

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, November 3, 2014



Rick Sendra working at Lamar two weeks ago.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Have extra Halloween candy? Trying to consider what to do with all that candy rather than eat it? Consider donating it to the EMS CPR classroom. You can drop off candy with Boone (at his office on the 2nd floor of the Admin building) or email Joe Bueter for a pickup. Don't let that candy go to waste!

Reminder of Mandatory Smartcard use.

Do you have a smartcard? If you are a permanent NPS employee, you should have by now. Assuming you do have a smartcard, are you using it?

At this time all employees are required to use their smartcards to login to the network. Settings for the VPN make it impossible to login remotely any other way. The current VPN setting is how it will be on the network by the end of December.

Please, if you have been avoiding using your smartcard, start to use it now. Don't wait for it to become a crisis in December.

If you have never used your card to login you need to know these things.

- 1) The card goes into the slot of the keyboard reader with the picture facing you, or the laptop or usb reader face up.
- 2) When you login, if you haven't been using your card, you must the "Switch User" button when you get to the username and password prompt screen. You will choose the Smartcard option from the screen that comes up. That will prompt you to insert your card and enter your PIN (the PIN is the six to eight number string you chose when you had the card activated.)
- 3) If you do not recall your password, you will need to contact HR and setup a time they can help you reset the password using the Light Activation Station (LAS). We in the IT shop cannot help you with PIN resets.
- 4) You can remove the card once you have logged in, it will not lock your computer on removal. You will have to reinsert the card any time you have to unlock the computer.

Please be aware that you will still get popups reminding you to change your password every sixty days. Failure to make that change will cause many programs, including Bison Connect email, to deny you access.

Scared yet? Don't be. It really sounds worse than it is. If you have questions or need help using your card to login, CSS is here at extension 2062.

Thank you,
Dan Ward
Acting Supervisory IT Specialist, YELL CSS.

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Please be aware of this malware possibility on your personal as well as government phones, and note the directions at the bottom of this message if you want to know how to find your native flashlight on your phone. As always, contact us at CSS if you have a question.

It has been brought to our attention that certain "Flashlight" Applications that are installed on Android and/or Windows phones/devices contain avenues for data and even personal compromise. There are quite a few articles out this week on this topic. This one in particular had some very good information: "The Top Ten Mobile Flashlight Applications Are Spying On you. Did You Know?" by Gary Miliefsky CEO of SnoopWall and one of the founding members of DHS.

Per the article, here are some points to consider:

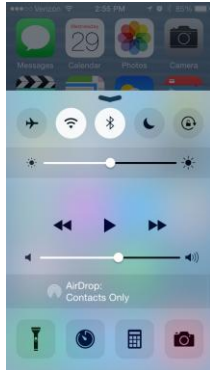
- "The top 10 free flashlight apps in the Google Play store alone account for nearly 1/2 BILLION INSTALLATIONS are all spying on users with an application size ranging from of 1.2 to 5 megabytes."
- "These flashlight apps do some very strange things – geolocate you, read your contacts list, read your device storage looking for personal, sensitive pictures and videos, read and write files, check to see what apps are running, look for ways to communicate over the internet (wifi or cellular), get your phone number and so much more..."
- "...these applications are designed to expose your personal information to cybercriminals or other nation states (such as China and Russia)."

It is asked that any flashlight application that isn't native to the government device you are using, be uninstalled immediately.

For more reading on this issue, a list of best practices for increasing privacy and security on your device, and to see the full threat report, here is the link:

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If you are wondering, there are built in flashlight processes on both iPhone and Android, so you do not need the third party app.



iPhone - Just brush your finger from the bottom of the screen up and a utility window will open with the flashlight as an option.



Android, at least Samsung series, has Flashlight in the Widgets. This can be moved to another home screen so you can just brush to it as well.

Be careful out there folks.

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November Road Construction Information:

Contractors finish for the season (weather permitting):

- Nov. 8, on Craig Pass
- Nov. 15, on Norris to Golden Gate (expect flaggers and pilot car until contractor finishes for the season)

Both roads will be OPEN for winter- use.



Two weeks ago, little Henry Park, newborn son of local residents and Yellowstone Association employee Zach Park and his wife, Robin, was born. When Robin and Zack were ready to go home with little Henry, the doctor noticed that **Henry's heart has a murmur** and recommended that they go to Billings to the pediatric cardiac doctor. Within a matter of hours, Robin and Henry were on a medical flight to the Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado.

Henry has Tricuspid Atresia, a congenital heart defect: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/tricuspid-atresia/basics/definition/con-20026734>. His little heart wasn't built right. Two chambers of his heart that should be connected are not. Henry is supposed to have his first surgery this

afternoon (11/03). With the upcoming surgeries, Henry has a very good chance of growing up to be a healthy normal kid.

Zack and Robin face large expenses for Henry's medical care and for them to spend weeks in Denver. They are currently trying to get a room in the busy (and hard to get into) Ronald McDonald house in Denver.

If you would like to help ease some of the financial stress they are feeling right now, please check the link. <http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/help-henry-s-heart/254106#.VE759ZQXBKE.facebook>

The Mammoth Community Center will be hosting a premiere of **Warren Miller's latest movie "No Turning Back"**!



When: **This Friday! Doors open at 6 pm - the movie will begin at 7 pm**

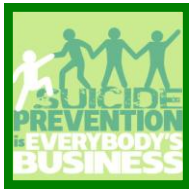
Where: Mammoth Community Center Gym

How Much: Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00.

Bozone Brewery will be providing refreshments.

There is also a raffle from various sport vendors

Think Snow!



Montana has one of the highest rates of suicide in the nation and has a rate double the national average. **Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in our state from age 10 through 44, yet this epidemic is largely preventable.**

Learn the warning signs and what you can do prevent a senseless death. A community training will be held to provide people with the information needed to save a life. The training will be facilitated by Karl Rosston, LCSW, the Montana Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

Date: November 6, 2014, Time: 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

Where: Yellowstone Association Classroom

Gardiner Headquarters



The training is free to the community and open to the public. Continuing education credits will be available. For more information, please contact Juanita Bueter at [406-848-7563](tel:406-848-7563) or bueterj@gardiner.org

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone Park considers bumping up bandwidth

3 hours ago • MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

Can Old Faithful compete with Netflix? The prospect of streaming wireless service deep inside Yellowstone National Park is re-igniting the debate over whether there should be any place off limits to technology.

Park officials are in preliminary discussions with CenturyLink about installing a \$34 million fiber-optic line through neighboring Grand Teton National Park and into Yellowstone. That would dramatically improve connectivity in certain areas for mobile devices.

Details on the Yellowstone fiber optic project were obtained by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility through a public records request and confirmed by The Associated Press.

The Washington, D.C. advocacy group's executive director, Jeff Ruch, warned that bumping up the park's bandwidth will create more electronic distractions at the expense of the park's natural wonders.

The CenturyLink proposal coincides with a National Park Service campaign to "Go Digital" ahead of its 100th anniversary in 2016. And it comes as concession companies have been pushing for more digital access in national parks, including Arizona's Grand Canyon, Texas' Big Bend and Maine's Acadia.

It's a notion far removed from the park system's early days, when President Theodore Roosevelt took a break from a national speaking tour and dropped from the public eye for two weeks to go camping in Yellowstone.

Yet as wireless connectivity spreads into almost every corner of modern life, the social pressures to "whittle away" at the remaining technology-free refuges are immense, said James Katz, a professor and director of emerging media studies at Boston University.

Katz had a first-hand dose of those pressures this summer, when he travelled through Yellowstone with his teenage children. They hit all the main attractions: Old Faithful, Yellowstone Falls, roaming herds of wild bison.

Whenever connectivity dropped off, Katz said, the complaints from the teens would begin.

"It was quite fascinating to see a naturally-occurring experiment about what happens when you take away technology from kids," he said. "They wanted to be in touch with their friends and exchange Snapchat photos — not of the beautiful scenery but themselves."

Another visitor, Vince Swagerty of Newberg, Oregon, wasn't surprised when he ran into trouble uploading pictures during a July tour of Yellowstone with his wife, son, 20, and daughter, 23.

"You take a cell phone shot of one of the bison right next to you, almost looking in your window, and you want to get that up on Facebook," said Swagerty, a 51-year-old tech-savvy amateur photographer who works as an administrator at a Christian school. "You pretty much know you're not going to upload any normal-sized pictures from a cell phone, be we expected to face that."

He added that it would be "neat" if Yellowstone had the same technological conveniences he finds outside the park, but wouldn't be bothered if he went back and still had connection problems ten years from now.

No survey has been done to determine the quality and extent of wireless coverage in the 401 parks and other attractions overseen by the National Park Service, agency spokeswoman Alexandra Picavet said.

She said the "Go Digital" campaign won't shape up the same way in every park, and each will have to decide what is suitable. But she said that the park service has no intention of looking backward as it enters a second century.

"People are dependent on wireless, they're dependent on cellular - a mode of communication and activeness that is different from what the National Park Service has provided previously," Picavet said.

Louisiana-based CenturyLink has not submitted a formal application on the Yellowstone proposal, according to park officials and company spokeswoman Michelle Jackson. For the project to make economic sense in such a remote area, Jackson said, the company has asked for most costs to be covered by the Park Service and companies that would benefit from the line, including Verizon, Union Wireless and park concessionaires.

Park officials said they have not agreed to provide any money. Yellowstone technology chief Bret De Young said the proposal offers a chance improve spotty and limited wireless services. He stressed that coverage still would be restricted to five developed areas inside the park.

"They would want you to think we're going to do wall-to-wall coverage so people can watch Netflix," De Young said, referring to the proposal's critics. "It's just about taking the infrastructure we have and making it work."

Ruch, the advocacy group director, said it would be inappropriate for the park to put any money toward a fiber-optic line given its backlog of road maintenance and other basic infrastructure improvements. He said the park should halt discussions with CenturyLink or invite public input into whether it's a good idea.

Yet Ruch also acknowledged that his group is up against a suffusion of technology that shows no signs of abating. "I think if we were to put it to a vote, we're a Luddite minority," he said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-park-considers-bumping-up-bandwidth/article_9fd805d2-c6ca-535f-b8e0-427cc2e58000.html#ixzz3I1YdFb4U

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Yellowstone tries to shock lake trout to death

22 hours ago • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — Biologists are making their first use of electroshock in their efforts to save native cutthroat trout in Yellowstone National Park from another voracious species of trout.

The electroshock treatment is being done to kill off lake trout that have invaded Yellowstone Lake when the unwanted fish is still spawning and in the earliest stages of its life.

Adult lake trout in Yellowstone can top 30 pounds, living almost exclusively on a diet of cutthroat trout, according to researchers.

Until now, netting of lake trout has been the park's main method of suppression for the past decade.

But new tactics being employed this fall by crews headed by park fisheries supervisor Todd Koel target the non-native fish in their spawning beds.

"The two tools that we used are still prototypes," Koel said. "One of them is electroshocking. It's an array that you move along the bottom.

"The other tool that we have," he said, "it's a placer gold mining suction dredge system."

That means park officials are attempting to electrocute lake trout eggs and are also trying to suck them out of cobble below Yellowstone Lake.

The results aren't yet in, as the lake trout suppression boats weren't pulled from the lake until about a week ago.

But Koel was encouraged and said there was "really good evidence" the electricity method was working.

In places where biologists tried the suction method over already-electrified spawning beds, most of the thousands of eggs and fry captured were dead, he said. Where the electricity had not yet been applied, the spawn were mostly alive.

"We saw what seemed to be really significant results just by using that test," Koel said.

Overall, the efforts to reduce the impacts of predatory lake trout on Yellowstone Lake's cutthroat trout are going well, U.S. Geological Survey research biologist Bob Gresswell said.

"Ultimately, this isn't about killing lake trout," Gresswell said. "It's about restoring cutthroat. What we really want to see is a response from the cutthroat."

After declining to a fraction of historic levels, the cutthroat appear to be bouncing back, Gresswell said.

"Cutthroat are becoming more abundant," Gresswell said. "They were getting caught by anglers off the shore."

Cutthroat were historically a vital food for bears each spring, and their decline has worried park officials.

Someday, Gresswell said, spawning bed treatments may be an integral part of the attempt to hold lake trout at low levels.

But biologists believe eradicating lake trout from the 136-square-mile lake is impossible.

"Gill netting won't go away," Gresswell said. "It'll be part of the scene, but within five years or so I think you'll see it cut back to a spring and fall activity. That would be my prediction."

If it proves effective, spawning treatment will "slowly, incrementally" become part of the lake trout suppression effort, Gresswell said.

Koel stressed that there are a few years of testing ahead before the spawning treatments are deployed around the lake. This year crews were simply getting familiar with the equipment.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-tries-to-shock-lake-trout-to-death/article_2e4969d0-b985-52ef-ba94-49d2d18db564.html#ixzz3I1a5kCZB

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Lady Wolverines capture cross country state title

Posted: Friday, October 31, 2014

[Lady Wolverines capture cross country state title](#)

By JEREMY WEBER West Yellowstone News

Months of hard work and training paid off for the Lady Wolverines in Helena Saturday as West Yellowstone captured the Class C cross country state title while junior runner Bailee Parker won the Class C individual title.

It was the school's first year competing in the sport.

“It’s good for the school and for the spirit of the town to know that we can achieve a lot,” head coach A.J. Chlebnik said. “We are a small school in the middle of nowhere, but we can still win state championships. We can do well when our kids work hard.”

In one of the closest state finishes ever, the Lady Wolverines won the title with 38 points while Winnett and Twin Bridges both finished with 39 points (the places of a school’s top three runners are added together and the lowest score wins).

Winnett finished second and Twin Bridges was third as the officials had to add in the places of the schools fourth-place runners as a tie-breaker. Even with the tie-breaker, Winnett was second by a single point.

“It was a tough race today and it was going to be close no matter what,” Chlebnik said. “Twin Bridges has a good team. I didn’t know Winnett had a good team but I do now. I am so, so proud of my girls for bringing everything they had to the meet today. They have been doing that all season.”

In a race featuring 85 runners from 28 schools, all five of the Lady Wolverine runners finished in the top-35 as Parker won the individual title by crossing the finish line with a time of 18:16 (40 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher), Jewlz Collins was 13th with a time of 21:10, Emily Everest finished 24th with a time of 22:20, Anne Jehle was 26th at 22:32 and Darby Binfet was 33rd with a time of 23:03.

According to first-place finisher Parker, her performance was just a part of a team effort.

“This was a great team effort. Without strong performances by everyone, we would not have been able to do this well,” she said. “We would have been happy with first, second or third but we really did want to come out here and win it all today. Getting first was such a blessing. It is so awesome.”

With official standings not announced until nearly an hour after the race, the teams were forced to nervously wait to find out which schools had finished in the top three.

“I had done the calculations and I was pretty sure that we were one point ahead in first place. When they announced Twin Bridges as being third, I was a little concerned because I thought they had come in second,” Chlebnik said. “When they announced Winnett as second place, the girls all freaked out and I was so excited. It was overwhelming.”

For Parker and Collins, the first-place finish was especially satisfying after the duo earned West Yellowstone a second-place finish at the state track meet in May.

“This is incredible. It’s amazing. I can’t even describe it or put it into words,” Collins said. “We have worked so hard this year. We really wanted to win after we came in second at the state track meet last year, and we were able to do it.”

With Jehle as the team’s only senior member, the future also looks bright for the young squad.

“You never know what the next year is going to bring but we should be set up for another strong year next season,” Chlebnik said. “You cannot know what new athletes the other schools will have next year, but we should be right back in the mix again.”

On the boys side, the Wolverines had one runner at the state meet as Tristen Burden finished 37th with a time of 19:24.

Class C Girls Cross Country Team Results

1. West Yellowstone 38 1, 13, 24, 26, 33
2. Winnett 39 2, 8, 29, 30, 51, 61, 73
3. Twin Bridges 39 6, 11, 22, 31, 41, 57, 66
4. Cascade 53 7, 14, 32
5. Manhattan Christ. 54 5, 10, 39, 58, 70

Class C Girls Cross Country Top 15 (All-State)

1. Bailee Parker West Yellowstone 18:16
2. Breelle Wacker Winnett 18:56
3. Lily Lang Darby 19:19
4. Christina Eike Hobson 19:26
5. Nikki Aiken Manhattan Christian 19:39
6. Jessica George Twin Bridges 20:23
7. Calise Ludvigson Cascade 20:34
8. Kita Weingart Winnett 20:41
9. Mckenzie Lencioni Belt 20:42
10. Emma Adams Manhattan Christian 20:44
11. Savanna Stewart Twin Bridges 20:54

12. Marie Waldbillig Granite 20:55

13. Jewlz Collins West Yellowstone 21:10

14. Kacey Cummings Cascade 21:11

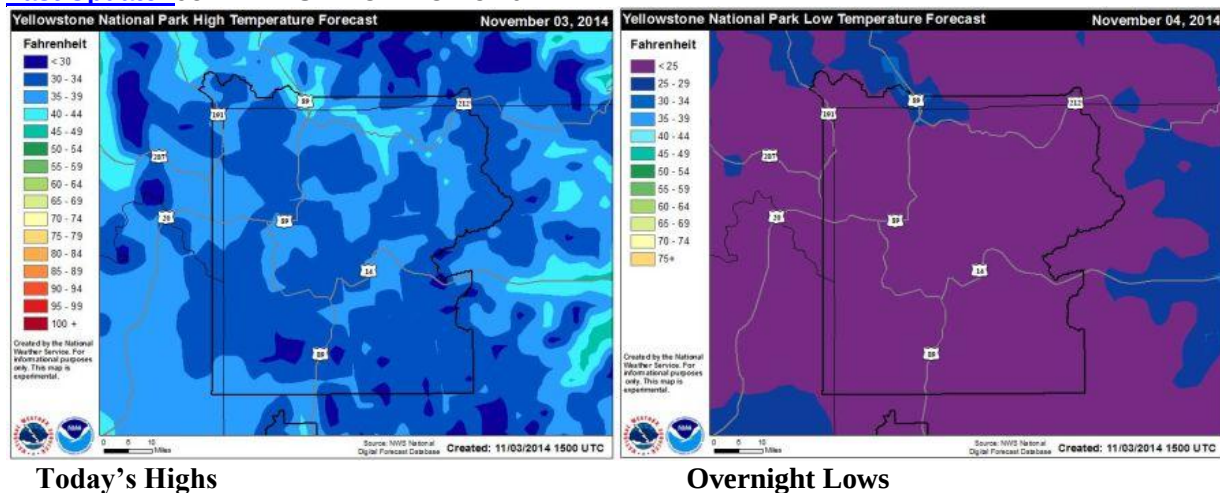
15. Ellie Smith Richey 21:12

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 952 AM MST MON NOV 3 2014



Today: Partly cloudy late in the morning then clearing. Highs 30 to 36.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 17 to 23. Southwest winds around 15 mph after midnight.

Tuesday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Tuesday Night: Cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the evening... Then isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers in the morning... Then isolated rain showers and snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 34 to 40. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

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

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. Sign up by pasting this link into your internet browser: <https://newslettersignup.mayoclinic.com/> and following the subscription instructions. There are some great topics for weekly tailgate safety/wellness 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!

YNP@Work

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Tuesday, November 4, 2014



I pledge allegiance to the flag...(photos by Amanda Brown)

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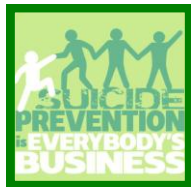
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IN THE NEWS



Young grizzly keeps Gardiner residents on their toes

Published: Mon, 11/03/2014 - 8:55pm

By Liz Kearney

A young male grizzly bear hanging around in the town of Gardiner startled a group of trick-or-treaters on Halloween night.

Fortunately, the bear is "a scaredy cat and very flighty" when it encounters humans and no one was hurt, said Gardiner resident and

renowned animal track expert Jim Halfpenny in a phone interview Monday morning.

“A girl screamed and the bear ran for all it was worth,” Halfpenny reported.

And that’s a good thing — for both people and the bear, he said.

“I’m trying to get people to be cautious,” so that no one gets hurt by the bear, which could result in the bear either being killed in self-defense or taken by wildlife officials, Halfpenny explained.

He hopes that by educating people to be bear-aware and keeping their garbage secure, the bear will keep out of trouble until it goes into hibernation later this fall.

People walking around, especially after dark, should carry lights, make noise and carry bear spray if they like, Halfpenny said.

Halfpenny observed the bear has an ear tag, but could not determine which agency had tagged the animal.

The bear, which has eaten apples and garden produce, does not appear to have gotten into any compost piles, garbage or pet food, Halfpenny said. He urges people to keep their garbage, pet food, bird feeders and barbecue grills indoors.

Bear Aware Gardiner, a local advocacy group, promoted bear-resistant garbage cans a few years ago, which may be a factor in why the bear has not apparently fed on garbage, Halfpenny said.

Park County Undersheriff Scott Hamilton encountered the bear in his own yard in the early morning hours of Tuesday last week.

Hamilton said he heard a “racket” in his yard, and thought it was probably deer. Which it partly was.

“The bear had a deer cornered, and it kept rattling the fence,” the undersheriff said.

Hamilton’s presence caused the bear to run off, and the deer escaped.

“I went back to bed, but I’m not sure I went back to sleep right away,” Hamilton joked.

Park County deputies have been on patrol throughout Gardiner, Hamilton added.

Halfpenny said the bear appears to be between 4 and 5 years old. He said age can be determined by the fact the bear had no scars on his face, and he retained “pedamorphic” facial features.

“Pedamorphic” is the scientific term for “baby face,” he explained.

He estimated the bear’s weight at 300 to 350 pounds. The bear might look larger than that weight range due to the fullness of its winter coat, Halfpenny added.

The grizzly has been reported eating apples from residents’ fruit trees, and was verified to have broken a fence at the home of Rick and Debbie Fellows, in pursuit of the apples in their yard. Debbie Fellows estimated the repair cost for five new fence slats at under \$20.

The grizzly has also dug into gardens, where it secured carrots and potatoes. The bear apparently prefers red potatoes, which it dug up and ate, to white potatoes, which it only dug up but didn't eat, Halfpenny observed.

Halfpenny said hibernation times vary by bear and by season. He said some bears den for the winter as early as the fourth week in September, while others may remain out into December. A bear finding good food sources might stay out later.

Halfpenny theorizes the bear is looking for food in Gardiner due to population pressures. Grizzly bear numbers are up, so bears are expanding into areas where they have typically not been seen in recent years. The grizzly bear population in 1972, Halfpenny said, was about 140 in the region.

Today, that number is between 650 and 700.

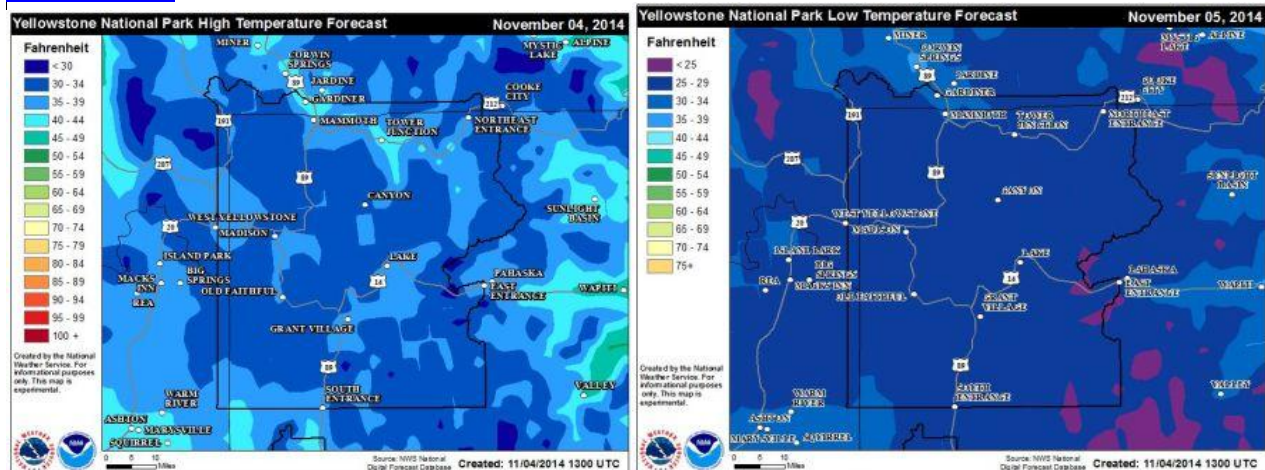
"Populations go up and then they plateau off," Halfpenny said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 824 AM MST TUE NOV 4 2014



Today's Highs

Overnight Lows

Today: Breezy...cloudy. Isolated snow showers late in the morning...then scattered snow showers late in the morning. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the evening...then isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows around 26. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 35 mph until early morning. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers in the morning...then partly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs 34 to 40. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 25 to 31.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs 40 to 46.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 26 to 32.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, November 5, 2014



Howitzer training at Lake for avalanche mitigation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS-NPS Plans Veterans Day Social Media Campaign

On Veterans Day, we remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have served, or are serving, in the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition to offering free admission and special programs in parks throughout the country, the NPS plans to create a social media gallery to salute the thousands of current employees who are also veterans. Parks and programs should ask veterans if they would like to participate. We will not post their names but will list parks or programs with the photos.

Obtain or take a photo of the employee(s) in a nice setting in the park and/or their place of employment. If possible, try to get group shots. If the photo is taken outside, please be sure uniform caps/hats are worn. By noon EST on November 11th, post the photo(s) on your park or program's Facebook page. **You MUST include the hashtag #NPSvets in the message.** The hashtag will be used to search for all the photos to include in the gallery on the national NPS Facebook page.

If an employee has also served in the National Guard, please add a second hashtag, #NPSNG, because the National Guard would also like to share the photos through their social media outlets. Around 2 p.m. on November 11th, the national Facebook page will post the gallery.

All veterans and people who have served in the National Guard, if you would like to participate please be at the Canteen front door at 11:45 a.m. TOMORROW morning for a photo!



Have extra Halloween candy? Trying to consider what to do with all that candy rather than eat it? Consider donating it to the EMS CPR classroom. You can drop off candy with Boone (at his office on the 2nd floor of the Admin building) or email Joe Bueter for a pickup. Don't let that candy go to waste!

November Road Construction Information:

Contractors finish for the season (weather permitting):

- Nov. 8, on Craig Pass
- Nov. 15, on Norris to Golden Gate (expect flaggers and pilot car until contractor finishes for the season)

Both roads will be OPEN for winter- use.

The Mammoth Community Center will be hosting a premiere of **Warren Miller's latest movie "No Turning Back"**!



When: **This Friday! Doors open at 6 pm - the movie will begin at 7 pm**

Where: Mammoth Community Center Gym

How Much: Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00.

Silent auction and concessions available! [Think Snow!](#)



Montana has one of the highest rates of suicide in the nation and has a rate double the national average. **Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in our state from age 10 through 44, yet this epidemic is largely preventable.**

Learn the warning signs and what you can do prevent a senseless death. A community training will be held to provide people with the information needed to save a life. The training will be facilitated by Karl Rosston, LCSW, the Montana Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

Date: **TOMORROW**, Time: 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

Where: Yellowstone Association Classroom

Gardiner Headquarters



The training is free to the community and open to the public. Continuing education credits will be available. For more information, please contact Juanita Bueter at [406-848-7563](tel:406-848-7563) or bueterj@gardiner.org

RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Yellowstone Launches On-line Snowmobile Education Certification Course**

The National Park Service is pleased to announce the availability of the Yellowstone Snowmobile Education Certification course. Certification under this free on-line course will be required for all members of the public who operate snowmobiles in the park under the new Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program. This program permits members of the public to guide private parties of up to five Best Available Technology snowmobiles into the park. There will be one group per oversnow entrance per day and permits can be for up to three days.

The Yellowstone Snowmobile Education Certification course focuses on rider safety and resource protection. Participants will learn how to plan for their trip, operate snowmobiles in Yellowstone's unique conditions, and the best practices for sharing roadways with wildlife, among other topics. The course can be accessed at <http://eppley.org/elearning/yellowstone-snowmobile-education-certificate>, where participants can sign up for the free training.

Park staff members have worked with course development experts at the Eppley Institute to develop the course, which will feature videos, text, interactive graphics, and a final assessment for certification. Certification will be valid for two years.

Superintendent Dan Wenk noted the important support from the State of Wyoming and Governor Matthew Mead; the Wyoming Trails Program awarded a grant to develop the course and provide technical assistance. "I appreciate the work of the Wyoming Trails Program and the National Park Service in developing this new on-line course," Governor Mead said. "Now more people will have the chance to experience the majesty of Yellowstone in winter."

Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Permits are awarded through an initial lottery process, which ran the first week of October. Permits not yet spoken for will be available at <http://recreation.gov> beginning on November 3rd. Permits will also become available due to cancellations, so interested parties are encouraged to check <http://recreation.gov> throughout the season.

For questions regarding this program, please contact Alicia Murphy at alicia_murphy@nps.gov.

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Yellowstone National Park Proposes Entrance and Backcountry Fee Restructuring

Yellowstone National Park is seeking public input on a proposal to increase the park's entrance fees for the first time since 2006 and institute a backcountry overnight permit fee.

Under current legislation, 80 percent of the revenue from entrance fees is allowed to remain in the park and used on projects which benefit park visitors. In Yellowstone, revenue from entrance fees has allowed the park to spend approximately \$4 million per year on a variety of projects including road repairs, campground upgrades, improving accessibility for people with disabilities, rehabilitation of park structures, and utility systems repairs.

Yellowstone is proposing several changes to park entrance fees.

Currently, visitors pay \$25 for a 7-day pass for a single, non-commercial vehicle entry into both Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, with the current cost of an annual two-park pass at \$50.

The park is proposing to offer a 3-day Yellowstone only pass for \$30. A 7-day pass good for both Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks would be available for \$50. An annual pass to Yellowstone only will be \$60.

Those entering the park by motorcycle or snowmobile are currently charged \$20 for a 7-day pass honored at both parks. The proposal is to offer a 3-day Yellowstone only pass valid for \$25 and a 7-day pass for \$40 honored at both parks.

Individuals who enter the park on foot, bicycle, skis, or as snowcoach passengers currently pay \$12 for a 7-day pass. That would be increased to \$15 for 1-3 days in Yellowstone, or \$25 for 7 days at both parks.

The Interagency Pass rates will remain the same: Annual (\$80), Senior (\$10), Access and Military (\$0).

These proposed changes would result in additional annual revenue of approximately \$3 million dollars for Yellowstone National Park, which would be used to continue or enhance projects such as Yellowstone cutthroat trout restoration, maintenance for the park's 7 campgrounds, preservation maintenance on park roads, improved restroom facilities, reconstruction and rehabilitation of trails including Tower Falls, and a new North Entrance Station facility.

Additionally, the park is proposing to institute a fee for overnight backcountry permits to help recover costs associated with operating the park's backcountry program. In the past, Yellowstone has not charged an overnight backcountry permit fee, but a reservation fee has been charged since 1996.

The proposed backcountry camping permit fee would be \$3 per person (age 9 and older) per night with a maximum party limit of \$15 per night for backpackers. Stock groups would be charged \$5 per person per night with no maximum fee limit. The current \$25 fee for trips reserved more than 48 hours in advance would remain the same.

Users would be able to purchase an Annual Backcountry Pass for \$25 which would exempt that individual from the per-person per-night fee.

Additional revenue from overnight backcountry permit fees would be used to help to sustain the current level of service that visitors expect and ensure that Yellowstone can continue to provide service at multiple locations throughout the park.

The current revenue stream from advance reservations covers 17% of the cost to operate all backcountry offices, while the proposed fee is expected to raise backcountry fee revenue to approximately 43% of the cost to operate backcountry offices.

The public is encouraged to attend one of the following public meetings to learn more about the proposed fee changes:

- Tuesday, November 11 in Cody, Wyo.: Holiday Inn at Buffalo Bill Village 6:30-8:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 12 in Jackson, Wyo.: The Lexington 6:30-8:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 18 in Bozeman, Mont.: Hilton Garden Inn 6:30-8:00 pm

Comments may also be hand-delivered during normal business hours to the mailroom in the park's Administration Building in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, at one of the public scoping meetings, or mailed to: Management Assistant Office, Attn: Entrance Fee Proposal, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190.

Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any other way than those specified above. All comments must be received by midnight MST on Friday, December 5th, 2014.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone, other U.S. parks urged to reconsider wireless upgrades

By Laura Zuckerman

Tue Nov 4, 2014 8:39pm EST

Nov 4 (Reuters) - A plan that could boost cellular services at national parks in the American West such as Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon is pitting purists against pragmatists in a debate about digital access in places prized for their solitude.

This week the watchdog group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) released government documents showing a telecommunications firm was eyeing a \$30 million project that would expand coverage in Yellowstone, which spans parts of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

The bandwidth expansion proposed by CenturyLink Inc has not been formally submitted to the Yellowstone park authorities, and would need to clear several hurdles before being presented for public review.

But the prospect of millions of visitors chatting on cell phones, interacting with iPads and playing video games on laptops has drawn criticism the U.S. National Park Service system is straying from its mission of preserving natural resources in order to meet the expectations of consumers, particularly tech-dependent millennials.

"We're engaged in perhaps a losing argument that parks are places you go to be disconnected from the electronic tendrils that reach into every other nook and cranny of the world," said PEER Director Jeff Ruch.

A separate preliminary proposal spelled out in documents gained by PEER through freedom-of-information requests to the National Park Service would see concessionaires at Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and several other parks underwrite technology upgrades that the businesses would then control, Ruch said, and he urged the parks to resist what he termed "corporatization."

Bret De Young, technology chief for Yellowstone, said the park, which is best known for its geysers and iconic wildlife such as bison, needs more bandwidth to improve cellular and other services that now exist in just a few developed areas. He said it is not seeking to enlarge its wireless footprint.

Unlike the vast majority of U.S. parks, Yellowstone in 2008 crafted a wireless plan that still guides decision-makers and which imposes strict limits on where WiFi and cellular service is permitted, De Young said.

The debate comes as Yellowstone considers increasing fees for its roughly 3 million annual visitors. Sarah Curet, 21, a University of Idaho student who has vacationed at Yellowstone, said she is not averse to an Internet-free zone, but balks at lack of cell service.

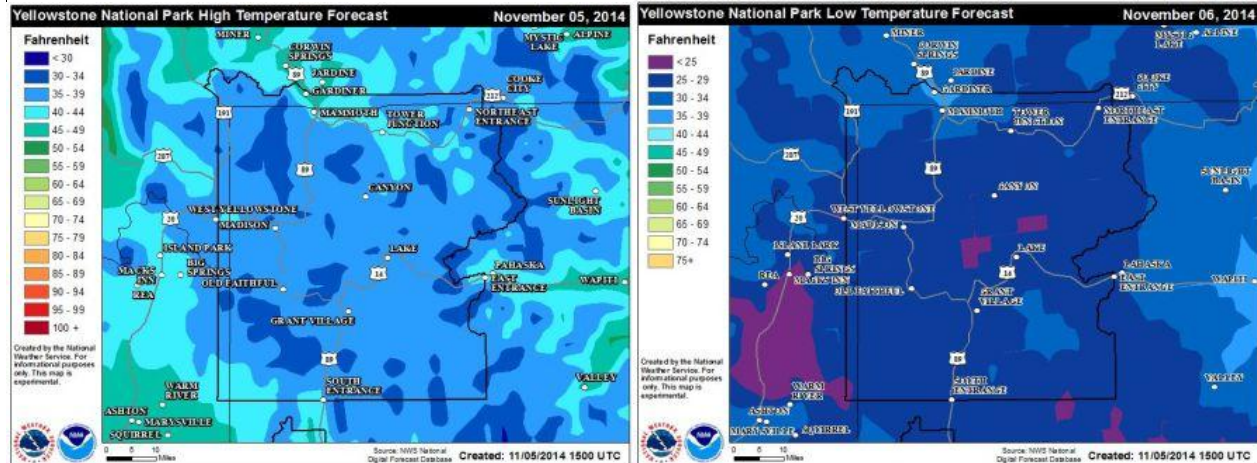
"For me, having a cell phone wouldn't detract from the experience," Curet said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 838 AM MST WED NOV 5 2014



Today's Highs

Overnight Lows

Today: Mostly cloudy late in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 24 to 30.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs 40 to 46. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Friday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning...then chance of rain showers and snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 36 to 42. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Lows 20 to 26.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, November 6, 2014



Scarface is back at Tower after spending most of the summer at Canyon and Hayden Valley.
(photo by Tom Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS-On Veterans Day, we remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have served, or are serving, in the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition to offering free admission and special programs in parks throughout the country, the NPS plans to create a social media gallery to salute the thousands of current employees who are also veterans. Parks and programs should ask veterans if they would like to participate. We will not post their names but will list parks or programs with the photos.

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All veterans and people who have served in the National Guard, if you would like to participate please be at the Canteen front door at 11:45 a.m. TODAY for a photo!



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Learn the warning signs and what you can do prevent a senseless death. A community training will be held to provide people with the information needed to save a life. The training will be facilitated by Karl Rosston, LCSW, the Montana Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

Date: **TODAY**, Time: 12:00 PM-2:00 PM
Where: Yellowstone Association Classroom
Gardiner Headquarters



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The Isa Lake bridge contractor will continue work in the Craig Pass area next week despite the fact that the road opens for Admin traffic on Nov. 8. The road and the temporary bridge are signed at 25 mph. Temporary approaches to the bridge are NOT designed for speeds over 25 mph.

During the day, staff should expect minor delays, a one lane segment and construction workers and equipment. No work at night. Please be alert, as traffic control will not be as formal or extensive as when open to visitors. Recent road conditions have been snowy and icy. Please use caution.

Winter shutdown for this project is the end of the day November 14.
Thank you, Mike Angermeier

- - - - -

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When: **This Friday! Doors open at 6 pm - the movie will begin at 7 pm**
Where: Mammoth Community Center Gym
How Much: Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00.
Silent auction and concessions available! **Think Snow!**

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone bison to be transferred to Fort Peck

18 hours ago • Associated Press

Montana wildlife officials say a group of about 140 bison captured from Yellowstone National Park will be relocated to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation next week.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director Jeff Hagener on Wednesday approved the transfer of the animals.

The bison went through a lengthy quarantine to ensure they don't carry the animal disease brucellosis.

They've been held for the past several years on a ranch owned by former media mogul Ted Turner after prior relocation proposals fell through.

Yellowstone's bison are prized for their pure genetics.

Conservation groups, tribes and wildlife agencies from several states had sought to receive some of the animals.

But state wildlife commissioners last month rejected a recommendation from Hagener's staff that would have sent most of the animals out of state.

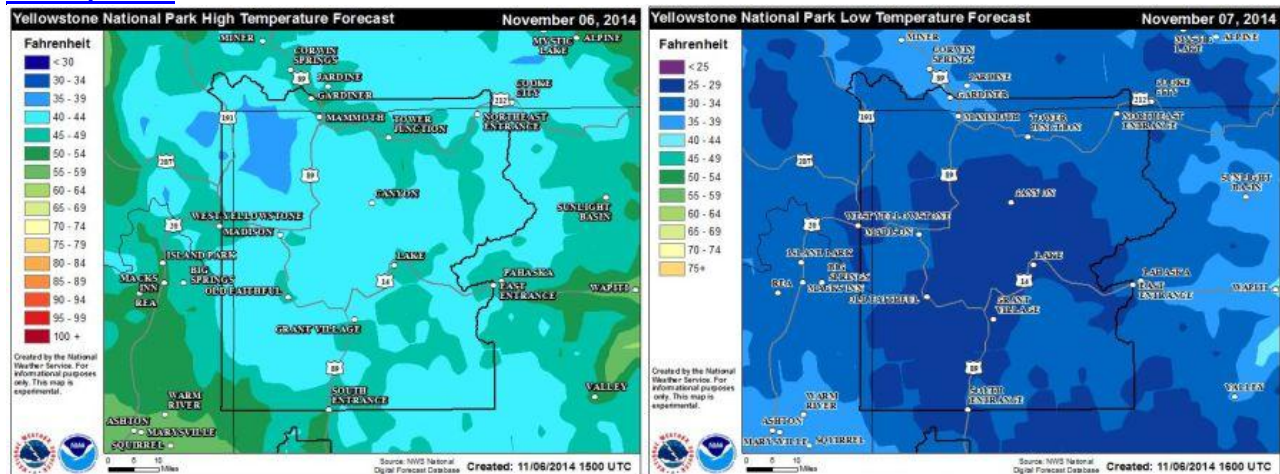
Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-bison-to-be-transferred-to-fort-peck/article_50eb705e-719e-588e-be4d-651de15bedcf.html#ixzz3IJ7tLeY

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 607 AM MST THU NOV 6 2014



Today's Highs

Overnight Lows

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 40 to 46. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy until early morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers early in the morning. Lows 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning... Then isolated rain showers and snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 34 to 40. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated snow showers in the evening. Lows around 24. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 37 to 43.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 21 to 27.

Sunday: Breezy. Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow and rain in the morning...then mostly cloudy with

chance of snow and slight chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs 36 to 42. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Sunday Night: Snow likely and chance of rain in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 19 to 25. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

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YNP@Work

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Friday, November 7, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Where: Mammoth Community Center Gym

How Much: Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00.

Silent auction and concessions available! [Think Snow!](#)

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone, Grand Teton want to raise, separate gate fees

POSTED: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014 4:30 AM

By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole Daily

For decades people could drive, bike or walk through Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and pay a single fee good for both places.

Those days could be running short.

National Park Service officials released a proposal this week that would result in modest increases across the board for weekly and season passes.

More significantly for most people's pocketbooks, Wyoming's two nearly connected national parks may begin to collect their entrance fees separately, ending a cost-saving many have enjoyed.

“Separating the two national parks, it is something that is new with this proposal,” Grand Teton park spokeswoman Jackie Skaggs said. “We’ve actually been a bargain for years.”

Yellowstone managers first proposed to put an end to the days when people would get two parks for the price of one, Skaggs said.

If the proposal is adopted, next summer a motorist who passes from Grand Teton into Yellowstone could be on the hook for \$50 instead of the \$25 that is charged today. A stand-alone visit to either Grand Teton and Yellowstone would run \$30, an increase of \$5 over today’s rate.

(For a summary of current fees and the proposed changes, see the box at the end of this story.)

Yellowstone’s new rates would be expected to return an additional \$3 million over what is collected at gates today, park spokeswoman Amy Bartlett said. Bartlett said Yellowstone would collect about \$11 million annually using the new rates.

Grand Teton’s fee plan is anticipated to net an extra \$1.6 million compared to what is collected today.

“Our proposed rates, they’re estimated to result in approximately \$6.1 million of entrance fee revenue,” Skaggs said. “It’s about 39 percent more.

“The increased revenue would help us meet some of the challenges of providing the visitor services that we do,” she said.

Eighty percent of money collected at both parks’ gates is retained for their own use. The rest goes to a nationwide Park Service fund.

Compared to their base federal budget allocations, the extra cash would result in a financial boost of about 10 percent for Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

The two parks would also part ways in the individual types of fees they charge. Managers of the world’s first national park decided to go with a three-day pass in addition to the traditional seven-day pass.

The abbreviated pass would cost the same — \$30 — as Teton park’s seven-day pass. A full seven-day pass to Yellowstone, which confusingly would be good at both parks, would cost \$50.

Yellowstone’s proposal would also boost the cost of backcountry camping.

A fee of \$3 per person each night would be added for backpackers. Horsemen would be charged \$5 per person each night. The current \$25 fee for advance reservations would not change.

Proposals to increase fees are being considered at national parks across the country. Some parks are eyeing bigger boosts than Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

The cost to enter Mount Rainier and Olympic national parks, for example, could rise by two-thirds. Rocky Mountain National Park may add 50 percent to gate fees, according to media reports.

Yellowstone and Grand Teton officials are fielding public comment through Dec. 5 on the plan to boost and separate gate fees.

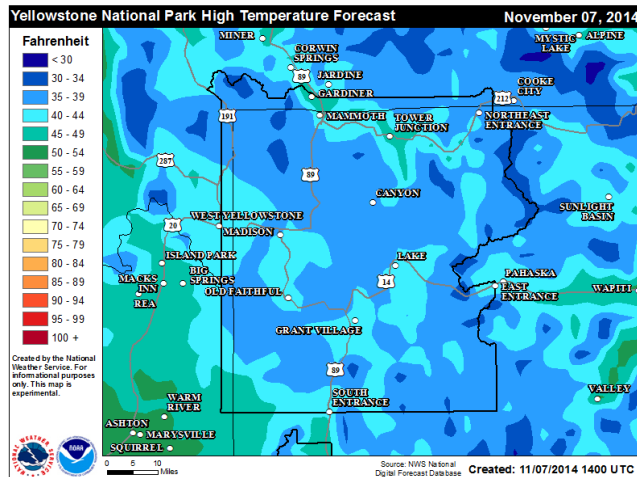
A public meeting about both parks' proposals has also been organized. It will take place 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Lexington in Jackson.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 822 AM MST FRI NOV 7 2014



Today's Highs

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Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 21 to 27.

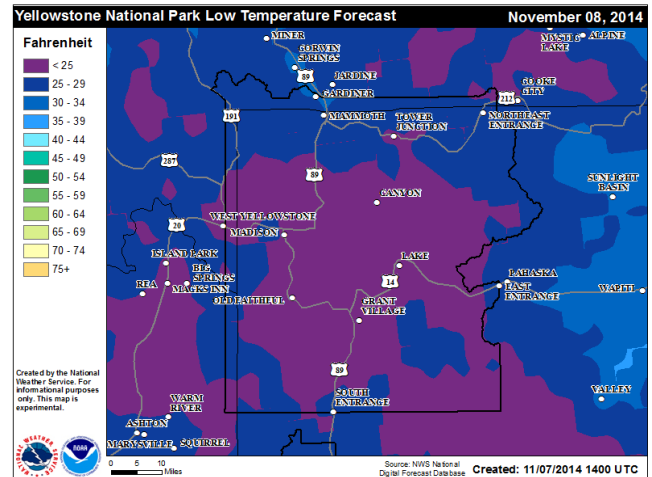
Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 37 to 43. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Sunday: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs 37 to 43. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 21 to 27. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Monday: Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 26 to 32. Chance of snow 40 percent.



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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, November 10, 2014



Monument Geyser Basin days before the roads closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On October 31, the National Park Foundation's President and CEO Neil Mulholland announced that he was stepping down. Superintendent Dan Wenk has agreed to serve as interim President and CEO of the National Park Foundation while the Foundation's board of directors conducts a national search for a successor.

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Steve Iobst

Please note, anyone working from **8 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Tuesday the 11th** (Veterans Day) be aware you may not be able to access Bison Connect email, and may have some issues accessing the Internet. Thanks.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Reports Strong October Visitor Numbers

It was another record visitation month for Yellowstone in October. A total of 194,804 recreational visitors came to Yellowstone last month, surpassing the previous October record of 189,072 set in 2010.

The dramatic year-to-year difference in visitation figures between October 2014 and October 2013 reflects the 16 day park closure due to last October's federal government shutdown.

There were 3,483,608 recreational visits to Yellowstone in first ten months of 2014, an increase of 10.26% over the same period in 2013.

With two months left in the calendar year, 2014 is already the second highest visitation year on record, surpassing the 3,447,727 recreational visits recorded in 2012. The park's peak visitation year was 2010, when there were 3,640,184 recreational visits to Yellowstone.

	Recreational Visits 2014	Recreational Visits 2013	Change
January	26,778	24,699	+ 8.42 %
February	28,233	31,053	- 9.08 %
March	18,778	18,613	+ 0.89 %
April	31,356	24,606	+ 27.43 %
May	310,039	293,250	+ 5.73 %
June	669,642	624,429	+ 7.24 %

July	858,857	812,212	+ 5.74 %
August	773,357	725,136	+ 6.65 %
September	571,764	557,925	+ 2.48 %
October	194,804	47,560	+ 309.59 %
Total Year-To-Date	3,483,608	3,159,485	+ 10.26 %

July is typically the peak visitation month in Yellowstone, followed in order by August, June, September, and May.

Detailed park visitation information and additional information on how these statistics are calculated is available online at <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/Park>.

IN THE NEWS

CUT eyes hot spring project in Paradise Valley

Published: Fri, 11/07/2014 - 3:00pm | Section:

By Jordon Niedermeier – Livingston Enterprise

Royal Teton Ranch, owned by Church Universal and Triumphant, plans to use the naturally heated water from La Duke Hot Springs to build a public facility.

Jon Springer, vice president of Summit Lighthouse, an association connected with CUT, said the ranch constructed a water pipe from La Duke, running parallel to U.S. Highway 89, to Corwin Springs. CUT plans to use the hot water in an establishment that will be open to the public, Springer said.

He said the project is in the conceptual phase and would not release further information.

Blu Spas Inc., a Whitefish-based company that specializes in spa development, lists the Royal Teton Ranch as one of its current projects. The company has worked on projects for high-profile companies including Hyatt, Hilton, Four Seasons, and Ritz-Carlton, its website states.

Nathan Varley, a Gardiner resident, said he toured the ranch earlier this year and church representatives showed him an architectural model of a planned resort.

According to Varley, the model includes several large buildings, bigger than anything currently in Corwin Springs. In his opinion, the rendering looked to be as large or larger than Chico Hot Springs Resort, located about 25 miles north in Paradise Valley.

Varley said the tour guide showed the group he was with the pipe carrying water from La Duke. He said he dipped his toes in a foot bath the ranch built at the planned construction site.

Park County Sanitarian Barbara Woodbury said she was notified when the water pipe was built and verified it is not in the flood plain.

If the ranch were to put a plunge into service, it would have to go through the state of Montana to license a pool, Woodbury said.

According to Woodbury, there are also state regulations for lodging rented by the night or week, but they might not be applicable if access and use of the facility were limited to church members. However, Springer said the plan is to build a public facility.

Woodbury said she would also be involved in the permitting for a public spa but no such paperwork has crossed her desk. Obtaining all the necessary permits for operation is usually an early part of the development process.

Read more: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/cut-eyes-hot-spring-project-paradise-valley>

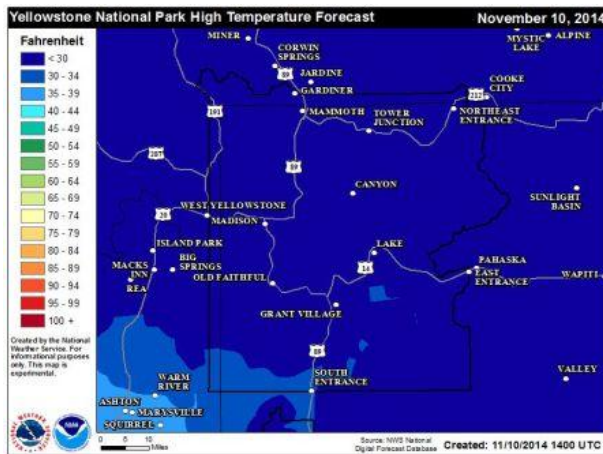
WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

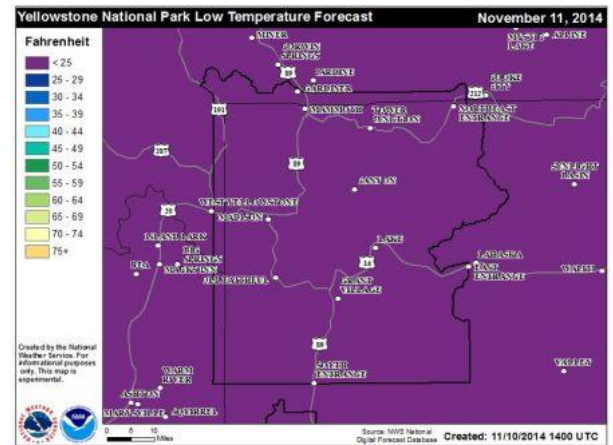
Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 607 AM MST MON NOV 10 2014

Hopefully the temps will be updated on these maps soon, otherwise they do not provide much insight beyond the fact that it will be cold! ☺



Today's Highs



Overnight Lows

Today: Snow likely in the late morning and early afternoon...then chance of snow late in the afternoon. Little or no new snow accumulation. Highs 17 to 25. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 1 below to 7 above zero. Northeast winds around 15 mph after midnight.

Veterans Day: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 9 to 15. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 9 below to 15 below zero. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 4 to 10. Lowest wind chill readings 25 below to 35 below zero in the morning.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 4 below to 10 below zero.

Thursday: Not as cold. Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 19 to 25. Lowest wind chill readings 18 below to 28 below zero in the morning.

Thursday Night: Not as cold. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows around 11.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, November 12, 2014



Spreading seed in the Gardiner Basin, volunteers from the southwest Montana Masters Gardeners group met on Saturday to assist the park in collecting and broadcasting native shrub seed in the Stephens Creek restoration enclosure. Photo taken by Peter Murray.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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There are several **Mammoth refresher snowmobile training sessions scheduled for today and tomorrow** and both days have several openings available. None of today's sessions will be cancelled due to low sign up numbers. However, sessions scheduled for tomorrow with fewer than 5 people signed up for the session will be cancelled. **The sign up sheets are located on the P drive at P:\Safety Office\Snowmobile Training\Snowmobile Training 2014-2015 Sign-up\Mammoth**

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Wellness Program Awards:



Here's to your health!

IN THE NEWS

Park price hike plans not seen as damaging

Cost increase would be insignificant relative to other expenses, Jackson chamber president says.

Posted: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:30 am

Park price hike plans not seen as damaging By Mike Koshmrl

Early indications are that the Jackson Hole community will support a plan that would double the cost of driving through Yellowstone and Grand Teton National parks for many visitors.

Last week the two parks unveiled proposals that would not only bump the cost of getting into either park by \$5 but also put an end to the longstanding combined entrance fee. If the proposal is approved a road tripper who travels through Grand Teton National Park and then drives down the road to pass through Yellowstone's South Gate would have to pay \$50 instead of the old rate of \$25.

Although it would be a major change, the fee proposal is a reasonable one, National Parks Conservation Association staffer Sharon Mader said.

"From the 10,000-foot level, parks are chronically underfunded and not able to cover their costs," said Mader, the association's Grand Teton park program manager. "On that level, fee increases are important. We do support moderate fee increases, and they do directly benefit Grand Teton."

Models forecast that the higher and separated fees would result in an extra \$3 million for Yellowstone and \$1.6 million for Grand Teton.

Fees were last increased in Wyoming's two national parks in 2006. A moratorium on rate hikes went into effect in 2008, Mader said.

Yellowstone and Teton park officials, off because of Veterans Day, could not be reached for interviews Tuesday.

A public meeting on the fee plans, which are being brought forth separately, takes place 6 p.m. today at the Lexington Hotel. The proposals are open to public comment through Dec. 5.

One concern of Mader's is that Grand Teton National Park's proposal is a sign that funding is coming in "a million bits and pieces" and from many different pots.

"The core funding should be coming from Congress," she said. "We don't want fees to become so high that it's a deterrent to [visitors] even using the parks. That would be a very bad outcome."

As plans are currently drawn up, few in the valley's business community are fretting about the impacts on tourism, Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce President Jeff Golightly said.

He stressed that the chamber was still formulating an official position on the parks' proposals.

But, Golightly said, "I'm not finding a lot of resistance to it."

The chamber president said he had spoken with some people who are worried not about the higher cost but about potentially longer waiting times at Grand Teton's three entrance stations.

"If you offer too many options and they have to have a discussion at the gate, what's that going to do to the line?" Golightly asked.

The proposed entrance fee options are more convoluted than the rates are today.

A seven-day vehicle pass for both Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks now costs \$25, and the annual two-park pass runs \$50.

Under the proposals, a three-day Yellowstone-only pass would cost \$30, a seven-day, two-park pass would cost \$50 and an annual pass for Yellowstone or Grand Teton would be \$60 apiece.

The \$80 Interagency Pass, good for entrance into any fee-charging national park in the country, would not be changed and would become the lowest-cost option for those wanting unlimited access to Wyoming's two parks.

Motorcycle fees would also double, going from \$20 for a seven-day, two-park pass to \$40 for the same thing. A three-day Yellowstone-only motorcycle pass could be had for \$25.

Gate fees for pedestrians, cyclists, skiers and snowcoach passengers would go from \$12 to \$25 for a seven-day, two-park pass. Yellowstone would also have a \$15 option for a three-day pass.

Some tourist spending data suggests the fee increases would not discourage potential visitors to the valley, Golightly said.

“Relative to everything, it’s small,” he said. “Per capita spending is more like \$200 per person per day for a family on vacation in Jackson Hole.”

Doing some back-of-the-envelope math, Golightly figured that a \$25 entrance fee hike for a family of four on a five-day vacation would amount to \$1.25 per person per day. That’s a shade over half a percent of current spending.

- - - - -

Y’stone hemp-hauler sentenced to 5 years

300-pound marijuana stash was said to be on its way from California to West Virginia.

Posted: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:30 am

[Y’stone hemp-hauler sentenced to 5 years](#) By Emma Breyse

A West Virginia woman was sentenced Friday to five years in federal prison after pleading guilty to trafficking hundreds of pounds of marijuana through Yellowstone National Park.

Park rangers found nearly 300 pounds of pot intended for the West Virginia market in an RV owned by Daphne Watkins, 53.

Rangers turned up the marijuana while Watkins was parked at Grants Village Marina earlier this year; she was charged with two felonies.

As part of a plea deal with the Wyoming U.S. attorney’s office, Watkins pleaded guilty to one of the counts and the other was dropped. Besides the five-year prison sentence, Watkins was sentenced to four years of supervised probation.

Watkins was also ordered by Judge Scott

Skavdahl to pay a \$100 special assessment and to forfeit \$3,535 in cash found in her RV, along with the vehicle itself, a 2003 Monarch Monaco.

Skavdahl recommended Watkins serve her time at FPC Alderson, a minimum security prison camp in Alderson, West Virginia.

Five years’ imprisonment is the legal minimum sentence in federal law for possessing a controlled substance with intent to distribute it, the charge to which Watkins pleaded guilty. The maximum sentence for the charge is 40 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Rangers first approached Watkins' RV when they noticed her parked with the generator running after dark in a spot where overnight camping was not allowed.

When Watkins answered the door of her RV the rangers smelled marijuana and asked whether she had any drugs in the vehicle.

Watkins admitted to having smoked pot a few hours before with her traveling companion, 61-year-old Janette Day, and to having several hundred pounds of marijuana hidden in her RV. During the search she also gave the rangers two makeup bags with the two women's personal stashes.

Watkins filed a motion protesting the basis for the contact, calling it a violation of her Fourth Amendment rights, but she reached a plea agreement with federal prosecutors before that legal question went before a judge.

Watkins obtained the marijuana on what she said was one of several drug runs she had made between California and West Virginia over the previous four years.

Watkins told rangers that Day was unaware of the purpose of the trip until they arrived in California.

Day originally also faced felony drug charges, but the case against her was dismissed in August. Despite several requests, documents pertaining to the dismissal have yet to be made available.

Sentencing documents were unclear whether Watkins will receive credit for the nearly six months she has spent in federal custody while her case reached its resolution.

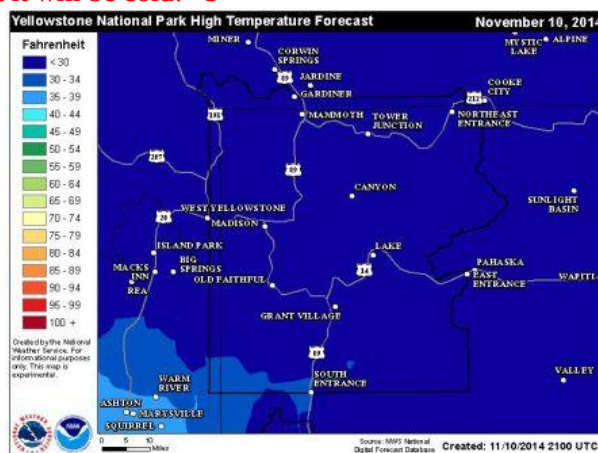
WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 607 AM MST WED NOV 12 2014

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Today's Highs



Overnight Lows

Today: Mostly sunny. Patchy fog late in the morning. Highs 4 to 10. Lowest wind chill readings 19 below to 29 below zero late in the morning.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 8 below to 14 below zero.

Thursday: Not as cold. Partly cloudy. Highs 15 to 21. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

Thursday Night: Not as cold. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Friday: Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 to 7 inches. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday Night: Colder. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows zero to 6 above.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 8 to 14.

Saturday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 8 below to 14 below zero.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, November 13, 2014



Stay warm out there!
(photo by Amy Bartlett)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 7, 2014

Memorandum

To: All Employees

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Implementing the 2013 Winter Use Rule

This memo provides updates regarding operational changes to the winter use management program resulting from the implementation of the final Rule (36 CFR 7.13 (l) 1-19). All citations within this memo can be found under this heading unless otherwise noted. The Blue Book remains your go-to source for all things winter safety.

REMINDER: 24-Hour Clock

The park will cease plowing all park roads no later than Sunday evening, November 16, 2014. As we have done in past years, conversion to oversnow vehicles will occur as conditions allow on segment-by-segment basis. A standing conference call day/time will be established to discuss road segment status and conversion to OSVs.

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Wellness Program Awards:



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IN THE NEWS**FWP releases compromise for bison near West Yellowstone**

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Posted: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:16 pm

After the Montana Board of Livestock tabled in May a study proposing increased bison tolerance around West Yellowstone, Gov. Steve Bullock will decide on a new alternative to allow bison to roam year-round outside the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park.

On Wednesday, at the direction of the Governor's Office, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks released a compromise between livestock and wildlife interests to serve as a seventh option to a 2013 environmental assessment on increasing bison tolerance near West Yellowstone.

Bullock spokesman Dave Parker said the assessment would go directly to the governor's desk at the end of public comment.

"The matter is out of the hands of the Board of Livestock," Parker said.

During the public comment period on the original draft assessment that ended in September 2013, FWP received almost 120,000 comments, and wildlife groups favored Alternative B, which opened up the largest area of almost 422,000 acres of the Gallatin National Forest.

The alternative revealed on Wednesday, Alternative G, combines parts of three original alternatives: C, E, and the No-Action alternative favored by livestock groups.

Alternative C would have allowed bison to use almost 256,000 acres on Horse Butte and north along U.S. Highway 191 to Buck Creek.

Alternative E collapsed that area to just the 11,500 acres of Horse Butte, and any bison outside that area would be hazed back to Horse Butte or the park in the spring.

Under the new alternative, if the park's bison population exceeds 4,500, management would remain as it is, with riders hazing bison back into the park in the spring, normally by May 15.

If the population is between 3,500 and 4,500, Alternative E would be in effect, and bison could remain on Horse Butte year-round. If they strayed away from Horse Butte after May 15, bison could be hazed into the park or killed.

If less than 3,500 bison exist in the park, the year-round area would expand to that of Alternative C.

Hunters may be employed to control bison that go outside the allowed boundaries after May 15.

The proposal is similar to a compromise developed in March by DOL Executive Director Christian MacKay and then-FWP Region 3 supervisor Pat Flowers, although the population numbers triggering the different alternatives are now slightly higher.

The proposal states that “Montana is committed to maintaining a minimum (park) population of 2,500 bison and maintaining wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.”

Another new aspect would allow the Taylor Fork drainage to be a specialized management area if bison took up year-round residence there. They would be counted as part of the overall bison population, but if the population rose to more than 3,500, they would not be hazed back to the park or killed.

However, hazing may be used in the Taylor Fork area to keep bison from migrating west into the Madison Valley.

FWP expects that the Taylor Fork area could support about 100 bison.

In January, the Board of Livestock voted to conditionally reject any expanded tolerance for bison, sending it back to FWP and DOL for more specifics.

After considering the compromise proposed in March, the board voted in May to indefinitely delay action on the assessment, saying it wanted to wait until the park produced a new Interagency Bison Management Plan. But the new plan will take three to four years to develop.

Public comment on the new alternative is being accepted until Dec. 11, but wildlife groups are already objecting to the population limits.

“Allowing year-round access to expanded habitat outside the park is an important step forward in managing wild Yellowstone bison as we do other wildlife,” said Caroline Byrd, Greater Yellowstone Coalition executive director. “However, the population triggers in the new proposal, which tie access to more habitat to a lower population of wild bison, are neither sound science nor good conservation policy.”

Sierra Club spokeswoman Kiersten Iwai said the risk of bison on the expanded range infecting cattle with brucellosis is very small.

“The Bullock administration has rightly recognized the need for expanded habitat for Yellowstone bison, but this new alternative essentially nullifies any progress,” Iwai said.

Gallatin Wildlife Association President Glenn Hockett said as a hunter, he was insulted.

“This speaks to the problem of allowing a livestock agency to have authority over a wildlife species,” Hockett said. “Employing hunters to kill bison after May 15 unfortunately drags hunters into it. But they can count me out.”

Comments can be mailed to MFWP – Bison Addendum, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620, or contact Ron Aasheim at 444-4038.

- - - - -

Critics worry fee hikes will ‘nickel, dime’ public

Posted: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 2:49 pm

By SCOTT ALLEN Cody Enterprise

[Critics worry fee hikes will ‘nickel, dime’ public](#)

The Park Service is proposing an increase in entrance and backcountry permit fees.

The increase in fees was discussed in Cody on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the Holiday Inn. The proposed change in prices are stated in the following:

- For a three-day pass, the vehicle entrance rate would jump from \$25 to \$30 per vehicle, the motorcycle entrance rate would go from \$20 to \$25, and an individual person rate would change from \$12 to \$15.
- For a seven-day pass that would be valid for both YNP and Grand Teton, the vehicle entrance cost would jump from \$30 to \$50 per vehicle, the motorcycle entrance rate would go from \$20 to \$40, and an individual person rate would go from \$12 to \$25.
- Visitor annual passes may increase from \$50 to \$60. Interagency Passes will remain at the current rates.

The price change will affect those who spend less time in Yellowstone, which is a majority of visitors.

“Based on two seasons of data collection, approximately 70 percent of Yellowstone visitors stay in the park for less than four days,” said Christy Koehler, Park Service deputy fee manager. “The 2011 YNP Visitor Study indicated the average length of stay for all visitor groups was 2.8 days.”

The public voiced mixed reactions.

Keith Dahlem, a retired stock-outfitter for YNP, is a Cody resident who had concerns.

“These fees will just nickel and dime the consumer, who will pay it without thinking,” Dahlem said about the Park Service.

The price increases periodically due to inflation.

Bill Tabacinski, retired agriculture teacher from Cody, says the fee increases they’re proposing aren’t too bad when compared to other family outings.

“Nobody likes to pay more money,” he said. “However, if you look at what people are paying to attend a movie or go out to eat, it is still a good deal...I don’t like seeing an increase in fees, but \$30 a carload for Yellowstone is nothing compared to some of the other things we easily pay for in life.”

A reservation fee of \$25 for backcountry permits began in 1996.

The entrance fees were last changed in 2006, when a seven-day pass was increased from \$20 to \$25 per vehicle. Before then, the price changed from \$10 to \$20 in 1998.

The reason for fee increase now is due to a request from the NPS director to raise park prices across the nation.

The money raised from the increased fees will be about \$3 million. YNP has the ability to collect 80 percent of the fees, thanks to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA).

The funds will be used for projects that directly benefit park visitors, including repair and maintenance of facilities, capital improvements, enhanced amenities, resource protection and additional visitor programs and services.

Concerned citizens have until Dec. 5 to submit a written comment. After gathering written comments, NPS will send a written proposal to the regional director in February and then the NPS director in March. The earliest fee changes would be implemented would be April 15th, Koehler said.

The park does have the authority to consider easing into the new fees.

“We have the opportunity to phase some of this in,” Steve Iobst, deputy superintendent of YNP, said. “And we may very well do that depending on the comments we receive.”

If the fee changes are passed, NPS will notify the public 60 days before the fee goes into effect.

YNP officials say they don’t expect a decrease in visitation from the fee increase. Parks that have raised entrance fees in the last 20 years, such as Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Yellowstone, did not find that their visitation decreased when they raised fees.

A concern brought up during the meeting was that the prices are unfair for poorer families.

“I’m an unofficial representative for low-income people who, in my opinion, are discriminated from using national parks because of the high fee structure,” Jim Lessard, Cody resident and a retired Navy and Merchant Marine sailor, said.

The comments NPS has seen are all over the board. Businesses have voiced the most concern and social media comments are the most supportive.

“Most of the concern we’ve gotten is from businesses who use Yellowstone,” Koehler said. “The social media comments are over-supportive and many people believe the increase is long overdue.”

The public may send in written comments. Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any other form than written comment.

Comments may be hand-delivered during normal business hours to the mailroom in the park's administrative building in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, or mailed to: Management Assistant Office, Attn: Entrance Fee Proposal, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190. All comments must be received by midnight on Friday, Dec. 5.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 837 AM MST THU NOV 13 2014

Today: Partly cloudy late in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Patchy fog late in the morning. Highs 12 to 18.

Tonight: Snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 8 to 14. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late evening and overnight. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Friday: Not as cold. Snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 21 to 27. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the morning. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Friday Night: Colder. Snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 9 inches. Lows 5 below to 3 above zero. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Saturday: Colder. Mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 5 to 11. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Saturday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Lows 11 below to 17 below zero. Wind chill readings 26 below to 36 below zero.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, November 14, 2014



Smile and say cheese! The annual Resource and Visitor Protection division meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 7, 2014

Memorandum

To: All Employees

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Implementing the 2013 Winter Use Rule

This memo provides updates regarding operational changes to the winter use management program resulting from the implementation of the final Rule (36 CFR 7.13 (l) 1-19). All citations within this memo can be found under this heading unless otherwise noted. The Blue Book remains your go-to source for all things winter safety.

REMINDER: 24-Hour Clock

The park will cease plowing all park roads no later than **this Sunday evening, November 16, 2014**. As we have done in past years, conversion to oversnow vehicles will occur as conditions allow on segment-by-segment basis. A standing conference call day/time will be established to discuss road segment status and conversion to OSVs.

Making Solar Accessible to All! Come and hear a free presentation by Orion Thornton (co-owner of renewable energy company OnSite Solar) and Ben Reed (owner of renewable energy company Winpower West). **Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Yellowstone Association building.** Hosted by the Bear Creek Council.

The **Isa Lake bridge contractor will continue work in the Craig Pass** area this week despite the fact that the road is open for Admin traffic. The road and the temporary bridge are signed at 25 mph. **BE AWARE** temporary approaches to the bridge are **NOT** designed for speeds over 25 mph.

During the day, staff should expect minor delays, a one lane segment and construction workers and equipment. No work at night. Please be alert, as traffic control will not be as formal or extensive as when open to visitors. Recent road conditions have been snowy and icy. Please use caution.

Winter shutdown for this project is the end of the day **TODAY**.

Al Barrie, NR MABO Lead will be out of the office for the next 2 weeks. He will be checking e-mails and answering forwarded calls as best as possible.

For the week of 17 November, the contracting office will be closed Monday and back up Tuesday thru Friday. Sharon Skelton will be the only one in. All others will be attending training in Denver and answering e-mails and forwarded phone calls as best possible.

For after hours support, feel free to call Al Barrie at 406-581-0403 or Andrea Hannon at 406-570-6408

IN THE NEWS

Quarantined Yellowstone bison travel to Fort Peck Reservation

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Posted: Thursday, November 13, 2014 10:14 pm

Bundled against Thursday morning's subzero temperatures, 70 people waited expectantly as two livestock trucks pulled up to a field north of Poplar. Inside, the occupants kicked at the trailer sides and grunted, their breath frosting their neighbors' hides.

Near the trailers, Sioux and Assiniboiné drummers beat a steady rhythm that blended with the thumping hooves of bison impatient to be free after five years of quarantine at Ted Turner's Green Ranch west of Bozeman.

Once the trailer door opened, the first of 139 disease-free Yellowstone bison surged down the short ramp, past the new 9-foot-tall fence posts and across the snowy plain of the Fort Peck Reservation.

Within a few minutes, the remaining bison thundered from the trailer that had carried them throughout the frigid night to their final home.

As the next trailer prepared to unload, the bison were almost out of sight, exploring the 160-acre enclosure where they'll spend the next 10 days getting used to their new surroundings.

After that, Fort Peck Buffalo Program Director Robert Magnan will open the gates to allow the newcomers onto the 13,000 acres that is already home to 48 Yellowstone bison that made a similar trip more than two years ago.

Defenders of Wildlife Rockies and Plains Director Jonathan Proctor, who described the moment of the release, said Fort Peck is buying more land to expand the area.

The tribes plan to eventually have a herd of more than 1,000 to restore bison to their role in the prairie ecosystem, after more than a century of absence.

"Now Fort Peck has a significant herd, ahead of schedule. Almost 200 genetically pure Yellowstone bison are back out on the Great Plains. It's been great to witness it," Proctor said.

Until now, Yellowstone bison have been confined mostly to Yellowstone National Park because some harbor the disease brucellosis, which can cause bison, elk and cattle to abort their calves.

In 2005, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the U.S. Department of Agriculture captured and tested more than 100 young bison as part of a study to see if quarantine could produce disease-free bison.

Researchers kept bison that tested negative for the disease in a quarantine facility north of the park so they could be monitored for a decade. A recent paper concluded the quarantine was effective in weeding out disease after two to three years.

But in 2009, FWP ran short of money and needed a place to put most of the bison.

Only Turner agreed to accept the bison at the time, and he agreed to care for them in exchange for 25 percent of the calves born on his ranch.

About 70 bison remained at the quarantine facility north of the park.

In March 2012, FWP transported them in a controversial move to the Fort Peck Reservation to finish out the rest of their quarantine. Eventually, half the herd was moved to Fort Belknap Reservation.

With Turner's contract ending on Saturday, FWP had to choose the final destination of the remaining bison.

The department proposed sending some to each of four locations, including Fort Peck, but the FWP Commission voted to send all bison to the reservation to keep them in Montana.

On Wednesday, FWP employees and ranch workers rounded up the valuable bison, but a malfunction meant that only two of the three trucks left fully loaded that night.

One of those trucks returned to the Green Ranch on Thursday evening to pick up the remaining bison.

Bison are transported at night because the animals are calmer in the dark, and the trucks can drive slowly, especially on icy roads, Proctor said.

Fort Peck elders and the tribal council were chilled but elated to see more bison that are the descendants of the original plains bison.

“I’m so proud of the role the Fort Peck Tribes have played in bringing buffalo back,” Magnan said. “In the two years since we welcomed back the first Yellowstone buffalo, we’ve seen the ecosystem revive. Grassland birds have returned, native grasses are thriving. We welcome and look forward to the buffalo’s continued benefits to our tribal lands, as well as our culture.”

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 706 AM MST FRI NOV 14 2014

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Tonight: Snow until early morning...then snow likely early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 to 10 inches. Lows 1 below to 9 below zero. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Saturday: Colder. Mostly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the morning...then partly cloudy with occasional flurries in the afternoon. Highs 4 to 10. Chance of snow 20 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

Saturday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Lows 9 below to 15 below zero.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the afternoon. Highs 11 to 17. Lowest wind chill readings 20 below to 30 below zero in the morning.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries after midnight. Lows 6 below to zero. Wind chill readings 16 below to 26 below zero.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, November 17, 2014



Swan Lake Flats on a cool November morning.
(photo by Bonnie Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IN THE NEWS

Gardiner wins volleyball state championship

Sat, 11/15/2014 - 6:00pm

Thomas Watson – Livingston Enterprise

The Gardiner Bruins did it again, winning their third straight Class C state volleyball championship at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman on Saturday. The Bruins did not drop a single set in their four wins in the state tournament, beating 8C District rivals, the Manhattan Christian Eagles, in the championship match.

“It says a lot, that they can shoulder a lot,” head coach Carmen Harbach said of her team winning three consecutive state championships with all the pressure that past success brings. “They came in two years ago after winning the (first) state championship and said, ‘The past is in the past. Now we have to work for something new.’ That has been the mantra every year since. There is a trophy in the case. No one is taking that away, and now we can work for another one. Our senior leadership has really exemplified that, working for every point and working for everything that we earned.”

With the weight of two straight state championships hanging over the team this season, this title did not come as easy.

“I think they felt a little pressure,” said Harbach. “I know one of the girls said early in the season, ‘It’s kind of hard because everyone expects us to win. It’s not a gift when we win, it’s kind of expected.’ And we can’t expect anything. We have good teams in our conference and we faced some good teams this weekend. I was proud that they didn’t expect anything. They came out and earned it.”

The Bruins had a mindset this season that didn’t let them look ahead.

“It really is about enjoying the journey,” said Harbach. “It’s hard to come in at the beginning and enjoy every point, but we made that a focus this year. We tried to enjoy the journey and working for every single point. They did a good job. They never looked to the end of this tournament. They looked to the task at hand, and I’m so proud of them for that. It’s really a mature attitude.”

The state championship match was the sixth time this season that the Bruins and Eagles met this season. The Bruins won all six meetings with four of those matches happening in postseason play.

Gardiner had to top Manhattan Christian in each of their three postseason tournament championship matches, beating the Eagles at the district, division and eventually state tournament.

“It was a double-edged sword,” Harbach said of the two team’s familiarity with each other. “It is hard to beat a team six times, and Manhattan Christian gave us all we could handle last weekend (at the division tournament). They are a good team, and I didn’t know how they would come out. They came out pretty feisty in the beginning, and I was proud that we played steady and consistent.”

Following wins over Garfield County and Belt on Thursday, Gardiner faced Circle High School Friday night with a spot in the championship match on the line. The Bruins won three closely contested sets (25-19, 25-18, 25-20).

“Our leadership (was good) and everyone stepped up and did their job,” Harbach said just after Friday night’s win. “I was really proud of the way we passed and the way we played defense. It gave our hitters a chance to get some swings on the ball. We never got rattled. (Circle) is a good team that really brought everything back at us.”

The Circle Wildcats battled the Bruins for much of the first set. With the Bruins up 18-17, the ball looked to be down but Gardiner’s Hannah Dean somehow saved it. The Bruins eventually went on to win the point and start a run. A block by Dean put Gardiner up 22-18 and the set ended on another block by Dean.

“Volleyball is such a game of momentum,” Harbach said. “A big defensive play like that really gave us some momentum. That block really fired (Hannah) up and the team up. A block is really a game changer, and to have her hot and in the front row at that time was huge.”

After Circle put up a good block that made Gardiner work for their shots in the first set, the Bruins switched up their offense and started tipping with more frequency.

“We saw a couple of tips go down, so I told PJ (Thomas) tip until they stop you,” said Harbach. “Then they started picking up the tips, so we had to start hitting again. They were a good team. They really did dig everything.”

The tactic worked, and the Bruins won their most lopsided set of the match.

In the third set, Gardiner took an early lead, but Circle would not go quietly. The Wildcats battled hard, but the set and match eventually ended with another kill from Dean.

She led her team with 18 total kills in the win over Circle. Tess Thomas added eight, while PJ Thomas finished with four kills. In all, Gardiner had 38 kills against the Wildcats.

Dean also had a team-leading six blocks. PJ Thomas finished with 20 of Gardiner’s 83 digs.

The Bruins had four aces, two each from Dean and Tess Thomas.

Following that match, Circle moved down to the third place match against Manhattan Christian, losing a five-set marathon. Manhattan Christian won the first set, but then proceeded to drop the next two sets, 23-25 and 23-25. They won the fourth set 25-23, and finally in the fifth set, closed it out with a 15-11 score.

That put the Eagles in a championship match against Gardiner for the third week in a row, and for the third week in a row, the Bruins were victorious. Gardiner got stronger throughout the match on their way to back-to-back-to-back state championships (25-21, 25-14, 25-17).

“(Manhattan Christian head coach) Jill’s a smart coach, and she mixed it up a little bit,” said Harbach. “We stayed the course. I thought that we had the stronger lineup, so we didn’t switch anything up. They made some changes. She’s smart, and it made a difference early.”

The Bruins started the match by winning three straight points.

Manhattan Christian had the chance to take momentum with a big block on Dean to cut Gardiner's lead to 5-4. With the crowd energized and their chance to serve, the Eagles had a chance to take early control but immediately had a service error.

Dean aced the next point, leading the Bruins on a 5-0 run that left the score 10-4 in favor of Gardiner.

"That shows Hannah's maturity," said Harbach. "She is a good player, but she knows that she is playing against good players, and she is going to get blocked sometimes. To me, that shows maturity to turn around and get that ace."

Manhattan Christian managed to cut the lead down to 14-11, but the Eagles never managed to get any closer and the set ended on another mis-serve from Manhattan Christian.

The second set was even more of a battle than the first. Gardiner again won the first three points, but the Eagles tied it 3-3.

The Bruins then won three of four points, but Manhattan Christian tied it back up at nine.

Proving volleyball truly is a game of runs, Gardiner won the next four points.

The teams traded points until 18-14 when the Bruins reeled off seven straight points to win the set.

"I thought we played with some intensity," Harbach said of the run. "We played with a purpose. Sometimes, I thought we were a little tight. We were hoping things would go our way instead of making things go our way. I thought at that point we grabbed hold and played with a purpose."

By the third set, the Bruins had worn down their opponents, and with the score tied 3-3, Gardiner won five straight. They also led 11-4 and 16-7 in the final set of their state title quest.

Dean managed 17 more kills in that final match. She also led the team in aces with four.

"I don't think the championship part was different," Dean said of her team's most recent state title immediately after the match. "But I definitely think that we played amazingly in this tournament. We really peaked at the right time. I thought we played better in the last two weeks than we had all season put together. It's amazing, and I'm just so happy I could win with this team."

"We were aggressive, defensively and offensively. We went for every ball, and we swung away. The younger girls really stepped up, and we just played great."

Sage Cowley had two aces in her first state title win in her first year on varsity, playing as a freshman.

"This is so cool," Cowley said after the match. "This is really beyond anything I could have asked for as a freshman. I'm just so excited to be here and to have won. I'm really grateful to have such a great team and such an amazing coach. It's honestly more than I ever could have imagined. I'll never forget this. This is the best thing that has happened to me so far in my life."

Tess Thomas had 27 of the team's 30 assists, also adding a block.

“This team really bonded really well,” Tess Thomas said. “We love each other and I could never ask for a better team.”

For Tess Thomas and fellow senior Dean, this is the final state championship in volleyball, ending a great run for the duo.

“This is my favorite championship by far,” Tess added. “To win your last game as a senior means so much to me and Hannah. It was great.”

Sophomore Kelsey McDonald had eight aces, a block and 15 digs in that championship match.

PJ Thomas had an ace and a team-high 20 digs.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 836 AM MST MON NOV 17 2014

Today: Partly cloudy late in the morning then clearing. Highs 17 to 23. Lowest wind chill readings 20 below to 30 below zero late in the morning.

Tonight: Clear. Lows 1 below to 7 below zero.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Lowest wind chill readings 14 below to 24 below zero in the morning.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 4 below to 2 above zero. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 to 12.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 29.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Lows around 16.

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Tuesday, November 18, 2014



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Be advised that State and County LE are taking a proactive approach to bison and other wildlife collisions and part of this is **enforcing the 35 MPH speed limit over the guard.** When bison begin to show up along the highway, expect the popular 55 MPH speed limit to go into effect as well. All part of keeping the public safe with the abundance of wildlife we enjoy in the Gardiner Basin.

- - - - -

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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 624 AM MST TUE NOV 18 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy. Patchy fog late in the morning. Highs 18 to 24. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy until early morning then becoming partly cloudy. Lows zero to 6 above zero. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 22 to 28.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 to 12. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 29.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 12 to 18.

Friday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28.

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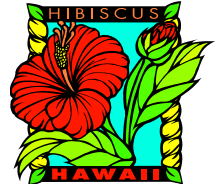
A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 653 AM MST WED NOV 19 2014

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 25 to 31.

Tonight: Partly cloudy early in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow early in the morning. Lows 6 to 12.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning... Then chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds around 15 mph after midnight.

Friday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Friday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows around 18.

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YNP@Work

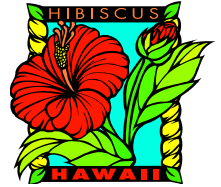
A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, November 20, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Don't forget to come wish Judy Jensen a fond farewell, **TODAY 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** at the Mammoth Community Center. Bring your favorite dish to share and your Hawaiian shirts. (Beverages, a main dish, dessert, and entertainment provided)



Be advised that State and County LE are taking a proactive approach to bison and other wildlife collisions and part of this is **enforcing the 35 MPH speed limit over the guard.** When bison begin to show up along the highway, expect the popular 55 MPH speed limit to go into effect as well. All part of keeping the public safe with the abundance of wildlife we enjoy in the Gardiner Basin.

For this week the **contracting office will be opened with limited staffing.** Tina Holland will be in Monday-Thursday and Sharon Skelton will be in Tuesday-Friday. All others will be attending training in Denver; they will answer messages as time permits.



The Mammoth Clinic will be closed Wednesday November 26th through Sunday Nov 30th, re-opening on Monday December 1st. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone!

IN THE NEWS

'Unguided' snowmobiles return to Yellowstone

21 hours ago • Associated Press

POWELL, Wyo. — This winter snowmobilers again will be allowed to enter Yellowstone National Park without a paid guide.

However, snowmobilers on their own have to meet various requirements set up by the National Park Service.

Visitors can drive their own snowmobiles into Yellowstone only if their sleds meet the detailed "Best Available Technology" requirements. In addition, they must first take an online certification course and meet other requirements.

Also, only one non-commercial group of up to five snowmobiles is allowed to enter a given entrance each day.

Still, winter-related business owners said there has been a lot of interest in the new non-guided rules and that they are renting out snowmobiles again.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/unguided-snowmobiles-return-to-yellowstone/article_f45ee645-8b3d-53f4-b026-bf7f67a3da56.html#ixzz3JcwivmgW

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Range health, gut pile issues targeted on bison partners tour

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 11:09 pm

GARDINER - After two mostly successful winters, the bison hunt north of Gardiner is here to stay, according to tribes that are allowed to hunt just outside Yellowstone National Park. But creative thinking is needed to solve the disagreements over gut piles and grass.

More than 40 people participated Wednesday in a tour of current and potential bison habitat in the Gardiner basin in advance of the third season of bison hunting outside the park.

The tour was led by the tribal partners of the Interagency Bison Management Plan in advance of the IBMP quarterly meeting on Thursday and the third winter of tribal hunting.

"It's my duty and responsibility to protect the hunting rights for my people. It wasn't up to the tribes to turn the whole area into a park, but we have to deal with how the landscape is now. We're not here to critique any of the tribal hunts as far as I'm concerned," said IBMP chairman McCoy Oatman of the Nez Perce Tribe. "Hopefully we're able to discuss some of the challenges going on here and figure out how we can make it better for everybody."

The tour started appropriately at the Beattie Gulch trailhead and the talk was about gut piles.

The trail parallels the park border, so tribal hunters shoot many bison within a quarter mile of the trail as they migrate out of the park.

Last year, about 150 bison were killed in the Beattie Gulch area, said FWP Region 3 Supervisor Sam Sheppard.

Three women who live close to Beattie Gulch spoke out against the high level of hunting in the area, mainly because of the bison gut piles that have been left on the ground for the past two years. They insisted that the gut piles be cleaned up because they are ugly and offensive and can attract predators, including grizzly bears.

After the first 2012-2013 hunt, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks had to remove 8,000 pounds of gut piles.

This summer, the FWP commission approved a rule requiring Montana hunters to move gut piles at least 200 yards away from any road or structure.

The tribes aren't constrained by FWP rules, but Tom MacDonald of the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes said tribal wildlife agencies usually adopt similar rules.

But primitive arts expert Katie Russell, who camped in the area last winter to make use of bison parts left behind by hunters, said not everyone considers gut piles offensive.

"There are other ways to look at it other than 'Oh, that's gross,'" Russell said.

When asked for suggestions rather than complaints, Kathryn QuannaYahu suggested installing bear-proof bins where hunters could at least deposit birthing materials and unborn calves because they could potentially spread brucellosis to other bison or elk.

Nez Perce wildlife biologist Angela Sondenán asked for suggestions on how bison could be spread across the landscape more so the hunt could be more dispersed.

District Ranger Walt Allen said spreading bison out was limited by the patchwork of private land in the valley and few bison using the east side of the valley.

Park County Commissioner Martin Malone and some landowners said they didn't want the overgrazing that's evident near Beattie Gulch to spread to other parts of the valley.

They said the Forest Service needed to find out how many bison the land support like they do with cattle.

"Unless you solve the grass problem, there's nothing to eat between here and Gardiner. So those animals are coming down here at a high rate of speed and they got no place to go," Malone said. "People who are concerned with the health of the bison ought to look at the range."

But some people argued that bison aren't cattle.

Forest Service biologist Rachel Feigley said the Forest Service has contracted Montana State University to do a rangeland study of the area.

Meanwhile, the Forest Service is trying to increase the public land where bison can go.

Over on the east side of the highway, the agency is working on a land trade to gain 600 acres near Cedar Creek, Feigley said.

But getting bison to go and stay on the east side is a challenge even though the vegetation is fairly healthy there, Allen said.

Bison are allowed to stay year-round in an area near Jardine. But they don't, Allen said.

"We can't do more than the animals want to do," Allen said.

Sheppard said a lot of bison were shot in the area during the hunts prior to 2008.

“When we have bison make these exploratory movements, we shoot them,” Feigley said. “We need to allow them to do that and not kill the ones with those exploratory genes.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 652 AM MST THU NOV 20 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy late in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 28 to 34.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Friday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Friday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 15 to 21. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Saturday: Breezy. Snow in the morning...then snow showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Saturday Night: Breezy...colder. Snow showers likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 8 to 14. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, November 21, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone faces winter season without 3 key leaders

By: RUFFIN PREVOST – YellowstoneGate.com

With only a month until snowmobiles and snow coaches begin entering Yellowstone National Park, three of the park's top managers will be tending to new duties in other locations. Though the timing is coincidental, and two of the moves are temporary, the circumstances will mean a big change in Yellowstone's daily leadership for the 2014-15 winter season.

Yellowstone's superintendent, a top management assistant in charge of winter use and the park's lead scientist have all recently taken assignments in other states.

Superintendent Dan Wenk accepted a temporary position earlier this month to serve as interim president for the National Park Foundation. Wenk will lead the Washington, D.C.-based organization while its board looks for a new president following the departure of outgoing Foundation President Neil Mulholland, who served for five years.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst, who will serve as acting superintendent in Wenk's absence, said at a Nov. 11 public meeting in Cody, Wyo. that National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis recruited Wenk to fill in as interim president for the Foundation, the official charity for the America's national parks.

Wenk is expected to return to Yellowstone as superintendent as soon as the Foundation's board selects a new permanent president, sometime in early 2015.

Wade Vagias, a Yellowstone management assistant who played a key role in crafting the park's latest winter-use plan, has accepted a temporary post as interim superintendent for Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah.

He was instrumental in drafting the latest plan for winter travel in Yellowstone, and the first in more than a decade to avoid a court challenge. Vagias helped develop the "transportation events" concept that will govern how snowmobiles and snow coaches move through the park each day.

This winter, Vagias will oversee operations at Bryce Canyon until a new superintendent takes over there. Yellowstone spokeswoman Amy Bartlett said Vagias is expected to resume his duties in Yellowstone by February.

Bartlett said it's common for the Park Service to move key personnel into interim leadership roles in other parks while a new superintendent is selected.

David Hallac, Yellowstone's lead scientist, has accepted a permanent assignment as superintendent of Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Outer Banks Group in North Carolina.

Hallac has spent three years as division chief of the Yellowstone Center for Resources. Hallac and his wife, Robin, and their four children will move to the Cape Hatteras area to start his new assignment in early January 2015.

"I spent many summer vacations in the Outer Banks with my family, so I have a great appreciation for the resources and the memories that people make there," Hallac said in a statement released by the Park Service.

The new assignments for the trio of top managers have been the subject of much recent speculation by park and concessions workers.

But Bartlett said the shuffling of top Yellowstone personnel was not part of any coordinated plan or initiative. The assignments for Vagias and Hallac represent opportunities for career growth, she said, while Wenk was tapped by Park Service leadership to help run a key fundraising partner.

Elk-herding hunters rack up citations

POSTED: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014 4:30 AM

By Mike Koshmrl - Jackson Hole Daily

A coordinated elk drive that led to an on-road firing line organized by Grand Teton National Park hunters Wednesday ended up resulting in six citations.

The midmorning event, which left onlookers aghast, was started when a person flushed a herd of about a 100 animals out of a no-hunting area near Kelly, eyewitnesses said. Two spike bulls were illegally killed, hunters were lined up on and were shooting from roads, and park rangers were tied up for at least an hour in the aftermath, spokeswoman Jackie Skaggs said.

One hunter was cited for shooting one of the spike bulls and for firing more than once at a running herd, Skaggs said.

"The gentleman who did get cited for taking the wrong sex was cooperative and forthcoming and admitted that he was in the wrong," she said.

The person, who was not named, was also warned for not carrying his permit, and his park hunting privileges were revoked for the rest of the season.

Four others were fined for shooting from a roadway. They are allowed to continue hunting Grand Teton this year but could have privileges pulled in the future if they're cited again, Skaggs said. One spike elk gunned down was not claimed by any hunters, and it was transported to the Wyoming Game and Fish's Department office along with the other spike elk carcass for the state's needy family program. No one was cited for pushing the elk out of the no-hunting zone, but that activity is against the law.

Park officials amended an earlier statement, when the Jackson Hole Daily was told that hunters were allowed to push elk out of closed areas.

"A hunter walking in the field and causing elk to move is not necessarily illegal," Skaggs wrote in an email.

"Someone who is intentionally 'driving' elk, however, would be considered harassment and therefore [it is] a violation."

The act of driving game qualifies as "wildlife harassment," and is defined in park regulations as "feeding, touching, teasing, frightening or intentional disturbing of wildlife nesting, breeding or other activities."

Further, Game and Fish regulations for the park hunt unit state that: "Driving, chasing, herding or intentional movement of elk on horseback, on foot or by vehicle is prohibited."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 622 AM MST FRI NOV 21 2014

Winter Storm WATCH for Yellowstone & the Tetons

Winter Weather ADVISORY for portions of Southwest Montana including West Yellowstone

Today: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow early in the evening...then chance of snow in the late evening and early morning. Snow likely early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Saturday Night: Breezy. Snow showers in the evening...then snow showers likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Lows 10 to 16. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Sunday: Breezy. Snow showers likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 20 to 26. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, November 24, 2014



Pine Marten near West Thumb (photo by Lloyd Krueger)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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YELLOWSTONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Has Cash for You!

It's that time of year when expenses mount up fast. We can help with a signature loan* up to \$7500.00 for many purposes:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| \$ Winterize your house or car | \$ Holiday shopping and travel |
| \$ Pay taxes or insurance | \$ Pay off or consolidate credit cards |
| \$ Medical expenses | |

Express application forms are available on our website, yellowstonefcu.org, or from our office.

If you're not a member of the credit union, you can join if you live, work, worship, attend school or volunteer in Yellowstone National Park or Gardiner, Montana, or if you have family members that meet these requirements. Call our office at 307-344-7974 if you have any questions!

*Rates as low as 7.50% APR. Rates and amounts are based on creditworthiness. Not all borrowers will qualify for the maximum amount or lowest rate.

IN THE NEWS

Agencies disagree on bison removal numbers

Published: Fri, 11/21/2014 - 3:00pm

By Natalie Storey – Livingston Enterprise

Tribal, state and federal agencies continued to wrangle Thursday over bison harvest and capture numbers for the winter during a meeting of the group charged with managing the animals in Montana.

After almost two hours of discussion, partners in the Interagency Bison Management Plan couldn't agree on how many bison should be culled from Yellowstone National Park's herd this winter through hunting and other removal actions. While YNP managers suggested 900 would be a good compromise, tribal representatives pushed back, saying that might be too many. Culling large numbers might decrease hunting opportunities and discourage bison from migrating, tribal representatives said.

"We are concerned that we are punishing bison who migrate," said Tom McDonald, manager of the Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation Division for the Confederated Salish Kootenai tribes. "We need to have herd memory so that bison will come out of the park. When we get to these large numbers and we take as many bison that come out of the park and kill them, that's not a good thing."

State Veterinarian Marty Zaluski said that although hunting has been agreed upon by the partners as the primary removal tool, he believed hunting on its own would never be successful to manage the bison population. Hunting could only be successful as the sole management tool if it was allowed inside YNP, he said.

Last season, hunting removed 325 bison from the herd, while 328 were removed through other measures like capturing the animals and shipping them to slaughter.

Zaluski said the Department of Livestock would like to see more animals removed, but could agree on 900.

"Nine hundred is a middle ground where no one is really totally satisfied," he said.

An IBMP adaptive management plan from 2000 set the target population for bison in the park at 3,000 animals.

Tribal representatives from the four tribes with legally recognized hunting rights in the area and the Inter Tribal Bison Cooperative didn't participate in that agreement because they weren't part of the IBMP at the time. An environmental impact statement is currently in process that will address whether 3,000 is an appropriate population goal.

During the winter of 2013-14, the partners agreed to remove 600 bison from Yellowstone National Park's herd.

Still, this year, YNP biologists estimate the herd is 4,900 animals strong with the population growing "exponentially," they said.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks upped its bison permits for this season to 90 from the 44 permits that were available for state hunters during 2013-2014.

But park biologists say hunting might not be enough and that they still need the flexibility to capture animals and ship them to slaughter to keep populations in check.

The hunting harvest has been skewed toward males, leaving reproducing females in the herd, said Dave Hallac, the chief of Yellowstone's Center for Resources.

"You are essentially putting the responsibility on the park to capture and ship to slaughter third trimester pregnant bison," Hallac said. "That's incredibly unpopular among our staff and the public."

Partners to the IBMP met in Chico Thursday to discuss the winter operations plan, which includes population targets, among other tasks. The winter operations plan must be approved by Dec. 31 by the partners, which include the U.S. Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of Livestock, the U.S. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Yellowstone National Park and tribal representatives.

According to the Buffalo Field Campaign website, two bison have been killed through hunting so far this year.

Read more: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/agencies-disagree-bison-removal-numbers?>

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 707 AM MST MON NOV 24 2014

Today: Breezy...cloudy. Numerous snow showers early in the morning...then scattered snow showers in the late morning and afternoon. Isolated snow showers late in the afternoon. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Highs 20 to 26. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow likely early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 9 to 15. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday: Breezy. Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Total snow accumulation 8 to 13 inches. Lows 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Wednesday: Breezy. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows in the lower 20s. Chance of snow 30 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, November 25, 2014



West Thumb area (photo by Lloyd Krueger)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 25, 2014

Memorandum

To: All Employees

From: Director /s/ Jonathan B. Jarvis

Subject: Early Dismissal – Wednesday, November 26, 2014

To recognize your dedication and hard work throughout the year, I am authorizing an early release of employees on Wednesday, November 26, 2014, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Subject to assuring that we meet operational requirements, maintain safe working conditions for our employees, and ensure the safety of our visitors, supervisors may release employees who report to them up to 3 hours in advance of the employee's normal departure time without charge to the employee's leave.

The early dismissal applies only to employees who are present for work on Wednesday, November 26; other employees will not receive any “in lieu of” time off. Employees who are on previously approved absence (e.g., annual leave, sick leave, leave without pay, credit hours, or comp time) will be charged the appropriate category of leave/absence for the amount requested and approved for that day. An employee who is present for work on Wednesday but requests approval for leave and departs before the early dismissal will be charged leave for the remainder of the scheduled workday, beginning with the time of departure, minus the time for the early dismissal.

For time and attendance reporting, this early dismissal will be recorded as excused absence (administrative leave), code 060.

All of us appreciate those who will stay at their duty stations, keeping the parks open and safeguarding their resources, and encourage supervisors to recognize their good work in the future.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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YELLOWSTONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Has Cash for You!

It's that time of year when expenses mount up fast. We can help with a signature loan* up to \$7500.00 for many purposes:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| \$ Winterize your house or car | \$ Holiday shopping and travel |
| \$ Pay taxes or insurance | \$ Pay off or consolidate credit cards |
| \$ Medical expenses | |

Express application forms are available on our website, yellowstonefcu.org, or from our office.

If you're not a member of the credit union, you can join if you live, work, worship, attend school or volunteer in Yellowstone National Park or Gardiner, Montana, or if you have family members that meet these requirements. Call our office at 307-344-7974 if you have any questions!

*Rates as low as 7.50% APR. Rates and amounts are based on creditworthiness. Not all borrowers will qualify for the maximum amount or lowest rate.

Snoopy Cooperative Preschool will be hosting a “Books and More Fair” December 3-10! Usborne books has loads of high quality books, activities, sticker books, etc. for babies to middle school aged students. Get your holiday shopping done and help our school earn free books at the same time! Books and more will be available to purchase at the Snoopy School Book Fair Table at the **Gardiner Community Center during the Holiday Stroll on Thursday, December 4th**. Stop by the table and enter to **win a free basket of books**. Also, don’t miss **kids holiday story time at the Gardiner Community Center at 6 p.m.!** If you are unable to attend the stroll but would still like to place an order, visit our event website online at <https://y3865.myubam.com/Event/72667> and pass it on to friends and family!

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Comments Sought On Proposal To Build Ecological Monitoring Station In Yellowstone

A site within Yellowstone National Park has been proposed for inclusion as part of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON). NEON Inc., an organization funded by the National Science Foundation, would like to establish a program and facilities to monitor the impacts of climate change, land-use change, and invasive species on the ecosystem.

The program is intended to establish a series of cutting edge sensor arrays at dozens of sites across the nation, allowing scientists, researchers, and the public to have unparalleled access to data by posting monitoring results on the Internet to collectively help understand how the ecosystem responds to various types of change and stress. More information on NEON is available online line at <http://www.neoninc.org>.

Yellowstone has been identified as a “core” site for the Northern Rockies Domain for installation of monitoring infrastructure for a 30-year period. Short-term or “relocatable” data gathering sites for the domain have been proposed for Bozeman and the Paradise Valley in Montana.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public input to help prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze impacts associated with the proposed construction of this NEON monitoring station. The site proposed by NEON is located approximately 9 miles east of Mammoth Hot Springs and 0.3 miles south of Grand Loop Road near the intersection of the entrance of the Blacktail Plateau Drive. Construction of the monitoring facilities would require installation of electric service, conduits, limited fencing, a small instrument building, and a meteorological platform tower which would extend about 20 feet above nearby trees. As many as 55 instrumented sampling plots would be established near the site. Equipment to gather aquatic data would be installed at a smaller site about 2.5 miles west of this core facility. Some of this infrastructure would likely be visible from a few locations along the Grand Loop Road. These sites, among others that meet the project objectives, will be considered and evaluated during the planning process.

The public is encouraged to attend a meeting on December 2 in Bozeman, Mont., to learn more about this proposal. The meeting will be held at the Homewood Suites at 1023 Baxter Lane. The open house will begin with a brief presentation at 6:00 pm and will conclude by 8:00 pm. Additional information and an electronic form to submit comments on the proposal are available on the National Park Service’s Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ynpneon>.

Comments may be also hand-delivered during normal business hours to the Mailroom in the park's Administration Building in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, or mailed to: Compliance Office Attn: NEON Proposed Core Site Project, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190. Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any other way than those specified above. All comments must be received by midnight MST December 21, 2014.

IN THE NEWS

Archaeology on the Trail By **Melanie Langa**

B.A. History, 2016

Summer Intern at the [Yellowstone National Park](#)



The five weeks since my last blog post have flown by, and it's hard to believe that my last weekend in the park is staring me in the face. I'm determined to make the most of it; I've made plans to get up early to look for wolves (the one Yellowstone critter I really want to see but haven't yet) and circled at least five undone hikes on my trail map (we'll see how many I can manage in the next three days.) Just as ten weeks is not nearly enough time to explore all the amazing trails, views and hideaways in Yellowstone, ten weeks is not nearly enough time to do more than scratch the surface of the scope of archaeology in the park. Every day I still discover more interesting files in the lab or hone my skills identifying obsidian flakes and stone tools at field sites. One experience in particular provided a chance to practice and apply all I'd learned during this internship thus far.

From July 29th to August 7th I assisted with a field project on a mountain at the eastern boundary of Yellowstone. Prior to coming to the park I'd spent time in the backcountry for backpacking or camping trips, but never for fieldwork and never for such an extended period of time. This site's remoteness makes carrying out regular field tasks challenging. I was lucky enough to be able to tag along for all 48 miles: both the backpacking and the fieldwork portions of the expedition, and learned much as a result. Under the direction of Dan Eakin, who works for the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist and Dr. Staffan Peterson, the Yellowstone Park Archaeologist, who's my supervisor this summer, our field crew surveyed a potential campsite for a group of Nez Perce fleeing the U.S. Cavalry in 1877.

Bands of Nez Perce, passed through Yellowstone National Park, only five years old at the time, during their flight from the army, which lasted from June to October of 1877. After refusing to move from their ancestral lands to a reservation in Idaho, the Nez Perce fought a series of skirmishes with the U.S., travelling more than 1000 miles in the process. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail commemorates these battles, but the exact route of the Nez Perce in this area is not known with certainty. Our investigation attempted to systematically map and gather further information about a site at which the Nez Perce may have camped at before their exit of the area recently designated as Yellowstone National Park, and subsequent capture at the Bear Paw Battle.

This archaeological site doesn't look like a scene out of Indiana Jones. It's not a big hole in the ground. We were looking for evidence of a camp where roughly 800 people and 2,000 horses spent two or three days. This means such evidence might be spread out over a large area and come in forms other than buried deposits. Past investigations at this site have focused on axe-cut tree stumps, which might have been used for fuel or shelter. This year, we mapped these axe-cut stumps, finding more in the process, and used metal detectors to survey areas around these stumps looking for further diagnostic evidence of a Nez Perce camp. Our survey this year added to the overall knowledge of the site, and returned some period artifacts not documented earlier.

I personally excavated a fork, a cartridge case, and some food cans potentially from 1877. Even after documentation of such finds, the challenge is building a case that these things are in fact from a particular occupation and not simply refuse from others passing through the park. Last season, the team took samples of some of the axe-cut stumps to date them based on the appearance of the rings. Several of the samples dated to the late growing season of 1877: exactly the time when the Nez Perce would have been in the area. Dating the tree samples provides good circumstantial evidence of the site's significance. Another way to link found artifacts to the Nez Perce War of 1877 is through historic accounts of tourists that the Nez Perce encountered or travelers through the area that might have observed the site when more evidence of the camp would have been visible. It's these kinds of processes that happen once the fieldwork is completed, and the tree samples and artifacts have been safely carried from the backcountry to the lab at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Being immersed in a project for 10 days cemented my love of fieldwork and gave me a greater appreciation for the significance of the human impact on this landscape we think of as natural and wild. Even 24 miles from the nearest road, we uncovered trash from recent campfires along with artifacts from 140 years ago. Since returning, I've continued to notice these human influences even in my time off work. Friends that work in other capacities at Yellowstone bring me pictures of scrapers, projectile points and spoke shaves that they find in their work all over the park. Archaeology even found me when I took time off to spend the weekend with my brother. We hiked the Mt. Holmes trail in the Northwest corner of the park and I couldn't help but notice the hundreds and hundreds of obsidian flakes along our way. As I savor my last week working in the park I have to remind myself to stop scanning the ground for artifacts and lift my eyes to admire the beautiful scenery. I guess there's your evidence; I've learned a lot this summer, and thinking about archaeology has changed the way I personally engage with natural places like Yellowstone.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 1108 AM MST TUE NOV 25 2014

Today: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. New snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 27 to 33. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Snow until early morning...then snow likely early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 10 inches. Lows 22 to 28. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Wednesday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning... Then slight chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows around 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thanksgiving Day: Partly cloudy. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows around 20.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, November 26, 2014



Happy Thanksgiving!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 25, 2014

Memorandum

To: All Employees

From: Director /s/ Jonathan B. Jarvis

Subject: Early Dismissal – Wednesday, November 26, 2014

To recognize your dedication and hard work throughout the year, I am authorizing an early release of employees on Wednesday, November 26, 2014, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Subject to assuring that we meet operational requirements, maintain safe working conditions for our employees, and ensure the safety of our visitors, supervisors may release employees who report to them **up to 3 hours in advance of the employee's normal departure time** without charge to the employee's leave.

The early dismissal applies only to employees who are present for work on Wednesday, November 26; other employees will not receive any "in lieu of" time off. Employees who are on previously approved absence (e.g., annual leave, sick leave, leave without pay, credit hours, or comp time) will be charged

the appropriate category of leave/absence for the amount requested and approved for that day. An employee who is present for work on Wednesday but requests approval for leave and departs before the early dismissal will be charged leave for the remainder of the scheduled workday, beginning with the time of departure, minus the time for the early dismissal.

For time and attendance reporting, this early dismissal will be recorded as excused absence (administrative leave), code 060.

All of us appreciate those who will stay at their duty stations, keeping the parks open and safeguarding their resources, and encourage supervisors to recognize their good work in the future.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Hello All,

If you purchased **Bridger Bowl Discount Ski Tickets** through the Wellness Program, THEY ARE IN!

You may pick your tickets up at the Albright VC. The VC opens at 9AM daily.

Thanks for participating, the latest as of this morning is that it was dumping snow at Bridger and opening day in December 5th.

There will be limited access to **DOI Access Card Registrars** for the holiday season. Between December 17, 2014 and January 6, 2015, all DOI Access Card services must be scheduled on the Applicant Access Online Scheduling System by visiting <https://app3.timetrade.com/tc/login.do?url=usaccess>.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to service walk in appointments during this time period. Please plan accordingly.

Be advised that State and County LE are taking a proactive approach to bison and other wildlife collisions and part of this is **enforcing the 35 MPH speed limit over the guard**. When bison begin to show up along the highway, expect the popular 55 MPH speed limit to go into effect as well. All part of keeping the public safe with the abundance of wildlife we enjoy in the Gardiner Basin.



Community Tree Lighting and Potluck Dinner

Monday, Dec 15, 2014 from 5:45 to 7:00pm

Mammoth Hotel Map Room

Entertainment provided by the community's littlest people and the Gardiner High School Choir.

Silent Auction, pajama drive, potluck dinner and a visit from a very special guest

Dessert and drinks provided by Xanterra Parks & Resorts, Yellowstone Park Service Stations and Yellowstone General Stores. Please bring a main dish to share.



The Mammoth Clinic will be closed **TODAY** through Sunday Nov 30th, re-opening on Monday December 1st. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone!

The community's littlest people are participating in the **Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive** benefitting the Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children and teens in need—especially those living in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

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

If you are able to participate, please bring a new pair of pajamas to the Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Potluck Dinner on December 15 from 5:45 - 7:00 or arrange a drop-off or pick-up with Mary Kay Woodin x2059.

Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

- Pajamas must be brand-new.
- Pajamas in all sizes are needed—from newborn to adult.
- Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.
- Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe.

Our goal is to donate 50 pajamas to the local Pajama Program. We collected 40 pajamas last year for those in need in Park County.

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

The Intermountain Combined Federal Campaign

What is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)?

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

What does my CFC look like?

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

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

Which charities can I contribute to?

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

How do I contribute?

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

Where can I find more information?

You can find detailed campaign information at www.intermountaincfc.org or you can contact Darl Williams at 307-344-2042 or Darl.Williams@nps.gov.

YELLOWSTONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Has Cash for You!

It's that time of year when expenses mount up fast. We can help with a signature loan* up to \$7500.00 for many purposes:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| \$ Winterize your house or car | \$ Holiday shopping and travel |
| \$ Pay taxes or insurance | \$ Pay off or consolidate credit cards |
| \$ Medical expenses | |

Express application forms are available on our website, yellowstonefcu.org, or from our office.

If you're not a member of the credit union, you can join if you live, work, worship, attend school or volunteer in Yellowstone National Park or Gardiner, Montana, or if you have family members that meet these requirements. Call our office at 307-344-7974 if you have any questions!

*Rates as low as 7.50% APR. Rates and amounts are based on creditworthiness. Not all borrowers will qualify for the maximum amount or lowest rate.

Snoopy Cooperative Preschool will be hosting a "Books and More Fair" December 3-10! Usborne books has loads of high quality books, activities, sticker books, etc. for babies to middle school aged students. Get your holiday shopping done and help our school earn free books at the same time! Books and more will be available to purchase at the Snoopy School Book Fair Table at the **Gardiner Community Center during the Holiday Stroll**

on **Thursday, December 4th**. Stop by the table and enter to **win a free basket of books**. Also, don't miss **kid's holiday story time at the Gardiner Community Center at 6 p.m.!** If you are unable to attend the stroll but would still like to place an order, visit our event website online at <https://y3865.myubam.com/Event/72667> and pass it on to friends and family!

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Extends Comment Period On Proposed Fee Changes

Yellowstone National Park is extending the length of time the public can comment on a proposal to increase the park's entrance fees and institute a backcountry overnight permit fee.

In response to public requests, the park will also open up the opportunity for interested individuals to submit comments online.

Yellowstone is proposing several changes to park entrance fees, which have remained the same since 2006. The park is proposing to offer a 3-day Yellowstone only pass for \$30. A 7-day pass good for both Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks would be available for \$50. An annual pass to Yellowstone only will be \$60.

Additionally, the park is proposing to institute a fee for overnight backcountry permits to help recover costs associated with operating the park's backcountry program.

The park recently held public open houses in Cody, Jackson, and Bozeman help individuals learn more about the proposed fee changes.

The public comment period has now been extended to midnight MST on December 20, 2014.

More information on the fee proposals and an electronic form to submit comments on the proposal are available on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/fees>.

Comments may also be hand-delivered during normal business hours to the mailroom in the park's Administration Building in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, or mailed to: Management Assistant Office, Attn: Entrance Fee Proposal, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190.

Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any other way than those specified above.

IN THE NEWS

Environmental group claims victory in ruling on helicopter hazing of bison

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Posted: Thursday, November 20, 2014 5:07 pm

Despite an appellate court's ruling allowing helicopter hazing of bison, an environmental group is happy about the precedent they won: namely the standing they can use in future lawsuits.

On Thursday, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on a case brought by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies in 2011 against the U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and Christian MacKay as executive director of the Montana Department of Livestock.

After hearing arguments on Nov. 8, the three judges overruled U.S. District Judge Charles C. Lovell and said AWR has standing under the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Protection Act to bring lawsuits.

To have standing, a plaintiff must prove that they suffered injury and that the defendant could remedy that injury. However, the court agreed with Lovell in denying AWR's request to stop bison helicopter hazing.

AWR executive director Mike Garrity still claimed victory.

"The 9th Circuit found that we have standing to sue the federal agencies involved in helicopter hazing for non-compliance with (laws requiring agency consultation). This re-opens the courthouse door so that we can now sue to challenge the federal agencies' most recent analysis on the impacts of helicopter hazing on grizzly bears," Garrity said.

The 2011 case revolved around the use of Department of Livestock helicopters to haze bison back into Yellowstone National Park.

But the AWR challenged the use of helicopters because the Interagency Bison Management Plan, as approved by all the agencies, had included the use without studying how it might affect grizzly bears, a species protected by the Endangered Species Act.

AWR claimed that helicopters disturbed grizzly bears in the greater Yellowstone area and could stress them enough to kill them, which would violate the ESA.

A September 2012 Biological Opinion concluded that helicopter operations "may affect but are not likely to adversely affect listed grizzly bears."

The federal agencies tried to argue that they shouldn't be sued for a DOL operation.

But the appeals court said they were responsible because they signed off on the plan.

One part of the ESA requires people wanting to sue a federal agency to give the agency 60 days notice so the agency can try to address the problem before it goes to court.

But in May 2011, Garrity was trying to ground the helicopters as the haze was starting.

So he gave his 60-day notice and filed a lawsuit one week later without the ESA charges. After the 60 days had passed, his attorney amended the lawsuit to include those charges.

Federal attorneys cried foul, claiming the 60-day window was violated.

Helicopters were used last spring to haze bison out of the Tom Miner Basin northwest of the Gardiner Basin. But they weren't used during the May hazing operation outside West Yellowstone, where they were always used before.

DOL spokesman Steve Merritt has said the cost to run a helicopter is \$700 an hour.

The DOL is unlikely to use such an expensive tool because its budget is at least \$400,000 in the red.

Read more: http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/wildlife/environmental-group-claims-victory-in-ruling-on-helicopter-hazing-of/article_650045dc-7112-11e4-927e-3b656d6f7acc.html?utm_medium=desktop&utm_source=block_674295&utm_campaign=blox

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 837 AM MST WED NOV 26 2014

Today: Breezy...cloudy. Snow late in the morning. Chance of rain through the day. Chance of snow in the afternoon. New snow accumulation around 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 1 to 4 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 21 to 27. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thanksgiving Day: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 36 to 42. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows around 21. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Friday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Friday Night: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening... Then snow likely after midnight. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 19 to 25. Chance of snow 60 percent.

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Contribute to the park's social media!

The Social Media Team invites you to contribute photos and ideas to share with Yellowstone's followers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and flickr! The park posts photos and information on current conditions, noteworthy sightings, park activities, timely messages, and photos and stories of staff doing their jobs. Any photos sent should be in the public domain, not copyrighted. Please email them to yell_socialmedia@nps.gov. Thank you!

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YNP@Work

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Friday, November 28, 2014



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- - - - -

YELLOWSTONE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Has Cash for You!

It's that time of year when expenses mount up fast. We can help with a signature loan* up to \$7500.00 for many purposes:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| \$ Winterize your house or car | \$ Holiday shopping and travel |
| \$ Pay taxes or insurance | \$ Pay off or consolidate credit cards |
| \$ Medical expenses | |

Express application forms are available on our website, yellowstonefcu.org, or from our office.

If you're not a member of the credit union, you can join if you live, work, worship, attend school or volunteer in Yellowstone National Park or Gardiner, Montana, or if you have family members that meet these requirements. Call our office at 307-344-7974 if you have any questions!

*Rates as low as 7.50% APR. Rates and amounts are based on creditworthiness. Not all borrowers will qualify for the maximum amount or lowest rate.

IN THE NEWS**31-year-old snowmobiler from North Dakota dies in avalanche near Cooke City**

November 26, 2014 3:17 pm •Billings Gazette

A 31-year-old snowmobiler from North Dakota died Wednesday after being buried in an avalanche in the Henderson Peak area near Cooke City.

The Park County Sheriff's Office received a report at about 1:30 p.m. of an individual partially buried and not breathing.

Search and Rescue members were dispatched from Cooke City, according to a release from Undersheriff Scott Hamilton.

According to another release, the man had been riding with a friend about 100 yards off the trail when the avalanche occurred.

The 31-year-old man was reportedly buried in about 7 feet of snow. He and his riding partner both had avalanche beacons.

The friend located and unburied the man, which took about minutes 20, and performed CPR.

Search and Rescue also attempted CPR when they arrived, but the snowmobiler was pronounced dead at the scene.

A later release reported that two snowmobilers about 100 yards off the trail triggered the avalanche after a fracture in the snow traveled uphill.

The incident is under investigation, and the name of the victim is not being released at this time.

Skiers and snowmobilers are asked to use extreme caution due to the recent heavy snowfall.

The Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center early Wednesday issued a backcountry avalanche warning for its whole advisory area.

The center said the danger for a slide is high in the Bridger, Gallatin and Madison ranges, the Lionhead area outside West Yellowstone and the mountains around Cooke City.

It cites heavy snowfall that's created instability and the potential for natural avalanches.

The center advises people not to travel in areas at risk for slides.

The warning lasts until 6:30 a.m. Friday.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/year-old-snowmobiler-from-north-dakota-dies-in-avalanche-near/article_af56bc1e-8437-519f-bad8-6fdd16092581.html#ixzz3KNpCwLg6

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Local chef puts culinary skills to use at annual Thanksgiving meal

Published: Wed, 11/26/2014 - 8:30pm | Section:

ByLiz Kearney - Livingston Enterprise

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/local-chef-puts-culinary-skills-use-annual-thanksgiving-meal>

It all started with some really bad weather.

A couple of years ago, Dave and Kathy Maravetz were headed to California for Thanksgiving.

The Livingston couple decided not to go. It was back in 2010, the year of that huge winter storm that hit town the day before Thanksgiving, keeping people in their homes, or stranded away from home — for a couple of days in some cases.

“We were looking for something to do,” Dave recalled Tuesday.

So he and Kathy went down to St. Mary’s Catholic School, where friends Mary Darby and Lori Schreiner, the original founders of the now-annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, were getting the meal together. It was the event’s second year. Dave and Kathy had gone down to the school on Wednesday, the evening before Thanksgiving, to see what they could do to help.

Dave brought a certain amount of expertise to the meal — he’s a professional chef, most recently with Xanterra Parks & Resorts in Yellowstone National Park.

“When we walked in, she (Darby) didn’t have a cook. We cooked until midnight,” he laughed.

Dave recalled that it was so cold out, they could put all the pots and pans full of cooked food outside to chill — with rocks on top of the lids — until the next day.

He’s been back as the head cook every year since. The dinner has been held at the Elks Lodge the past few years, but has returned this year to St. Mary’s, Darby said.

Last year, Maravetz and a crew of helpers cooked 40 turkeys. Volunteers delivered about 150 meals throughout the county, from Clyde Park to Emigrant. And about 300 dine-in meals were served. Maravetz expects to serve about the same number this year. If they have extra food, it gets donated to the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen.

Maravetz has recruited some professional helpers over the years, including other food and beverage professionals from his workplace. He said he sometimes worries about getting it all together, but it always works out, he said.

“Volunteers show up, people tell stories about last year, and it makes it all cohesive for me,” Maravetz said. “It’s a great way of giving back.”

Maravetz said he expects to cook today from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and he’ll be on-site all day tomorrow, making sure everyone who wants a meal gets a meal.

He emphasized the Thursday meal is for anyone, and there is absolutely no stigma that the meal is only meant for those in need.

“Everyone is welcome,” Maravetz said.

His wife, Kathy, will help all day today as well as a couple of hours tomorrow.

“When you get here and see all the people show up, it’s a good thing,” Kathy said. “It’s amazing how it all comes together.”

Dave and Kathy will sit down to their own Thanksgiving at their Livingston home on Friday. And they won’t be heading to California this year, either.

If you go:

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be served from 1 to 3 p.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic School in the gym. For more information, including requesting a delivered meal, call Darby at 224-4077. Today is the deadline for requesting a meal delivery.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 636 AM MST FRI NOV 28 2014

Today: Windy. Partly cloudy late in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers and snow showers late in the afternoon. Isolated snow showers late in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph. Gusts up to 35 mph late in the morning. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tonight: Windy. Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 21 to 27. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday: Windy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Saturday Night: Breezy. Much colder. Snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 6 to 11 inches. Lows 6 below to 4 above zero. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Sunday: Colder. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning... Then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 12 to 18. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 4 below to 2 above zero.

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

Contribute to the park's social media!

The Social Media Team invites you to contribute photos and ideas to share with Yellowstone’s followers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and flickr! The park posts photos and information on current conditions,

noteworthy sightings, park activities, timely messages, and photos and stories of staff doing their jobs. Any photos sent should be in the public domain, not copyrighted. Please email them to yell_socialmedia@nps.gov. Thank you!

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. Sign up by pasting this link into your internet browser: <https://newslettersignup.mayoclinic.com/> and following the subscription instructions. There are some great topics for weekly tailgate safety/wellness 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!