) if it is yours.

A **special thank you** from the Science Communications Office at YCR to Sue Salmons. When I put out the call for someone to pick up boxes of a document in Bozeman, I had no idea that Sue would volunteer and then deliver them to my doorstep! THANK YOU to Sue for going well beyond the call of duty and for being so kind. It's the little things like this that make working in Yellowstone a pleasure.

Charissa Reid

Back by popular demand...

Join us for another Yoga and Ski Sunday!

Where: Mammoth Community Center Studio

When: Sunday, January 19, 8am-9:30am

Cost: \$10

Bring your skis and we'll shuttle to Blacktail after class and refreshments!

EMPLOYEE RECREATION -- Upcoming Events

Employee Seminar: "Soldiers and Sentinels: The Army at Yellowstone National Park" – Monday, January 20th, 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. Presented by Todd Smith, Supervisory Interpretive Ranger at the Albright Visitor Center.

And... this is the last week to sign up for the employee Ski Trip to Grand Targhee Ski Resort!! Details below.

WHEN	• Depart: Tuesday, January 28th 2014 • Return: Thursday, January 30th 2014
WHAT'S INCLUDED	• Round trip bus transportation from YNP to ski resort • Two nights lodging slopeside at the luxury Teewinot lodge • Full day / full access lift pass • Some food, snacks, and a <u>catered Southwestern buffet on ski day</u> (ask rec staff for details)
COST	• Basic Rate (Alpine Quad): \$185 per employee (Quad Occupancy) • See alternate rates below
SIGN UP DEADLINE	• You must sign up / reserve a space no later than <u>January 16, 2014</u>

	You must pay in advance to reserve a space
HOW TO SIGN UP FOR MORE INFORMATION	- Call Leigh Ann Wright (YCERP Director): 344-5225 - Call Andrew Coghill (YCERP Assistant Director): 344-5224 - Please leave a detailed message and contact information if we cannot answer your call. - Stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office (in Mammoth / next to Conf. Room)

- Space is limited – so if you’re interested, don’t hesitate to sign up a.s.a.p.!
- All park employees (Xanterra, NPS, Medcor, DNC, etc.) and their immediate family members are welcome to sign up for this trip.
- Accommodations are in the main resort village, within walking distance to all chair lifts, shops, restaurants, bars & services. There are both indoor and outdoor hot tubs and a pool to enjoy.
- For those who would rather enjoy Grand Targhee’s Nordic skiing trails, an alternate “Nordic Package” is available (see alternate pricing below).
- For those who wish to sign up for just the transportation and lodging (no ski lift passes / ski access included in package) alternate pricing is available. Please see below.
- Ski / snowboard rental costs are not included in this package.

Package Pricing				
Package Type	Occupancy	Alpine Lift Pass?	Nordic Ski Access?	Price Per Person
Alpine Quad	Quad (4 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)	Yes	No	\$185.00
Alpine Triple	Triple (3 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	Yes	No	\$210.00
Alpine Double	Double (2 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	Yes	No	\$235.00
Nordic Quad	Quad (4 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)	No	Yes	\$135.00
Nordic Triple	Triple (3 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	No	Yes	\$155.00
Nordic Double	Double (2 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	No	Yes	\$185.00
No Ski Quad	Quad (4 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)	No	No	\$125.00
No Ski Triple	Triple (3 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	No	No	\$145.00
No Ski Double	Double (2 to a room w/ 2 queen beds)*	No	No	\$175.00

* For those who book triple or double occupancy, all room occupants must be booked together as a group

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 709 AM MST FRI JAN 17 2014

Today: Sunny until late afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 8 to 14.

Saturday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Patchy fog early in the morning. Highs 31 to 37.

Saturday Night: Clear. Lows 4 to 12.

Sunday: Sunny. Highs 32 to 38.

Sunday Night: Clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 9 to 15.

Martin Luther King Jr Day: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, January 21, 2014



Lamar Valley on Saturday morning (photo by Tom Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Gathering of Naturalists ~ **"There's a Cougar in My Backyard"**

Wednesday, Jan 22, 7:00pm

Track Education Center

#9 Jardine Road, Gardiner, Montana

Saturday's event was standing room only, and this Wednesday's presentation will give those who missed it a chance to attend.

Please use caution when traveling to and from cars and between buildings! There are several types of traction devices available at Supply Center (in the canteen) provided by the Safety Office at no cost to employees. Get some!

Ring, ring...have you heard? **Sonya Anderson is retiring!** Come celebrate with Sonya as she completes 22 years of service in Yellowstone!

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Charissa Reid

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I'm sorry to announce that the **Wednesday evening Relax & Restore yoga class** at the MCC Studio has been taken off the schedule due to low attendance.

But here is something you can put on your calendar...

Partner Yoga Workshop!

Sunday, February 16, 8am-9:30am

Mammoth Community Center Studio

\$10/single, \$15/couple

In this morning class you will learn to deepen your yoga poses and connections with others. Partner Yoga invites openness, patience, communication, and balance into your yoga practice and relationships. You and your partner will help each other to relax physical, mental, and emotional tensions. No previous yoga experience or partner is necessary; bring a friend, a loved one, a sibling, a neighbor, or just yourself! (And stick around for refreshments after...)

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone wolves eating more bison

January 20, 2014 12:00 am • By [Brett French](#)

Bison are playing a larger role in the sustenance of park wolves compared to past years as Yellowstone National Park's bison herd has swelled and elk numbers have declined, according to the Yellowstone Wolf Project's 2012 report.

Not all of those bison are being killed by wolves, said Wolf Project leader Doug Smith, some of them are dying of natural causes and the wolves are scavenging.

“If wolves have a choice, they’ll always choose elk over bison,” Smith added, simply because elk are easier to kill.

Out of the 255 animals that wolves killed and that were detected by the Wolf Project staff, 159 were elk (62 percent) while 32 were bison (13 percent). That’s the highest proportion of bison kills recorded since wolf monitoring began. The majority of the bison killed (17) were calves.

Those numbers compared to 343 staff-detected wolf kills in 2011, 267 of which were elk and 15 of which were bison. In 2010, out of 268 wolf kills 211 were elk and 25 were bison.

One reason bison are playing a larger role in wolf diets is that their numbers swelled in Yellowstone to 4,600 in 2013, up 9 percent from 2011, while elk in the park’s northern range fell to about 3,900 from 4,100 in 2011.

Stable growth

Smith said wolf numbers inside Yellowstone seemed to have stabilized since 2008, following a peak in 2003 at 174 animals. In 2012, there were 83 wolves in 10 packs. Seven wolves were killed by other wolves and 12 were shot by hunters in the surrounding states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

So far this year, the number of wolves in the park is estimated at about 86 with more pups born than in 2012 and no park wolves taken in hunts in the surrounding states.

“This year, very few wolves have spilled out of the park,” Smith said.

A less dense wolf population has meant no disease outbreaks since 2008 and fewer incidents of mange, which can cause wolves to lose their hair and even die in severe cases.

As wolf numbers have stabilized, there’s also been a shift in where they live. In the past, more wolves were found on the park’s northern range. Now, “Northern range wolves have declined 60 percent since 2007, compared to only 23 percent for interior wolves,” the report stated.

“Interior wolves depend on elk, deer, bison and moose and those food sources are not as boom bust like elk on the northern range,” Smith said.

The exception to the thriving interior packs is the Mollie’s pack, which fell from 19 wolves in 2011 to 10 in 2012. The pack was one of the first to consistently feed on bison in the park’s interior. But by 2012 the pack’s age structure was not conducive to hunting bison — 13 of the 19 wolves were pups or yearlings and four of the remaining six were older females. Big, mature males are the most successful bison hunters.

More data

The most unusual park wolf to die in 2012 was a 3- to 4-year-old male, 827M, that wandered more than 400 miles to the east where it was hit and killed by a vehicle in southwestern South Dakota. It took less than two months for the wolf to make the long journey from where the Delta pack lives in Yellowstone’s remote southeastern corner.

The park's wolves are some of the most popular and hated animals in the West. Because of where they live, they are also some of the most studied wolves in U.S. history. The Wolf Project releases annual reports that are always two years behind the calendar year.

Other interesting facts from the report include:

Wolves are opportunistic feeders. The park staff detected one bighorn sheep, two Canada geese, four pronghorns, one grizzly bear cub and a coyote among the prey animals on the wolves' diet.

Seven of the 11 Yellowstone packs had at least one wolf taken by hunters when they wandered into surrounding states.

Of the 15 confirmed mortalities of collared park wolves, the majority (nine) were females and five of those nine were females killed by rival packs.

Two packs disbanded — the Agate Creek pack, which had totaled only three wolves the prior year, and the Mary Mountain pack, which contained 10 wolves the previous year.

The Agate Creek pack included female 471F, a nearly 9-year-old wolf that was killed by a rival pack and was about two weeks away from whelping seven pups. Smith said biologists don't know how long wolves will reproduce, but their average age is nine and the oldest documented lived to 11.

The Agate Creek pack was unusual in that it had stable leadership, four alpha males and females in the pack's 10-and-a-half years. 472F was the alpha female for eight years, the longest reigning alpha female on record.

Out of 18 Agate-born wolves collared over nine years, 11 went on to become the leaders of their own packs.

The Yellowstone Delta pack contained some of the largest wolves in the park, including the alpha and beta males. When captured in February 2012, two of the pack's yearlings weighed 145 and 106 pounds. This was the same pack that the male left to walk to South Dakota.

Among the elk killed by wolves, 54 percent were newborn calves, 34 percent were cows.

The Wolf Project is collaborating with UCLA, which is sequencing the entire genome of wolf 302M.

Volunteers donated more than 6,800 hours to the Wolf Project.

It's estimated that 27,500 visitors to the park saw wolves in 2012, up from 25,000 in 2011.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-wolves-eating-more-bison/article_7ce729f8-757c-5f62-9025-1d40b97179fd.html#ixzz2r39LLOpz

Yellowstone asks Wyoming to adopt 'orphan' stretch of Beartooth Highway

9 hours ago • By RUFFIN PREVOST yellowstonegate.com

Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk traveled to Cheyenne, Wyo., last week to ask Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and state transportation officials to participate in a unique adopt-a-highway program.

Wenk wasn't looking for volunteers to clean up roadside litter. Instead, he asked Wyoming to take ownership of an "orphan" stretch of the Beartooth Highway. The soaring, scenic byway connects the Montana towns of Cooke City and Red Lodge, but it also passes through nearly 35 miles of high country just inside Wyoming's northern boundary.

Neither Mead nor members of the Wyoming Transportation Commission — which governs the state's Department of Transportation — appear eager to take on the financial burden that would come with assuming responsibility for the road.

The question of who should pay to maintain the Beartooth Highway has been a political football almost since the road's completion in 1936. The issue has resurfaced after congressional budget battles last year brought deep spending cuts under sequestration to kick off Yellowstone's summer. The season ended with a two-week closure of all national parks under a partial federal government shutdown.

The National Park Service has assumed responsibility for most of the highway since the 1940s. But Wenk told commission members that Yellowstone's newly reduced budget is now stretched too thin to make the Beartooth a prime concern.

"The work we do on the Beartooth Highway will always be secondary to the work we do in the park," he said. "I'm telling you it can't be our highest priority."

The Beartooth Highway is the only project funded and completed through the federal Park Approach Act of 1931, according to records from the Central Federal Lands Highway Division. A 1982 Interior Department legal opinion determined that, until a state or other entity assumes ownership of a segment, the Park Service has "the responsibility for the usual maintenance actions such as repaving, filling potholes, striping and even reconstruction of the road."

A 2006 report by the Federal Highway Administration states that "in the early years, Wyoming was never expected or formally asked to maintain" its portion of the road, which primarily serves Red Lodge, Cooke City and Yellowstone.

But commissioners were reminded that automobile travel and tourism patterns have changed over the decades, and the route connects with Wyoming's Chief Joseph Scenic Byway, bringing an estimated \$20 million in annual tourist spending to the gateway town of Cody.

Montana began maintaining 15 miles of the eastern section of the road in 1965, but most of the highway remains unclaimed by either state, according to FHA records. That includes a nearly 10-mile Montana segment — from Yellowstone's Northeast Gate through Cooke City to the Wyoming line — that is still maintained by the Park Service.

Portions of the highway are in poor condition, and neither state has wanted to assume the long-term costs of plowing, maintenance and reconstruction.

WYDOT chief engineer Del McOmie told the commission that fixing outstanding issues on Wyoming sections of the highway would cost "many tens of millions of dollars," and estimated annual maintenance expenses at \$480,000 or more.

The Beartooth Highway has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and McOmie said that the highway's designation as a historic route could complicate and raise the cost of future

design and repair work. He also stated that Wyoming already has a \$64 million shortfall in maintaining existing roads.

Bruce McCormack, editor and publisher of the Cody Enterprise, is one of seven Transportation Commission members representing three- and four-county regions across Wyoming. He said after the meeting that the commission is “obviously concerned about the high and uncertain construction and maintenance costs,” as well as the highway’s pending historic designation.

Allowing Wyoming to plow its segment of the Beartooth Highway is an idea some Cody business leaders have raised as a way to free up funds in Yellowstone’s budget for plowing park entrances on time, while also ensuring the Beartooth Highway is open by Memorial Day weekend each year.

McOmie said a state statute typically prohibits state employees from working on roads that aren’t part of Wyoming’s highway system, which the Beartooth is not.

Kim Capron, project coordinator for Friends of the Beartooth Highway, said a cooperative effort last spring between WYDOT and the Park Service to plow Yellowstone roads leading to Cody and Jackson, Wyo., proved that the state could work out a similar agreement for the Beartooth.

The Park Approach Act gave the Park Service authority to contract for maintenance of the road, but it never established a funding mechanism for maintaining the highway.

“That road is a national treasure, but we can never get to the point where someone cares enough to fund it properly,” Capron said.

She praised the creative funding approaches WYDOT has adopted in recent years in seeking federal grants for the highway, as well as how the agency has cooperated with Montana and federal agencies to rehabilitate small sections of the road as money becomes available.

WYDOT officials have long said they would only consider adopting the road if it is brought up to the state’s maintenance standards. Even if that happened, there appears to be little upside for Wyoming in taking over the road.

While it might free up money in Yellowstone’s budget to ensure that spring plowing inside the park stays on schedule, many Wyoming officials are quick to point out that is already part of the Park Service’s job.

Mead spokesman Renny MacKay said the governor believes “the Park Service should prepare a budget that provides for plowing its roads, opening on time and otherwise meeting its management responsibilities.”

Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash characterized the meeting between Wenk and Mead as cordial, and said they also discussed winter use, bison management and other issues.

Both MacKay and McCormack said Thursday’s meetings were informative, and are likely to be followed by additional discussions and further consideration. But no immediate action from Wyoming is planned in response to Wenk’s request.

Studies have shown that children are typically less likely to be adopted as they get older. Based on the cautious initial reactions to Wenk’s request, the adoption prospects don’t seem bright for the 78-year-old orphan that is the Beartooth Highway.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-asks-wyoming-to-adopt-orphan-stretch-of-beartooth-highway/article_7da97143-1245-5abb-b408-bef5f262178b.html#ixzz2r38w7Di7

Cat trackers follow cougar's trail in Gardiner

Published: Mon, 01/20/2014 - 8:45pm Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

When a mountain lion was spotted in Gardiner Jan. 8, a local resident phoned naturalist James Halfpenny for assistance.

Halfpenny, a well-known wildlife expert and author of several field guides to animal tracks, runs a private wildlife and education center, A Naturalist's World, based in Gardiner. He studied mountain lions extensively in the Boulder, Colo., area beginning in the 1980s. His research is documented in the book, "The Beast in The Garden," a 2004 book about the mountain lion's return to suburban neighborhoods and a fatal attack that occurred in nearby Idaho Springs, Colo., in 1991.

Halfpenny and his wildlife ecology class — 16 students and an instructor from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater — followed the cat's tracks around Gardiner on the morning of Jan. 8.

They did not see the cat, also known as a cougar, Halfpenny said, but the group did collect hair samples and make plaster casts of the animal's tracks. Halfpenny saw tracks in his own yard.

Based on the size of the tracks — which can span 4 inches across in a full-grown male — Halfpenny surmises the cougar was a young female.

Also on Jan. 8, local hunter Brad Shultz heard about the cougar sighting on his way to a plumbing job in Gardiner that day. Shultz tracks and trees mountain lions with dogs. He brought one of his hounds to Gardiner and went for a walk above the Gardiner Rodeo Grounds, located at the northern edge of Gardiner.

His dog treed two mountain lion kittens. Shultz estimated they were about 35 pounds each. Shultz circled around the tree and found a half-eaten deer carcass.

Halfpenny said there was no conclusive proof the two kittens were the offspring of the mountain lion, and Shultz agreed, but suspected the kittens were related to the adult.

Halfpenny has lived in Gardiner since 1992, and said he has never heard of a mountain lion sighting in Gardiner. He surmises the adult cat wandered into town lured by the scent of deer, a key food source for the cat — and maybe some garbage smells.

"It was probably just curiosity," Halfpenny said.

Halfpenny said it's a "good thing" the kittens were treed.

"They learned town is not a place to be," he said.

If you encounter a cougar

Halfpenny has a seven-point program he presents on cougar proofing one's self, home and property. He presented the program in Gardiner Saturday evening to 73 people.

Halfpenny has studied the research on cougar attacks. Since 1890, there have been 100 documented attacks in North America, with about 30 fatalities.

Cougars prey on animals smaller than themselves, so in a cougar encounter, it's important to make yourself look large, Halfpenny said.

"Make yourself look bigger and convince them you're not a prey item, but a danger to them," he said.

Don't turn your back on the cougar, don't crouch, run or play dead. Don't make sudden movements — fleeing may trigger a predatory response, he writes in a handout for his presentations.

If the cougar becomes aggressive, yell at it, throw things, stay standing and fight back.

Halfpenny will present his program again on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at his Track Education Center, 7 Jardine Road in Gardiner. The presentation is free.

Read more: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/cat-trackers-follow-cougar%E2%80%99s-trail-gardiner>

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Livestock depredation by wolves declined in 2013

January 20, 2014 12:00 am • By [Brett French](#)

One year doesn't make a trend, but as Montana hunters and trappers have increased their wolf harvest, claims for livestock depredation reimbursement fell in 2013.

"I do think the trapping and the hunting both have really helped out the livestock producers," said George Edwards, livestock loss program coordinator for the Livestock Loss Board. "It seems to be a huge reduction in conflicts from a claims standpoint."

In 2012, 125 claims were filed with the Department of Livestock's board, which paid out \$102,700. In 2013, 96 claims were filed at a cost of \$86,800. Beginning in October, the board began paying for grizzly bear depredation, so that figure includes four cattle deaths in Park County attributed to a grizzly.

Claims are paid out of the state's general fund and the livestock losses have to be confirmed as wolf or grizzly bear kills by Wildlife Services.

Hunter, trapper take

So far this year, hunters have killed 119 wolves, while trappers have taken 36. This year is the first of a more aggressive hunting season allowed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Hunters are now allowed to purchase up to three wolf tags, the hunting season was extended into mid-March and the price of a nonresident wolf tag was reduced from \$350 to \$50.

Last season, hunters and trappers took 225 wolves compared to 121 in the 2011-12 season. In 2012, Wildlife Services, the animal-control arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, killed 104 wolves. In 2013, that dropped to 70.

“We have seen a decline in the number of wolf depredations,” said John Steuber, state director for Wildlife Services. “But it’s just one year, so it’s hard to say that’s a trend. Until we see three, four, five years in a row, I’d be cautious about saying depredations are declining.”

The increasing wolf harvest has not yet made much of a change to FWP’s estimate of the number of wolves in the state. At the end of the

2012-13 season, it was estimated there were 625 wolves spread out across the western half of the state compared to 653 the previous year. FWP would prefer to see the wolf population closer to 425 animals.

Butte-based FWP wolf biologist Nathan Lance said he’s seen no behavioral changes in wolves based on increased hunting pressure.

“They’re a carnivore. They are secret and elusive anyway,” he said.

With such a large landscape to roam — up to 300 square miles for some packs in his region — hunters have a hard time finding the animals. So whether the wolf harvest goes up this season compared to last is hard to predict. Especially since after the general deer and elk season, which ended the weekend after Thanksgiving, most hunters stow their rifles.

Biggest loser

Out of the counties that claim livestock losses to wolves, Beaverhead is consistently at the top of the heap, often closely trailed by Madison, Glacier and Lewis and Clark counties. In 2013, Beaverhead County livestock producers received \$22,170 for 14 cattle and one sheep death. The next highest payout went to Lewis and Clark County producers who received \$11,200 for seven sheep killed by wolves.

Lance attributed Beaverhead’s status to the fact that the large county has a lot of cattle in wolf territory.

“The other thing that’s unique to the Big Hole part of Beaverhead County is that it has a migratory elk herd,” he said. “If the wolves don’t follow the elk, they have lower game numbers.”

Edwards said with calving season beginning for some cattle ranchers, claims will typically start to go up. Steuber said his Wildlife Services office gets most of its calls when ranchers move their cattle onto summer range in May and June.

Edwards noted that the loss board did get some one-time loss prevention funds to help producers this year — \$100,000 for grants — for which there was “huge interest.” That money can fund projects like carcass removal and range riders to help prevent depredation.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/livestock-depredation-by-wolves-declined-in/article_1a6141a1-4116-5504-96b9-67a9e877e5f8.html#ixzz2r39mbyl9

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 709 AM MST TUE JAN 21 2014

Today: Sunny. Patchy fog early in the morning. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the morning becoming southwest around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 8 to 14.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 25 to 31.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening... Then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 6 to 12. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs 25 to 31.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 5 to 11.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Verizon is having trouble with their new microwave link to the Elk Plaza site this morning.

Verizon is aware of the problem and technicians are en route.

The bright side to these outages is that the objective is the first 4G LTE service upgrade in the area.

A Gathering of Naturalists ~ "**There's a Cougar in My Backyard**"

Wednesday, Jan 22, 7:00pm

Track Education Center

#9 Jardine Road, Gardiner, Montana

Saturday's event was standing room only, and this Wednesday's presentation will give those who missed it a chance to attend.

Please use caution when traveling to and from cars and between buildings! There are several types of traction devices available at Supply Center (in the canteen) provided by the Safety Office at no cost to employees. Get some!

Ring, ring...have you heard? **Sonya Anderson is retiring!** Come celebrate with Sonya as she completes 22 years of service in Yellowstone!

*January 30, 2014

*Mammoth Community Center

*3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Potluck style-Bring your favorite dish to share (Sonya loves potlucks and trying new foods)

Last Wednesday a **3-foot long chain with a padlock** was found in front of the plastics recycling bin outside Admin. See Karin in Supply (Canteen) if it is yours.

Upcoming CPR classes!

Health Care Provider CPR is the class for FR, EMT, Park Medic, and Paramedic.

Health Care Provider CPR

Date/Time: **TOMORROW**, 0900

Location: Building 659 B. Gleason residence

Health Care Provider CPR

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 Time: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Mammoth EMS Classroom

Health Care Provider CPR Refresher

Date/Time: **Friday, January 24, 2014** Time: 10:00 am

Location: OF Ranger Station

Heartsaver CPR is a CPR class for the community and non-healthcare providers (FR, EMT, Park Medic, and Paramedic).

Date/Time: Wednesday February 19, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Lake Mess Hall

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: [P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training](#)

- - - - -

I'm sorry to announce that the **Wednesday evening Relax & Restore yoga class** at the MCC Studio has been taken off the schedule due to low attendance.

But here is something you can put on your calendar...

Partner Yoga Workshop!

Sunday, February 16, 8am-9:30am

Mammoth Community Center Studio

\$10/single, \$15/couple

In this morning class you will learn to deepen your yoga poses and connections with others. Partner Yoga invites openness, patience, communication, and balance into your yoga practice and relationships. You and your partner will help each other to relax physical, mental, and emotional tensions. No previous yoga experience or partner is necessary; bring a friend, a loved one, a sibling, a neighbor, or just yourself! (And stick around for refreshments after...)

IN THE NEWS**Talk on Yellowstone volcano to be live streamed**

17 hours ago

The talk about the Yellowstone volcano may be taking place in California on Thursday night, but anyone can log on to their computer to live-stream the event.

Jake Lowenstern, scientist-in-charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, will talk at 6 p.m. about what is happening now with earthquakes, ground uplift and steam explosions in the park.

He will also talk about the amazing geological history of Yellowstone National Park and how U.S. Geological Survey scientists are monitoring the area and other volcanoes in order to forecast future eruptions.

To view the talk, log on to <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/live.html>

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/talk-on-yellowstone-volcano-to-be-live-streamed/article_7287ca0a-d6c8-57eb-aecb-2d34df6b3743.html#ixzz2r8yEdKoD

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 658 AM MST WED JAN 22 2014

Today: Partly cloudy early in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow late in the morning. Chance of snow late in the morning. Highs 24 to 30. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Lows 1 to 7.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs 25 to 31.

Thursday Night: Clear. Lows 1 to 9.

Friday: Mostly sunny. Highs 28 to 34.

Friday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 5 to 13.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, January 23, 2014



Officers' Row (photo by George Herrman)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Talk on Yellowstone volcano to be live streamed. Don't forget about the talk **TONIGHT!** Jake Lowenstern, scientist-in-charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, will talk at 6 p.m. about what is happening now with earthquakes, ground uplift and steam explosions in the park.

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Project start: **April 1, 2014**

Traffic Delays: **30-minutes max., whenever road is open to the public**

Night Closures: **11pm to 7am; April 18-November 15, 2014 & April 17-November 13, 2015**

Full Closure: **Sept. 14 (11pm) to Sept. 30 (7am), 2014**

Project Completion: **Nov. 13, 2015**

Isa Lake Bridge Replacement

The project to replace the Isa Lake Bridge (Craig Pass), between Old Faithful and West Thumb, will begin this June. The parking area adjacent to the bridge will also be reconstructed. The fall and spring full-closure reduced the original project duration by one full season. Winter-use traffic will not be affected.

Project start: **June 2, 2014**

Traffic Delays: **30-minutes max., whenever road is open to the public**

Full Closures: **Sept. 2 (6am) to Nov. 8 (7am), 2014 & April 13 (6am) to June 11 (7am), 2015**

Project Completion: **Sept. 10, 2015**

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IN THE NEWS

2012 wolf report: Wolves compete more, eat more bison

Posted: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 5:44 pm

[2012 wolf report: Wolves compete more, eat more bison](#) Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Although the wolf population in Yellowstone National Park is probably quite different now than it was at the end of 2012, the park's 2012 year-end report still notes some valuable trends related to packs in the park.

In the recently released Wolf Project Annual Report 2012, biologists detailed how the population had declined 15 percent over the past three years and ended 2012 with at least 83 individual wolves.

That's near the population size of the late 1990s after wolves were introduced in 1995.

Lead biologist Doug Smith said the population ballooned in the mid-2000s as all animal populations do after entering a new unexploited territory.

The northern range packs expanded quickly due to the over-abundance of elk but now have declined 60 percent since 2007. Packs in the interior of the park didn't take off as much so they've lost just 23 percent of their peak population.

This reduction represents the phase after introduction where the population is finding a more long-term balance.

Five packs in the northern range account for more than a third of the park's population, and the higher density meant higher rates of disease.

Mites that carry mange have been prevalent in the park since 2009, and seven packs, including the five northern-range packs, were infected in 2012.

Six other packs roam the rest of the park. Around two-thirds of the alpha females had pups in 2012.

Twelve wolves were shot by hunters outside the park, but Smith noted that wolves were also dying because they were competing with other wolves for the reduced numbers of elk in the park.

Seven wolves were confirmed as having been killed by other wolves.

Elk numbers have decreased over several years in the northern range due to a number of factors.

In addition to being hunted by humans, wolves and grizzly bears, elk have also been affected by climate-change factors such as changing spring green-up periods and increased parasite loads.

Still, elk appeared to account for almost two-thirds of the wolves' diets. Biologists were able to confirm 159 elk kills, almost a third of them calves.

But that's down from the 267 elk killed in 2011 and 211 killed in 2010.

The report notes that the reduction in elk populations has caused wolves to seek out bison more as a food source.

The increasing number of bison available has also contributed as the park population has climbed past 4,000.

Finally, the winter of 2012 was mild so elk were less vulnerable to attack. Also, bison calve earlier than elk so wolves tended to target their young.

The park packs hadn't hunted bison much before so Smith said the trend could be important.

While wolf packs shrank, the number of people traveling to the park to view wolves has climbed.

In 2012, park staff had more than 12,000 contacts with 27,500 people who observed wolves.

That was up from the 25,000 in 2011, however, it was nowhere near the 2008 peak of 35,000.

Fewer people are willing to make the trip if they can't have a guaranteed sighting, and fewer wolves meant wolves were harder to find. Wolves were visible for 550 hours in 2012 compared to 830 in 2008.

The park produces the wolf report a year behind due to the time it takes to process the data.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 704 AM MST THU JAN 23 2014

Today: Partly cloudy early in the morning then clearing. Highs 25 to 31. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero in the morning.

Tonight: Clear. Lows 2 below to 6 above zero.

Friday: Mostly sunny. Highs 28 to 34.

Friday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 3 to 11.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 28 to 34.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 6 to 12.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, January 24, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need a workout at work? Check these out and hop up from that desk: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/health/workout-at-work/>

Safety Committee

At this time, there is **no unleaded fuel available at Madison**. Please plan accordingly while traveling through the park. Thanks.

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A **Snowmobile Refresher Training** will be conducted Jan. 29, 2014, at 1:00 at the Mammoth Garage. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the "P" drive, Safety Office, Snowmobile, 2013-2014, refresher. There are no guarantees for any later classes. Also a reminder when **signing out snowmobiles** each individual will need to be identified on the responsibility sign-out sheet. An individual will not sign out two or more sled under their name.

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This 5.4-mile Grand Loop Road reconstruction project will begin just south of the Norris Campground entrance and end south of Grizzly Lake Trailhead. Highlights of the project include a new road alignment east of Frying Pan Spring and a redesigned parking area at Roaring Mountain. The Gardner River Bridge (7-Mile Bridge) south of the Sheepeater Cliff intersection, will also be replaced under this contract. During the two-week full closure, the detour route will be over Dunraven Pass. Winter-use traffic will not be affected.

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Project start: **June 2, 2014**

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*3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Potluck style-Bring your favorite dish to share (Sonya loves potlucks and trying new foods)

Upcoming CPR classes!**Health Care Provider CPR**

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 Time: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Mammoth EMS Classroom

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Date/Time: **TODAY** Time: 10:00 am

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Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 5 to 11.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 24 to 30. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows zero to 6 above.

- - - - -

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, January 27, 2014



Nap time south of Trout Lake. Who you lookin' at? (photo by Tom Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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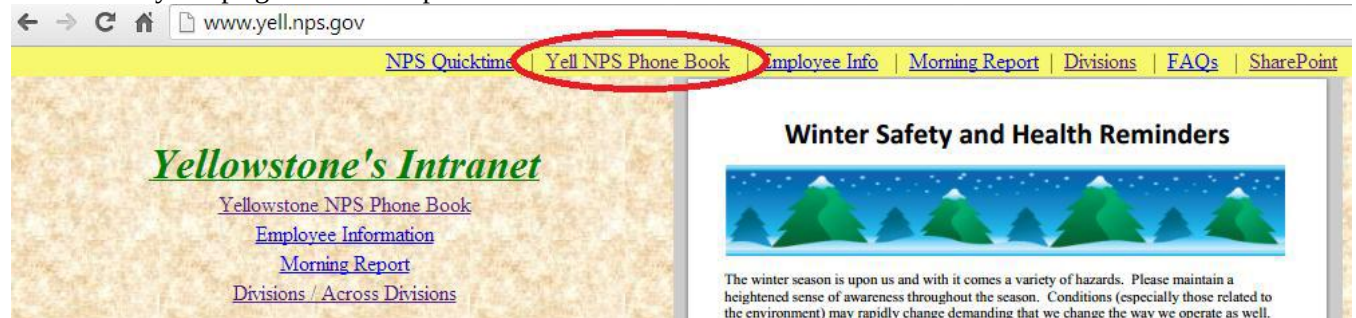
Go Green by Using the Online Phonebook!

Though the Yellowstone phonebooks are updated and reprinted twice a year, what if a new employee's information is missing? Worry not—all Yellowstone employees have access to an online phonebook of NPS, Xanterra and Yellowstone Association employees. This online database is easy to use and contains the most updated information.

So what does this have to do with going green? Living in such an amazing place means a smaller turnover of employees. Since few folks leave/join Yellowstone in any given year, it's possible to use an older phonebook supplemented with the online database or use the online database exclusively. This would greatly reduce the amount of resources used to print and distribute the summer/winter phonebooks.

How quickly can you find a name or division? See for yourself!

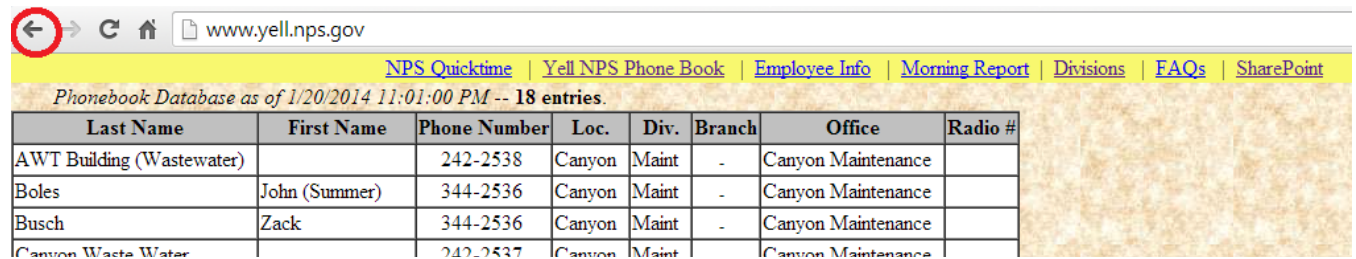
Go to www.yell.nps.gov. On the top tab click Yell NPS Phone Book.



Search based on name, location, division, branch, etc. In the example below, Canyon and Maintenance were chose from the drop down lists. Click Run Query to display the results.

Yellowstone NPS Phonebook		with / without	Yellowstone Radio Numbers
Last Name			
First Name			
Location	Canyon		☒ Attempt to provide Radio Numbers
Division	Maintenance		Radio Call Number
Branch/Office			(Use % to see all Radio Call Numbers.)
Phone # (reverse lookup)			
		Run Query Clear Values	

Results will be displayed on the next page. To search again, click the back button on your web browser.



Last Name	First Name	Phone Number	Loc.	Div.	Branch	Office	Radio #
AWT Building (Wastewater)		242-2538	Canyon	Maint	-	Canyon Maintenance	
Boles	John (Summer)	344-2536	Canyon	Maint	-	Canyon Maintenance	
Busch	Zack	344-2536	Canyon	Maint	-	Canyon Maintenance	
Canyon Waste Water		242-2537	Canyon	Maint		Canyon Maintenance	

IN THE NEWS

Judge adjusts to park life

Published: Fri, 01/24/2014 - 4:06pm

By Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WYO. — United States Magistrate Judge Mark Carman, based in Yellowstone National Park, is only the fifth to hold the position since its inception by an act of Congress in 1894.

The court is busier in the summer months, Carman said Tuesday. He sees cases involving alcohol and marijuana, as well as natural resource cases — violations such as picking flowers, leaving boardwalks or taking samples out of thermal features.

These “resource” cases usually involve tourists, mostly out of ignorance of the law or a language barrier, Carman said.

The court held 556 hearings in 2013, the judge said, including three cases involving tourists discharging firearms in the park.

One case was a man who accidentally discharged a gun in his cabin — twice. One shot went through the wall into an adjoining cabin.

In a second case, a man hiking on the Mount Washburn trail near Canyon Village opened fire on a grizzly bear.

The third was the tragedy at the Grant Village Campground this summer, when police said a 3-year-old child accidentally shot herself.

On Tuesday afternoon, Carman heard a case involving a repeat offender driving under a suspended driver’s license. He sentenced him to about four months in jail, reluctantly.

“I try to help people out of these holes,” he said.

Lifestyle

Carman said it was an adjustment moving from Billings, with a population of around 100,000, to Mammoth Hot Springs, with about 300 people. His favorite thing about the area is the residents he meets.

“The quality of the people in this community is off the charts,” he said. “They’re intelligent, enthusiastic and delightful.”

And he loves the outdoor lifestyle, getting in a lot of fishing in the summer evenings.

His position comes with a house in the Mammoth area. Carman and his dog, Raider, a border collie, like to go for a walk in the dark sometimes. Raider is adjusting to life on a leash, which is mandatory in Yellowstone, and he's not too happy about it, Carman said. Both Carman and Raider have learned to watch for wildlife when they walk in the dark.

Carman has seen elk and bears from his house, and has had to learn to watch for elk when he's heading from his house to his car.

A bull snake lives under his front porch. It keeps the Uinta ground squirrel population under control, he laughs.

Carman is also a private pilot and keeps his own plane. It's still in Billings, but when he brings it to Gardiner, he'll be able to fly it to the other federal courts, located in Cheyenne and Casper, when he is needed there. He estimates he can make it to Casper in about an hour.

And the plane has a name: Atticus, named for his favorite fictional lawyer, Atticus Finch, from "To Kill A Mockingbird."

The judge has explored Livingston, too, enjoying the shops and restaurants as well as attending church here.

Background

Carman, 57, has an undergraduate degree in hydrology from Colorado State University and a law degree from the University of Wyoming. He worked as a prosecuting attorney for D.A. offices in Casper, Wyo., and California, later moving to Billings.

He applied for the magistrate judge position when he saw it advertised last year. The previous judge, Stephen Cole, retired in May 2012 after serving 31 years. He died just six months after retiring, Carman said.

Carman said he had always been interested in being a magistrate judge, and he and his wife, Nancy, and their three daughters always enjoyed visiting Yellowstone.

Carman jokes his wife was more interested in the move than he was.

And their youngest daughter was finishing high school in Billings and heading for college. He wouldn't have applied if that hadn't been the case, he said.

Judgeship

The magistrate judge position was created as part of the Lacey Act, which created the laws, penalties and enforcement mechanisms for protecting Yellowstone National Park's unique resources.

The magistrate court is overseen by the federal district court based in Wyoming. The court handles misdemeanors and some civil matters, as well as some pre-trial hearings in felonies. Carman also serves as needed in other federal courtrooms, based in Casper and Cheyenne, Wyo.

Four judges held the judgeship in the 118 years from 1894 to 2012. The first, Judge John Meldrum, served 41 years. What is it about the Yellowstone position that judges remain it so long?

Carman has a theory.

“It’s such a pleasant place to live. If you retire, you have to move away,” he said.

Read more: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/judge-adjusts-park-life>

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 833 AM MST MON JAN 27 2014

Rest Of Today: Cloudy. Highs 15 to 21.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 4 below to 10 below zero. Northwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Tuesday: Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 15 to 21. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Lowest wind chill readings 19 below to 29 below zero in the morning.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening...then mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow after midnight. Lows 3 to 9.

Wednesday: Not as cold. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Wednesday Night: Cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 11 to 17. Chance of snow 60 percent.

- - - - -

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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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, January 28, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need a workout at work? Check these out and hop up from that desk: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/health/workout-at-work/>

Safety Committee

At this time, there is **no unleaded fuel available at Madison**. Please plan accordingly while traveling through the park. Thanks.

Annual MCC Chili cook-off and sledding party is happening Feb. 11th @ 6 pm. \$5 entry fee; prizes; fun! More info: <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>

A **Snowmobile Refresher Training** will be conducted **TOMORROW**, at 1:00 at the Mammoth Garage. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the "P" drive, Safety Office, Snowmobile, 2013-2014, refresher. There are no guarantees for any later classes. Also a reminder when **signing out snowmobiles** each individual will need to be identified on the responsibility sign-out sheet. An individual will not sign out two or more sled under their name.

2014 Road Construction Information

Norris to Golden Gate, phase 1

This 5.4-mile Grand Loop Road reconstruction project will begin just south of the Norris Campground entrance and end south of Grizzly Lake Trailhead. Highlights of the project include a new road alignment east of Frying Pan Spring and a redesigned parking area at Roaring Mountain. The Gardner River Bridge (7-Mile Bridge) south of the Sheepeater Cliff intersection, will also be replaced under this contract. During the two-week full closure, the detour route will be over Dunraven Pass. Winter-use traffic will not be affected.

Project start: **April 1, 2014**

Traffic Delays: **30-minutes max., whenever road is open to the public**

Night Closures: **11pm to 7am; April 18-November 15, 2014 & April 17-November 13, 2015**

Full Closure: **Sept. 14 (11pm) to Sept. 30 (7am), 2014**

Project Completion: **Nov. 13, 2015**

Isa Lake Bridge Replacement

The project to replace the Isa Lake Bridge (Craig Pass), between Old Faithful and West Thumb, will begin this June. The parking area adjacent to the bridge will also be reconstructed. The fall and spring full-closure reduced the original project duration by one full season. Winter-use traffic will not be affected.

Project start: **June 2, 2014**

Traffic Delays: **30-minutes max., whenever road is open to the public**

Full Closures: **Sept. 2 (6am) to Nov. 8 (7am), 2014 & April 13 (6am) to June 11 (7am), 2015**

Project Completion: **Sept. 10, 2015**

Ring, ring...have you heard? **Sonya Anderson is retiring!** Come celebrate with Sonya as she completes 22 years of service in Yellowstone!

*January 30, 2014

*Mammoth Community Center

*3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

Potluck style-Bring your favorite dish to share (Sonya loves potlucks and trying new foods)

Upcoming CPR classes!

Health Care Provider CPR

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 Time: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Mammoth EMS Classroom

Heartsaver CPR is a CPR class for the community and non-healthcare providers (FR, EMT, Park Medic, and Paramedic).

Date/Time: Wednesday February 19, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Lake Mess Hall

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: [P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training](#)

Go Green by Using the Online Phonebook!

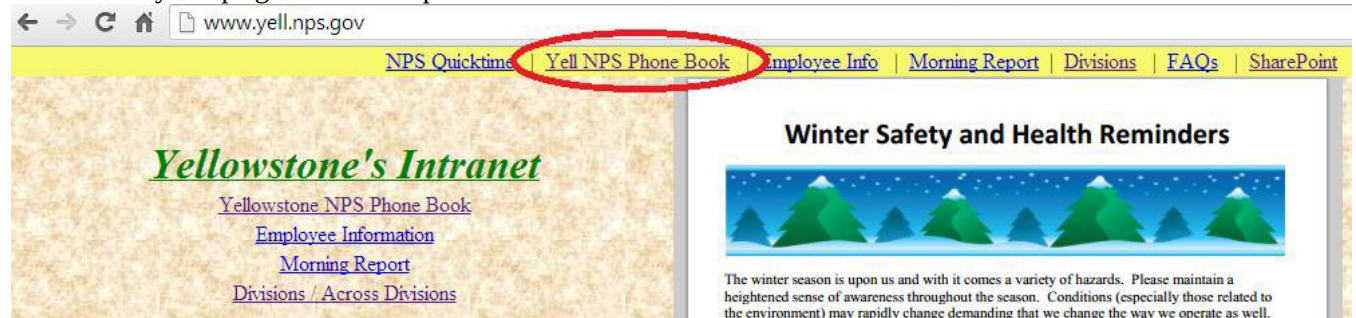
Though the Yellowstone phonebooks are updated and reprinted twice a year, what if a new employee's information is missing? Worry not—all Yellowstone employees have access to an online phonebook of NPS, Xanterra and Yellowstone Association employees. This online database is easy to use and contains the most updated information.

So what does this have to do with going green? Living in such an amazing place means a smaller turnover of employees. Since few folks leave/join Yellowstone in any given year, it's possible to use an older phonebook

supplemented with the online database or use the online database exclusively. This would greatly reduce the amount of resources used to print and distribute the summer/winter phonebooks.

How quickly can you find a name or division? See for yourself!

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Search based on name, location, division, branch, etc. In the example below, Canyon and Maintenance were chosen from the drop down lists. Click Run Query to display the results.

NPS Quicktime | Yell NPS Phone Book | Employee Info | Morning Report | Divisions | FAQs | SharePoint

Yellowstone NPS Phonebook

with / without

Last Name

First Name

Location

Division

Branch/Office

Phone # (reverse lookup)

Yellowstone Radio Numbers

☒ Attempt to provide Radio Numbers

Radio Call Number

(Use % to see all Radio Call Numbers.)

Results will be displayed on the next page. To search again, click the back button on your web browser.

NPS Quicktime | Yell NPS Phone Book | Employee Info | Morning Report | Divisions | FAQs | SharePoint

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Last Name	First Name	Phone Number	Loc.	Div.	Branch	Office	Radio #
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Boles	John (Summer)	344-2536	Canyon	Maint	-	Canyon Maintenance	
Busch	Zack	344-2536	Canyon	Maint	-	Canyon Maintenance	
Canyon Waste Water		242-2537	Canyon	Maint	-	Canyon Maintenance	

WEATHER



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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 633 AM MST TUE JAN 28 2014

Today: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 17 to 23. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Lowest wind chill readings 25 below to 35 below zero in the morning.

Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening...then cloudy with snow likely after midnight. Areas of blowing snow after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 5 to 11. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Wednesday: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Wednesday Night: Breezy. Snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Areas of blowing snow through the night. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Lows 12 to 18. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Thursday: Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 11 inches. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Mid-winter Eagle Survey Results: There were a total of **57 eagles (48 bald eagles and 9 golden eagles)** counted for the park to Livingston. Not surprisingly most eagles (45) were counted outside the park between Gardiner/Jardine to Livingston. It's generally easier to make a living out there than in the interior during winter. Nevertheless, a few eagles persist in the park every year. During the survey there were 2 adult bald eagles along the Madison River, an immature bald eagle at Black Sands Geyser Basin, 7 golden eagles from Mammoth to the northeast entrance, and 2 adult bald eagles from Mammoth to the north entrance. Of course because this is a one-day count sometimes the eagles happen to be elsewhere rather than perched prominently in a tree for all to see and this was the case in a few places. An adult bald eagle was seen along the Yellowstone River between Canyon and Fishing Bridge during the count week and at other times throughout the winter. Bald eagles have also been seen at the south entrance and at Lewis Fall this winter. Although those

sightings don't count towards the national effort we record them for our records so please report any eagles or other raptors you happen to see in the park during your travels this winter. You can find a raptor sightings form

at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/birds.htm>. **Thank you to all who participated:** Dan, Amanda and Wesley Brown; John Cataldo; Katy Duffy; Bill Price; Eleanor and Dennis Clark; Sue Mills; Rick Lee; Laurie Tuohy; Kim West; Molly Moore; Bob, Bailey and Baxter Fuhrmann; Steve Ruff and Leslie Quinn.

Annual MCC Chili cook-off and sledding party is happening Feb. 11th @ 6 pm. \$5 entry fee; prizes; fun! More info: <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>



Don't forget! **Sonya Anderson is retiring.** Come celebrate with Sonya as she completes 22 years of service in Yellowstone.

***TOMORROW** at the Mammoth Community Center from 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. Potluck style- Bring your favorite dish to share



Guess who else is retiring...Susan Salmons. Our fearless weed killer and Northern Rocky Mountain Exotic Plant Management Team liaison is heading off to Alaska! Come bid her farewell and safe travels on February 6th at 3 p.m. in the YCR conference room.

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Upcoming CPR classes!

Health Care Provider CPR is the class for First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Park Medics and Paramedics.

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Location: Mammoth EMS Classroom

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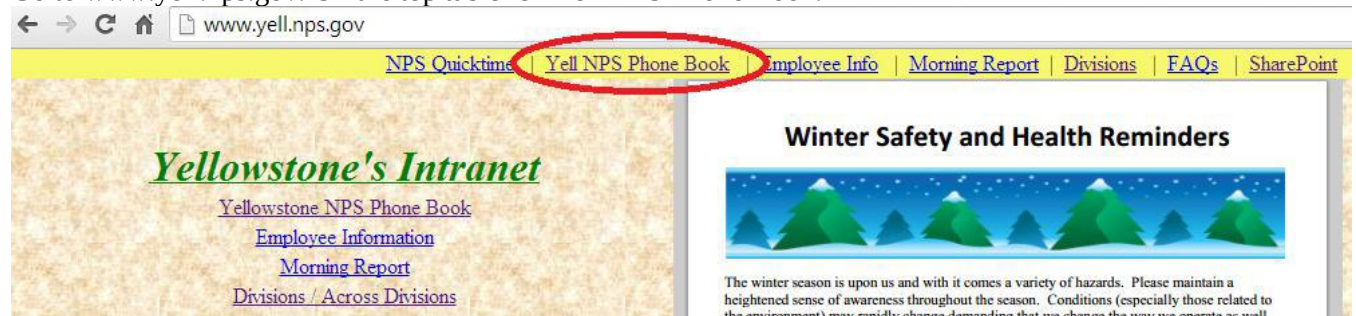
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Yellowstone NPS Phonebook
with / without
Yellowstone Radio Numbers

Last Name
 First Name
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 Branch/Office
 Phone # (reverse lookup)

☒ Attempt to provide Radio Numbers
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Busch	Zack	344-2536	Canyon	Maint	-	Canyon Maintenance	
Canyon Waste Water		242-2537	Canyon	Maint	-	Canyon Maintenance	

IN THE NEWS

House committee OKs bill lifting ban on watercraft in Yellowstone, Grand Teton

Lummis bill to open rivers and streams in Yellowstone, Grand Teton to more vessels advances

18 hours ago • MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

A U.S. House committee on Tuesday unanimously passed a measure that would lift longstanding restrictions on canoes, rafts and other "hand-propelled" vessels in rivers and streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

The Department of Interior, which oversees the parks, opposes the proposed changes. Agency officials contend the existing restrictions allow visitors to experience the solitude and wildness of the parks' pristine waterways without the "intrusion" of watercraft.

Some of the boating restrictions have been in place since 1971.

But the bill's sponsor, Republican Wyoming Rep. Cynthia Lummis, said she wants to allow more paddling access so people can have "a truly unforgettable experience" when they visit the parks.

"It's time we remove the outdated federal ban on paddling," Lummis said in a statement.

Tuesday's vote by the Natural Resources Committee sends the measure to the House floor. Lummis spokesman Joe Spiering said it's uncertain when the bill will come up for a vote by the full House.

The bill also calls for federal officials to coordinate the recreational use of hand-propelled vessels on the Gros Ventre River within the National Elk Refuge.

An amendment offered by Lummis would delay the bill's effective date by three years. That would give administrators time to come up with river and stream management plans before restrictions are lifted, Spiering said.

Interior officials said the bill would prevent park administrators from using their professional judgment to decide where vessels should be allowed.

Thousands of paddlers annually already visit areas in Yellowstone and Grand Teton where non-motorized vessels are not banned, officials said.

That includes 60,000 paddlers each year using the Snake River through Grand Teton, and more than 2,000 permits a year for non-motorized boating in Yellowstone, according to testimony offered by Interior officials during a November hearing on the bill.

The National Parks Conservation Association on Tuesday criticized members of Congress for forcing the paddling issue without allowing for any studies into how more boaters could affect wildlife and other visitors.

Also, because the term "hand-propelled vessels" is not defined, passage of the bill potentially could open the door to people floating through the parks on inner-tubes or other unconventional watercraft, said the group's Yellowstone program manager, Bart Melton.

"You're talking about boaters in the Lamar Valley," Melton said, referring to an area of the park known worldwide for its abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery. "Wolf watching and grizzly watching and fishing are the standard uses there....The door this opens is significant."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/house-committee-oks-bill-lifting-ban-on-watercraft-in-yellowstone/article_40d3690a-1c89-5739-a5c8-5b8f5c4b280a.html#ixzz2rnpRQZWf

National parks crowded despite cutbacks

22 hours ago • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo - Grand Teton and Yellowstone national park officials say they were crowded over the past year, despite smaller staffs, decreased services and a government shutdown.

Grand Teton, with an estimated 2.7 million recreational visitors, had the sixth-busiest year in its history.

Yellowstone reported about 3.2 million visitors, the fifth-busiest year in its storied history.

Park officials say both tourist destinations could have ended up at the top of their visitation charts if not for the government shutdown

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/national-parks-crowded-despite-cutbacks/article_7ca3b60f-6ee8-54de-b6a4-9fa7ca33609f.html#ixzz2rnpMZA1

Upsets rule rivalry weekend

Published: Mon, 01/27/2014 - 5:00pm Anthony Varriano – Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer



Gardiner junior Wyatt Wilkinson steals the ball from Shields Valley junior Clay Scidmore in the first half of their game at Gardiner High School, Friday night.

Last week Gardiner head coach Jordan Featherman said “we have to learn how to finish, whether it’s a basketball game, an exam or eating a sandwich.”

“I’ve already had four people tell me we finished the sandwich tonight,” he said after fending off a late run by the Rebels to win 74-68 in Gardiner,

Friday night.

“JB is a hell of a coach. He’s got those kids figured out,” Featherman added, “so we knew they were going to make a run, but we made our free throws. That’s got to be the first time we’ve shot over 50 percent. On the season we’re shooting 40.”

The Bruins (6-6, 6-4) shot 70 percent from the line, Friday, hitting 14 of 22 attempts.

Senior Connor Wines led all scorers with 23 points, but it was a team win, with four Bruins finishing in double figures and another making big contributions on defense.

“We played better as a team tonight,” Featherman said.

Jordan Darr was a big key to the offense, scoring 15 points and was on fire from three-point land, knocking down three in the first quarter, one from nearly NBA distance.

“When everything they throw up goes in ... what can we do?” Shields Valley head coach JB Boyd said. “We were playing good defense. We just weren’t hitting, and they were.”

Nick Sabo also finished with 15 points, and hit a clutch baseline jumper in the final minutes after Shields Valley’s Thad Ferguson cut the 17-point deficit to one with an old-fashioned three-point play that featured a beautiful drive and finish despite a foul.

Ferguson led the Rebels with 21 points and took on more of the scoring responsibilities after senior Lane Lahaye rolled an ankle. Lahaye would return and scored 19, eight in the fourth quarter, despite the injury.

“That’s the fire in the kid,” Boyd said. “He’d want to play with a broken ankle.”

Senior guard Parker Robinson extended the lead with some smart play for Gardiner, drawing a foul that sent him to the charity stripe. He hit both free throws to make it 60-57 and finished with 11 points.

Darr drained the three-point dagger from the baseline to stretch the lead to six points with a little over a minute to play. He also finished with six assists.

“The fact of the matter is he can flat out shoot it,” Featherman said, “and for us, with Connor in the middle, if we can stretch him out a little bit with Jordan, it’s a pretty good recipe for success.”

Not only did the Bruins “finish the sandwich,” but senior Nolan Darr will be finishing a steak dinner for collecting three charges in the game.

“There used to be a thing here when Pat Hanson was here that if you get three charges in a game he’d buy you a steak dinner,” Featherman explained. “Well I told Nolan and what does he do? In the first half, he goes and gets three.”

The offensive fouls collected by the Rebels (8-4, 7-2) had a huge effect on the Shields Valley dribble-drive and fast break offense.

“They definitely didn’t drive anymore, and they were forced to take jump shots,” Darr explained, “and that’s what we wanted to do.”

Darr finished with zero points, but was instrumental to the Bruins’ success with his play on defense, grabbing six rebounds. He also dished three assists.

The girls game was equally exciting and also ended in an upset, as Shields Valley knocked off district-leading Gardiner 56-48.



Gardiner senior guard Jessie Hafer defends Shields Valley junior Shae Sager in the second half of their game in Gardiner, Friday night.

“I think it was a great team effort,” Shields Valley head coach Kristi Swandal said after the game. “We worked together out there.”

That togetherness was evident in the Lady Rebel defense and unselfishness on offense.

“All twelve of us are starting to come together and play as one,” Jessica Gagen said after the game.

Junior Brianna Peel scored nine points and sophomore Kylie Kerkaert added eight in the win.

“They came to play. In this conference somebody’s going to bring it at you every night,” said Gardiner head coach Ben Johnson. “They’re one of the teams we probably don’t match up with very well, and if we don’t make the baskets that’s what it comes down to when the matchups are bad.”

The big matchup Johnson was referring to was between Shields Valley senior Casey McInerney and Gardiner junior Hannah Dean. Although Dean outscored McInerney 22-17, McInerney sealed the deal for the Lady Rebels driving past Dean from the top of the key and sinking a tough layup despite being fouled. She would hit the free throw to push the lead to 10 points with a minute to play.

“We tried to shut down Hannah, but that’s not easy to do,” Swandal said.

Both Johnson and Dean said shooting woes in the third quarter were the reason for the loss. The Lady Rebels put up 21 points to Gardiner’s seven in the quarter.

“That second half we couldn’t put it in the ocean,” Dean joked after the game.

Though the focus was squarely on McInerney and Dean, the rest of the Lady Rebels hit big shots when they needed to, most notably, sophomore Kayla Gagen, who hit two big threes in the third quarter.

The win was huge for the Lady Rebels (9-5, 7-4), who just keep getting better and are now just a half game behind Twin Bridges for third place in the district after the Lady Bruins (10-2, 9-1) gave their friendly rivals a boost, beating the Lady Falcons in Twin Bridges 49-35, Saturday, but the boys couldn't repeat their hot shooting on the road, falling 58-48.

The Lady Rebels did their part on Saturday, handling district foe West Yellowstone in Clyde Park 53-44, and the boys rolled 72-24.

With the boys and girls of Gardiner and Shields Valley splitting the season series, all fans can hope for is a meeting at the district tournament on a neutral court, but there are still big games ahead for each school that will determine their rank going into the tournament.

Shields Valley will play at Lone Peak, Thursday, with the girls starting at 5:30 p.m. and the boys playing at 7 p.m. Gardiner then visits Lone Peak, Friday, with the girls again at 5:30 p.m. and the boys at 7 p.m.

WEATHER

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RIVERTON WY
220 AM MST WED JAN 29 2014

...SIGNIFICANT WINTER STORM WEST OF THE DIVIDE THROUGH
THURSDAY NIGHT...

.A COMPLEX AND LONG LIVED WINTER STORM WILL MOVE INTO THE WEST
AND SOUTH THROUGH THURSDAY. THE COMBINATION OF HEAVIEST SNOW AND
STRONGEST WIND WILL LIKELY OCCUR THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING. THE
COMBINATION OF HEAVY SNOW AND STRONG WIND WILL LIKELY CREATE
CONSIDERABLE BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW AND POSSIBLE WHITEOUT
CONDITIONS.

WYZ001-292300-
/O.CON.KRIW.WS.W.0002.140129T1200Z-140131T1200Z/
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...LAKE...MAMMOTH...OLD FAITHFUL
220 AM MST WED JAN 29 2014

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 5 AM MST FRIDAY...

A WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 5 AM MST FRIDAY.

- * SUMMARY AND TIMING...SNOW WILL BEGIN THIS MORNING AND BECOME
STEADIER AND HEAVIER WITH THE HEAVIEST SNOW EXPECTED TO FALL
BETWEEN THIS AFTERNOON AND SUNRISE ON THURSDAY.
- * SNOW ACCUMULATIONS...5 TO 10 INCHES ACROSS THE LOWER
ELEVATIONS WITH 10 TO 20 INCHES IN MOST OF THE MOUNTAINS.
- * WIND AND VISIBILITY...WEST WINDS INCREASING THROUGH TONIGHT WITH
GUSTS OVER 60 MPH EXPECTED ON EXPOSED RIDGES BY TONIGHT.
VISIBILITY WILL BE REDUCED TO UNDER ONE QUARTER MILE IN SNOW AND
BLOWING SNOW.

* IMPACTS...SIGNIFICANT BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW IS EXPECTED TO ADVERSELY IMPACT IF NOT IMPEDE TRAVEL OR OUTDOOR PLANS THROUGH THURSDAY. THE HEAVY SNOW AND PERSISTENT WIND LOADING MAY INCREASE BACK COUNTRY AVALANCHE HAZARDS.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A WINTER STORM WARNING FOR HEAVY SNOW MEANS SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED OR OCCURRING. SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF SNOW ARE FORECAST THAT WILL MAKE TRAVEL DANGEROUS. ONLY TRAVEL IN AN EMERGENCY. IF YOU MUST TRAVEL...KEEP AN EXTRA FLASHLIGHT... FOOD...AND WATER IN YOUR VEHICLE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

THE LATEST ROAD CONDITIONS PROVIDED BY THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING 5-1-1 OR ON THE INTERNET AT WYOROAD.INFO.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 714 AM MST WED JAN 29 2014

Today: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 5 to 8 inches. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Lows 15 to 21. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Thursday: Snow likely in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Thursday Night: Colder. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 11 to 18 inches. Lows 6 to 12. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 18 to 24. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Friday Night: Colder...cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening... Then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 5 below to 3 above zero. Chance of snow 40 percent. Wind chill readings 14 below to 24 below zero.

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, January 30, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Don't forget! **Sonya Anderson is retiring.** Come celebrate with Sonya as she completes 22 years of service in Yellowstone.

***TODAY** at the Mammoth Community Center from 3:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. Potluck style-Bring your favorite dish to share



Guess who else is retiring...Susan Salmons. Our fearless weed killer and Northern Rocky Mountain Exotic Plant Management Team liaison is heading off to Alaska! Come bid her farewell and safe travels on February 6th at 3 p.m. in the YCR conference room.

Need a workout at work? Check these out and hop up from that desk: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/health/workout-at-work/>

Safety Committee

At this time, there is **no unleaded fuel available at Madison.** Please plan accordingly while traveling through the park. Thanks.

Upcoming CPR classes!

Health Care Provider CPR is the class for First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Park Medics and Paramedics.

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 Time: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Mammoth EMS Classroom

Heartsaver CPR is the class for community members and the lay person.

Date/Time: Wednesday February 19, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Lake Mess Hall

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: [P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training](#)



Mid-winter Eagle Survey Results: There were a total of **57 eagles (48 bald eagles and 9 golden eagles)** counted for the park to Livingston. Not surprisingly most eagles (45) were counted outside the park between Gardiner/Jardine to Livingston. It's generally easier to make a living out there than in the interior during winter. Nevertheless, a few eagles persist in the park every year. During the survey there were 2 adult bald eagles along the Madison River, an immature bald eagle at Black Sands Geyser Basin, 7 golden eagles from Mammoth to the northeast entrance, and 2 adult bald eagles from Mammoth to the north entrance. Of course because this is a one-day count sometimes the eagles happen to be elsewhere rather than perched prominently in a tree for all to see and this was the case in a few places. An adult bald eagle was seen along the Yellowstone River between Canyon and Fishing Bridge during the count week and at other times throughout the winter. Bald eagles have also been seen at the south entrance and at Lewis Fall this winter. Although those

sightings don't count towards the national effort we record them for our records so please report any eagles or other raptors you happen to see in the park during your travels this winter. You can find a raptor sightings form at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/birds.htm>. **Thank you to all who participated:** Dan, Amanda and Wesley Brown; John Cataldo; Katy Duffy; Bill Price; Eleanor and Dennis Clark; Sue Mills; Rick Lee; Laurie Tuohy; Kim West; Molly Moore; Bob, Bailey and Baxter Fuhrmann; Steve Ruff and Leslie Quinn.

Annual MCC Chili cook-off and sledding party is happening Feb. 11th @ 6 pm. \$5 entry fee; prizes; fun! More info: <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>

2014 Road Construction Information

Norris to Golden Gate, phase 1

This 5.4-mile Grand Loop Road reconstruction project will begin just south of the Norris Campground entrance and end south of Grizzly Lake Trailhead. Highlights of the project include a new road alignment east of Frying Pan Spring and a redesigned parking area at Roaring Mountain. The Gardner River Bridge (7-Mile Bridge) south of the Sheepeater Cliff intersection, will also be replaced under this contract. During the two-week full closure, the detour route will be over Dunraven Pass. Winter-use traffic will not be affected.

Project start: **April 1, 2014**

Traffic Delays: **30-minutes max., whenever road is open to the public**

Night Closures: **11pm to 7am; April 18-November 15, 2014 & April 17-November 13, 2015**

Full Closure: **Sept. 14 (11pm) to Sept. 30 (7am), 2014**

Project Completion: **Nov. 13, 2015**

Isa Lake Bridge Replacement

The project to replace the Isa Lake Bridge (Craig Pass), between Old Faithful and West Thumb, will begin this June. The parking area adjacent to the bridge will also be reconstructed. The fall and spring full-closure reduced the original project duration by one full season. Winter-use traffic will not be affected.

Project start: **June 2, 2014**

Traffic Delays: **30-minutes max., whenever road is open to the public**

Full Closures: **Sept. 2 (6am) to Nov. 8 (7am), 2014 & April 13 (6am) to June 11 (7am), 2015**

Project Completion: **Sept. 10, 2015**

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IN THE NEWS**Tribal bison hunt picks up near Gardiner**

Posted: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 10:00 pm

Laura Lunquist, Bozeman Chronicle Staff Writer

[Tribal bison hunt picks up near Gardiner](#)

GARDINER – “They're coming out.”

It's the winter rallying cry for Native American hunters who have tribal permits to hunt bison in the areas around Yellowstone National Park. It means the park bison are beginning to migrate to lower valleys in search of grass as snow piles up inside the park.

Greg Marengo finally heard those words through the grapevine in St. Ignatius on Sunday. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes send wardens to the hunting areas every weekend who spread the word.

So Marengo, his two brothers and three other men packed their rifles and made the six-hour drive to Gardiner.

“You have to be ready to go at a moment's notice. Sometimes you have to take off work because you might not get another chance,” said his brother, Brad Marengo.

Monday afternoon, they were waiting for the next group of bison to cross the park border near Beattie Gulch. Already scattered among the sagebrush, a few dark-red, bulbous remains attested to the success of other hunters.

The Marengo party wasn't successful Monday, but they did help another group of hunters gut, cut and load four bison killed earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, three or four groups of bison grazed just within the park, possibly hesitant to venture north after hearing rifle fire.

The Marengos hoped the bison would move out soon because just four days remained in the season.

The CSKT Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation Division ends its bison season on Jan. 31 to avoid coming too close to the bison calving season, which begins around April.

For that reason, most tribe members hunt near West Yellowstone, where the bison tend to emerge earlier.

CSKT Wildlife Division Manager Tom McDonald said 150 need-based permits were issued, and most hunters have been successful near West Yellowstone this year.

The Marengos have gone to West Yellowstone for the past several years but decided to try Gardiner this year.

“I don't really know why. But it's a lot prettier here,” said brother Kevin Marengo, admiring Devil's Slide.

Tuesday morning broke clear and cold as the party settled in the Beattie Gulch area along the Old Yellowstone Trail road. The bison, just a few hundred yards away in the park, appeared reluctant to move, Kevin said.

Then a bull moved across the Yellowstone River and up the hill. The party took chase.

“We gave up after he got too far back there. He outfoxed us,” Kevin said.

Returning to Beattie Gulch shortly after noon, they watched five bison cross the park boundary and plod along a low rise about 20 yards from the road.

Three shots later, three bison slumped and slid down the snowy slope. The two remaining animals angled away from the road but were brought down minutes later.

“If you shoot them right behind the ear, they just drop. Don't shoot anywhere else because you don't want to just wound them. They'll head back inside the park,” Greg said.

The six men set to gutting the animals, no easy task when the innards can weigh hundreds of pounds. The heart alone is the size of a bowling ball.

Steam rose into the air as the gut piles cooled.

When it came time to haul the animals to the road, one group of men moved the two distant carcasses with a large plastic sled. Others used a truck and pulley to drag the three felled closest to the road.

There, they used knives and small chainsaws to remove the heads and cut the bison in half. Greg said people use beetles to clean the tissue off the heads so they can keep the skulls.

The men worked steadily, having perfected the process over three years.

“That's the advantage with our permit system – the same hunters can return each year and build experience,” McDonald said. “It becomes a better hunt for all involved, and fewer bison have to be shipped to slaughter.”

Still, three hours passed between the first shot and when the final bison was halved.

“It's hard work. At the orientation meeting, they tell you to bring a lot of big men to help,” said Stacy Markus as she watched her husband, Jerry, cut through the hump of one bison. “Last year, some hunters allowed their meat to spoil and were fined for wasting it. That's why we do it this way, so we can take care of the meat.”

A few cars drove by, their inhabitants gawking at the scene. At one point on Monday, a tour bus passed slowly, and the tourists jostled to take pictures, Kevin said.

It didn't bother the hunters.

Each knew he was headed home with about 500 pounds of bison meat, enough to see a family through most of the year.

Kevin said it's surprising that such a large animal doesn't yield more meat.

“I get more meat from a moose,” Kevin said. “But I'm not a trophy hunter. I shoot the smaller ones – they taste better.”

the end of the week, a few more gut piles and drag marks may appear as the CSKT hunters finish their season. Predators may help with the cleanup.

But the Umatilla and Nez Perce will follow, and the bison remains will multiply. Whether the disposal problems of last year will be repeated remains to be seen.

Yellowstone east gate will open as planned May 2

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 2:40 pm

By CHRIS FROST | Cody Enterprise

[Yellowstone east gate will open as planned May 2](#)

The east gate of Yellowstone Park will open on time for the 2014 season.

Cody chamber director Scott Balyo received the good news Monday during his annual meeting with Yellowstone superintendent Dan Wenk to schedule National Parks Day and review park road construction schedules.

“He said the east gate will open Friday, May 2, and the northeast gate will open before Memorial Day weekend May 23,” contingent on snow levels and late spring storms.

Because of Park Service budget problems in 2013, the east and south gates only opened on time last May because private funds from Cody and Jackson were pledged to pay the cost of Wyoming Department of Transportation crews plowing those routes in April. It was the first time WYDOT ever worked inside the park.

Parks Day – when the superintendents from Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks speak with chamber members and visit Cody for the day – will be Monday, May 19.

In other Yellowstone matters, road construction is planned north of Norris this summer, Balyo said, with night closures scheduled.

“That won’t affect Cody much since it’s on the northwest side of the Grand Loop road,” he added. “There also will be chip sealing in various places, but we don’t have locations and schedules yet.”

Wenk also reiterated his interest in having the State of Wyoming take over maintenance of the Beartooth Highway, Balyo said, and discussed efforts to remove lake trout from Yellowstone Lake.

“Lake trout are eating cutthroat trout, which is native to the lake,” he added. “Wenk is working on grants to further combat the problem.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 647 AM MST THU JAN 30 2014

Today: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 10 inches. Lows 4 to 10. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 17 to 23. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Colder. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 3 below to 5 above zero. West winds around 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 13 to 19. West winds around 15 mph. Lowest wind chill readings 12 below to 22 below zero in the morning.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 6 below to 2 above zero.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, January 31, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thanks to Les Brunton for this wonderful photo!



**THANK YOU FOR
NOT IDLING**

DID YOU KNOW?

- Idling more than **10 seconds** uses more fuel than restarting your car.
- Driving your car warms it up faster than idling.
- Restarting your car is less harmful to your vehicle than idling.
- Idling a car wastes about 0.3 gal/hour and a big truck about 1 gal/hour.
- Each gallon of fuel burned emits about 20 lb. of carbon dioxide.
- Engine exhaust contains more than 40 pollutants that worsen asthma and allergies.
- Idling gets you nowhere!

www.ytcleanenergy.org



Decals for your government vehicle are available from the Green Team. Be idle aware!



Please mark your calendars for an epic event! On March 29th, there will be a retirement party in West Yellowstone for Bonnie Whitman.

The flyer with details is coming soon.

In the meantime, any of you that have pictures of Bonnie that you would like to share, please send them electronically to Tara Ross. Especially if you have any from other parks besides Yellowstone (DEWA, PEFO, GRCA, Prince William, Fire Island), or from searches/trainings you may

have been on with Bonnie, etc.

For questions, you can send an email to Tara_Ross@nps.gov or call at 406-581-1644 or 307-344-2881.



Susan Salmons is retiring. Our fearless weed killer and Northern Rocky Mountain Exotic Plant Management Team liaison is heading off to Alaska! Come bid her farewell and safe travels on February 6th at 3 p.m. in the YCR conference room.

Need a workout at work? Check these out and hop up from that desk: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/health/workout-at-work/>

Safety Committee

Upcoming CPR classes!

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Date/Time: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 Time: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Mammoth EMS Classroom

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Date/Time: Wednesday February 19, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (bring lunch)

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IN THE NEWS

The Powell Tribune

Yellowstone to do plowing

Written by Gib Mathers

<http://www.powelltribune.com/news/item/11997-yellowstone-to-do-plowing>

Odds are Yellowstone National Park's East Entrance will open on schedule this spring without snow removal assistance from locals, as happened in 2013.

"Looks like our East Gate will be a timely opening," said Claudia Wade.

Wade, marketing director for the Park County Travel Council in Cody, and Scott Balyo, executive director of the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, traveled to Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone to meet with Superintendent Dan Wenk on Monday.

Among other items on their conference agenda, they sought assurance from Wenk that the East Gate would open on the traditional first Friday in May, Wade said.

Wenk was fairly confident that the park's budget would be largely restored to allow for spring plowing to get the gates open, Wade said.

The East Gate, approximately 52 miles west of Cody, is tentatively scheduled to open May 2 this year.

It opened May 3, 2013, after overcoming some snowy roadblocks. In March 2013, Wenk said the National Park Service would delay plowing snow two weeks to save money because of federal sequestration.

The Cody and Jackson chambers of commerce decided to raise the money to pay for Wyoming Department of Transportation equipment to plow the roads from the East and South entrances, respectively. Gov. Matt Mead authorized employing WyDOT equipment if the two communities paid for their use, and Wenk agreed to allow state-operated equipment in Yellowstone.

Cody collected \$100,000. The Cody chamber put up half of that and others in Park County raised the remainder. Jackson gathered \$70,600.

Thanks to those efforts the East and South Gates opened on time.

Everyone was pleased with the partnerships and the solution last spring. "But, we don't want it to be the norm," said Balyo.

"That was one of our main questions for him (Wenk) because of the situation last year," Balyo added.

Wenk knew spring 2013 plowing was a one-time only deal, Wade said.

"We're on target for a typical spring opening," said Al Nash, Yellowstone spokesman.

Weather permitting, plowing will begin in Yellowstone in early March. The Park Service has snowplows, rotary plows that blow snow, road graders, "... and frankly, depending where we are we use bulldozers," Nash said.

Park County begins gearing up for the summer season when it knows Yellowstone's opening is around the corner. Wade and Balyo have maintained a positive rapport with Wenk. "It's such an important relationship," Balyo said.

WEATHER

Winter Weather Advisory for Paradise Valley and Livingston from 3PM today to noon Saturday
<http://inws.wrh.noaa.gov/weather/alertinfo/14348142>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park
Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY
Last Update: 555 AM MST FRI JAN 31 2014

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Tonight: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow until early morning... Then snow likely early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 2 below to 4 above zero. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

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Saturday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 1 below to 9 below zero.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Highs 15 to 21. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 4 below to 2 above zero. Wind chill readings 16 below to 26 below zero.

Monday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 12 to 18. Chance of snow 30 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 12 below to 22 below zero in the morning.

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