

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, May 1, 2014



Billy Maddox receives his 15 Years Service Award. Way to go Billy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The glass man cometh. **Mountain Mobile Glass** will be at the Mammoth garage on the morning of Thursday May 8th. If you need rock chip repair or glass replaced call me, Bob @ 2322 or Tom @ 2321 to schedule your glass work.

Half hour delays are possible, seven days/week, on the road construction project starting from the Gardner River Bridge (near Indian Creek Campground) to the Gibbon River Bridge (near the Norris Campground). **11 pm to 7 am Night Closures will begin on Sunday June 1st.** Please drive carefully and watch for flag personnel, surveyors, etc.

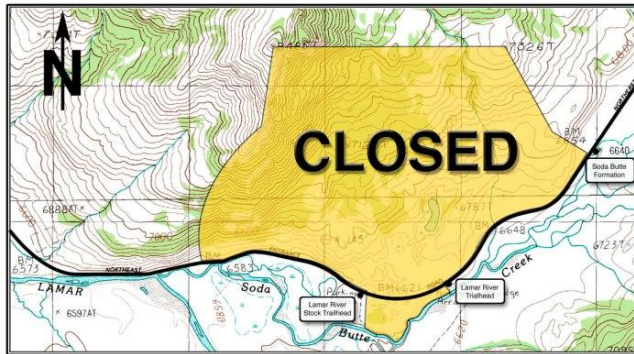
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The traditional den closure was implemented yesterday southeast of Druid Peak. It will be in effect as long as the wolves localize in the area.

TEMPORARY AREA CLOSURE

THE AREA OUTLINED ON THE MAP IS CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE AND TRAVEL FOR WOLF MANAGEMENT
PURSUANT TO 36 CFR 1.5(a)1



***The area behind this sign
is closed***



We all have access to myaccount.doi.gov, a site that allows users to update their individual Phone and Address information. Many users have blank contact information in Bison Connect and can use this site to correct that. If everybody fills in their info, this might help users select the correct individuals when looking for somebody with a very common name.

There are fields for Latitude and Longitude. If you click on the "magnifying glass" next to those fields, a map will appear. Typing in an address in the top box will display a Lat / Long and mark the map for confirmation.

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Radio Training has been set up for the following dates.

May 5 9am - 11am

May 8 9am - 11am

If you have a portable radio, please bring it with you when you come to training.

Please sign up on the SharePoint site.

<http://inpyellshare/Calendars/Lists/Radio%20Training/Calendar1.aspx>

If these two dates fill up, we will schedule more training dates.

Free to a good home - one large Ficus tree. Can be viewed on Admin Bldg 3rd floor. If interested, contact Colleen Athas at x2039.

Yellowstone Badger Project

Be a Citizen Scientist



www.YellowstoneBadger.info

Your help
is
needed

Report a
Badger

Jim Halfpenny
Leo Leckie
Bonnie Quinn

(406) 848-9458

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Yellowstone Badger: A Citizen Naturalist Project seeks to:

- Recognize the observations made by citizen naturalist scientists including wildlife observers, photographers, and other Yellowstone National Park visitors.
- Create a venue for citizen naturalist scientists to contribute long-term data collection on Yellowstone badgers.
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accompanying data including date, time, location, and photographs made observers and to facilitate biological and ecological studies such as distribution and population numbers and trends of badgers.

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What behaviors are observed?

What are types and rates of interactions with other species?

In addition to these scientific discoveries, we anticipate this site being a source of discovery and education for the public. An informed and invested public is the key to the success of conservation efforts throughout the region.

Get out and ride in May and join us for a group ride here in the park at various locations on Tuesday, May 13th. See below for details.

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The Challenge.....Bike to work 4 times during the month of May.

- Don't have a very long commute? **Distance doesn't matter.**
- Do you take the bus but would like to ride to the bus stop? **This counts too!**
- Not an NPS employee? **No problem!**

Still Interested?

We need **riders** and **team captains**, call Bill Mayer (2483) or Heidi Anderson (2564) to participate.

This is a Department of Interior challenge that is hosted on the website by the Cascade Bicycle Club. Consider parking your car a few times during the month of May and riding your bike to work instead.

National Bike to Work Week is May 12th-16th!

Don't want to participate in the challenge but still want to bike to work? Let us know if you did – we would like to hear. It is good for the body, the spirit and the environment. **Don't forget your helmet!**

.....
JOIN A GROUP RIDE ON TUESDAY MAY 13th:

(No need to register just show up! Please bring helmet and dress for the weather!)

**Gardiner to Mammoth via the Old Road meets at 6:15a.m. at North Entrance Gate*

**Gardiner to Mammoth via the Main Road meets at 6:00a.m. at North Entrance Gate*

**Mammoth to Gardiner via the Main Road meets at 6:40a.m. at Mammoth Community Center*

**Lower Mammoth to Mammoth meets at 7:45a.m. at Mammoth Community Center*

**YCC to Mammoth meets at 6:45a.m. at the Recycling Boxes*

We won't leave you behind! Call Bill Mayer (X2483) or Heidi Anderson (X2564) if interested. This message brought to you by the Green Team and Employee Safety Committee!

Get this outstanding community event on your calendar: 35th ANNUAL PARK to PARADISE TRIATHLON! Race Day: Saturday, May 10th. RACE DAY REGISTRATION at **YANKEE JIM RIVER ACCESS (8:45-9:45)**. Parking is tight, please carpool. Boaters, drop your boats at Brogan's before arrival at registration. You will be bussed to the start. Race meeting at 10 AM at Yankee Jim River Access. Race begins at 10:30 AM. Boating from Brogan's Landing to Yankee Jim River Access (7 miles); running from Yankee Jim River Access North on HWY 89 to the Carbella green boxes (4 miles); biking across the Carbella bridge turning back south onto the Old Yellowstone Trail Road and continuing through Yankee Jim Canyon to finish at Arch Park in Gardiner (17.5 miles). Not racing but want to help on race day? Great, contact Stacey Gunther at 406-848-7941.

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Thursday, May 1, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – "SAFETY FIRST"

Plows: Small Crew on Craig Pass. Area Plow at Grant Village.

Present Location:

Craig Pass Crew is at the Old Faithful.

Anticipated Destination:

Craig Pass Crew will be widening West Thumb to Old Faithful.

Snow Conditions:

Craig Pass, 8 feet snow, 3" ice on pavement.

Weather:

Clear, 14 degrees.

Be advised: Crew is hauling wide loads to Cooke City today from East Side of Park.

Communication Center will announce when official "Administrative Travel" is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL DURING PLOWING HOURS:

West Thumb to Old Faithful.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM

Monday, March 17, 2014 – Canyon to Lake at 8 AM

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – Norris to Madison at 8 AM

Thursday, March 20, 2014 – Madison to West at 5 PM

Wednesday, April 1, 2014 – Madison to Old Faithful 4:30 PM

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 – Lake to Grant Village 11 AM

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – Grant to South Entrance 8 AM

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – Pelican Trailhead Gate to East Entrance 5 PM*

***East Entrance Road may be closed to all travel the afternoon of May 1st, for avalanche evaluation**

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

IN THE NEWS

Powell to take Yellowstone kids?

Posted: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 5:00 pm

[Powell to take Yellowstone kids?](#)

By COREY MORRIS

The Powell School District is beginning the process of extending its boundary to include the Mammoth Hot Springs community in Yellowstone Park.

School-aged children of YNP employees living in Mammoth then would be considered students of the Powell School District.

A public hearing will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, in Grizzly Hall at Park County Public Library.

"It's the first step in a lengthy process," Powell Superintendent Kevin Mitchell said.

The Park County Boundary Board will have to approve the change. The board is comprised of the Park County assessor, treasurer and commissioners.

Pending approval, the final decision will be made by the Wyoming Department of Education.

The district began the process following a request from WDE.

The result: Mammoth students will be recognized as students in a Wyoming school district (Powell), but will attend school in Gardiner, Mont. Thus, Wyoming will pay tuition to Gardiner.

The Powell and Gardiner school districts will have a memorandum of understanding outlining their respective obligations, and Powell essentially will function as a financial “flow through” for Gardiner, Mitchell said.

“There shouldn’t be any impact to Powell schools at all,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell added that he’s aware of other Wyoming school districts paying tuition to other states under similar circumstances, and he has consulted their superintendents (Teton County School District No. 1, Uinta County School District No. 4).

“There aren’t as many students and the students aren’t in a national park, but it’s similar,” Mitchell said.

In Wyoming, 73 students attend schools in other states, Mitchell said.

“This is not anything new – it’s new to us, but it’s not new,” he added. “There is precedent.”

A WDE representative recently told the Enterprise reimbursement from the state may not be instantaneous.

“The state sets a standard for how much money is required per student to ensure a decent education and makes up any shortfall of local revenue” School Foundation Supervisor Jed Cicarelli said. “But it could take a full year for them to be reimbursed.”

However, Mitchell has been reassured that the first year Powell will not face reimbursement issues.

“I was told yesterday by a staffer in Gov. (Matt) Mead’s office that the governor has agreed to pay the bill for this year,” Mitchell said.

Any other reimbursement concerns will be negotiated as the process progresses, Mitchell said.

Overall, the Powell district prefers to view the situation optimistically, he added.

“We think this is a positive thing for those students – this is a positive issue, not a negative issue.”

Background

Mammoth students have attended Gardiner schools for years. The Park Service has footed the tuition bill until recently.

A change in federal policy during the 1976 school year officially cut off funding for Mammoth students.

Oversight by all parties involved meant students continued attending Gardiner schools and the federal government continued reimbursing the district.

The error recently was discovered.

Federal funding (nearly \$500,000 annually) was cut off for the 2013-14 school year and Gardiner schools was billed for about \$7 million in overpayments.

“How it got confused was the park was making payments to the Gardiner School District under an agreement that only applied to Yellowstone Park,” Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash told the Enterprise in early April. “In the ’70s, a bill was passed that applied to the whole nation, providing for payments from the federal government to local counties. We realized we could no longer authorize payments from entrance fees to school districts.”

In February, a petition signed by 108 Mammoth residents (including Nash) was delivered to Park County officials asking the county to extend its school boundaries or establish a new school district.

Due to Mammoth’s location, it makes the most sense for students to continue attending Gardiner, Mitchell said, but the students are Wyoming residents.

“There’s a clear issue that these children live in Park County, Wyo., and I think this will be a good ending for those children,” he said.

Cody support

The Cody School Board will meet in a special session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 6.

“I’m going to encourage our district to support Park 1 (Powell School District) in this decision,” Cody Superintendent Ray Schulte said.

The meeting is being held to show support – the decision to extend Powell’s boundary is not expected to affect Cody.

“This won’t change our boundary and it won’t impact our operations in any way,” Schulte said.

The state didn’t approach the Cody School District, Schulte says.

Additionally, Schulte agrees Mammoth students should be serviced by Wyoming.

“If they didn’t live in Wyoming, I’d be the first to say no,” he said. “But if they live in Wyoming, we have the responsibility to educate them.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 956 AM MDT THU MAY 1 2014

Today Mostly sunny in the late morning and early afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 49 to 55.

Tonight Partly cloudy. Lows 27 to 33.

Friday Partly cloudy. Highs 52 to 58.

Friday Night Partly cloudy. Lows 29 to 35.

Saturday Breezy. Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 54 to 60. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Saturday Night Breezy. Partly cloudy. Lows 29 to 35.

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Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

All employees are encouraged to participate in the [Wellness Incentive Program](#) (WIP). Full program details can be found by clicking the link above. You may begin participation at the beginning of any month. Simply complete a certification form and submit it to Stacey Gunther by the fifth day of the following month (i.e. send by April 5th for wellness participation during March). Five names will be drawn each month for an award.

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Friday, May 2, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **East Entrance Road** opened as scheduled to public travel at 0800 today, as did the section from Canyon to Lake! HOWEVER, bear activity has temporarily CLOSED the area around Mud Volcano. Apparently, the bears had other ideas for spring opening.

Half hour delays are possible, seven days/week, on the road construction project starting from the Gardner River Bridge (near Indian Creek Campground) to the Gibbon River Bridge (near the Norris Campground). **11 pm to 7 am Night Closures will begin on Sunday June 1st**. Please drive carefully and watch for flag personnel, surveyors, etc.

The **Lamar River District** would like to announce that Tyla Guss has accepted our vacant permanent LE ranger position. Tyla will arrive in early June and reside at Tower. Tyla has previously worked law enforcement at Glacier, Capital Reef, Canyon de Chelly, Glen Canyon, Amistad, San Antonio Mission, and is currently at Bryce Canyon in Utah. Her credentials include park-medic, CPR instructor, structural FF, and DOI MOCC instructor. Please welcome Tyla to Yellowstone when you meet her this summer.

Please congratulate **Nick Derene** on his appointment into his first permanent job with the National Park Service. Nick will be working as a Law Enforcement Ranger in the Old Faithful District. He begins his new job on June 1. Nick has been working in Yellowstone seasonally and as a volunteer for the last several years.

Slide show and informational talk about Y2DAK's recent service trip to Antigua, Guatemala

Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 pm at the Gardiner Community Center FREE

Yellowstone Youth Doing Acts of Kindness (Y2DAK) is a service group for Gardiner School students in grades 7-12. Its mission is to engage teens in giving back to their local community, and also the world community. The main focus is volunteering their time doing service work in Gardiner and Park County. The youth who achieve these hours are eligible for a biennial international service trip. Three Gardiner teens recently spent a week in Guatemala volunteering at 2 animal rescue shelters. **COME HEAR THEIR STORIES AND SEE OUR PHOTOS OF THIS GREAT TRIP.** We would love to have new members, so receive lots of information about Y2DAK and have your questions answered. We hope to see you there. If you can't make it, feel free to email me at caemt22@gmail.com Colleen Eldred

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

Sunday: Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs 53 to 59. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Sunday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the evening. Lows 29 to 35. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Monday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then chance of rain showers...snow showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 49 to 55. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

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Lee Whittlesey, Dan Wenk, and Paul Schullery listen to the president of MSU speak at a dinner to confer an honorary doctorate for Lee Whittlesey and Donna Shalala.
(photo by Tobin Roop)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Boiling River** Spring high water closure is in effect until further notice.

US-212 from the Northeast Entrance through Silver Gate and Cooke City to the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway (WY-296) is open for the season.

To: NPS, Xanterra, DNC, YPSS, Medcor, and YA employees who commute to work
From: Colleen Curry, NPS Curator and RideShare Coordinator and Lindsay Robb, NPS Chief of Administration

If you live outside of Yellowstone and commute to work for the NPS, NPS Concessionaires or partner organizations in Gardiner or Mammoth, we'd like your input for a commuter survey. We want to know whether or not you ride the bus, how often, and if you'd be interested in riding under different circumstances.

Data from this survey will help NPS managers plan bus schedules and fares. We are currently considering adding Friday bus service and adjusting rates.

The survey is limited to the first 100 respondents and current bus riders were given priority to respond first. Please share this information with other commuters who may have been missed on the mailing list.

If you're willing to complete a 10 question commuter survey, please click on the following link.

[Yellowstone RideShare Survey](#)

Background on the RideShare bus

The National Park Service operates an employee RideShare bus between Livingston and Mammoth, utilizing volunteer drivers who live in the Livingston area. All employees of the NPS, concessionaires, or partner organizations may ride the bus.

Currently the bus runs Monday through Thursday, departing from Livingston (at the Town Pump next to Albertsons) at 5:30 a.m. and arriving in Mammoth by 7:00 a.m., with stops at Emigrant (gas station / general store), Tom Miner Basin (green boxes), Corwin Springs (Lighthouse Restaurant), and Gardiner (Town Cafe). In the afternoon the bus departs Mammoth at 5:30 p.m., reversing the route and arriving back in Livingston by 7:00 p.m.

Current daily rates for riding the bus are: \$5 from Livingston, \$4 from Emigrant, \$3 from Tom Miner, \$2 from Corwin Springs, and \$1.50 from Gardiner. Rider fees are used to pay stipends for the drivers and to reimburse the NPS for most of the cost of fuel. Additional fuel and maintenance costs for the buses are paid by the NPS.

If you have questions about the RideShare program, please contact RideShare Coordinator Colleen Curry by phone at 344-2262, or email to Colleen.Curry@nps.gov.

Thanks for your participation in this survey

- - - - -

Remember those times when you would have a conversation about near anything with Mike Keller and in your head on some occasions, you'd think...go jump in a lake! Well, now you can say it out loud!!! Help send off Mike Keller who is "jumping in" to be General Manager for Xanterra at Crater lake National Park!

TOMORROW in the **Mammoth Hot Springs - Map Room from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM.**

- - - - -

Half hour delays are possible, seven days/week, on the road construction project starting from the Gardner River Bridge (near Indian Creek Campground) to the Gibbon River Bridge (near the Norris Campground). **11 pm to 7 am Night Closures will begin on Sunday June 1st.** Please drive carefully and watch for flag personnel, surveyors, etc.

**Slide show and informational talk about Y2DAK's recent service trip to Antigua, Guatemala
Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 pm at the Gardiner Community Center FREE**

Yellowstone Youth Doing Acts of Kindness (Y2DAK) is a service group for Gardiner School students in grades 7-12. Its mission is to engage teens in giving back to their local community, and also the world community. The main focus is volunteering their time doing service work in Gardiner and Park County. The youth who achieve these hours are eligible for a biennial international service trip. Three Gardiner teens recently spent a week in Guatemala volunteering at 2 animal rescue shelters. COME HEAR THEIR STORIES AND SEE OUR PHOTOS OF THIS GREAT TRIP. We would love to have new members, so receive lots of information about Y2DAK and have your questions answered. We hope to see you there. If you can't make it, feel free to email me at caemt22@gmail.com Colleen Eldred

Mountain Mobile Glass will be at the Mammoth garage on the morning of Thursday May 8th. If you need rock chip repair or glass replaced call me, Bob @ 2322 or Tom @ 2321 to schedule your glass work.

The Yellowstone Association Institute will be hosting a **Wilderness First Aid certification course** taught through Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS. The course will take place May 14 and 15 at the headquarters classroom in Gardiner. Some spots are available for NPS staff at a reduced rate of \$140. Please call (406) 848-2400 for more information or to enroll.

There will be an **A100 class May 7** in the Fire Cache Training Room starting at 0900. There will be a second class June 18th starting at 0900 in the Fire Cache Training Room. Please log on to www.iat.gov to make sure you have a profile and register for the class you want to take.

The **traditional den closure** was implemented yesterday southeast of Druid Peak. It will be in effect as long as the wolves localize in the area.

EMPLOYEE RECREATION

Tonight May 5th: Bear Seminar: 7:00 pm in the Mammoth Employee Recreation Hall located behind the Mammoth Hotel. Kerry Gunther, NPS Bear Management Biologist, will describe the history of bear management in YNP and describe how to safely hike and camp in bear country.

Tomorrow May 6th: Wolf Seminar: 7:00 pm in the Mammoth Employee Recreation Hall located behind the Mammoth Hotel. Join Yellowstone Wolf Project Field Technician Matt Metz as he details up-to-date information about wolves in Yellowstone.

Hitting the trail? If you have been hiking the trails in Yellowstone, please email the Central Backcountry Office at Yell_backcountry_office@nps.gov with current trail conditions so that we can start compiling our backcountry situation report. Thanks and remember to carry bear spray!

Radio Training has been set up for the following dates.

May 8 9am - 11am

If you have a portable radio, please bring it with you when you come to training.

Please sign up on the SharePoint site.

<http://inpyellshare/Calendars/Lists/Radio%20Training/Calendar1.aspx>

If these two dates fill up, we will schedule more training dates.

Free to a good home - one large Ficus tree. Can be viewed on Admin Bldg 3rd floor. If interested, contact Colleen Athas at x2039.

Yellowstone Badger Project
Be a Citizen Scientist



www.YellowstoneBadger.info

Your help is needed

Report a Badger

Jim Halfpenny
Leo Leckie
Bonnie Quinn

(406) 848-9458

Project goals

Yellowstone Badger: A Citizen Naturalist Project seeks to:

- Recognize the observations made by citizen naturalist scientists including wildlife observers, photographers, and other Yellowstone National Park visitors.
- Create a venue for citizen naturalist scientists to contribute long-term data collection on Yellowstone badgers.
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accompanying data including date, time, location, and photographs made observers and to facilitate biological and ecological studies such as distribution and population numbers and trends of badgers.

- Create a dynamic and engaging educational tool for the general public and those studying wildlife by providing access to photos, distribution maps, literature, and research reports and papers.

Why your input matters

The abundance of observers, supplemented by the emergence of quality digital image recorders and modern optics makes observations more common but to date little opportunity existed to collect observations. Now with the internet, we're able to undertake a dedicated and systematic effort to collect information. To understand badgers we need to be able to obtain, consolidate and analyze the plethora of hidden records. Using these record there are many questions that may be approached including for example:

What is the distribution of badgers in Yellowstone and what might their numbers be?

What is the reproductive history including number of females and young (called kits)?

What are long-term population trends?

Do long-term trends respond to wildlife disease patterns?

What behaviors are observed?

What are types and rates of interactions with other species?

In addition to these scientific discoveries, we anticipate this site being a source of discovery and education for the public. An informed and invested public is the key to the success of conservation efforts throughout the region.

Get out and ride in May and join us for a group ride here in the park at various locations on Tuesday, May 13th. See below for details.

EVERYONE is welcome to join the May BIKE TO WORK CHALLENGE!

The Challenge.....Bike to work 4 times during the month of May.

- Don't have a very long commute? **Distance doesn't matter.**
- Do you take the bus but would like to ride to the bus stop? **This counts too!**
- Not an NPS employee? **No problem!**

Still Interested?

We need **riders** and **team captains**, call Bill Mayer (2483) or Heidi Anderson (2564) to participate.

This is a Department of Interior challenge that is hosted on the website by the Cascade Bicycle Club. Consider parking your car a few times during the month of May and riding your bike to work instead.

National Bike to Work Week is May 12th-16th!

Don't want to participate in the challenge but still want to bike to work? Let us know if you did – we would like to hear. It is good for the body, the spirit and the environment. **Don't forget your helmet!**

.....
JOIN A GROUP RIDE ON TUESDAY MAY 13th:

(No need to register just show up! Please bring helmet and dress for the weather!)

***Gardiner to Mammoth via the Old Road meets at 6:15a.m. at North Entrance Gate**

***Gardiner to Mammoth via the Main Road meets at 6:00a.m. at North Entrance Gate**

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***Lower Mammoth to Mammoth meets at 7:45a.m. at Mammoth Community Center**

***YCC to Mammoth meets at 6:45a.m. at the Recycling Boxes**

We won't leave you behind! Call Bill Mayer (X2483) or Heidi Anderson (X2564) if interested. This message brought to you by the Green Team and Employee Safety Committee!

Get this outstanding community event on your calendar: 35th ANNUAL PARK to PARADISE TRIATHLON! Race Day: Saturday, May 10th. RACE DAY REGISTRATION at **YANKEE JIM RIVER ACCESS (8:45-9:45)**. Parking is tight, please carpool. Boaters, drop your boats at Brogan's before arrival at registration. You will be bussed to the start. Race meeting at 10 AM at Yankee Jim River Access. Race begins at 10:30 AM. Boating from Brogan's Landing to Yankee Jim River Access (7 miles); running from Yankee Jim River Access North on HWY 89 to the Carbella green boxes (4 miles); biking across the Carbella bridge turning back south onto the Old Yellowstone Trail Road and continuing through Yankee Jim Canyon to finish at Arch Park in Gardiner (17.5 miles). Not racing but want to help on race day? Great, contact Stacey Gunther at 406-848-7941.

IN THE NEWS**Yellowstone officials update local anglers on park's plans**

Posted: Friday, May 2, 2014 11:31 am By Mike Moore West Yellowstone News

[Yellowstone officials update local anglers on park's plans](#)

Yellowstone National Park officials gave the fishing community of West Yellowstone an update on their Native Fish Conservation Plan and other regulation changes during a meeting at the Holiday Inn on Monday.

The park met in a similar fashion in West Yellowstone last summer, which was the first year new fishing guidelines regulated specific areas of the park.

Yellowstone Center for Resources chief David Hallac started the night off by giving a brief history of trout in Yellowstone. The native species that have always existed in the park are Arctic grayling, Yellowstone cutthroat, westslope cutthroat and mountain whitefish.

“Over time, the park stocked rainbows, browns and brook trout,” Hallac said. “We attempted to balance non-native and native fish species. When the park was founded, the goal was to (create) the best possible sport fisheries in about as many waters as could reasonably be stocked. Only 40 percent of the park’s (waters) had trout.”

He says the park did a lot of things back then that they wouldn’t do today, and that maybe what they’re doing now with the Native Fish Conservation plan may not be the best idea for the park in the future. He says it’s just hard to tell.

Hallac updated the audience on the status of lake trout suppression in Yellowstone Lake.

Since their discovery in the lake in 1994, lake trout have depleted Yellowstone cutthroat populations, which serve as a keystone species for a great deal of wildlife surrounding that area.

Between 1995 and 2000, there were approximately 30 to 60 known osprey nests around the lake. Twenty years later, osprey nest numbers have dropped to around three or four. The reason, Hallac says, is the drop in Yellowstone cutthroat. Since cutthroat are more of a surface fish than the deep-dwelling lake trout, osprey have fewer fish to eat on the surface.

The park found that the drop of cutthroat in the lake has also dwindled spawning numbers in tributaries, which has adversely impacted bear visitation to these tributaries as well.

“Bears have dropped from 50 (visits a day) to next to none now,” Hallac said. “Our numbers of spawning cutthroat and bears have gone to almost zero.”

Through gill net efforts with four commercial fishing boats out on the lake each day in the summer, suppression of lake trout has started to see success, he says.

More than 300,000 lake trout were caught in 2011, and 200,000 were caught in 2013. Through extensive research, park officials believe they are possibly starting to see signs that the lake trout population is on the decline.

“In 2011, we had a nice peak of large (Yellowstone cutthroat),” he said. “We weren’t seeing the smaller fish. In 2012, we saw lots of smaller fish and that was very exciting to see. These are early signs, but it’s showing movement in the right direction.”

One major change in regulations this year is a new opening date for Yellowstone Lake, which will open to anglers on May 24, which is also the opening date for the general season.

Following Hallac’s presentation, he turned the floor over to Todd Koel, who is the leader with the Native Fish Conservation Plan. He began by discussing current stream restoration efforts in Grayling Creek.

Efforts in Grayling Creek are aimed at reintroducing and protecting Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat in this watershed, as they are native to the system. The project called for a barrier to be installed a good distance upstream to prevent Hebgen Lake non-native fish to disrupt Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat in the higher reaches of the system.

“It’s a huge watershed,” Koel said. “We applied rotenone last August and will do one more this August. We will introduce potassium permanganate at the barrier to remove the last bit of rotenone in the stream.”

The project leader then went on to discuss the Lamar River drainage, which has recently seen a surge of rainbow trout moving further upstream into the system. The movement has started to negatively impact cutthroat trout in streams like Slough Creek and Soda Butte Creek.

“By 2006, there were reports of rainbows and hybrids in Soda Butte Creek,” he said. “Now they are up to the third meadow of Slough. There are no barriers for fish movement in the system. I’m very concerned we will lose this system if we wait too long.”

To solve the problem, Koel says they are using strategies including barriers, suppression of non-natives, electrofishing, strategic application of rotenone, target removal by anglers and must-kill regulations on non-native fish.

The park introduced a no possession limit on non-native fish in this drainage system last year. One change in the regulations this season is that these specific regulations to remove non-native fish do not apply to the Lamar River downstream from the bridge to where the river joins the Yellowstone River.

Following Koel’s presentation, the audience began a question and answer session with park officials.

One concern was the possibility of ruining world-class trout fishing opportunities that the park exemplifies.

Koel responded by stating there are few places outside Yellowstone where these delicate species can continue to thrive with a changing climate.

“We’re expected to do everything we can to protect the natural species here,” he said. “This is a unique place for native fish to persist.”

Bob Jacklin of Jacklin’s Fly Shop was concerned that if Arctic grayling don’t take to the Gibbon River as part of the plan intends, the fishery would be closed off for angler access.

Koel responded by stating that during and following reintroduction efforts on Specimen Creek, fishing was never discontinued and that anglers should expect the same access as they had before.

“If they don’t take, will you reintroduce rainbows and brown (back into the Gibbon River)?” Dick Greene of Bud Lilly’s Trout Shop asked.

Koel said it is still too early to tell, but that they hope impacts are short-lived and will benefit anglers in the long run.

The audience questioned a timeline for the plan to be completed, and Koel responded by stating there will be several years of reintroduction and several years to see if the fish are naturally reproducing.

“It could be a decade,” he said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 834 AM MDT MON MAY 5 2014

Today Breezy. Partly cloudy early in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers early in the afternoon. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 49 to 55. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tonight Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms and snow showers in the evening...then scattered snow showers and rain showers after midnight. Lows 28 to 34. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tuesday Cloudy. Scattered rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 42 to 50. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Tuesday Night Rain and snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 25 to 31. Northeast winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Wednesday Snow likely in the morning...then snow and rain likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 5 inches. Highs 34 to 42. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Wednesday Night Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening... Then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 20 to 26. Chance of snow 50 percent.

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Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

All employees are encouraged to participate in the [Wellness Incentive Program](#) (WIP). Full program details can be found by clicking the link above. You may begin participation at the beginning of any month. Simply complete a certification form and submit it to Stacey Gunther by the fifth day of the following month (i.e. send by April 5th for wellness participation during March). Five names will be drawn each month for an award.

Interested in receiving the latest health and wellness updates?

Access the free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Topics can be tailored to your health interests. Sign up at <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health-information/> scroll down to Free E Newsletter and click "sign up now".

If you have employees without access to computers, please work with them to cover topics that interest them at your weekly tailgate safety sessions.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety? Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

Back issues of the newsletter are available at P:\YNP@Work Published Issues

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, May 6, 2014



Phil Doecke receiving his 15 yr award (presented by Todd Koel).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Boiling River and Firehole Canyon Swim Area** Spring high water closures are in effect until further notice.

US-212 from the Northeast Entrance through Silver Gate and Cooke City to the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway (WY-296) is open for the season.

Mountain Mobile Glass will be at the Mammoth garage on the morning of Thursday May 8th. If you need rock chip repair or glass replaced call me, Bob @ 2322 or Tom @ 2321 to schedule your glass work.

To: NPS, Xanterra, DNC, YPSS, Medcor, and YA employees who commute to work
From: Colleen Curry, NPS Curator and RideShare Coordinator and Lindsay Robb, NPS Chief of Administration

If you live outside of Yellowstone and commute to work for the NPS, NPS Concessionaires or partner organizations in Gardiner or Mammoth, we'd like your input for a commuter survey. We want to know whether or not you ride the bus, how often, and if you'd be interested in riding under different circumstances.

Data from this survey will help NPS managers plan bus schedules and fares. We are currently considering adding Friday bus service and adjusting rates.

The survey is limited to the first 100 respondents and current bus riders were given priority to respond first. Please share this information with other commuters who may have been missed on the mailing list.

If you're willing to complete a 10 question commuter survey, please click on the following link.
[Yellowstone RideShare Survey](#)

Background on the RideShare bus

The National Park Service operates an employee RideShare bus between Livingston and Mammoth, utilizing volunteer drivers who live in the Livingston area. All employees of the NPS, concessionaires, or partner organizations may ride the bus.

Currently the bus runs Monday through Thursday, departing from Livingston (at the Town Pump next to Albertsons) at 5:30 a.m. and arriving in Mammoth by 7:00 a.m., with stops at Emigrant (gas station / general store), Tom Miner Basin (green boxes), Corwin Springs (Lighthouse Restaurant), and Gardiner (Town Cafe). In the afternoon the bus departs Mammoth at 5:30 p.m., reversing the route and arriving back in Livingston by 7:00 p.m.

Current daily rates for riding the bus are: \$5 from Livingston, \$4 from Emigrant, \$3 from Tom Miner, \$2 from Corwin Springs, and \$1.50 from Gardiner. Rider fees are used to pay stipends for the drivers and to reimburse the NPS for most of the cost of fuel. Additional fuel and maintenance costs for the buses are paid by the NPS.

If you have questions about the RideShare program, please contact RideShare Coordinator Colleen Curry by phone at 344-2262, or email to Colleen.Curry@nps.gov.

Thanks for your participation in this survey

Remember those times when you would have a conversation about near anything with Mike Keller and in your head on some occasions, you'd think...go jump in a lake! Well, now you can say it out loud!!! Help send off Mike Keller who is "jumping in" to be General Manager for Xanterra at Crater lake National Park!
TODAY in the **Mammoth Hot Springs - Map Room from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM.**

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IN THE NEWS

Avalanche work delays visitors through Yellowstone's east entrance

23 hours ago • By RUFFIN PREVOST yellowstonegate.com

CODY, Wyo. — Early visitors to Yellowstone National Park may sometimes wish they could stay a little longer. And some of the first people touring the park by auto this year got their wish Friday, as a closure of Sylvan Pass stopped traffic on the park's East Entrance road for a few hours.

Park officials temporarily closed the 1 1/2-mile stretch of road between the East Gate and Fishing Bridge to allow for avalanche mitigation.

Workers fired a 105-mm howitzer cannon to blast snow from peaks along the north side of the 8,524-foot pass. The road reopened shortly before 6 p.m. Friday.

It was the first day the East Gate from Cody, Wyo., was open to autos this year.

East Entrance Ranger Dennis Lenzendorf said about 30 vehicles were waiting to enter at 8 a.m. Friday, including a group of tourists from Thailand and another group from Japan.

"There was so much snow on the road, I wondered whether we'd be ready to go today, but we made it," Lenzendorf said. "It's great to see how excited everyone is to get back in the park."

For many faithful locals and a few lucky visitors, the snow-covered landscape of spring offers a quieter, less-crowded way to take in the park's wildlife and wonders.

"I'm really surprised at how much snow there is," said Gehn Fujii, a Vermont resident making his way to the West Coast for a summer job.

Fujii had planned his trip to allow for a swing through Yellowstone, and was among approximately 20 people stopped near Steamboat Point at mid-morning to watch a young grizzly bear forage along a hillside.

Though he had seen black bears in Vermont and grizzlies in Alaska, Fujii said he was dazzled by Yellowstone's wildlife, landscape and thermal features.

"I'm definitely going to have to plan another trip to come back again," he said.

Grizzly bears were active in several spots along the park's east side Friday, with one group spotting five different bears during a two-hour drive between Steamboat Point and Canyon Village.

One grizzly drew a crowd near LeHardy Rapids as it fed throughout the day on a carcass at the edge of the Yellowstone River. Photographers and wildlife watchers lined the roadside and ventured into the trees for a closer look. But with only light traffic, the typical "bear jam" of mid-summer never materialized.

Throughout the park, migrating birds and waterfowl fished and fed along the rivers, including a bald eagle that soared over the Yellowstone River south of Canyon Village.

At Trout Creek, a great blue heron ignored the few passing cars at mid-afternoon to focus on a shallow pool where it waded in search of a meal. The enormous, long-legged bird moved slowly and patiently until striking with a swift thrust of its neck.

The heron has a diverse diet, and can feed on reptiles, invertebrates, fish and even small mammals.

But despite the first spring tourists making their way back into the park, the heron and his feathered friends will continue to enjoy exclusive fishing rights for a few more days. Yellowstone remains closed to anglers until Memorial Day weekend.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/avalanche-work-delays-visitors-through-yellowstone-s-east-entrance/article_a0455342-9c31-5670-8b51-136e66c850d6.html#ixzz30xDwdfkr

10 entities apply to get Yellowstone bison

21 hours ago • By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

Ten entities have offered to take a group of about 135 bison from Yellowstone National Park that went through an experimental program to establish new herds of the animals, Montana state officials said Monday.

Applications came in from state wildlife agencies in Utah and Minnesota, three American Indian tribes and five private groups in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska and New York.

The animals have been held for the past several years on behalf of the state at a Bozeman-area ranch owned by philanthropist Ted Turner.

They were captured from the park in 2005 and 2006, put into quarantine and tested repeatedly to make sure they don't have the disease brucellosis. Backers hoped they would serve as seed stock for new herds of bison and promote the conservation of the species driven to near-extinction in the late 1800s.

Unlike most of the half-million bison in the U.S. that are in commercial herds, Yellowstone's wild bison are considered genetically pure.

Prior attempts to move the quarantined animals onto public lands in Montana were abandoned in the face of determined opposition from ranchers and property rights advocates concerned about property damage, disease and competition for grazing land.

Another group of bison that went through the program were transferred to Montana's Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations in 2012. Opponents challenged the move unsuccessfully in state court.

Whether the next relocation is challenged depends in part on where the animals would go, said Rep. Kerry White, a Republican state lawmaker from Bozeman who has been critical of bison relocation efforts.

"There's a lot of concerned property owners," White said.

Under a deal hatched by former Gov. Brian Schweitzer, Turner gets to keep 75 percent of the animals' offspring in exchange for the care he provided over the past several years. That's expected to be more than 150 bison after spring calving.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks wants to pass the remaining animals over to public agencies or organizations interested in starting "conservation herds."

Over the next several weeks, a panel of state, tribal and federal officials will review the proposals before recommending one or more applicants for approval.

Spokesman Ron Aasheim said the agency hopes to relocate the bison by the end of November. A public comment period will be scheduled to give interested parties a chance to weigh in before a final decision is made, he said.

Most of the entities that applied to take the animals are looking to augment existing herds.

Along with the state wildlife agencies, the applicants include the tribes of Montana's Fort Peck Indian Reservation; the Quapaw and Cherokee tribes of Oklahoma; the Platte River Whooping Crane Trust in Wood River, Neb.; Tutuaca Mountain Center in Crawford, Neb.; the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society, Yampa Valley Bison in northwest Colorado and the American Prairie Foundation in Sun Prairie, Mont.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/entities-apply-to-get-yellowstone-bison/article_6a7a07fb-9dcb-57e1-9037-9b1a499323e0.html#ixzz30xDLaJOP

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 846 AM MDT TUE MAY 6 2014

Today Cloudy. Scattered snow showers early in the morning...then numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce small hail in the afternoon. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 40 to 46. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tonight Numerous snow showers with possible showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce small hail early in the evening. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 24 to 30. Northeast winds around 15 mph in the late evening and overnight. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Wednesday Snow and rain likely. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 3 inches. Highs 37 to 43. East winds around 15 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Wednesday Night Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening... Then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 19 to 25. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Thursday Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 42 to 48. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Thursday Night Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow showers after midnight. Lows 23 to 29.

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Interested in receiving the latest health and wellness updates?

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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

Wednesday, May 7, 2014



Sage Leapers "Sprint to Soak" Inaugural Chico Half Marathon and 10K Spring 2014

If you are new to the area and looking for local running routes or just want a group to motivate you to get out on the roads and trails, come join us this year! SAGE LEAPERS RUNNING CLUB is always welcoming new faces.

Join the group on Facebook to find out more. We are based out of the Gardiner/ Mammoth area, but we run at other locations in and out of Yellowstone. Hope to see you out with us this summer!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Boiling River and Firehole Canyon Swim Area** Spring high water closures are in effect until further notice.

US-212 from the Northeast Entrance through Silver Gate and Cooke City to the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway (WY-296) is open for the season.

Mountain Mobile Glass will be at the Mammoth garage **TOMORROW**. If you need rock chip repair or glass replaced call me, Bob @ 2322 or Tom @ 2321 to schedule your glass work.

To: NPS, Xanterra, DNC, YPSS, Medcor, and YA employees who commute to work
From: Colleen Curry, NPS Curator and RideShare Coordinator and Lindsay Robb, NPS Chief of Administration

If you live outside of Yellowstone and commute to work for the NPS, NPS Concessionaires or partner organizations in Gardiner or Mammoth, we'd like your input for a commuter survey. We want to know whether or not you ride the bus, how often, and if you'd be interested in riding under different circumstances.

Data from this survey will help NPS managers plan bus schedules and fares. We are currently considering adding Friday bus service and adjusting rates.

The survey is limited to the first 100 respondents and current bus riders were given priority to respond first. Please share this information with other commuters who may have been missed on the mailing list.

If you're willing to complete a 10 question commuter survey, please click on the following link.

[Yellowstone RideShare Survey](#)

Background on the RideShare bus

The National Park Service operates an employee RideShare bus between Livingston and Mammoth, utilizing volunteer drivers who live in the Livingston area. All employees of the NPS, concessionaires, or partner organizations may ride the bus.

Currently the bus runs Monday through Thursday, departing from Livingston (at the Town Pump next to Albertsons) at 5:30 a.m. and arriving in Mammoth by 7:00 a.m., with stops at Emigrant (gas station / general store), Tom Miner Basin (green boxes), Corwin Springs (Lighthouse Restaurant), and Gardiner (Town Cafe). In the afternoon the bus departs Mammoth at 5:30 p.m., reversing the route and arriving back in Livingston by 7:00 p.m.

Current daily rates for riding the bus are: \$5 from Livingston, \$4 from Emigrant, \$3 from Tom Miner, \$2 from Corwin Springs, and \$1.50 from Gardiner. Rider fees are used to pay stipends for the drivers and to reimburse the NPS for most of the cost of fuel. Additional fuel and maintenance costs for the buses are paid by the NPS.

If you have questions about the RideShare program, please contact RideShare Coordinator Colleen Curry by phone at 344-2262, or email to Colleen.Curry@nps.gov.

Thanks for your participation in this survey

- - - - -

Half hour delays are possible, seven days/week, on the road construction project starting from the Gardner River Bridge (near Indian Creek Campground) to the Gibbon River Bridge (near the Norris Campground). **11 pm to 7 am Night Closures will begin on Sunday June 1st.** Please drive carefully and watch for flag personnel, surveyors, etc.

- - - - -

The Body Sculpt class scheduled for tomorrow morning (5/8/2014) is canceled. All of the rest of Amanda Stover's classes will continue as scheduled with a substitute (except for lunchtime yoga but including tonight's 5:30 Pilates class and next week's Body Sculpt.) She'll be back to teaching on Wednesday, 5/21.

The **traditional den closure** was implemented yesterday southeast of Druid Peak. It will be in effect as long as the wolves localize in the area.

Hitting the trail? If you have been hiking the trails in Yellowstone, please email the Central Backcountry Office at Yell_backcountry_office@nps.gov with current trail conditions so that we can start compiling our backcountry situation report. Thanks and remember to carry bear spray!

Radio Training has been set up for the following dates.

TOMORROW 9am - 11am

If you have a portable radio, please bring it with you when you come to training.

Please sign up on the SharePoint site.

<http://inpyellshare/Calendars/Lists/Radio%20Training/Calendar1.aspx>

If these two dates fill up, we will schedule more training dates.

MCC Ice Cream Sundae Potluck! You bring a dish to share and a sundae topping - we'll supply the Ice Cream! Tuesday, May 12th @ 6 pm. All welcome!

For more information:

<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com/>

mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com

Free to a good home - one large Ficus tree. Can be viewed on Admin Bldg 3rd floor. If interested, contact Colleen Athas at x2039.

Yellowstone Badger Project
Be a Citizen Scientist



www.YellowstoneBadger.info

Your help
is
needed

**Report a
Badger**

Jim Halfpenny
Leo Leckie
Bonnie Quinn

(406) 848-9458

Project goals

Yellowstone Badger: A Citizen Naturalist Project seeks to:

- Recognize the observations made by citizen naturalist scientists including wildlife observers, photographers, and other Yellowstone National Park visitors.
- Create a venue for citizen naturalist scientists to contribute long-term data collection on Yellowstone badgers.
- Collect reports of badgers and

accompanying data including date, time, location, and photographs made observers and to facilitate biological and ecological studies such as distribution and population numbers and trends of badgers.

- Create a dynamic and engaging educational tool for the general public and those studying wildlife by providing access to photos, distribution maps, literature, and research reports and papers.

Why your input matters

The abundance of observers, supplemented by the emergence of quality digital image recorders and modern optics makes observations more common but to date little opportunity existed to collect observations. Now with the internet, we're able to undertake a dedicated and systematic effort to collect information. To understand badgers we need to be able to obtain, consolidate and analyze the plethora of hidden records. Using these record there are many questions that may be approached including for example:

What is the distribution of badgers in Yellowstone and what might their numbers be?

What is the reproductive history including number of females and young (called kits)?

What are long-term population trends?

Do long-term trends respond to wildlife disease patterns?

What behaviors are observed?

What are types and rates of interactions with other species?

In addition to these scientific discoveries, we anticipate this site being a source of discovery and education for the public. An informed and invested public is the key to the success of conservation efforts throughout the region.

Get out and ride in May and join us for a group ride here in the park at various locations on Tuesday, May 13th. See below for details.

EVERYONE is welcome to join the May BIKE TO WORK CHALLENGE!

The Challenge.....Bike to work 4 times during the month of May.

- Don't have a very long commute? **Distance doesn't matter.**
- Do you take the bus but would like to ride to the bus stop? **This counts too!**
- Not an NPS employee? **No problem!**

Still Interested?

We need **riders** and **team captains**, call Bill Mayer (2483) or Heidi Anderson (2564) to participate.

This is a Department of Interior challenge that is hosted on the website by the Cascade Bicycle Club.

Consider parking your car a few times during the month of May and riding your bike to work instead.

National Bike to Work Week is May 12th-16th!

Don't want to participate in the challenge but still want to bike to work? Let us know if you did – we would like to hear. It is good for the body, the spirit and the environment. **Don't forget your helmet!**

JOIN A GROUP RIDE ON TUESDAY MAY 13th:

(No need to register just show up! Please bring helmet and dress for the weather!)

***Gardiner to Mammoth via the Old Road meets at 6:15a.m. at North Entrance Gate**

***Gardiner to Mammoth via the Main Road meets at 6:00a.m. at North Entrance Gate**

***Mammoth to Gardiner via the Main Road meets at 6:40a.m. at Mammoth Community Center**

***Lower Mammoth to Mammoth meets at 7:45a.m. at Mammoth Community Center**

***YCC to Mammoth meets at 6:45a.m. at the Recycling Boxes**

We won't leave you behind! Call Bill Mayer (X2483) or Heidi Anderson (X2564) if interested. This message brought to you by the Green Team and Employee Safety Committee!

Get this outstanding community event on your calendar: 35th ANNUAL PARK to PARADISE TRIATHLON! Race Day: **THIS SATURDAY**. RACE DAY REGISTRATION at **YANKEE JIM RIVER ACCESS (8:45-9:45)**. Parking is tight, please carpool. Boaters, drop your boats at Brogan's before arrival at registration. You will be bussed to the start. Race meeting at 10 AM at Yankee Jim River Access. Race begins at 10:30 AM. Boating from Brogan's Landing to Yankee Jim River Access (7 miles); running from Yankee Jim River Access North on HWY 89 to the Carbella green boxes (4 miles); biking across the Carbella bridge turning back south onto the Old Yellowstone Trail Road and continuing through Yankee Jim Canyon to finish at Arch Park in Gardiner (17.5 miles). Not racing but want to help on race day? Great, contact Stacey Gunther at 406-848-7941.

IN THE NEWS

Scientists: Non-native Yellowstone trout decline

18 hours ago • By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

A voracious species of trout that decimated a native trout population in Yellowstone National Park shows signs of decline following a costly and protracted effort to kill off the invading fish, government scientists and a conservation group said Tuesday.

Non-native lake trout were first discovered in Yellowstone Lake in 1994, after being illegally introduced to the 132-square-mile body of water that attracts visitors from around the world.

Crews have since netted and removed more than a million of the fish — which can top 30 pounds — in hopes of cutthroat trout populations rebounding.

The netting costs about \$2 million annually, drawing criticism that too much money is being spent to kill off a species that's highly prized by anglers elsewhere.

Backers of the removal effort insist it's worth the cost. Yellowstone cutthroat trout are considered a keystone animal in the country's first national park, providing food for 42 birds and mammals including grizzly bears, osprey and bald eagles.

Prior to the first lake trout being found, the native trout supported a recreational fishery valued at \$30 million annually in the early 1990s.

Whether that fishing economy can fully rebound is uncertain.

After years of scant improvement, the netting efforts finally have begun to show progress, according to scientists from the park and the conservation group Trout Unlimited.

The population of the invasive trout is beginning to decline, a recent analysis by researchers from Montana State University indicated. Meanwhile, the numbers of young cutthroat trout are increasing, laying the groundwork for a rebound for the smaller, native fish.

"I'm very encouraged by some of our recent successes," said David Hallac, chief of the park's science center. "The goal is to crash the population of lake trout to a point where they are no longer adversely impacting Yellowstone cutthroat trout."

Park officials sharply expanded the lake trout removal program in recent years, bringing in contract fishing companies that set tens of thousands of feet of gillnets to sweep up more of the fish. About half the cost of the program comes from outside sources.

Native trout sometimes inadvertently end up in the nets set for the invaders.

It's unlikely that lake trout will be wiped out entirely, meaning some level of management will be required to keep them from again crowding out native fish, said Jack Williams, senior scientist for Trout Unlimited.

As lake trout numbers drop and fewer are caught — and more cutthroat trout die in the nets — fishery experts are trying to find new methods to control the invading population, Williams said.

That includes using electricity to destroy lake trout eggs in their spawning grounds, which should also reduce the costs of the program as the work focuses on a smaller area, Williams said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/scientists-non-native-yellowstone-trout-decline/article_e93fcedd-b62b-58c3-b94b-1cb662448391.html#ixzz312yDxzV7

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 656 AM MDT WED MAY 7 2014

Today Numerous snow showers. Numerous rain showers in the afternoon...then scattered rain showers and snow showers late in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 3 inches. Highs 35 to 41. Northeast winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tonight Cloudy. Scattered rain showers early in the evening. Scattered snow showers in the evening...then isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows 18 to 24. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday Mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 42 to 48. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Thursday Night Partly cloudy. Isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows around 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Friday Breezy...cloudy. Scattered snow showers and rain showers in the morning...then numerous rain showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 39 to 45. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Friday Night Cloudy. Numerous snow showers and scattered rain showers in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 22 to 28. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, May 8, 2014



While this little one is a sure sign of spring,
(photo by Lori Wilkinson)



this little one had to make an early appearance just in time for Mother's Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Yellowstone Badger Project

Be a Citizen Scientist



www.YellowstoneBadger.info

Your help
is
needed

Report a
Badger

Jim Halfpenny
Leo Leckie
Bonnie Quinn

(406) 848-9458

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SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Thursday, May 8, 2014
[REMEMBER TO THINK – "SAFETY FIRST"](#)

Plows: Crew on Craig Pass. Crew on Beartooth.

Present Location:

Craig Pass Crew is widening West Thumb to Old Faithful.
 Beartooth Crew is at Long Lake.

Anticipated Destination:

Craig Pass Crew should complete widening.
 Beartooth Crew should make Long Lake Gate.

Snow Conditions:

Craig Pass, 8 feet snow, 3" ice on pavement.
 Beartooth, 8-9 feet snow, 1-2" ice on pavement.

Weather:

Overcast with intermittent snow showers, 20 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official "Administrative Travel" is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL DURING PLOWING HOURS:

West Thumb to Old Faithful.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM – Open to Public 4/18/14
 Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM – Open to Public 4/18/14
 Monday, March 17, 2014 – Canyon to Lake at 8 AM – Open to Public 5/2/14
 Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – Norris to Madison at 8 AM – Open to Public 4/18/14
 Thursday, March 20, 2014 – Madison to West at 5 PM – Open to Public 4/18/14
 Wednesday, April 1, 2014 – Madison to Old Faithful 4:30 PM – Open to Public 4/18/14
 Tuesday, April 15, 2014 – Lake to Grant Village 11 AM
 Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – Grant to South Entrance 8 AM
 Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – Pelican Trailhead Gate to East Entrance 5 PM – Open to Public 5/2/14
 Sunday, May 4, 2014 – Cooke Pass 3 PM – Open to Public 5/4/14

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

IN THE NEWS**Yellowstone Park lake trout suppression makes strides**

Posted: Tuesday, May 6, 2014 8:00 pm

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Chronicle Staff Writer

[Yellowstone Park lake trout suppression makes strides](#)

Yellowstone National Park biologists appear to be winning the war against lake trout as they attempt to make Yellowstone Lake safe again for Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

After two years of gill netting in Yellowstone Lake, data are showing the first positive signs that the park's lake-trout suppression program is working, said YNP Center for Resources Chief Dave Hallac.

"The goal was to crash the lake-trout population to a point where they are no longer adversely affecting Yellowstone cutthroat trout," Hallac said. "We have evidence now that our suppression program is sufficient to cause the population to decline."

Hallac said the lake trout population appears to be declining because they were harder to catch in 2013 than in 2012 when the program started.

Each year, biologists netted and killed around 300,000 lake trout, but they had to work harder in 2013, hauling in only five lake trout a night as opposed to eight a night the previous year.

Some have voiced concern that those gill nets also catch cutthroat trout.

Hallac said biologists place the nets at depths preferred by lake trout, and they're often able to extract larger cutthroat trout alive.

So far, a review panel has been satisfied that biologists have snagged less than five cutthroats for every 100 lake trout, Hallac said.

The louder complaint has come from people complaining that the program costs too much.

The labor-intensive program costs around \$2 million of the park's \$3 million annual invasive species control budget.

Hallac said the program receives money from park fishing license fees and \$1 million from the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

Trout Unlimited donated another \$1 million and a number of conservation groups add to the pot, so only 20 percent comes from the main park budget.

Hallac said scientists recommended that the program last 10 years to hammer the lake-trout population down to the point where it's more manageable. At that point, gill netting could be replaced by less-expensive methods. Lake trout cannot be completely eradicated from the lake.

"Yellowstone National Park is in this for the long haul," Hallac said.

Lake trout were introduced into Yellowstone Lake probably in the late '80s, Hallac said, although the first one wasn't caught until 1994.

Since then, lake trout have decimated the resident Yellowstone cutthroat trout population, which numbered as many as 4 million, said Williams.

Lake trout either eat cutthroat trout or they compete with cutthroat trout for food.

One study estimated that lake trout can eat up to 40 cutthroat trout a year. Other research out of Montana State University indicates that cutthroat trout can account for up to one-third of a lake trout's diet.

Yellowstone Lake is touted as being the last big stronghold of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout, but lake trout have weakened that reputation.

Trout Unlimited scientist Jack Williams said some cutthroat populations live year-round in the lake while others use the tributaries to spawn.

While they still survive in the lake, few are found in the tributaries anymore, Williams said.

For example, tens of thousands used to migrate up Clear Creek but that had dropped to zero by 2008, Williams said.

Park fly-fishing guide Boots Allen guides on many western rivers and lakes and used to bring customers to Yellowstone for the cutthroat trout. Now he promotes the lake as more of a lake-trout trip.

"But I've been encouraged by the numbers," Allen said. "We've been seeing a better size distribution with more medium-sized fish and now that's confirmed by the science."

Hallac said park biologists have recorded seeing juvenile cutthroat trout for the last two years, so cutthroats are reproducing and the juveniles are avoiding being eaten.

The native-fish conservation program is the highest priority activity for the park because it's not just for cutthroat trout – the program is an ecosystem restoration project, Hallac said.

"Yellowstone cutthroat trout are important to other species that depend on them, such as osprey, eagles and bears," Hallac said.

Hallac said the park should issue a report detailing these latest results within six months.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 620 AM MDT THU MAY 8 2014

Today Partly cloudy until late afternoon then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers in the morning. Isolated rain showers late in the morning. Highs 44 to 50. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tonight Breezy. Partly cloudy until early morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the evening. Isolated snow showers late in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Lows 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Friday Breezy. Numerous snow showers and scattered rain showers in the morning...then numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Highs 39 to 45. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Friday Night Cloudy. Numerous snow showers with possible showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 21 to 27. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Saturday Cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning...then rain showers and snow showers likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 1 to 5 inches. Highs 37 to 43. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Saturday Night Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 19 to 25.

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Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety? Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

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Back issues of the newsletter are available at P:\YNP@Work Published Issues

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, May 9, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **South Entrance** and the road over Craig Pass opened this morning for the season.

The **Boiling River and Firehole Canyon Swim Area** Spring high water closures are in effect until further notice.

If you are **new to the area and looking for local running routes or just want a group to motivate you to get out on the roads and trails**, come join us this year! SAGE LEAPERS RUNNING CLUB is always welcoming new faces. Join the group on Facebook to find out more. We are based out of the Gardiner/ Mammoth area, but we run at other locations in and out of Yellowstone. Hope to see you out with us this summer!

Get this outstanding community event on your calendar: 35th ANNUAL PARK to PARADISE TRIATHLON! Race Day is **TOMORROW!** RACE DAY REGISTRATION at **YANKEE JIM RIVER ACCESS (8:45-9:45)**. Parking is tight, please carpool. Boaters, drop your boats at Brogan's before arrival at registration. You will be bussed to the start. Race meeting at 10 AM at Yankee Jim River Access. Race begins at 10:30 AM. Boating from Brogan's Landing to Yankee Jim River Access (7 miles); running from Yankee Jim River Access North on HWY 89 to the Carbella green boxes (4 miles); biking across the Carbella bridge turning back south onto the Old Yellowstone Trail Road and continuing through Yankee Jim Canyon to finish at Arch Park in Gardiner (17.5 miles). Not racing but want to help on race day? Great, contact Stacey Gunther at 406-848-7941.

To: NPS, Xanterra, DNC, YPSS, Medcor, and YA employees who commute to work
From: Colleen Curry, NPS Curator and RideShare Coordinator and Lindsay Robb, NPS Chief of Administration

If you live outside of Yellowstone and commute to work for the NPS, NPS Concessionaires or partner organizations in Gardiner or Mammoth, we'd like your input for a commuter survey. We want to know whether or not you ride the bus, how often, and if you'd be interested in riding under different circumstances.

Data from this survey will help NPS managers plan bus schedules and fares. We are currently considering adding Friday bus service and adjusting rates.

The survey is limited to the first 100 respondents and current bus riders were given priority to respond first. Please share this information with other commuters who may have been missed on the mailing list.

If you're willing to complete a 10 question commuter survey, please click on the following link.
[Yellowstone RideShare Survey](#)

Background on the RideShare bus

The National Park Service operates an employee RideShare bus between Livingston and Mammoth, utilizing volunteer drivers who live in the Livingston area. All employees of the NPS, concessionaires, or partner organizations may ride the bus.

Currently the bus runs Monday through Thursday, departing from Livingston (at the Town Pump next to Albertsons) at 5:30 a.m. and arriving in Mammoth by 7:00 a.m., with stops at Emigrant (gas station / general store), Tom Miner Basin (green boxes), Corwin Springs (Lighthouse Restaurant), and Gardiner (Town Cafe). In the afternoon the bus departs Mammoth at 5:30 p.m., reversing the route and arriving back in Livingston by 7:00 p.m.

Current daily rates for riding the bus are: \$5 from Livingston, \$4 from Emigrant, \$3 from Tom Miner, \$2 from Corwin Springs, and \$1.50 from Gardiner. Rider fees are used to pay stipends for the drivers and to reimburse the NPS for most of the cost of fuel. Additional fuel and maintenance costs for the buses are paid by the NPS.

If you have questions about the RideShare program, please contact RideShare Coordinator Colleen Curry by phone at 344-2262, or email to Colleen_Curry@nps.gov.

Thanks for your participation in this survey

Half hour delays are possible, seven days/week, on the road construction project starting from the Gardner River Bridge (near Indian Creek Campground) to the Gibbon River Bridge (near the Norris Campground). **11 pm to 7 am Night Closures will begin on Sunday June 1st.** Please drive carefully and watch for flag personnel, surveyors, etc.

The **traditional den closure** was implemented yesterday southeast of Druid Peak. It will be in effect as long as the wolves localize in the area.

Hitting the trail? If you have been hiking the trails in Yellowstone, please email the Central Backcountry Office at Yell_backcountry_office@nps.gov with current trail conditions so that we can start compiling our backcountry situation report. Thanks and remember to carry bear spray!

MCC Ice Cream Sundae Potluck! You bring a dish to share and a sundae topping - we'll supply the Ice Cream! Tuesday, May 12th @ 6 pm. All welcome!

For more information:

<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com/>
mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com

Yellowstone Badger Project
Be a Citizen Scientist



www.YellowstoneBadger.info

Your help is needed

Report a Badger

Jim Halfpenny
Leo Leckie
Bonnie Quinn

(406) 848-9458

Project goals**Yellowstone Badger: A Citizen Naturalist Project seeks to:**

- Recognize the observations made by citizen naturalist scientists including wildlife observers, photographers, and other Yellowstone National Park visitors.
- Create a venue for citizen naturalist scientists to contribute long-term data collection on Yellowstone badgers.
- Collect reports of badgers and

accompanying data including date, time, location, and photographs made observers and to facilitate biological and ecological studies such as distribution and population numbers and trends of badgers.

- Create a dynamic and engaging educational tool for the general public and those studying wildlife by providing access to photos, distribution maps, literature, and research reports and papers.

Why your input matters

The abundance of observers, supplemented by the emergence of quality digital image recorders and modern optics makes observations more common but to date little opportunity existed to collect observations. Now with the internet, we're able to undertake a dedicated and systematic effort to collect information. To understand badgers we need to be able to obtain, consolidate and analyze the plethora of hidden records. Using these record there are many questions that may be approached including for example:

What is the distribution of badgers in Yellowstone and what might their numbers be?

What is the reproductive history including number of females and young (called kits)?

What are long-term population trends?

Do long-term trends respond to wildlife disease patterns?

What behaviors are observed?

What are types and rates of interactions with other species?

In addition to these scientific discoveries, we anticipate this site being a source of discovery and education for the public. An informed and invested public is the key to the success of conservation efforts throughout the region.

Get out and ride in May and join us for a group ride here in the park at various locations on Tuesday, May 13th. See below for details.

EVERYONE is welcome to join the May BIKE TO WORK CHALLENGE!

The Challenge.....Bike to work 4 times during the month of May.

- Don't have a very long commute? **Distance doesn't matter.**
- Do you take the bus but would like to ride to the bus stop? **This counts too!**
- Not an NPS employee? **No problem!**

Still Interested?

We need **riders** and **team captains**, call Bill Mayer (2483) or Heidi Anderson (2564) to participate.

This is a Department of Interior challenge that is hosted on the website by the Cascade Bicycle Club. Consider parking your car a few times during the month of May and riding your bike to work instead.

National Bike to Work Week is May 12th-16th!

Don't want to participate in the challenge but still want to bike to work? Let us know if you did – we would like to hear. It is good for the body, the spirit and the environment. **Don't forget your helmet!**

JOIN A GROUP RIDE ON TUESDAY MAY 13th:

(No need to register just show up! Please bring helmet and dress for the weather!)

**Gardiner to Mammoth via the Old Road meets at 6:15a.m. at North Entrance Gate*

**Gardiner to Mammoth via the Main Road meets at 6:00a.m. at North Entrance Gate*

**Mammoth to Gardiner via the Main Road meets at 6:40a.m. at Mammoth Community Center*

**Lower Mammoth to Mammoth meets at 7:45a.m. at Mammoth Community Center*

**YCC to Mammoth meets at 6:45a.m. at the Recycling Boxes*

We won't leave you behind! Call Bill Mayer (X2483) or Heidi Anderson (X2564) if interested. This message brought to you by the Green Team and Employee Safety Committee!

Get this outstanding community event on your calendar: 35th ANNUAL PARK to PARADISE TRIATHLON! Race Day: **THIS SATURDAY**. RACE DAY REGISTRATION at **YANKEE JIM RIVER ACCESS (8:45-9:45)**. Parking is tight, please carpool. Boaters, drop your boats at Brogan's before arrival at registration. You will be bussed to the start. Race meeting at 10 AM at Yankee Jim River Access. Race begins at 10:30 AM. Boating from Brogan's Landing to Yankee Jim River Access (7 miles); running from Yankee Jim River Access North on HWY 89 to the Carbella green boxes (4 miles); biking across the Carbella bridge turning back south onto the Old Yellowstone Trail Road and continuing through Yankee Jim Canyon to finish at Arch Park in Gardiner (17.5 miles). Not racing but want to help on race day? Great, contact Stacey Gunther at 406-848-7941.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day In Yellowstone With Free Programs

Yellowstone and the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center staff will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 17, with free programs and a field trip that are open to the public.

A ranger-led bird watching car caravan is set for Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon inside the park. Those interested in participating should meet at the Madison Junction picnic area. Caravan riders are reminded they will still need to pay the \$25 park entrance fee.

Saturday afternoon between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, Montana, will host a live raptor program and a ranger-led presentation on common birds of the area. Children of all ages can play the migration game, "It's a Risky Journey," create bird masks and origami or participate in a variety of other programs and activities.

Construction is underway north of the entrance to the Norris Campground on the road to Mammoth Hot Springs. A 5.4 mile section of the road is being rebuilt, as is the bridge over the Gardner River. Visitors traveling from the northern part of the park should expect daytime delays of up to 30 minutes.

For further information, call 307-344-2296.

South Entrance To Yellowstone Opens Friday

The South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park will open for the season on Friday morning, May 9, as scheduled. The road between West Thumb and Old Faithful over Craig Pass will also open to travel Friday.

At that time, visitors will be able to travel through all five park entrances to popular destinations including Old Faithful, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Norris Geyser Basin, and Fishing Bridge.

Visitors should be aware that spring in Yellowstone is very unpredictable and often brings cold temperatures, high winds, and falling snow. Extreme caution should be used when driving as road clearing operations can be ongoing at any time throughout the park. In the case of extreme weather conditions, temporary road closures are also possible with little or no advance warning.

Yellowstone's East Entrance opened for visitor travel on May 2. However, deep snowpack above Sylvan Pass has the potential to release large, heavy, wet snow slides which can reach and cover the road, especially under sunny, warm conditions. Yellowstone avalanche forecasters are closely monitoring the weather, snowpack, moisture, and all of the complex factors that go into determining the safety of travel across Sylvan Pass. Changing weather conditions or warmer temperatures may result in temporary or extended closures of the East Entrance road. Closures may be implemented at any time with little or no advance notice.

Earlier this week, the section of US-212 outside the park's Northeast Entrance between Cooke City, Mont. and the junction with the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway (WY-296) opened for the season. Crews from the National Park Service and the Montana Department of Transportation have begun work clearing US-212 between the intersection of WY-296 over Beartooth Pass to Red Lodge, Mont. Both this section of road and the road linking Canyon and Tower-Roosevelt over Dunraven Pass are scheduled to open in time for the Memorial Day holiday weekend, weather permitting.

Construction is underway north of the entrance to the Norris Campground on the road to Mammoth Hot Springs. A 5.4 mile section of the road is being rebuilt, as is the bridge over the Gardner River. Visitors should expect daytime delays of up to 30 minutes, with nightly closures between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. beginning June 1. This section of road will be closed to all traffic from 11:00 p.m. September 14 to 7:00 a.m. on September 30.

Work will also begin this year to replace the Isa Lake Bridge, which is on the road between Old Faithful and West Thumb Junction. This section of road will close to through travel for the season at 6:00 a.m. on September 2.

Details on both of these projects and updated Yellowstone National Park road information is available 24 hours a day by calling 307-344-2117 or on the Web at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/roadclosures.htm>.

WEATHER

[Winter Weather Advisory for Yellowstone until 6PM Friday](#)

Today: Breezy. Numerous snow showers through the day. Numerous rain showers in the late morning and afternoon. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Highs 37 to 43. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tonight: Numerous rain showers early in the evening. Numerous snow showers until early morning...then scattered snow showers early in the morning. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 23 to 29. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Saturday: Scattered snow showers in the morning...then numerous snow showers and scattered rain showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 7 inches. Highs 36 to 42. West winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 18 to 24. Northeast winds around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning...then slight chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. North winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, May 12, 2014



You moose get my good side!
Floating Island Lake.
(photo by Debbie Van De Polder)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In need of **printer cartridges for a used printer - Hewlett Packard 56, 57, and 58**. If anyone has some of these cartridges but no longer has a printer that takes them - please send them up to CSS. Thanks!

The **Boiling River and Firehole Canyon Swim Area** Spring high water closures are in effect until further notice.

If you are **new to the area and looking for local running routes or just want a group to motivate you to get out on the roads and trails**, come join us this year! **SAGE LEAPERS RUNNING CLUB** is always welcoming new faces. Join the group on Facebook to find out more. We are based out of the Gardiner/ Mammoth area, but we run at other locations in and out of Yellowstone. Hope to see you out with us this summer!

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The **traditional den closure** was implemented yesterday southeast of Druid Peak. It will be in effect as long as the wolves localize in the area.

MCC Ice Cream Sundae Potluck! You bring a dish to share and a sundae topping - we'll supply the Ice Cream! **TOMORROW** @ 6 pm. All welcome!

For more information:

<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com/>
mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com

The **Yellowstone Bird Program** is pleased to announce the release of the **updated and revised checklist of birds (YELL 274)**. The new checklist is now free and includes abundance information by season with a separate list on the back for vagrants and accidental species. Thank you Janine Waller for the beautiful job you did! We also **updated the rare bird observation form (YELL 530) and the raptor observation form (531) August 8 last year**. Although these look similar to the old forms they are outdated so **please use the new forms** and recycle the old. All three documents are available on Yellowstone's internet site, the P drive and at the Copy Center if you need to order in bulk. We will be sending each visitor center and ranger station ~25 copies of each to get you started. Observations submitted by staff and visitors are used to keep the checklist current and increase our knowledge of birds in the park. We encourage you to submit your sightings and welcome questions or comments about the program and Yellowstone's birds. **Thank you!**

Crafters and musicians wanted for arts festival on May 25th as part of the **Yellowstone Horse Drive**. Volunteers wanted for dance, rodeo and art festival on May 24th and 25th. If you would like to be a part of this exciting weekend of events please contact Annie Castillo at 406-223-8486 or annielou814@aol.com. Thanks!

Get out and ride in May and join us for a group ride here in the park at various locations TOMORROW!
JOIN A GROUP RIDE TOMORROW!

(No need to register just show up! Please bring helmet and dress for the weather!)

***Gardiner to Mammoth via the Old Road meets at 6:15a.m. at North Entrance Gate**

***Gardiner to Mammoth via the Main Road meets at 5:45a.m (NEW TIME) at North Entrance Gate**

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EMPLOYEE RECREATION

Old Faithful:

Tonight May 12th: Bear Seminar: 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Employee Recreation Hall. Kerry Gunther, NPS Bear Management Biologist, will describe the history of bear management in YNP and describe how to safely hike and camp in bear country.

Tomorrow May 13th: Wolf Seminar: 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Employee Recreation Hall. Join Yellowstone Wolf Project Field Technician Molly McDevitt as she details up-to-date information about Yellowstone wolves.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Watercraft in Yellowstone Required To Be Invasive Species Free

All watercraft must be inspected for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) before entering Yellowstone's waters.

National Park Service staff will conduct required AIS inspections seven days per week at the Bridge Bay and Grant Village boat ramps and at the South Entrance Ranger Station. Boats intended for use on Lewis Lake must be inspected at Grant Village or the South Entrance before launching.

All motorized and non-motorized watercraft, including float tubes, must also have a Yellowstone National Park boat permit. Grand Teton National Park permits are no longer valid for boating in Yellowstone.

All types of boat permits may be purchased at the South Entrance, Grant Village Backcountry Office, and the Bridge Bay Ranger Station. The Mammoth Backcountry Office sells only non-motorized permits. The Lewis Lake Campground, Northeast Entrance, Bechler Ranger Station, and the Canyon and Old Faithful Backcountry Offices sell only float tube permits.

Motorized boating is only allowed on Yellowstone and Lewis lakes, while non-motorized boating is allowed on most other park lakes.

Aquatic invasive species are non-native plants and animals that can have significant ecological and economic impacts on the park's natural resources. Examples of destructive species that have become established in park waters over the past several years include New Zealand mudsnails, whirling disease, and lake trout in Yellowstone Lake.

Aquatic Invasive Species not only damage Yellowstone fisheries but they have the potential to impact the entire ecosystem. It can take a great deal of time and money to remove AIS, and in many cases control or removal is not feasible. Since 2009, Yellowstone's AIS prevention program has performed more than 5,500 watercraft inspections, which resulted in more than 145 affected boats being cleaned with non-chemical AIS decontamination treatments.

Information on boating and boat permitting in Yellowstone can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/boating.htm>. Information on AIS can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishingexotics.htm>.

Yellowstone's AIS education and prevention programs have been funded in part by generous donations from the park's official fundraising partner, The Yellowstone Park Foundation. Information on YPF can be found at www.ypf.org.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 1006 AM MDT MON MAY 12 2014

Today Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow late in the morning...then slight chance of rain showers and snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 34 to 40. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tonight Partly cloudy. Lows 17 to 23.

Tuesday Not as cool. Areas of fog in the morning. Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 43 to 49.

Tuesday Night Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers and snow showers in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 23 to 29.

Wednesday Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 48 to 54.

Wednesday Night Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows in the upper 20s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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TONIGHT @ 6 pm. All welcome!

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Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

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

Clare Cloghessy-REYP
Eric Reinertson-YCR
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Full Wellness Incentive Program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. All employees are encouraged to participate. If you would like to schedule a program overview with your staff, contact Stacey Gunther (x2239). Certification forms for the month of May are due to Stacey Gunther by June 5th.

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EMPLOYEE RECREATION

Old Faithful: **Tonight May 13th**: Wolf Seminar: 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Employee Recreation Hall. Join Yellowstone Wolf Project Field Technician Molly McDevitt as she details up-to-date information about Yellowstone wolves.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 628 AM MDT TUE MAY 13 2014

Today Patchy fog early in the morning. Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers and snow showers early in the afternoon. Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers in the afternoon...then partly cloudy late in the afternoon. Highs 41 to 47. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tonight Partly cloudy. Lows 24 to 30.

Wednesday Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 47 to 53. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night Mostly cloudy. Lows 29 to 35.

Thursday Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 52 to 58. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, May 14, 2014



Some of the staff who participated in Yellowstone's Bike to Work Day
(Staffan Peterson, Heidi Anderson, Jessi Gerdes)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Don't forget about the **free programs going on in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day**. A variety of programs will be occurring on Saturday, May 17. A ranger-led bird watching car caravan is set for Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon inside the park. Those interested in participating should meet at the Madison Junction picnic area. Caravan riders are reminded they will still need to pay the \$25 park entrance fee.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 724 AM MDT WED MAY 14 2014

Today Sunny early in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 49 to 55.

Tonight Partly cloudy then becoming mostly cloudy in the late evening and early morning then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 29 to 35.

Thursday Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 54 to 60. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Thursday Night Partly cloudy. Lows around 36. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Friday Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 53 to 59. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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Thursday, May 15, 2014



The three owllets of Mammoth
(photo by park visitor)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Thursday, May 15, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Small Crew on Dunraven (Started from Tower Side) Crew on Beartooth.

Present Location:

Dunraven Crew is at the Comfort Station above Washburn Road.

Beartooth Crew is at Long Drift about 2 miles south of the West Summit

Anticipated Destination:

Dunraven Crew hopes to make Blisterust.

Beartooth Crew anticipating reaching West Summit.

Snow Conditions:

Dunraven, 6 feet snow, Drift at Mae West Curve was 18 to 20 feet deep, 3” ice on pavement.

Beartooth, 14 feet snow, Long Drift is around 19 feet and runs for over ¾ of a mile, 2” ice on pavement.

Equipment:

3 blowers down

Weather:

Overcast, 25 degrees both areas.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL DURING PLOWING HOURS:

Dunraven Pass, Beartooth Pass

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM – **Open to Public 4/18/14**

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM – **Open to Public 4/18/14**

Monday, March 17, 2014 – Canyon to Lake at 8 AM – **Open to Public 5/2/14**

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – Norris to Madison at 8 AM – **Open to Public 4/18/14**

Thursday, March 20, 2014 – Madison to West at 5 PM – **Open to Public 4/18/14**

Wednesday, April 1, 2014 – Madison to Old Faithful 4:30 PM – **Open to Public 4/18/14**

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 – Lake to Grant Village 11 AM – **Open to Public 5/9/14**

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – Grant to South Entrance 8 AM – **Open to Public 5/9/14**

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – Pelican Trailhead Gate to East Entrance 5 PM– Open to Public 5/2/14
Sunday, May 4, 2014 – Cooke Pass 3 PM – Open to Public 5/4/14
Friday, May 9 – Craig Pass – Open to Public 5/9/14

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

“Greening” Retrofit Of Mammoth Clinic Celebrated

Completion of a partnership effort to make the Mammoth Clinic in Yellowstone National Park more energy efficient was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday afternoon, May 14.

New, energy efficient Andersen Windows were recently installed in the 1960s era stone structure, one of three medical facilities in the park. The \$20,000 donation is part of a multi-year partnership between Andersen Corporation and the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

On hand for the celebration were Andersen Corporation CEO Jay Lund, Yellowstone Park Foundation Board Chair Kay Yeager, Deb Brown of Medcor and Yellowstone National Park Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst.

In 2011, Andersen donated replacement windows for cabins at the Lamar Buffalo ranch, which resulted in a 50-percent reduction in energy use. The company has also agreed to donate the windows for a new employee dormitory at Old Faithful. Construction is set to begin this fall.



(Left to right) Yellowstone Park Foundation Board Chair Kay Yeager, Andersen Corporation CEO Jay Lund, Yellowstone National Park Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst and Deb Brown of Medcor celebrate the installation of energy efficient windows in the Mammoth Clinic building. NPS Photo by Bob Greenburg.

This is one of many important partnerships which support Yellowstone’s ongoing effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and electricity, fossil fuel, and water consumption.

More information about Andersen Corporation’s sustainability efforts can be found online at <http://corporate.andersenwindows.com/corporate-responsibility/sustainability>. To learn more about how you can support the park through the Yellowstone Park Foundation, please go to <http://www.ypf.org>.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 807 AM MDT THU MAY 15 2014

Today Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail late in the afternoon. Highs 55 to 61. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tonight Partly cloudy. Lows 32 to 38. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Friday Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 53 to 59. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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Saturday Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 53 to 59. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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IN THE NEWS

Legislators request update to grizzly bear plan

Posted: Thursday, May 15, 2014 4:20 pm

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Frustrated by the slowness of grizzly bear delisting, a legislative committee is asking for an updated recovery plan. If granted, the request could slow the recovery process.

On Thursday, after hearing an update on grizzly bear management in the state, the Environmental Quality Council voted to send a letter requesting that the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and associated agencies update the 1993 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan.

Rep. Jennifer Fielder, R-Thompson Falls, wrote the letter because she wants grizzly bears delisted in the northwestern part of Montana where she lives because the recovery plan limits roads and logging allowed under U.S. Forest Service management plans.

Fielder said the old grizzly bear population estimates don't reflect data recorded in recent years, including a 2005 study. She wants the numbers in the recovery plan to be updated.

"This letter was signed by 26 elected officials in northwest Montana and Idaho because what's been happening is all the (Forest Service) resource management plans are based on an old study of furbearers," Fielder said.

"They're using the 1997 information. That's just one example of how we have good information that's not being used by the service."

Rep. Kerry White, R-Bozeman, opposed the closure of two motorized vehicle trails in a grizzly bear area near Helena.

FWP Region 3 supervisor Pat Flowers said the roads were closed to comply with road-density limits in grizzly bear recovery areas.

Fielder said road-density standards are the root of the problem because she didn't think grizzly bears were harmed by roads or logging.

"I've been involved in the objective process on the Kootenai National Forest. The standards are based on old science," Fielder said. "The forest plan is being driven by a bad scientific basis that's skewed toward shutting everything down. They're calling it 'core area.'"

The grizzly bear recovery plan covers four states and separates grizzly habitat into four areas in Montana: the Greater Yellowstone, the Bitterroot, the Northern Continental Divide including all the wilderness areas north of Helena, and the Cabinet-Yaak along the northern Idaho border.

IGBC Yellowstone Chairman Gregg Losinski of Idaho Fish and Game said the populations were broken up because of different issues and habitat in each area. It would be easier to delist each population rather than all the populations together.

And that's what's happening.

FWP Director Jeff Hagener said the Greater Yellowstone population should be delisted in 2015. At that point, FWP would take over the management.

"We'd like to think we wouldn't get sued and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wouldn't get sued, but my guess is that they're going to get sued," Hagener said.

The Northern Continental Divide population is doing well, estimated at around 1,000 bears. Hagener said more studies are needed but a proposal to delist that population will probably come out in 2015.

The Cabinet-Yaak is farther away from delisting with an estimated 45 to 55 bears in 2012.

The Endangered Species Act requires 100 bears for a population to be recovered to avoid inbreeding.

Fielder wants to combine the two populations based upon data showing that bears move between the two.

Hagener said FWP encouraged combining the Northern Continental Divide and Cabinet-Yaak populations. But the USFWS said there wasn't enough genetic exchange between the two populations and combining the two would delay the delisting of the Northern Continental Divide.

Sen. Jim Keane, D-Butte, cautioned against sending letters on every issue that committee members oppose. "Sometimes, when you comment, you don't get the results you want. You're sometimes better off not poking the bear that will come back and bite you," Keane said.

Losinski said the Yellowstone population is being delisted because bear-counting methods were updated under adaptive management.

He agreed that biological methods needed to continue to change, but a recovery plan update could take years to go through the public process, delaying delisting.

The Yellowstone Subcommittee alone has 18 members, including agencies, local governments and tribes, all of whom would have to agree on a new plan.

“Anything you do with an endangered species is complex,” Losinski said. “It may seem straight-forward, but what they're talking about is fairly involved when you look at the layers of administration and legality.”

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 656 AM MDT FRI MAY 16 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy then becoming partly cloudy early in the afternoon then becoming mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated snow showers in the morning...then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 52 to 58. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy until early morning then becoming partly cloudy. Scattered rain showers...snow showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Lows around 35. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning... Then slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 53 to 59. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows around 34. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Sunday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow showers and slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 53 to 59. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

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, May 20, 2014



What do you see down there, mama bear?
(photo by Debbie Van De Polder)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff will be conducting a training/project session at the **Frog Rock dry dump** located near the Grand Loop Road between Mammoth and Tower Falls **TOMORROW**.

Traffic delays of up to 30 minutes are expected to occur on the Grand Loop Road. The project timeframe is expected to last between the hours of 10:00am and 5:00pm.

The spring season of elk calving has begun. During this period, it is not uncommon for cow elk to bed their calves near buildings when they graze nearby lawns or meadows. As a consequence, people walking near or exiting buildings may inadvertently approach elk calves. This can result in cow elk defending the calf by charging or kicking at people.

Cow elk are much more aggressive towards people during the calving season. Please use caution when walking near cow/calf groups and look around corners before exiting buildings or walking around blind spots.

Please remember that knowingly approaching within 25 yards of elk is prohibited. Park Visitors may think that it is safe to approach closer than 25 yards of elk if they see uniformed NPS or Concession personnel doing so.

Thank you for your help in reducing the frequency of these incidents.

North District Maintenance would like to sweep the following parking lots on Thursday, if people could move their vehicles out of these lots, Admin (bldg 36), Canteen, Comm Center (bldg 38), and YCR. We would like to sweep these on Thursday morning from approximately 6:00 am till 12:00 pm.

Mammoth Clinic will be closed on Monday May 26th. Beginning Tuesday May 27th we will be open from 8:30 to 5:00 7 days a week. Have a safe and fun summer everyone!"

Yellowstone's latest [Audio Postcard](#), "**Snipe Hunt**," will be airing this week on [Living on Earth, Public Radio International's environmental news magazine](#). Locally, Living on Earth airs on [Yellowstone Public Radio](#) Friday evenings at 7pm. If you miss the broadcast, you can also [stream it from the Living on Earth website](#). "Snipe Hunt" features Interpretive Planner and birding aficionado Katy Duffy. Congrats, Katy! You're famous! The Audio Postcard series is created by [park volunteer Jennifer Jerrett](#).

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The present fueling station is the future site of a dorm for Xanterra. The tanks were measured today and there is only about 300 gallons remaining of unleaded. We will be switching over to the process listed below as soon as this tank is empty.

During the interim, your first choice should be to fill at another area before arriving at Old Faithful using the NPS's existing Fuelmaster system.

If you need to get unleaded fuel at Old Faithful you will need to use your vehicle's credit card and get unleaded at the YPSS stations in the Old Faithful area. If your vehicle doesn't have a credit card please contact Katy Jones at the garage (ext 2460). This also means keeping the receipts and turning them in each month to the Mammoth Garage. Diesel fuel is still available at the dispensing unit next to the ESB.

We will keep you informed as changes happen. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation with this new process.



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SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Tuesday, May 20, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Crew on Dunraven (started from Tower Side), Crew on Beartooth.

Present Location:

Dunraven Crew is 1 mile north of the summit of Dunraven Pass.

Beartooth Crew is at Twin Lakes parking lot.

Anticipated Destination:

Dunraven Crew hopes to make Hot Springs turn out south of Dunraven Pass.

Beartooth Crew hopes to make Montana State Line and widening road today.

Snow Conditions:

Dunraven, 4-5 feet snow, 3” ice on pavement.

Beartooth, Snow levels have dropped on the remainder of the road from 2 feet to 6 feet with some of the remaining drifting areas in the 8 to 10 foot range, 2” ice on pavement.

Weather:

Overcast, 25 degrees both areas.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL DURING PLOWING HOURS:

Dunraven Pass, Beartooth Pass

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM – Open to Public 4/18/14

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Friday, May 9 – Craig Pass – Open to Public 5/9/14

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

IN THE NEWS**Agencies keep skills sharp in mock airport drill**

Posted: Saturday, May 17, 2014 10:10 am

By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News |

[Agencies keep skills sharp in mock airport drill](#)

Local firefighters and law enforcement joined together last Saturday for a multi-agency training drill response involving fire suppression and law enforcement at the Yellowstone Airport.

At 9 that morning, the dispatch sent out a scenario over the radio stating a helicopter had been shot down by a missile and the suspect had fled into the airport terminal.

Yellowstone Airport aircraft rescue firefighters were first on the scene and it didn't take long for the Hebgen Basin Fire District to arrive. Firefighters suppressed the fire, taking around one minute, and continued to train with the prop throughout the morning. After extinguishing the flames, they would return to their engines to put away the hoses and other equipment and start all over. Hebgen Basin Fire District chief Scott Waldron says they do this so firefighters learn and practice all the necessary steps involved.

"We don't get a lot of real incidents, so we have to train; it's the only way to stay prepared and know how equipment functions and works," Waldron said. "Everyone on the crew learned something from it."

The drill also allowed the fire district to test out their new dry chem system on their airport fire rescue truck. The 500-pound dry chem storage system works similar to a small household fire extinguisher.

"It's pretty expensive to operate but we needed to test it to see if it worked," he said.

"It worked well and I'm very happy with the airport fire rescue truck."

The fire district got the truck refurbished from the federal government just over a year ago, and Waldron says the truck is a huge asset for a small town like West Yellowstone to have.

"It's the best piece of equipment in the area," he said.

As HBFD put out the fire a few hundred yards away, local law enforcement agencies responded to search and clear the terminal building using rifles for their training. Responders included Yellowstone National Park, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office and the West Yellowstone Police Department.

According to Yellowstone Airport manager Jeff Kadlec, the airport is required to complete an emergency and a security tabletop exercise once a year to satisfy Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration requirements. During these tabletop discussions, first responders and airport management discuss various scenarios in a meeting form, but don't actually conduct live training.

By having a live emergency drill, they combined the exercise into one event and surpassed their requirements.

“It’s more valuable to go out and do it than sit around a table and discuss scenarios,” Kadlec said. “It gets all the agencies comfortable with the airport and helps with faster and more appropriate responses.”

The airport held a similar mock drill last year at this time, and Kadlec hopes to continue holding a large drill involving multiple agencies in the future.

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Powell school boundary move delayed

Posted: Monday, May 19, 2014 3:24 pm By Steve Brown- Cody Enterprise

Powell school boundary move delayed

No one could remember when a boundary board last met, but the Park County Boundary Board met last week to try to resolve a problem 140 years in the making.

A boundary board, by state law, consists of the county commissioners, county assessor and county treasurer.

They could not solve the issue and will take it up again in the future.

The issue concerns a request from the Wyoming Department of Education for Park County School District 1 (Powell) to extend its boundaries to cover that northern part of Yellowstone Park that’s within the county.

“I was contacted by the Wyoming Department of Education about a month ago and they’d like us to extend our boundaries,” Powell Superintendent Kevin Mitchell said. “My response, ‘We’ll think about it.’ I informed the county board and they advised me to move slowly.”

Currently, 37 students who live in the Mammoth Hot Springs community in Yellowstone Park attend school a few miles away in Gardiner, Mont. Until this year the park paid the Gardiner School District for the cost of educating the children of Park Service employees and concessionaires.

“The problem began when the park called us and told us they weren’t going to be able to pay their bill and would be requiring us to repay 40 years of back pay,” Gardiner School Superintendent J.T. Stroder told the group May 14.

The roots of the problem go back to the founding of America’s first national park in 1872, 18 years before Wyoming became a state.

The Wyoming Constitution requires the state be divided into school districts, but the park as a federal jurisdiction was overlooked.

In 1948 Congress passed the Yellowstone Funding Act. It authorized the Park Service to pay for the education of children living in the park – either in a park school or in neighboring school districts.

Those payments, however, were supposed to stop in 1976 when another act of Congress created Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to compensate local governments for revenue losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries.

Somehow that information got lost and Yellowstone Park continued to make payments for many more years, until the oversight was discovered a few months ago.

Since then lawyers representing the state Attorneys General office and Powell School District have been discussing what is the appropriate legal remedy.

Deputy Attorney General Michael O'Donnell, the state's counsel for school finance, and on behalf of the governor, attorney general and state Department of Education, urged the boundary board to approve the inclusion of Yellowstone Park into the Powell School District.

"Much to my chagrin, I believe the Department of Interior has reached the correct decision," O'Donnell said. "I concede that I don't like it. It was an inhuman act, but the act occurred and it was justified under federal law."

Park County Attorney Bryan Skoric foresees problems with legal jurisdiction if park land is incorporated into a county school district.

One issue raised by several parties at the meeting is who will have authority to enforce school attendance and sanction truants.

"The federal government has exclusive jurisdiction in Yellowstone Park," Skoric said. "With the Wyoming Statehood Act of 1890 the feds were telling us, 'Hands off Yellowstone Park.' Wyoming has no authority within the park. I do not believe the Park County Attorney has the authority to charge a parent in Mammoth for not sending their child to school."

According to Skoric, the solution lies in a process called "relinquishment," by which the state can ask the Department of the Interior to give up legal authority over education in the park.

"That's not going to happen," O'Donnell said. "The state does not agree with the Park County Attorney on approaching the Department of the Interior."

Skoric said he is "mystified" why someone wouldn't consider that.

Lee Pico, an assistant U.S. Attorney and federal prosecutor in Yellowstone Park, cautioned the board that he was not speaking as an attorney, but as the guardian of his two grandchildren who attend Gardiner schools.

“I always use Wyoming state law in Yellowstone Park under the doctrine of assimilation,” Pico said.

As the situation stands, the governor’s office has authorized payment of approximately \$500,000 to Gardiner for educating the Mammoth students for the 2013-14 school year. The consensus of opinion was it’s highly unlikely the Department of the Interior will attempt to collect back payments.

In light of conflicting legal opinions, commission chair Bucky Hall moved to adjourn and reconvene later to allow the board to further consider the issues.

Commissioner Lee Livingston requested a written opinion from O’Donnell on why he thinks approaching the Department of the Interior on the relinquishment question is unnecessary.

Bison to be pushed back into Yellowstone this week

May 19, 2014 10:03 am • Associated Press

State and federal agencies plan to start pushing bison into Yellowstone National Park on Tuesday in an annual event meant to keep the migrating animals away from cattle in southwestern Montana.

State Department of Livestock Executive Officer Christian Mackay said workers on horseback and ATVs plan to drive about 300 bison in the West Yellowstone area roughly seven miles back into the park.

Unlike previous years, there is no plan to use a helicopter to assist in this year's efforts. That practice had drawn lawsuits from environmental groups but was upheld by a federal appeals court last year.

Bison migrate from the park to lower elevations in Montana in the winter. A federal-state agreement requires their return to the park in the spring to make way for cattle to graze.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/bison-to-be-pushed-back-into-yellowstone-this-week/article_a92285e3-2749-5fd2-8e0e-0ac1498e69dd.html#ixzz32HAEWNC9

Crews work to open Beartooth Highway, replace guardrail taken out by avalanches

18 hours ago • Story and Photos By BRETT FRENCH Billings Gazette

BEARTOOTH PASS — Although watching the side of a mountain for eight hours may sound boring, Stewart West took the task seriously on Monday.

“I know my guys are up there,” he said.

West’s job, along with another worker equipped with an air horn next to the crew, was to alert the eight Montana Department of Transportation workers if an avalanche released above them.

The men were working on the steep mountainside as they fixed guardrail and cleaned up snow and debris from the biggest of two slides that carried trees, rocks and snow across two sections of the Beartooth Highway, just south of Red Lodge.

“We lost a lot of guardrail in the winter” — about 750 feet, said Steve Reed, MDOT’s section supervisor in Red Lodge. “The tough part of that is that it’s double-sided rail, so it’s actually 1,500 feet.”

The crews, along with about 10 others still plowing and pushing snow atop the 11,000-foot pass, were working diligently to ensure the roadway would be open by Friday at 9 a.m. to kick off the summer season and the long Memorial Day weekend. The popular and scenic road links Red Lodge to Yellowstone National Park’s Northeast Entrance, pumping tourists and their money between the two points in an economic lifeline.

The route is closed in the winter by locked gates on the Red Lodge side and to the southwest in Wyoming where Yellowstone National Park’s plow crew was moving mounds of snow to meet the Montana crew atop the pass.

As of Monday, the Yellowstone crews planned to have their section cleared by Friday, as well.

Instead of deploying spotters to warn of avalanches, Roth was asked why explosives couldn’t be used to release the snow and abate the possibility of a slide. Such tactics are commonly used on Sylvan Pass between Cody, Wyo., and Yellowstone Lake.

“If we shake this mountain, we’ll have a lot more than snow coming down,” said Randy Roth, MDOT maintenance chief.

“This thing is moving all the time, as steep as it is,” he added.

Never-ending winter

It’s been a long winter season for the road crew workers, who continue to plow snow even though the calendar says spring is here.

“The winter gets really long for us,” Reed said as he sought shelter from an icy wind behind a van atop the pass. “If there’s any good luck, it was that we had a lack of fresh snow this spring.”

As evidence of the rough winter, in just two weeks plow crews racked up 96,000 miles in the Billings district alone, which stretches from Big Timber to Lodge Grass and Hysham, according to Roth.

MDOT allows six weeks to clear its 11.6 miles of the Beartooth Pass to the Wyoming state line, a zigzagging route up the Beartooth Mountains. This spring they started two days early because snow blocked the road at the gate, just above Greenough Lake — an unusual occurrence.

“Usually we can get up above the first or second curve without plowing,” Roth said. “This year it was starting right at the gate.”

Hard as ice

The snow the crew encountered made clearing it difficult, as well. The rock-hard avalanches — measuring about 20 feet deep and 75 feet across — had to be plowed out with front-end loaders, because of all the debris they contained. Farther uphill, above upper Quad Creek, 25- to 30-foot deep drifts had to be knocked down with a PistenBully snowcat, like those used on ski slopes for grooming runs.

“We went 500 feet in one day, and I felt good about them making it that far,” Reed said.

“It used to take a week-and-a-half to two weeks,” Roth said.

Before the crew had a snowcat, the snow had to be removed at upper Quad by front-end loaders.

“The snowcat is the key to the whole operation, because it gets all of the tall stuff down to where it’s manageable for the rest of us,” Reed said. “The technology and equipment has evolved a lot, just in the last five years.”

Another important factor to getting the pass plowed, guardrails repaired, signs posted and rock cleared is keeping the heavy equipment running in the tough conditions that includes blowing snow, bitter cold and lots of rocks. This year, numerous mechanical breakdowns threatened to delay the progress. The snowcat was broken down one day, then one of the road graders. The snow blowers have repeatedly failed.

“Our mechanics are amazing,” Reed said. “They keep the stuff going. They deserve a lot of credit.”

To make up for lost time, the workers have been logging overtime and some long shifts.

Reed said the crew also continually tweaks its operation to make it more efficient. That’s evident by the fact that although badgered by breakdowns, the crew will still have the road open by Friday.

By Monday morning there was light at the end of the tunnel as the snowplow crew finally reached the Wyoming state line, although it would take another day to completely clear away the more than 9 feet of snow that hid the road on the barren plateau. Still the end was in sight, making Reed smile.

“Just like running a marathon,” he said. “You’re happy to see the finish line.”

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/crews-work-to-open-beartooth-highway-replace-guardrail-taken-out/article_99e0b7fd-54fe-5e75-b600-c15920fa6c02.html#ixzz32HAcDPYi

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 1037 AM MDT TUE MAY 20 2014

Today Mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers late in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms early in the afternoon. Scattered thunderstorms late in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail late in the afternoon. Highs 49 to 55. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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Wednesday Not as cool. Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning...then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 58 to 64. East winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Wednesday Night Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 30 to 36. East winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Thursday Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 61 to 67. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

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

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Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

All employees are encouraged to participate in the [Wellness Incentive Program](#) (WIP). Full program details can be found by clicking the link above. You may begin participation at the beginning of any month. Simply complete a certification form and submit it to Stacey Gunther by the fifth day of the following month (i.e. send by April 5th for wellness participation during March). Five names will be drawn each month for an award.

Interested in receiving the latest health and wellness updates?

Access the free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Topics can be tailored to your health interests. Sign up at <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health-information/> scroll down to Free E Newsletter and click "sign up now".

If you have employees without access to computers, please work with them to cover topics that interest them at your weekly tailgate safety sessions.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety? Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

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SPRING OPENING UPDATE

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Last report of the season:

Beartooth Crew at Montana Stateline, widening the road for Fridays anticipated opening and demobilizing from project.

Dunraven Crew at Canyon, widening the road for Fridays anticipated opening.

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Yellowstone National Park News Release

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Frog Rock Area Project May Cause Traffic Delays

Yellowstone National Park will be conducting project work in the Frog Rock dry dump area, located near the Grand Loop road between Mammoth Hot Springs and Tower Junction on Wednesday, May 21. Visitors may encounter traffic delays of up to 30 minutes between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

In addition, construction is underway north of the entrance to the Norris Campground on the road to Mammoth Hot Springs. A 5.4 mile section of the road is being rebuilt, as is the bridge over the Gardner River. Visitors should expect daytime delays of up to 30 minutes, with nightly closures between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. beginning June 1. This section of road will be closed to all traffic from 11:00 p.m. September 14, to 7:00 a.m. on September 30.

Updated Yellowstone National Park road information is available 24 hours a day by calling 307-344-2117, or on the Web at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/roadclosures.htm>.

IN THE NEWS

Molten magma less of a menace

Yellowstone chamber now thought to be firmer and likely less explosive.

Posted: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 4:30 am

Mike Koshmrl-Jackson Hole News & Guide

[Molten magma less of a menace](#)

New research from the University of Utah shows the magma chamber underlying Yellowstone National Park is less molten — and potentially more stable — than previously believed.

University of Utah geophysicist Bob Smith and his student Jamie Farrell used seismic data from 26 years of earthquakes to map the composition of the Yellowstone Caldera.

The study, published in Geophysical Research Letters on May 9, revised the best estimate for the percentage of the magma chamber that is molten as opposed to solid.

“The percentage of actual melt in Yellowstone is only about 10 percent,” said Smith, a seasonal Moose resident. “We see anywhere from 7 to 13 or 14 percent, depending on where we do the calculation.”

Using data from five seismic stations and 570 earthquakes, researchers previously estimated that the magma chamber was 32 percent liquid.

Farrell and Smith’s study uses data from

4,520 earthquakes recorded between 1984 and 2011. It has a title almost as large as the caldera itself:

“Tomography from twenty-six years of seismicity reveals the spatial extent of the Yellowstone crustal magma reservoir extends well beyond the Yellowstone Caldera.”

The study is based on the fact that seismic waves from earthquakes travel at different speeds in different materials. That in turn gives geophysicists glimpses into the compositions of what the waves are passing through.

Bigger doesn’t mean worse

One finding from the paper — that the caldera was 2 1/2 times larger than previously estimated — was widely publicized late last year.

“People ask, ‘Does that mean we’re going to have a bigger volcanic risk?’” Smith said. “And the answer is no.”

Officially estimated at between 5 to 15 percent liquid, the fluid portion of the magma chamber is now believed to be somewhere between 200 cubic kilometers and 600 cubic kilometers in size. That liquid area equates to significantly less material than two of the past three Yellowstone supervolcano eruptions, the research paper said.

Knowledge is power

“In comparison, it is estimated that three Yellowstone giant eruptions 2.1, 1.3 and 0.64 million years ago erupted 2,500 cubic kilometers, 28 cubic kilometers and 1,000 cubic kilometers of materials, respectively,” the paper said. “Based on our estimates of the Yellowstone magma reservoir, there is thus sufficient melt volume for another similar-sized eruption as the 1.3 million-years-ago eruption.”

The remaining 85 to 95 percent of the Yellowstone magma chamber is solid. Magma chambers that have higher percentages of solids are generally thought to be less eruptable.

There is still lots of uncertainty about “porosity distribution” of the Yellowstone chamber — where it is molten and exactly how molten it is.

“It remains unclear how lateral variations in porosity, permeability, temperature and rheology would affect the system’s ability to produce a unified eruption,” the paper said.

The new Farrell and Smith paper advances what’s known about the larger Yellowstone volcanic field and how it interacts with the magma reservoir that’s catastrophically erupted in the past.

“Overall this new image of Yellowstone’s crustal magma reservoir provides a better understanding of the magmatic volume, melt configuration, and fluid state that control its potential for future volcanism, its joint volcano-earthquake hazard, as well as a basis for assessing temporal changes in the reservoir properties that could portend new volcanism,” the article said in closing.

Livestock officials fail to act on bison plan

19 hours ago • Associated Press

HELENA — State livestock officials on Tuesday again declined to act on a plan to give wild bison from Yellowstone National Park more room to roam in parts of Montana, leaving the future of the proposal in doubt.

Montana Board of Livestock members voted unanimously to indefinitely postpone action on a proposal from the state that would ease restrictions on Yellowstone bison that enter Montana.

"Just because we put a boundary on a piece of paper doesn't mean the bison know that," board member John Scully said.

He and board member Linda Nelson said the proposal should be given to the governor to handle.

The board rejected an earlier proposal to increase tolerance for the animals, saying they couldn't back the idea unless the park's bison population is reduced to roughly 3,000. Although that number was given in Tuesday's proposal, the board chose not to act. Under the proposal, bison could roam outside Yellowstone year-round only if their population were reduced to that level.

"The state is not going to provide tolerance until the populations is 3,000 or less," Montana Department of Livestock executive director Christian Mackay told the board.

Current estimates show that about 4,000 bison live in the park, state officials said.

Bison, also known as buffalo, were long prohibited in areas outside the park because of concerns the animals would spread disease to livestock. Under a 2000 agreement between the state and federal officials, thousands of bison have been killed attempting to leave the park.

Government policies dictating the capture and slaughter of bison entering Montana were loosened under former Gov. Brian Schweitzer. But resistance to further change runs strong within the livestock industry because of fears about the disease brucellosis.

Brucellosis can cause pregnant animals to prematurely abort. It has been widely eradicated in livestock but persists in elk, bison and other wildlife in and around Yellowstone National Park.

Sen. Taylor Brown, R-Huntley, who is a rancher and cattle owner, said the proposal lacked detail on how the state would manage the bison population, and he noted their exposure to brucellosis. "I urge you to remember who you represent," he told the board.

Steve Forest from Defenders of Wildlife said allowing more than 3,000 bison to roam in a larger area would have been appropriate. "It's difficult to work with a board that's stuck in the last century," he said.

The proposed roaming area includes 400,000 acres west and north of the park in the areas of Hebgen Lake Basin and the Taylor Fork of the Gallatin River.

Forest said he hopes state officials will find a way to make the proposal a reality.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/livestock-officials-fail-to-act-on-bison-plan/article_158bc37c-f13a-59d5-8ff7-3110fc49d9ac.html#ixzz32MfBFz93

Wildlife campaign

Steve Browne-Cody Enterprise | Posted: Monday, May 19, 2014 3:02 pm



Visitors to Yellowstone Park will be greeted this year by billboards reminding them the animals they've come to see don't just live in the park. Every year dozens of large animals are killed on the highways leading the park entrances.

"We're trying to get people to realize the animals are there," WYDOT spokesman Cody Beers said. "Enjoy watching them, but slow down."

Signs in the Cody area are on the Greybull Hill, across from the rodeo grounds and on the North Fork Highway. They are sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Wild Sheep Foundation, Wyoming Outdoorsmen, WYDOT and G&F. The signs will remain on the route to the east gate through 2014.

Read More: http://www.codyenterprise.com/image_e7e65a2e-df98-11e3-85aa-001a4bcf887a.html

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 649 AM MDT WED MAY 21 2014

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Tonight Cloudy with scattered thunderstorms early in the evening...then cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms late in the evening. Mostly clear after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty

winds and small hail early in the evening. Lows around 34. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Thursday Sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 60 to 66. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Night Partly cloudy. Lows 33 to 39.

Friday Partly cloudy. Highs 64 to 70.

Friday Night Mostly clear. Lows 34 to 40.

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WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

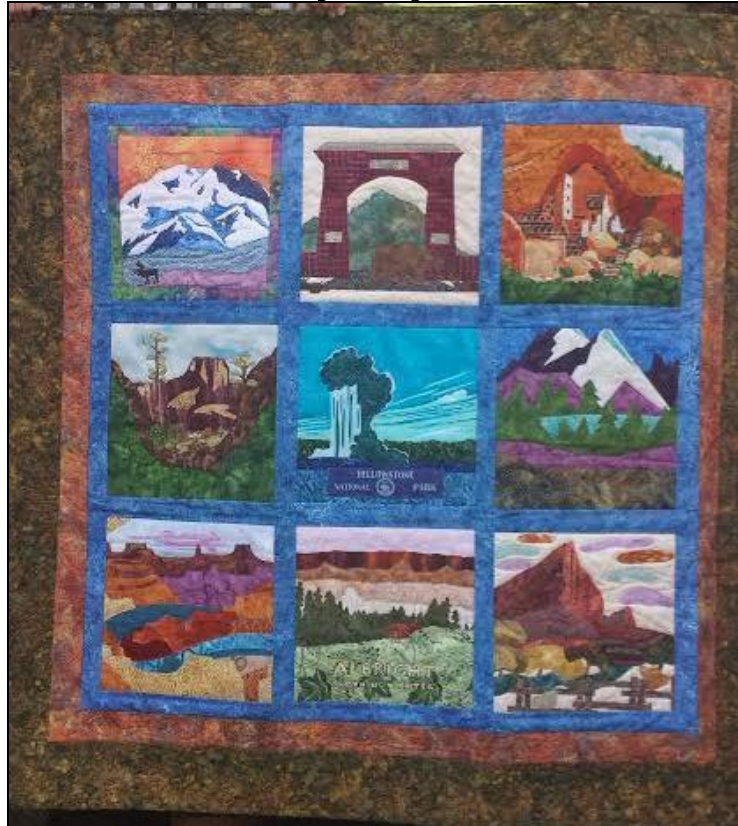
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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, May 22, 2014



Diane Herring's last day at work here in Yellowstone is Friday...she is headed off to Page, AZ.

The quilt was put together by some of her friends and co-workers here in YELL... it represents all the parks she has worked in so far...Yellowstone x2, Big Bend, Zion, Mesa Verde, Grand Canyon x2, Denali, & North Cascades.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The spring season of elk calving has begun. During this period, it is not uncommon for cow elk to bed their calves near buildings when they graze nearby lawns or meadows. As a consequence, people walking near or exiting buildings may inadvertently approach elk calves. This can result in cow elk defending the calf by charging or kicking at people.

Cow elk are much more aggressive towards people during the calving season. Please use caution when walking near cow/calf groups and look around corners before exiting buildings or walking around blind spots.

Please remember that knowingly approaching within 25 yards of elk is prohibited. Park Visitors may think that it is safe to approach closer than 25 yards of elk if they see uniformed NPS or Concession personnel doing so.

Thank you for your help in reducing the frequency of these incidents.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, **no road construction activities** will occur on the Norris to Mammoth road project, starting at 6 PM Friday, May 23, through 6 AM Tuesday, May 27.

- - - - -

Howdy Everyone,

Be please pay attention to this warning below. I personal got three of these bogus Adobe invoices today. Don't open the Email and or the attached Invoice.

The attached file is Malware and will compromise your computer.

Thanks

andy_bilton@nps.gov

Supervisory IT Specialist

Yellowstone National Park

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bando, Mike** <mike_bando@nps.gov>

Date: Thu, May 22, 2014 at 7:15 AM

Subject: NPS CSIRT ALERT: Phishing Campaign w/ Bogus Adobe Billing Message

To: NPS IT Security

Good morning. Beware emails appearing to be from Adobe.com and containing an invoice. These messages actually contain MALWARE.

The document attachment - which contains trojan malware - can be identified with the following:

Protected Invoice

This document requires Microsoft Office and Can't be previewed online

"Please enable editing and macros to see this document"

This is email is part of a malware/phishing campaign against NPS BisonConnect users - several of which have reported receiving this in their inbox.

If you receive any emails from Adobe.com with a Microsoft word invoice attached, delete the message.

DOI CIRC has been notified and is both blocking the email and the source address/URL.

Anti-Malware programs known to detect and address this attack include:

Symantec with 05/22/2014 Definitions will find and remove this malware.

Alias: Trojan.Mdropper

Also, the latest version of **Microsoft Security Essentials** will address this.

Alias: TrojanDownloader:W97M/Zojfsdrop.A

Thanks for your cooperation and vigilance.

- - - - -

Mammoth Clinic will be closed on Monday May 26th. Beginning Tuesday May 27th we will be open from 8:30 to 5:00 7 days a week. Have a safe and fun summer everyone!"

- - - - -

Please note: The Finance Office will be closed on Thursday, May 29, for training.

North District would like to thank everyone for the help in moving vehicles around so we could sweep the parking lots.



The curatorial museum staff in the **HRC recently completed their new temporary exhibit titled *The Hayden Expedition through the Artists' Eye***. The exhibit focuses on the three artists of the expedition: photographer William H. Jackson, artist Henry W. Elliott, and painter Thomas Moran. The expedition gave the world an improved map of Yellowstone and visual proof of the area's unique curiosities through the photographs of William Henry Jackson and the art of Henry Wood Elliott and Thomas Moran. The exhibit includes eleven of the Moran paintings formerly in the Albright VC plus works from the other artists.

Also the summer tours will start Tuesday May 13th and run every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am throughout the summer.

Yellowstone's latest [Audio Postcard](#), "**Snipe Hunt**," will be airing this week on [Living on Earth, Public Radio International's environmental news magazine](#). Locally, Living on Earth airs on [Yellowstone Public Radio](#) Friday evenings at 7pm. If you miss the broadcast, you can also [stream it from the Living on Earth website](#). "Snipe Hunt" features Interpretive Planner and birding aficionado Katy Duffy. Congrats, Katy! You're famous! The Audio Postcard series is created by [park volunteer Jennifer Jerrett](#).

The Old Faithful fueling station is being relocated to the North side of the ESB bldg., next to the existing diesel pump.

The present fueling station is the future site of a dorm for Xanterra. The tanks were measured today and there is only about 300 gallons remaining of unleaded. We will be switching over to the process listed below as soon as this tank is empty.

During the interim, your first choice should be to fill at another area before arriving at Old Faithful using the NPS's existing Fuelmaster system.

If you need to get unleaded fuel at Old Faithful you will need to use your vehicle's credit card and get unleaded at the YPSS stations in the Old Faithful area. If your vehicle doesn't have a credit card please contact Katy Jones at the garage (ext 2460). This also means keeping the receipts and turning them in each month to the Mammoth Garage. Diesel fuel is still available at the dispensing unit next to the ESB.

We will keep you informed as changes happen. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation with this new process.



ced and distributed weekdays except holidays by the Public Affairs Office

Great spring weather means it's time to **play touch rugby**. Come down to the Gardiner School field on Mondays at 6:00 PM for fun and exercise. No experience necessary.

If you are **new to the area and looking for local running routes or just want a group to motivate you to get out on the roads and trails**, come join us this year! SAGE LEAPERS RUNNING CLUB is always welcoming new faces. Join the group on Facebook to find out more. We are based out of the Gardiner/ Mammoth area, but we run at other locations in and out of Yellowstone. Hope to see you out with us this summer!

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Beartooth Highway Opening Memorial Day Weekend

The Beartooth Highway, the scenic high elevation portion of US-212 linking Red Lodge, Montana, with the communities of Cooke City and Silver Gate, Montana, and the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park, is scheduled to open for the season at **9:00 a.m.** Friday morning, May 23. Spring road clearing and maintenance is conducted by the Montana Department of Transportation and the National Park Service.

Inside Yellowstone, the road over Dunraven Pass linking Canyon Village, Tower Fall and Tower Junction also opens for the season Friday morning.

All other park roads and all park entrances have already opened for the season.

Most seasonal visitor services in the park open in time for the Memorial Day weekend. Saturday also marks the opening of fishing season in the park. Details are available online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit>, by consulting the park newspaper handed out at entrance stations, or by asking the staff at visitor centers and information stations in and near the park.

All communities near and on the way to Yellowstone are open all year, offering a wide range of recreation opportunities, activities, and services for visitors to the region.

Information on lodging, camping, services, and activities near the park in Montana including the towns of Gardiner, West Yellowstone, Cooke City and Silver Gate, is available by contacting their respective Chambers of Commerce or from Travel Montana at 800-847-4868 or <http://visitmt.com>. Information on visiting Wyoming including the communities of Cody and Jackson is available from their Chambers of Commerce, or by contacting Wyoming Travel and Tourism at 800-225-5996, or online at <http://www.wyomingtourism.org>. Idaho travel information is available by contacting the Idaho Tourism Division at 800-VISITID or <http://www.visitidaho.org>.

The National Weather Service forecast for the holiday weekend, calls for partly cloudy skies with a chance of afternoon or evening thunderstorms with high temperatures in the 50s and low 60s, and overnight low temperatures near freezing. Spring visitors to the park are encouraged to have flexible travel plans and to be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions.

There will be no daytime travel delays or overnight road closures due to road construction during the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Resuming Tuesday morning, May 27, visitors should expect construction delays of up to 30 minutes, with nightly closures between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. beginning June 1, north of the entrance to the Norris Campground on the road to Mammoth Hot Springs. A 5.4 mile section of the road is being rebuilt, as is

the bridge over the Gardner River. This section of road will be closed to all traffic from 11:00 p.m. September 14 to 7:00 a.m. on September 30.

Work will also begin this year to replace the Isa Lake Bridge, which is on the road between Old Faithful and West Thumb Junction. This section of road will close to through travel for the season at 6:00 a.m. on September 2.

Details on both of these projects and updated Yellowstone National Park road information is available 24 hours a day by calling 307-344-2117 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/roadclosures.htm>.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone Officials: treasure hunt is dangerous, illegal

May 21, 2014 10:36 AM by Brooke Boone - KBZK News

<http://www.kbzk.com/news/yellowstone-officials-treasure-hunt-is-dangerous-illegal/>

It's a treasure hunt that stretches from New Mexico to Yellowstone National Park.

According to court documents obtained by MTN's Brooke Boone, the hunters entering the park are not only endangering themselves and others, they are breaking the law.

Tim Reid, Chief Ranger at Yellowstone National Park, says in the past two months two groups of treasure hunters have put themselves and others in danger by disobeying park regulations. "They are essentially unprepared and either ignorant of regulations or willfully disregarding," said Reid.

Documents from District Court of Wyoming at Yellowstone National Park indicate the most recent incident happened less than two weeks ago on May 9, 2014.

Reid says park rangers found a group of five to six people along Slough Creek. A search and rescue was required and that's when rangers discovered it was also a law enforcement issue. The group had broken more than a dozen laws. They had metal detectors, a shovel and planned to dig. These are "violations of laws that govern Yellowstone and protect Yellowstone," explained Reid.

They had even built a raft out of fallen trees and other natural items in the park, and tried to cross the river. But the rivers and creeks in Yellowstone are moving fast right now and Reid says they had to perform a swift current rescue. A dangerous task for all involved.

Reid says these hunters are searching for the Forrest Fenn treasure.

Fenn, lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is known for his memoir titled, "The Thrill of the Chase." It was published in 2010. The book includes a poem with clues he says will lead people to his treasure, worth millions.

In 2013, Fenn revealed the treasure was hidden in the Rocky Mountains north of Santa Fe, and 5,000 feet above sea level. Not long after the clue was revealed, a man was arrested in Yellowstone National Park.

"The primary reason for being in the park was to look for the alleged treasure," said Reid. The court documents from 2013 show the man pleaded guilty for violating conditions of backcountry permitting. The man was fined \$1,000 and banned from the park.

The most recent offenders are facing a similar fate. "You can't use metal detectors, you can't dig and even if you find something you can't remove it," said Reid. According to federal law, that even includes rocks.

"The thrill of the hunt is enticing," said Patti Albract who owns Earth's Treasures in Bozeman. The store sells metal detectors and gold pans - even maps that indicate where you are allowed to dig and are not allowed to dig, such as a national park.

While Albracht has not heard of the Forrest Fenn treasure specifically, she says when it comes to the hunt, "You don't want everybody there. It's like your favorite fishing spot. You don't want to advertise it."

There is currently one ongoing case in Yellowstone involving a Forrest Fenn treasure hunter. "We will be seeking the most aggressive penalty... Including cost recovery and banned from the park," said Reid. "National parks are here to use. But it is a privilege, not necessarily a right."

But what if Forrest Fenn did leave his treasure in Yellowstone National Park and someone finds it? Reid says, there is an abandoned property statute, and if it's not yours, you can't take it out either.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 851 AM MDT THU MAY 22 2014

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Tonight Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Some thunderstorms may produce small hail early in the evening. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail late in the evening. Lows 35 to 41. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Friday Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 64 to 70. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Friday Night Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers after midnight. Lows around 38. Chance of showers 20 percent.

Saturday Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 59 to 65. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday Night Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Lows in the mid 30s. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, May 23, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **phone books for summer 2014** are ready! You can pick them up in the Work Center or if you are not in Mammoth we will send them out to you.

As usual we have the long, complete version; Staff and Office Listings and booklet size version of the Staff and Office Listing.

If you are responding to this message to request them please specify how many you need and which version. If ordering for your work group please let the others know so we don't duplicate orders.

Thanks and enjoy these beautiful days!

The spring season of elk calving has begun. During this period, it is not uncommon for cow elk to bed their calves near buildings when they graze nearby lawns or meadows. As a consequence, people walking near or exiting buildings may inadvertently approach elk calves. This can result in cow elk defending the calf by charging or kicking at people.

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 648 AM MDT FRI MAY 23 2014

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Tonight: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Isolated rain showers after midnight. Isolated snow showers early in the morning. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail...then some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds late in the evening. Lows 34 to 40. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 60 to 66. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows around 35. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 61 to 67. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

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

Memorial Day: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 60 to 66.

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

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YNP@Work

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Tuesday, May 27, 2014



Hells A Roarin' horse drive and graduation in one weekend!
Congratulations to the Gardiner High School Class of 2014!

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As usual we have the long, complete version; Staff and Office Listings and booklet size version of the Staff and Office Listing.

If you are responding to this message to request them please specify how many you need and which version. If ordering for your work group please let the others know so we don't duplicate orders.

Thanks and enjoy these beautiful days!

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6. 2014 Full road closure: 11 PM September 14 to 7 AM September 30.

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Yellowstone Bookmobile!
LOOK FOR US ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
FROM May-August

May 29 June 26		July 31 August 28
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Grant	12:00	Visitor's Center
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Contact us at (307) 344-2264 or yell_research_library@nps.gov



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Also the summer tours will start Tuesday May 13th and run every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am throughout the summer.

The **Old Faithful fueling station is being relocated** to the North side of the ESB bldg., next to the existing diesel pump.

The present fueling station is the future site of a dorm for Xanterra. The tanks were measured today and there is only about 300 gallons remaining of unleaded. We will be switching over to the process listed below as soon as this tank is empty.

During the interim, your first choice should be to fill at another area before arriving at Old Faithful using the NPS's existing Fuelmaster system.

If you need to get unleaded fuel at Old Faithful you will need to use your vehicle's credit card and get unleaded at the YPSS stations in the Old Faithful area. If your vehicle doesn't have a credit card please contact Katy Jones at the garage (ext 2460). This also means keeping the receipts and turning them in each month to the Mammoth Garage. Diesel fuel is still available at the dispensing unit next to the ESB.

We will keep you informed as changes happen. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation with this new process.



Great spring weather means it's time to **play touch rugby**. Come down to the Gardiner School field on Mondays at 6:00 PM for fun and exercise. No experience necessary.

If you are **new to the area and looking for local running routes or just want a group to motivate you to get out on the roads and trails**, come join us this year! SAGE LEAPERS RUNNING CLUB is always welcoming new faces. Join the group on Facebook to find out more. We are based out of the Gardiner/ Mammoth area, but we run at other locations in and out of Yellowstone. Hope to see you out with us this summer!

IN THE NEWS

Study: Yellowstone magma less of a menace

May 24, 2014 4:26 pm • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — New research indicates the magma chamber underlying Yellowstone National Park may not be as volatile as previously believed.

University of Utah geophysicist Bob Smith and a student, Jamie Farrell, used seismic data from 26 years of earthquakes to map the composition of the Yellowstone caldera.

The study, published in Geophysical Research Letters earlier this month, revised the best estimate for the percentage of the magma chamber that is molten as opposed to solid. Magma chambers that have higher percentages of solids are generally thought to be less eruptible.

"The percentage of actual melt in Yellowstone is only about 10 percent," Smith said. "We see anywhere from 7 to 13 or 14 percent, depending on where we do the calculation."

Researchers previously estimated that the magma chamber was 32 percent liquid based on data from five seismic stations and 570 earthquakes.

The study by Farrell and Smith uses data from 4,520 earthquakes recorded between 1984 and 2011 in Yellowstone, which includes parts of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

Their study is based on the fact that seismic waves from earthquakes travel at different speeds in different materials. That in turn gives geophysicists glimpses into the compositions of what the waves are passing through.

Estimated at between 5 to 15 percent liquid, the fluid portion of the magma chamber is believed to be somewhere between 200 cubic kilometers and 600 cubic kilometers in size. That liquid area equates to significantly less material than two of the past three Yellowstone supervolcano eruptions, the last occurring 640,000 years ago, the research paper said.

The remaining 85 to 95 percent of the Yellowstone magma chamber is solid.

While there remains much uncertainty about the Yellowstone chamber, the Farrell and Smith research advances what's known about the larger Yellowstone volcanic field and how it interacts with the magma reservoir.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/study-yellowstone-magma-less-of-a-menace/article_bca066ba-80f5-596c-94fd-38ddfe87647a.html#ixzz32vducJU4

New air rescue base means faster response times

Posted: Monday, May 26, 2014 10:38 pm

By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News |

West Yellowstone is a remote community, to say the least. Embedded deep in the Rocky Mountain wilderness, West Yellowstone and Yellowstone National Park draw millions of visitors each year to experience nature at its finest.

Yellowstone is a massive wilderness area of 3,472 square miles with few roads and fewer services, especially on the medical front. With the closest hospitals 90 miles north in Bozeman or 107 miles southwest in Idaho Falls from West Yellowstone, rescuing a stroke or trauma patient in Yellowstone and transporting them to a hospital could take a considerable amount of time.

That is, until now.

Air Idaho Rescue recently added a station at the Yellowstone Airport and will serve the local community and park throughout the summer season.

“Our goal has been to do this for years,” flight nurse Doug Kenney said. “With the increase in tourism in the park, there was more need for air medical transport. We had an additional aircraft and staff so we could do it this year.”

The aircraft is a new Bell 407, which is commonly used in air medical transport due to its reliability, safety and speed.

“It’s the leading aircraft for this work in this area,” pilot Jake Bass said.

The helicopter has a six-minute lift-off time in the summer, and the majority of that time is for the aircraft to power up and for the radios to come on.

Flying from West Yellowstone to the clinic in Lake is 22 nautical miles, and the crew can fly to Lake and anywhere in the park in 12 minutes. A flight from Lake to the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls would then take around 45 to 50 minutes.

According to Kenney, the crew’s goal is to spend no more than 10 minutes on the ground while responding.

“Minus the lift-off time, you’re looking at just over an hour to the hospital; that’s pretty dang fast,” Kenney said.

As far as benefits for those they are rescuing or transporting, the flight nurse says having air transport “is huge.” He says if they can transport a stroke or trauma patient to the hospital in an hour or less, it makes a big difference for the patient.

“We’re 12 minutes from everywhere in the park which means a better chance for patient survival,” Kenney said. “In the back, we have everything an emergency room has.”

The helicopter is equipped with oxygen, defibrulators, pumps and fluids, emergency medication and intensive care unit to name a few. The aircraft is also equipped with a stretcher that can be lifted out and tucked back in once they take flight. Nurses utilize the rear of the aircraft to assist patients as needed until arrival at the hospital.

Kenney says they expect to serve cardiac patients this summer, as some visitors come from sea level with pre-existing conditions. Other incidents they will respond to include trauma from traffic accidents and animal incidents with visitors.

“Animal accidents are a small percentage, but they happen every year,” Kenney said.

The specialized aircraft can also land in backcountry locations on slopes and near hazards. According to Bass, all he needs to land is an area twice the width and length of the helicopter.

“That’s pretty comfortable,” Bass said of the landing size requirement. “We can usually find something.”

The pilot added that Air Idaho is authorized to land without police officers or rangers on scene if they need to.

“We’re licensed first responders,” he said. “Very few can land without police, firefighters or rangers securing the land first.”

Crew members with Air Idaho say they’re excited to serve the Yellowstone area for the summer. They will be based at the local airport through Sept. 30. It is not known if the service will continue on an annual basis, as it depends on staff numbers, available aircraft and more.

“We’re extremely happy to be here,” Kenney said. “It’s just another resource for the community and park.”

Read more: http://www.westyellowstonenews.com/news/article_d0d360dc-e558-11e3-9a7c-0019bb2963f4.html

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 616 AM MDT TUE MAY 27 2014

Today Breezy. Sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 65 to 71. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 36 to 42. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening.

Wednesday Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 66 to 72. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night Breezy. Partly cloudy. Lows 36 to 42. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening.

Thursday Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 62 to 68. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Night Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, May 28, 2014



Monday's Memorial Day ceremony held at the Gardiner Cemetery is held every year by American Legion Post 118 (Gardiner). This year's event included a ceremonial rifle squad and was attended by over 30 people including local veterans, residents, and park visitors. Flags were placed on the graves of all the veterans buried in Gardiner and Jardine, some who served as early as the Civil War. Post 118 is comprised of many current and former NPS employees. (photo by Hannah Marshall, HRC)

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WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 638 AM MDT WED MAY 28 2014

Today Breezy. Mostly sunny. Highs 65 to 71. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight Breezy. Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 35 to 41. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph early in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds

and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 61 to 67. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday Night Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 33 to 39. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday Partly cloudy with chance of rain showers in the morning... Then mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 62 to 70. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Friday Night Partly cloudy. Chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then slight chance of rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 34 to 40. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, May 30, 2014



New Fire Cache seasonal? Or just a darned good place to hide!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER! Today is the last day of school! Keep a careful eye on kids while you're driving!

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

New Yellowstone Road Upgrades May Delay, But Not Spoil, Summer Travel

Visitors to Yellowstone are likely to encounter some new road and bridge construction projects as they make their way through the park this summer. But while some short, daily traffic delays are expected along portions of the Grand Loop Road this season, the improvement work is not expected to cause visitors to have to make changes to their scheduled travel plans.

The most significant of the upgrades is the start of the first phase of an improvement project on the 16-mile stretch of road between Norris Geyser Basin and the Golden Gate area in Swan Lake Flats just south of Mammoth Hot Springs. This project involves improving and widening the current 18-22-foot-wide road to the Federal Highways standard of 30 feet. Included in the construction will be the addition of improved pullouts, widened shoulders, safer parking areas, reconstruction of a bridge over the Gardner River and re-routing of portions of the blacktop around critical thermal areas. The work will be the first significant upgrade the road has received since it was first constructed in the 1920s, and will be completed in three phases over the next few years.

Visitors should expect traffic delays of up to 30 minutes in construction areas. Nightly closures will be in effect Sunday through Thursday nights between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, June 1, on a 5.4-mile section of road between the entrance to the Norris Campground and the Moose Exhibit turnaround just south of the Indian Creek Campground. The campground will not be affected by the closure. The road will not be closed on Friday and Saturday nights, although this can change with 14-day advance notice. In the fall, this section of road will close temporarily to all traffic from 11:00 p.m. Sept. 14 to 7:00 a.m. Sept. 30.

Work will also begin in June to replace the historic, but deteriorating 72-year-old Isa Lake Bridge, which is on the road between Old Faithful and West Thumb Junction. This project also includes improvements to the existing parking area and pullouts and the existing Continental Divide interpretive kiosk. The new bridge design retains many of the historic characteristics of its predecessor, while meeting modern safety and weight load rating requirements. During reconstruction this summer, delays of up to 30 minutes should be expected. The bridge will be fully closed at 6:00 a.m. Sept. 2 until 7:00 a.m. Nov. 15, with completion of the work planned for fall 2015.

There will be no daytime traffic delays or overnight road closures on the Independence Day holiday weekend between 5:00 p.m. Thursday, July 3 and 7:00 a.m. Monday, July 7, and no Labor Day traffic delays or closures between 6:00 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29 and 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2.

All other park roads and all park entrances are open for the season.

Details on both of these projects and updated Yellowstone National Park road information is available 24 hours a day by calling 307-344-2117 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/roadclosures.htm>.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 953 AM MDT FRI MAY 30 2014

Rest Of Today: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers late in the morning...then isolated thunderstorms late in the morning. Scattered rain showers early in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail late in the morning. Highs 63 to 69. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening... Then isolated rain showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Lows 37 to 43. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 61 to 67. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Lows 32 to 38. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Sunday: Partly cloudy with chance of rain showers in the morning... Then mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 55 to 61. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with chance of rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 32 to 38. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Monday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 58 to 64. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

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