

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, December 01, 2014



ANNOUNCEMENTS



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On Friday December 5, the Copy Center will be closed for the day. The Mailroom will be open for business. Someone from the Property/Supply center will be picking mail up from the Post Office and metering mail to go to the Post Office. If you have any copy requests that you have to have this week, please get them to me before Friday. The copiers will be left on if you need to print something. Contact Kenny at the Supply Center and he will make sure you get your items that you printed.

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Supervisors, please ensure that your areas are ready for the winter and employees understand Park policy on Winter Slips and Falls.



A BIG thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make my party so special. The decorations were beautiful, the entertainment awesome, and the food was delicious! And last but not least, thanks to everyone who came to help me celebrate.

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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:

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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.

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

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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.

IN THE NEWS**Roberson experiments with larger tire sizes in pilot program**

Posted: Saturday, November 29, 2014 3:12 pm

[Roberson experiments with larger tire sizes in pilot program](#)

By Mike Moore West Yellowstone News

Last year, Buffalo Bus Touring Company and Yellowstone Vacations owner Randy Roberson saw great success in the first of a three-year pilot program with Yellowstone National Park to find a cleaner, quieter and smoother ride for visitors experiencing Yellowstone via snow-coach. His creation, a converted Ford Van Terra sitting on large balloon tires saw great appeal from park visitors throughout last winter, while also meeting and beating some park standards.

With the success he saw with last year's bigfoot snow-coach, which featured 38.5-inch balloon tires, Roberson recently built three new snow-coaches to continue the pilot program and further experiment with various balloon tire sizes.

"We bought three new Van Terra Turtle Tops this year, and all of them are getting tires," he said. "We removed portions of the wheel wells, gave them an eight-inch lift and special differentials and gearing. The wheels were specially built for this vehicle and this project."

Roberson only ran one balloon tire snow-coach last winter, as it was the first year of the project and he only had the one set of 38.5-inch tires to experiment with. He says specially made wheels like the ones he needs take time to arrive, as they are only made once a certain number of orders are received.

This year, he will be experimenting with 41, 42, 44 and 46-inch balloon tires.

"We will have three vehicles on tires," he said. "We're looking to find the combination that has the best floatation and traction."

Roberson has years of work tied into developing a new way to experience Yellowstone via snow-coach and says he has a lot of work already ironed out with the actual snow-coach. Now all he needs to do is find the best tire and pressure for certain snow conditions, which can change on a day-to-day basis.

"The biggest thing I learned (last year) was how varying the tire pressure changes the vehicle," he said. "I'm not used to letting tires down to five to seven pounds of pressure."

Roberson says he took last year's version of bigfoot over to Hayden Valley last spring, when more than 22 feet of soft snow remained on the ground. After making adjustments to the tire pressure on the spot, Roberson says he was able to walk through Hayden Valley.

"It acted like it was on hard pack, even though there was soft snow beneath it," he said.

The local concessionaire operator has three contracts for winter use in Yellowstone, and will be operating 11 snow-coaches and 60 snowmobiles a day this coming winter.

He says the company will continue their surveys of those who have experienced bigfoot, along with those who have experienced both balloon tires and tracks back-to-back. Last year, the company switched park visitors on extended trips into the park between tracks and tires to gather their input on which they enjoyed more. The majority liked the bigfoot snow-coach over the traditional tracked coach, and even raced other visitors to the coaches on a photo trip so they could ride on bigfoot.

“The park wanted a cleaner, quieter vehicle,” Roberson said.

When it comes to sound, the enhanced best available technology (BAT) standard for the park is 71 decibels, with 75 decibels being the regular standard for noise outside the snow-coach. The Bigfoot recorded 57 decibels, which is 14 decibels quieter. The balloon-tire coach also uses approximately one-third of the fuel that a traditional tracked coach consumes.

“We will continue to do surveys to gather feedback from the public on the vehicles,” Roberson said.

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Glacier Park urges visitors to stay away; storm causes severe damage

November 30, 2014 7:20 am • [Missoulain](#)

WEST GLACIER – Most of Glacier National Park is closed to the public after a winter storm with very strong winds and large amounts of snow moved through the park Friday night.

Crews are still assessing the impact, safety concerns and damage from the storm, but access to the park is very limited, especially through the West Glacier entrance.

"Park access is limited at this time due to down trees and snow fall, and the Apgar Visitor Center is closed for the remainder of today, Saturday, November 29. The Going-to-the-Sun Road is closed at the foot of Lake McDonald," Glacier spokeswoman Denise Germann said Saturday.

Around 20 structures in the park's housing area near the headquarters were hit by falling trees, and six of the residence structures have sustained significant damage. One park employee family has been displaced from their home, and a government vehicle was severely damaged by a falling tree, but no injuries have been reported.

"The full extent of the impacts from the winter storm are unknown at this time," Germann said. "Park crews are prioritizing their response, as there is damage due to tree fall, inaccessible roads due to snow, blowing snow and down trees, electrical power outages, and continued winter weather conditions."

Snow accumulation on the east side of the park is believed to be approximately two feet at St. Mary and approximately 18-20 inches at East Glacier. There has also been heavy snowfall and blowing snow in the North Fork and Many Glacier areas of the park as well.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/glacier-park-urges-visitors-to-stay-away-storm-causes-severe/article_d1907cba-dfa4-58c9-8c2c-6852670713bb.html#ixzz3Kf79a8ZX

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 638 AM MST MON DEC 1 2014

Today: Breezy. Chance of snow late in the morning...then snow likely late in the morning. Snow in the afternoon. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow early in the evening. Areas of blowing snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 5 inches. Near steady temperature in the lower 20s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tuesday: Breezy. Areas of blowing snow in the morning. Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 8 inches. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 30 to 36.

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

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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!

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.

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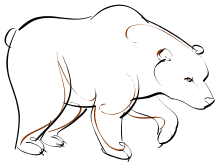
A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, December 02, 2014



MY HOBBY: FOLLOWING FIELD BIOLOGISTS AROUND AND INTERPRETING EVERYTHING THEY SAY AS CODE PHRASES.

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Tonight: Partly cloudy then becoming mostly clear in the late evening and early morning then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 7 to 13. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 30 to 36.

Wednesday Night: Not as cold. Partly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 21 to 27.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 21 to 27.

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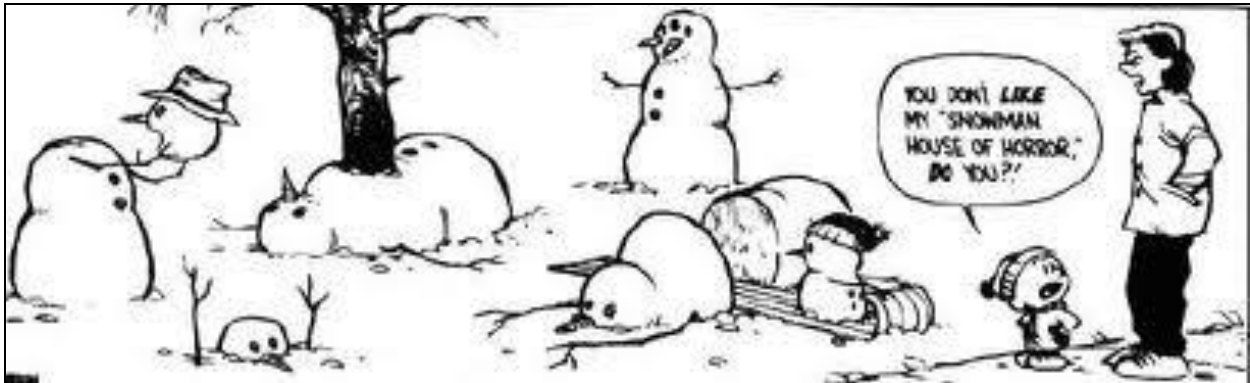
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Supply Center News: Town runs are scheduled every other week on Wednesdays. The town run scheduled for Wednesday December 24 is cancelled. If there is a need for a town run Christmas week, we will make the town run on Tuesday December 23rd. For further information, please contact Jane Olson at 344-2083.

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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone among 60 sites proposed for major long-term climate change study

15 hours ago • [By RUFFIN PREVOST yellowstonegate.com](#)

A site in Yellowstone National Park has been proposed as one of 60 key monitoring stations in what is shaping up to be the largest long-term study of climate change in North America.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Ecological Observatory Network will gather a wide range of data at sites spread among 20 distinct eco-climatic domains across the United States. The project, budgeted at \$60 million for the 2013 fiscal year, is designed to run for 30 years or longer in an effort to help researchers track the long-term effects of climate change across the entire continent.

Yellowstone officials are seeking public comments on a proposal to establish a number of automated NEON monitoring facilities on the Blacktail Plateau near Mammoth Hot Springs. The study will also look at how invasive species and land-use changes affect wide-scale ecology.

Yellowstone was chosen as a NEON site because “it is definitely one of the true wildland sites throughout the whole country,” said Dave Tazik, a NEON project scientist.

Under a proposal submitted by NEON planners, a 50-foot tower south of the Blacktail Plateau Road would use automated sensors to record air temperature, humidity, precipitation, air quality, soil chemistry and other data. A separate site nearby at Blacktail Creek would record stream flow, water chemistry, water temperature and more.

The two sites will give researchers a good idea of how a pristine, high-altitude Northern Rockies habitat that is mostly undisturbed by development is affected by climate change, Tazik said.

Like all 60 NEON monitoring locations, the Yellowstone tower and stream sites will see regular visits from field researchers gathering data or physical samples from plants, soil, water, air, microbes, insects, algae, aquatic species, fish, birds and even tufts of fur from small mammals.

After the data are analyzed and verified, they will be made publicly available via the NEON website.

“Our main mission is to push that data out for people to have access to so they can use it for research or any other purpose,” Tazik said.

About 200 research projects are conducted in the park each year, but the NEON proposal is unique in its scope and duration, said Doug Madsen, with Yellowstone’s Planning Office.

“It’s rare to get a project this extensive, and it’s one that the park has put in a lot of time and effort on,” Madsen said. Planning for the site has been ongoing for more than three years.

Construction costs are estimated at roughly \$1 million for each of the 60 NEON sites.

The Yellowstone NEON project 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, according to a statement released by the park's public affairs office.

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 probably be visible from a few locations along the Grand Loop Road.

Park planners said a number of sites that meet the project objectives will be considered and evaluated during the planning process.

Both the tower location and the aquatic site are in a grizzly bear management area, and access for researchers would be restricted during closures, just as for the public.

While data from NEON could prove helpful to Yellowstone researchers, the National Park Service has been gathering its own climate data for years.

Since 2000, the Greater Yellowstone Network has been one of dozens of projects run by the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program, an initiative aimed at tracking natural resource data to aid in management decisions.

"The Mammoth weather station has 125 years of data — the longest set of weather records for the state of Wyoming — which is pretty amazing," said Ann Rodman, resource information manager for Yellowstone.

"It's really clear that the climate is changing, but the rate and magnitude of that change is not the same everywhere," Rodman said in October during the Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in Mammoth.

"That's why climate change science requires those valuable, long-term records," she said.

Additional information on the Yellowstone NEON project and an electronic form to submit comments on the proposal are available on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment 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 must be received by midnight Dec. 21.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-among-sites-proposed-for-major-long-term-climate-change/article_13b7ee2b-498a-50d0-8e9c-c7bbcbdf8297.html#ixzz3KqjAlOG1

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 651 AM MST WED DEC 3 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow through the day. Chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thursday: Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 30 to 36.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the evening. Lows 16 to 22.

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!

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 04, 2014



YNP@Ohio! One of the contestants at the Cleveland Botanical Garden gingerbread house contest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



We have received a few **new bear proof dumpsters** in the Mammoth area. Please take note the lids do come down quite quickly with some force behind them. **Caution must be taken with your fingers around the lid.**

TOMORROW, the Copy Center will be closed for the day. The Mailroom will be open for business.

Someone from the Property/Supply center will be picking mail up from the Post Office and metering mail to go to the Post Office. If you have any copy requests that you have to have this week, please get them to me before Friday. The copiers will be left on if you need to print something. Contact Kenny at the Supply Center and he will make sure you get your items that you printed.

Deb McPherson, Mailroom

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 TONIGHT!** 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!

Want to give the gift of life this holiday season? Donate blood at our next blood drive, **Monday, December 8** from 1:00 to 4:45 PM at the Mammoth Community Center, Classroom #2. Anyone interested in donating goodies, they are always gladly accepted. Call, email, or sign up on line at www.bloodhero.com. Walk-ins are welcome also. Happy Holidays

Weeds, Whitebark & Veg, Oh My! **Dan Reinhart is LEAVING after 23 YEARS!** Join us in wishing him a fond farewell as he transitions from the plateaus of Yellowstone to the peaks of Grand Teton.

WHEN? December 11 at 3:30 – 5:00 PM

WHERE? YCR Conference Room

Supply Center News: Town runs are scheduled every other week on Wednesdays. The town run scheduled for Wednesday December 24 is cancelled. If there is a need for a town run Christmas week, we will make the town run on Tuesday December 23rd. For further information, please contact Jane Olson at 344-2083.

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.

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.

IN THE NEWS**Only in Montana: Market offers Thanksgiving supplies on honor system**

Published: Mon, 12/01/2014 - 3:00pm

Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise

What do you do on Thanksgiving Day when you run out of whipped cream and the only grocery store in town is closed?

This is a problem that has faced Gardiner for many years.

"We can always run down and grab something" even if the store is closed, Gardiner Market owner Rebecca Demaree said Monday.

But what if you don't own the store?

This year, Demaree and her husband, Scott, put a selection of last-minute items outside the store's entrance in coolers along with a secure donation box. People were asked to take what they needed and pay on the honor system.

Gardiner resident Dan Chapman stopped at the store on Thanksgiving Day, hoping to pick up some whipped cream on his way to a dinner taking place at a family member's home in Belgrade. He thought the idea of letting people pick up supplies and pay on the honor system was "pretty darn neat."

He met up with a couple of hunters in the store's parking lot. One of them approached the coolers.

"He wandered over, incredulous," Chapman said. "Nobody could believe it."

Chapman said there was milk, bread, eggs, whipping cream, "everything you run out of on Thanksgiving" in the coolers.

"You should have seen the looks on those out-of-stater hunters' faces," he laughed.

Rebecca Demaree, reached by phone Monday morning, said this is the first Thanksgiving they've offered groceries on the honor system. The store is closed only three days a year — on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

Asked how the receipts were, Demaree said they were probably “a little bit shy” of breaking even, but added making money wasn't the point — giving back to the community was more important.

She said it would have been worth it even if only one person made use of the service.

The Gardiner Market's Facebook post announcing the service received a lot of comments like “Awesome!” and “You rock!” from locals and former residents.

Chapman said he told everyone he saw about the market's generosity.

“I felt good all the way to Belgrade just because of their act,” Chapman said.

Read more: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/only-montana-market-offers-thanksgiving-supplies-honor-system>

Study: Killing wolves means more livestock attacks

15 hours ago • Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — Scientists have found that, contrary to what many people think, killing wolves does not always reduce attacks on livestock.

Researchers at Washington State University found that for every wolf killed in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming over the past 25 years, there was a 5 percent increase in the sheep and cattle killed the next year. Livestock kills only started going down after overall wolf numbers were reduced by more than 25 percent.

The study was published Wednesday in the journal PLOS One.

The reason appears to be that killing the alpha male or female, which normally keep a tight leash on other members of the pack, frees the other wolves to start breeding. That produces more breeding pairs. And breeding pairs trying to feed pups are more likely to kill livestock than individual wolves, said lead author Rob Wielgus, professor of wildlife ecology and director of the university's Large Carnivore Conservation Lab.

“It's like killing the schoolteacher, the animals that keep everyone else in line,” he said. “You've got no brakes anymore.”

Wielgus said earlier research found that livestock kills by bears and cougars went up when dominant males were killed, opening their territory to out-of-control young predators. But he did not expect similar results with wolves, which hunt as packs and have a rigid social structure.

He said the “Eureka!” moment came when researchers saw that the 5 percent increase in breeding pairs that came with each wolf killed matched the 5 percent increase in livestock kills.

William J. Ripple, distinguished professor of ecology at Oregon State University, said the study appeared to be important, and it could ultimately lead to major changes in wolf management, if it holds up.

“More research is now needed to study the number of livestock killed by large carnivores when we do nothing, compared to the typical approach to killing the offending predators,” he wrote in an email.

John Pierce is chief scientist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, which funded the study. Pierce said it covered a large scale, and the department was looking forward to research Wielgus was doing on what happens to an individual pack, where killing wolves still appears to be effective at reducing livestock attacks, at least in the short term.

“It is a well-constructed analysis and good science,” he said. “But it kind of tees up the question of how does social behavior of wolves interplay with prey interactions and depredation interactions.”

Wolves were reintroduced into the Northern Rockies in the mid-1990s, kicking off a political battle that still rages between ranchers who want to kill wolves and conservation groups who want to see their numbers increase and spread. Hunting has been allowed in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming since federal protections were lifted.

State Endangered Species Acts still protect wolves in Washington, Oregon and California, though California has no known wolves right now. Oregon has not killed a wolf for attacking livestock since reaching accord with conservation groups on a plan that requires ranchers to take non-lethal steps to protect herds in order to qualify for state compensation or a potential order to kill wolves attacking livestock. Washington state continues to kill wolves that attack livestock, but does not allow hunting.

After Endangered Species Act protections were lifted, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana allowed the hunting and trapping of wolves. Since then, the overall wolf populations in each state have gone down more than 25 percent, the level at which wolves naturally reproduce without humans intervening, and livestock deaths have gone down, Wielgus said.

Last September, a federal judge stripped Wyoming of authority over wolf management and restored federal protections, saying the state plan failed to guarantee more than a bare minimum of wolves would be maintained.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/study-killing-wolves-means-more-livestock-attacks/article_b73837fc-4a48-503f-bcd0-414ef2caa291.html#ixzz3KwZ40HFH

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 636 AM MST THU DEC 4 2014

Today: Breezy. Snow likely through the day. Rain likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy. Snow likely early in the evening...then chance of snow in the late evening and overnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 1 to 5 inches. Lows 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph until early morning. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 16 to 22. South winds around 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 18 to 24.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, December 5, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Gardiner School and the Yellowstone Gateway Museum host a free presentation Tuesday at 7pm **"Buffalo Nation and Restoration of a Keystone Species"** by Jason Baldes, Buffalo Representative for the Eastern Shoshone, at the Gardiner School Multipurpose Room,



NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS! Yellowstone Federal Credit Union will be performing annual system upgrades on Tuesday, December 9th beginning at 3:00 PM. This process may take several hours.

During the upgrade process, Online Banking and Audio Teller will be unavailable. Debit cards will be set to offline limits (ATM withdrawals \$110.00, purchases \$500.00.) We apologize for the inconvenience - There's just no time that's ever good for these things!



Want to give the gift of life this holiday season? Donate blood at our next blood drive, **Monday, December 8** from 1:00 to 4:45 PM at the Mammoth Community Center, Classroom #2. Anyone interested in donating goodies, they are always gladly accepted. Call, email, or sign up on line at www.bloodhero.com. Walk-ins are welcome also. Happy Holidays



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



Holiday Progressive Party! Each division is participating!

When: Tuesday, December 16th

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Where: Mammoth Admin Offices (REYP, YCR, Admin buildings)



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.

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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.

IN THE NEWS**Joliet fifth-graders make 10th annual trip to learn in Yellowstone**

December 04, 2014 6:00 am • By Brett French

The best way to educate almost 30 Joliet fifth-graders about Yellowstone National Park is to take them there.

“They were having so much fun I don’t think they realized they were even learning,” said Carol Sherman, one of the fifth-grade teachers.

That’s what volunteer trip organizer Lee Stevenson refers to as the enchantment of Yellowstone.

“It’s a magical trip,” she said. “It brings out things in students that teachers don’t usually see in the classroom: an enthusiasm for learning, hands-on education and involvement that sparks an interest in learning.”

Bob Fuhrmann, youth program manager for Yellowstone, said the goal of the fall and spring program is to connect more youngsters not only to the park, but also to green space, open space and nature.

Although largely recruiting from the surrounding states, students from as far away as New York City, Washington and Arizona have traveled to take part in the program, Fuhrmann said. The hope, he added, is to expand the program to more and more students.

Popular program

In the 10 years that Joliet has been participating in the Expedition: Yellowstone! program, the school has sent more than 250 students to the park for the two-and-a-half-day experience.

Those students are just a portion of the tens of thousands who have taken advantage of Yellowstone’s unique course since it was launched in 1986 for students in grades four through eight. Annually, the park’s program hosts about 50 groups of 1,400 students, Fuhrmann said.

“In some school districts where the program has been going on since 1986, like Kemmerer, Wyo., we have chaperones who came here as students,” he said.

The students pay \$40 per person per night for the experience, which covers instruction and lodging. The schools are also responsible for the cost of transportation and feeding the students.

In Joliet, each class does a fall pie fundraiser to cover the expenses. They also also receive generous donations from the community and businesses.

It costs participating schools another \$60 for the curriculum that the class covers, starting about a month before making the trip. The course teaches everything from history to geology and ecology to biology.

“It’s very detailed in terms of what the students learn about the park,” Stevenson said.

Just ask 10-year-old student Mya Colvin.

“Before we went we learned about hydrothermal features and the animals in there,” she said. “Afterward we learned about the geology and ecology.”

“They prepare the students so well at Joliet with the pre- and post-lesson plans,” Fuhrmann said.

Working the magic

The students are broken up into clans and can name their own group with titles like the Gushing Geysers, Wandering Wolves and Barking Coyotes. In addition to the schoolwork of keeping journals, learning how to use a laser thermometer to take the temperature of thermal features and how to test the acidity of water, the students also were involved in preparing meals, cleaning the floors and bathrooms and washing dishes at their dorm.

In her essay on “The Magic of Yellowstone,” student Brighid Doll wrote: “I learned with the Magic, I can care for others. I can cook for a whole class and make breakfast of bagels, hard-boiled eggs, fruit, and cereal. I can do 40 people’s dishes. I can clean a large classroom. I can care for others.

“I learned with the Magic I can be strong, brave, helpful, and be an overall better person. I can do things I thought I couldn’t do. I needed a pick-me-up and that’s what Yellowstone gave me. I was really surprised by the power of Yellowstone Magic. I shall always keep the Magic of Yellowstone in my heart.”

Skulls and animals

For 10-year-old student Kyliegh Riehl the trip was her first to the park since she was 2 years old.

“I liked hiking and seeing all the fun stuff outside because you could look at it up close and not in a picture,” she said.

Fuhrmann said in his informal surveys, Riehl is not unusual. In general, about 50 percent of the regional students from Wyoming, Montana and Idaho have never been to the park before, and if they have, it was a number of years ago.

Rockwood Frank, 10, had been to the park before but was particularly fascinated by the elk. “I actually have never seen elk before, and I thought they were interesting — the way they looked and their size,” he said. “They were big and had brown fur.”

Frank also got to handle an elk skull in one of the classroom activities as the park ranger gave him suggestions on how to tell one animal from another based on its features.

“Our clan decided it was an elk because it was an herbivore. Its eyes were on the side of its head so it was prey,” he said.

In another classroom project, the students built their own parks and then added water and wind to see the effects the natural elements would have on their forests and hillsides sculpted in sand and peppered with toothpick trees.

“They really grew as 10- and 11-year-olds,” said Kathy Robinette, one of the fifth-grade teachers. “I don’t think they could get any of that experience in the classroom. That experience was magical, and they are super excited to learn more about it, still.”

Wyoming, feds to appeal restored wolf protections

12 hours ago • Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Wyoming and U.S. government officials have filed separate notices that they will appeal a ruling by a federal judge that reinstated protections for wolves in the state.

The notices filed this week target the decision in September by U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson of Washington, D.C., who rejected a Wyoming wolf management plan that took effect in 2012.

The state plan had classified wolves in most of the state as predators that could be shot on sight.

Jackson agreed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that wolves in the Northern Rockies have recovered. However, she ruled that the federal agency should not have accepted Wyoming's nonbinding promise to maintain at least 100 wolves and 10 breeding pairs outside of Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The Fish and Wildlife Service reintroduced wolves in the Northern Rockies in the 1990s. The animals have since expanded their range.

Despite the plan to appeal, Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said Thursday he believes that congressional action holds the best chance for resolving the long-running dispute over manage wolves in the state.

Congress previously specified that there could be no legal challenges to decisions to end federal protection for wolves in Idaho and Montana.

Many Wyoming residents believe the wolf population in the state should be restrained to minimize the killing of livestock and other wildlife by the animals.

Wyoming has been involved in nearly continuous litigation against environmental groups and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the state's effort to gain control of wolf management.

"To state it as simply as possible, we're trying to cover all bases," Mead said of the state's notice that it will appeal Jackson's ruling.

Mead said his administration is working with the state's congressional delegation on legislation to turn over wolf management to Wyoming and prohibit further legal challenges.

Under the plan rejected by Jackson, Wyoming had divided the state into two general zones. Trophy hunting was allowed in a flexible area bordering Yellowstone, where the number of wolves killed was controlled by license sales. Wolves were left unprotected as predators in the rest of the state.

Trophy hunting is not allowed under federal management.

Mead previously said the state had almost 190 wolves and 15 breeding pairs after the first hunting season in 2012 and just under 200 wolves and 15 breeding pairs after last year's hunt.

Jackson's ruling derailed the state plan to allow hunters to kill a maximum total of 43 wolves starting in October.

Tim Preso, a lawyer with Earthjustice in Montana, represented a coalition of groups that sued to overturn Wyoming's wolf plan. He said his clients are prepared to assert that the appeals court should uphold Jackson's ruling.

Preso said it appears Wyoming's best chance at restoring state wolf management would be to fix the flaws in its management plan rather than challenge the judge's ruling.

Preso said the confirmation of a female gray wolf from the Northern Rockies near the Grand Canyon shows that wolves have the ability to find places to live if humans don't kill them.

"The big issue that we had with Wyoming's plan was it provided too many opportunities for people to kill wolves with little to nothing in the way of limits on that in most of the state," Preso said. "In the rest of the state there were a lot of things that really weren't nailed down by way of conservation promises."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 652 AM MST FRI DEC 5 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers through the day. Isolated rain showers early in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Lows 18 to 24.

Saturday: Cloudy. Isolated snow showers early in the afternoon. Isolated snow showers and rain showers late in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday Night: Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 19 to 25. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers in the morning... Then partly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs 28 to 34. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows around 18.

Monday: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 29 to 35.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, December 8, 2014



Peaks in the Gallatin Range rise above some early morning fog.
(photo by Neal Herbert)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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We apologize for the inconvenience - There's just no time that's ever good for these things!

Want to give the gift of life this holiday season? Donate blood at our next blood drive **TODAY** from 1:00 to 4:45 PM at the Mammoth Community Center, Classroom #2. Call, email, or sign up on line at www.bloodhero.com. Walk-ins are welcome also. Happy Holidays



After more than 32 years with the National Park Service, **Katy Duffy is retiring!** Please join us for cake and coffee on January 15, 2015, 3:30 - 5:30, in the Superintendent's Conference Room to wish her well.



Weeds, Whitebark & Veg, Oh My! **Dan Reinhart is LEAVING after 23 YEARS!** Join us in wishing him a fond farewell as he transitions from the plateaus of Yellowstone to the peaks of Grand Teton.

WHEN? December 11 at 3:30 – 5:00 PM

WHERE? YCR Conference Room



Are you wondering what Dan Wenk has been up to in Washington, D.C.? Watch this video to see him on stage at the 2014 National Christmas Tree Lighting event held last week at Presidents Park. This annual event is hosted by the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation. As the current acting President of the Foundation, Dan greeted the large crowd, including the First Family, and made sure to mention Yellowstone, too! (Dan's part begins at 23:40)

<http://thenationaltree.org/2014-national-christmas-tree-lighting-on-demand/>

Supply Center News: Town runs are scheduled every other week on Wednesdays. The town run scheduled for Wednesday December 24 is cancelled. If there is a need for a town run Christmas week, we will make the town run on Tuesday December 23rd. For further information, please contact Jane Olson at 344-2083.

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Holiday Progressive Party! Each division is participating!

When: Tuesday, December 16th

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Where: Mammoth Admin Offices (REYP, YCR, Admin buildings)



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.
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- 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.

IN THE NEWS

Proposal to double Yellowstone entry fee isn't popular

20 hours ago • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — A proposal to double the cost to enter Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks in northwest Wyoming is drawing resistance.

The town of Jackson, fishing guides and wildlife safari companies are among those speaking out against a plan that calls for increasing entrance fees for the two neighboring parks.

Under the National Park Service plan, a 7-day pass good for both Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks would increase from \$25 to \$50. An annual \$50 pass good for both parks would be discontinued in favor of each park having its own \$60 annual pass.

Town leaders formally opposed the plan in a comment letter.

“The South Gate of Yellowstone and Moran gate of Grand Teton are separated by only 28 miles on Highway 89/191/287,” the letter says. “It makes no sense for visitors to have to pay separate entrance fees at both parks.”

“We’re pricing people out of our public lands, our national heritage,” Jackson Town Councilor Jim Stanford said. “Public lands are not supposed to be managed like a business.”

For companies such as Jackson Hole Anglers, the parks’ planned fee hike will be passed on to clients.

“That becomes pretty significant when all they’re trying to do is go fishing for four hours,” said Dave Ellerstein, owner of Jackson Hole Anglers, which runs guided fishing trips in Yellowstone.

“(The proposal) really seems to target the people coming from Jackson,” he said. “The end product is that it’s twice as expensive to visit Yellowstone coming out of Jackson than it is from any other gate.”

Eco Tour Adventures is another Jackson Hole company that does business in the parks that will pass the higher costs along to their clients.

“It is a little discouraging that the Park Service is going to go ahead and double the weekly cost of a pass from \$25 to \$50,” said Taylor Phillips, who owns the wildlife safari company. “I would say 90 percent of our guests visit both parks.

“The parks need to be affordable for everyone,” Phillips said.

But Jason Williams, who owns Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris, supports the new fee structure.

“Even though it’s kind of a big jump, it’s a reasonable jump,” Williams said. “What we hear from a lot of our guests is that the park fees are really, really cheap.”

The Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce and National Parks Conservation Association also have gone on record supporting the fee increases.

Grand Teton National Park closed its public comment period last Friday.

Yellowstone is accepting comments until Dec. 20.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/proposal-to-double-yellowstone-entry-fee-isn-t-popular/article_bc8037df-b121-5261-b6d4-6db86c8e77e9.html#ixzz3LK5admJC

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 707 AM MST MON DEC 8 2014

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Tonight: Mostly cloudy until early morning then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 24.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the evening... Then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 22 to 28. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the morning. Highs 33 to 39.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 22 to 28.

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YNP@Work

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Tuesday, December 9, 2014

December 8, 2014
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Last summer, we estimated the number of bison in the population at 4,900. Under the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), we agreed to maintain a bison population near 3,000 animals. Therefore, we have decided to reduce population size over the next few years.

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We may all find ourselves answering questions about management actions – or responding to accusations – from family, neighbors, and visitors. I encourage you to review the Frequently Asked Questions posted to the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/bisonmgntfaq.htm>. Any inquiries from the news media should be directed to the Public Affairs Office.

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Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 35 to 41.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs 34 to 40. South winds around 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries. Lows 20 to 26.

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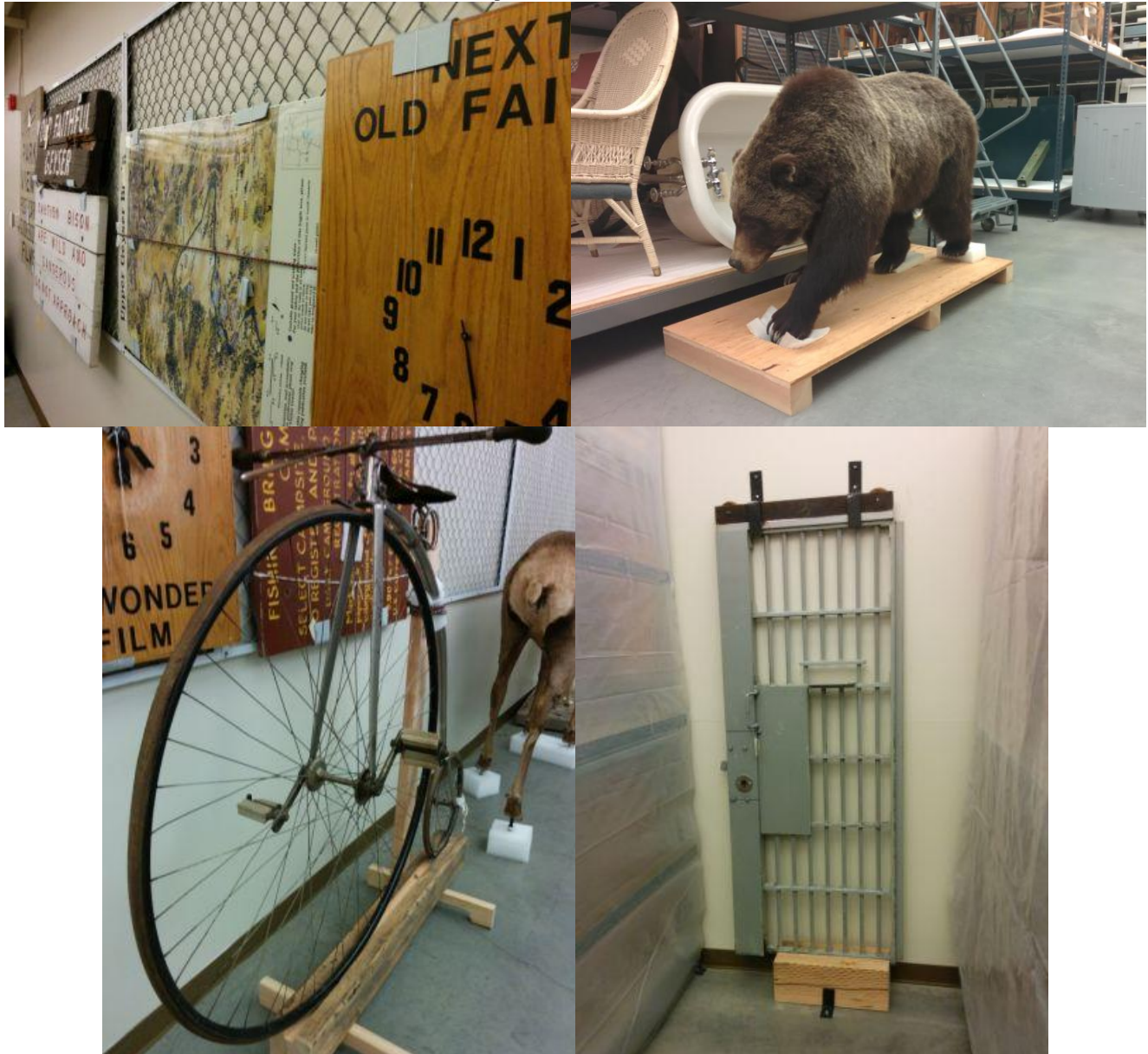
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Mike Laye, Red Williams, and Keith Hurst have built and installed new racks and stands in the HRC. The *Museum Handbook* requires that museum items be placed 6" off the floor, so their work helped us meet that requirement. Mike and Red built and installed custom storage mounts for the bicycle used in 1883 by W.O. Owen to tour the park along with doors from the old jail in Mammoth and a grizzly bear. Keith fabricated wall racks for a part of our collection of signs, which were installed by Mike and Red. This work has helped us utilize additional space in the HRC for our current and future collection. The HRC wanted to send a big thanks to the work of these individuals.

December 8, 2014

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Acting Superintendent

ANNOUNCEMENTS



An employee was out hiking above Gardiner (on the Travertine Road) this weekend and after pushing through the sage brush, was covered in nymph stage ticks (very small like the size of a pin head).

The warm weather probably has them out more abundantly than usual. If you are out and about, take standard precautions like using DEET, wearing light colored clothing to help spot tick nymphs, carrying tape to quickly and safely remove ticks from clothing, tucking your pants into your socks, conducting ticks checks and washing your clothes in hot water at the end of the day. Watch your pets too.

You can find more information here: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/stopticks/>

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Winning Food Drive ticket numbers from YA/Xanterra Retail Sale:

Binoculars donated from YA: #535362

Frosty Fun package: #535169

Winners need to contact Lisa Dean at ldean@xanterra.com or call 307-344-5208.



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WHEN? TOMORROW 3:30 – 5:00 PM

WHERE? YCR Conference Room



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.



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The new ice trekkers are in at the warehouse. The small size was ordered because the monster grips were too big for the 4-7 shoe sizes. Please give us some kind of feedback on them.
Thanks-Safety Office

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Make it easy; always carry reusable bags in your vehicle, backpack or purse.

Give reusable bags as gifts; there are bags to fit every taste and budget.

Effect: Friends and family enjoy reusable bags!

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Supply Center News: Town runs are scheduled every other week on Wednesdays. The town run scheduled for Wednesday December 24 is cancelled. If there is a need for a town run Christmas week, we will make the town run on Tuesday December 23rd. For further information, please contact Jane Olson at 344-2083.

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Holiday Progressive Party!



When: Tuesday, December 16th

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Where: Mammoth Admin Offices

Superintendent and Concessions Offices: Appetizers (in the Supt. conf room)

Maintenance: Sandwich shop

YCR: Soup, chili, and bread

RVP: a variety of tasty foods

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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.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 652 AM MST WED DEC 10 2014**Today:** Partly cloudy late in the morning then clearing. Highs 35 to 41.**Tonight:** Mostly clear early in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 21 to 27.**Thursday:** Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 38 to 44. South winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.**Thursday Night:** Breezy. Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 21 to 27. South winds 15 to 20 mph.**Friday:** Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 35 to 41. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.**Friday Night:** Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then chance of snow showers after midnight. Lows 21 to 27. Chance of snow 30 percent.**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 29 to 35.**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows around 16.**WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

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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!

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 11, 2014



A stunning sunrise this morning!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



An employee was out hiking above Gardiner (on the Travertine Road) this weekend and after pushing through the sage brush, was covered in nymph stage ticks (very small like the size of a pin head).

The warm weather probably has them out more abundantly than usual. If you are out and about, take standard precautions like using DEET, wearing light colored clothing to help spot tick nymphs, carrying tape to quickly and safely remove ticks from clothing, tucking your pants into your socks, conducting ticks checks and washing your clothes in hot water at the end of the day. Watch your pets too.

You can find more information here: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/stopticks/>

A new system for automating park information needed by visitors and staff for planning travel in the park was launched yesterday. Known as **Yellowstone Live!**, the software was developed by REYP staff with NPS specialists in other parks and offices, and in close cooperation with staff in RVP, especially the Communications Center.

The park is now using "Yellowstone Live" to share current road information at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkroads.htm>. This real-time information is being kept up to date by Communications Center staff. The public can receive information about road status, including messages and

incidents. If you are signed into the government network, you can see administrative travel information. This information is not visible to the public.

Although the software has been tested extensively throughout its development, we expect some "bugs" will inevitably be discovered in real time use. Please send your comments or questions to Tami Blackford, the Project Manager for the development of Yellowstone Live!

We also plan on expanding the functions and capabilities of this system over time. More information will be forthcoming.

Winning Food Drive ticket numbers from YA/Xanterra Retail Sale:

Binoculars donated from YA: #535362
Frosty Fun package: #535169

Winners need to contact Lisa Dean at ldean@xanterra.com or call 307-344-5208.



Weeds, Whitebark & Veg, Oh My! **Dan Reinhart is LEAVING after 23 YEARS!** Join us in wishing him a fond farewell as he transitions from the plateaus of Yellowstone to the peaks of Grand Teton.

WHEN? TODAY 3:30 – 5:00 PM
WHERE? YCR Conference Room



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.**
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IN THE NEWS

Park Service decision opens way for hunting in Teton park inholdings

Posted: Thursday, December 11, 2014 4:30 am

[Park Service decision opens way for hunting in Teton park inholdings](#)

By Mike Koshmrl Jackson Hole Daily

Wildlife on private land within Grand Teton National Park is now under jurisdiction of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and can be hunted, National Park Service leaders have decided.

For decades wildlife on about 950 acres of private land within park boundaries was subject to National Park Service rules, which meant that all hunting with the exception of elk was prohibited. A reinterpretation of the park's regulations means that state-sanctioned hunts for bison, mountain lions, mule deer, waterfowl and other game may soon be permitted.

It's a reinterpretation guaranteed to attract opposition, and one group has already criticized the new rule.

The change in management was addressed in a Nov. 11 letter from Park Service Associate Regional Director Tammy Whittington to Brian Nesvik, Game and Fish's chief warden.

"For many years we assumed that [park wildlife regulations] applied on private inholdings within Grand Teton and prohibited the taking of wildlife on those inholdings," Whittington wrote. "While [the National Park Service] continues its interest in ensuring that wildlife management on private inholdings does not negatively impact park resources, we have concluded that [park wildlife regulations] do not apply to private land inholdings within Grand Teton.

"As a consequence of that conclusion, we agree to the following: The Wyoming Game and Fish Department will take the lead in responding to wildlife management issues on private land within the park, and will coordinate with staff when necessary."

The decision has immediate effects for two current hunts, Game and Fish spokesman Renny MacKay said.

"Right now it does impact hunting of elk and bison on private lands," MacKay said. "It is allowed on those lands this year."

The Game and Fish Commission will determine what hunts will be allowed in future years, he said.

There are about 100 tracts of land the rule change affects, from quarter-acre lots in Kelly to the 450-acre Pinto Ranch. It was unclear by press time if the change would allow hunting on two 640-acre parcels of state school trust property within Grand Teton Park.

Game and Fish first sought to clarify the park's jurisdiction over wildlife in inholdings almost two years ago. State officials were prompted by questions about private landowners' rights in the event of wolf depredations, and requested the Park Service consult with the U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming.

"Prosecution of a private landowner by [the National Park Service] for actions that were committed on private lands and permitted or authorized by the state would certainly jeopardize the missions and goals of both agencies and the public interest," Nesvik wrote Whittington in March 2013.

The November memo sent by Whittington asks that park personnel be notified when wildlife issues arise that occur on both private and federal land.

The National Park Conservation Association rejected the Park Service's reinterpretation of the regulations.

"We've been looking at the wildlife management jurisdiction issue very carefully, and we believe the park does have full jurisdiction, even in park inholdings," said Sharon Mader, the association's senior program manager for Grand Teton National Park.

Mader worried a precedent would be set.

"This is not just about Grand Teton — there are 400 other Park Service units," she said.

"Being an iconic park and having sensitive species, Grand Teton should really be a leader and on the forefront of this issue in ensuring that they are the ones that make decisions within park boundaries," Mader said.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

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Friday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening...then mostly cloudy with chance of snow after midnight. Lows 20 to 26. South winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

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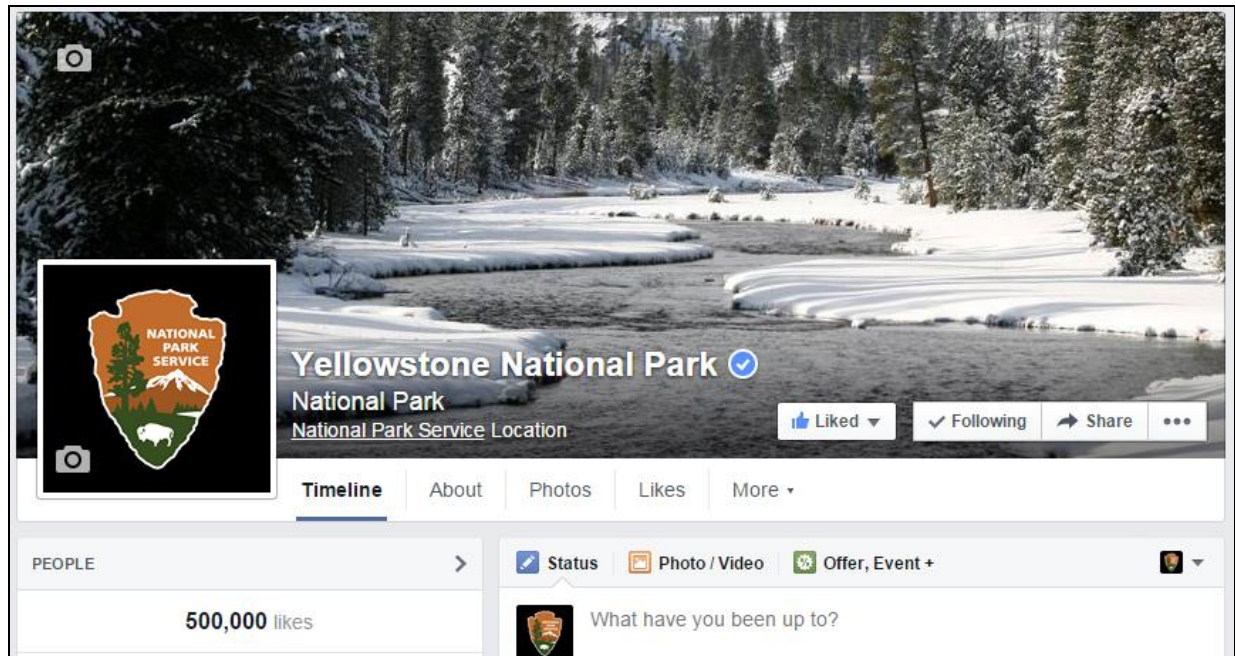
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YNP@Work

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Friday, December 12, 2014



The Yellowstone National Park facebook page hit 500,000 likes! Have you liked the page, yet?

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Dave Hallac recently accepted a position as Superintendent of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Outer Banks Group, which includes Wright Brothers National Memorial and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Be sure to swing by bid him bon voyage at YCR during the holiday party before he leaves next week!



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IN THE NEWS

Merger between local operators approved by Park Service

Posted: Friday, December 12, 2014 6:00 am

[Merger between local operators approved by Park Service](#)

By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News

Back in April, the National Park Service announced a list of local concessionaires that received 10-year contracts to continue doing business in the world's first national park during the winter months using oversnow machines. Of the 23 contracts that were spread amongst all of the park's major entrances, West Yellowstone received 11. Only four local operators in town obtained contracts initially, causing some operators who were not awarded with contracts to scramble.

Clyde Seely, owner of Three Bear Lodge, began providing snowmobile and snow coach tours into Yellowstone back in 1971. See Yellowstone Tours and Three Bear Rentals are subsidiaries of Three Bear Lodge.

His business was one of four in town that did not receive one of the 11 contracts, and had to make a move if he wanted to continue providing visitor trips into Yellowstone throughout the next 10 years.

Yellowstone Alpen Guides was awarded two contracts, and Scott Carsley, owner of Yellowstone Alpen Guides was looking to sell his business this year.

"Scott wanted to sell his operation and we wanted to buy it; that was the beginning of the process," Seely said.

On July 2, Seely submitted an application to the Park Service to apply for the business sale and transportation contracts. No sell can be completed without park approval.

After submitting the application, they waited for five months to hear back. On Dec. 2, the authorization came through. With uncertainty of being authorized all spring and summer, it made preparation for the upcoming winter

season difficult. They went ahead and ordered snowmobiles and snow coaches on faith alone, as they had no other option.

Now with approval from the Park Service, the purchase of Alpen Guides by Three Bear Rentals and See Yellowstone Tours will be effective immediately.

“Through our arrangement, we’re able to operate 12 snow coaches and 40 snowmobiles,” Seely said.

The number of snow coaches could increase in the future, as two EBAT (best available technology) coaches count as one in the park if traveling together.

Seely says he subcontracted out 20 of his snowmobiles to Yellowstone Adventures for the next two years. Yellowstone Adventures will use those 20 machines to take visitors into Yellowstone, as they were one of four local concessionaires to not obtain a winter contract.

The new merger brings a new name to Seely’s business, as the contracts will be issued to Three Bear Rentals LLC., and they will be doing business as See Yellowstone Alpen Guides.

Seely says the merger won’t bring many changes to the existing companies.

“We will continue to operate as two entities separately, yet together,” he said. “Yellowstone Alpen Guides will continue to operate like in the past; there won’t be many changes at this point. Basically, we will be doing what we have all along.”

Seely says the reason for the acquisition was to round out their operation, which will continue to provide snowmobile and snow coach tours into Yellowstone, as they have done since 1971.

“The driving force was to keep the overall operation viable,” Three Bear Lodge general manager Travis Watt said. “We will keep all of the Alpen Guides employees and continue that workforce.”

Without contracts, Three Bear entities including the lodge, restaurant and sightseeing tours would have been impacted drastically, Seely said.

“The key was to make the purchase and make the operation going as it has in the past,” he said. “Three Bear and Alpen Guides have built up a clientele up over the years.”

The acquisition brings a fleet of eight Bombardier snow coaches, which will join a pair of modern Yellowstone Grizz coaches and Ford Van Terra buses. All have been fitted with tracks and skis.

Two of the eight Bombardiers were built in 1953 and are believed to be the first snow coaches to receive special permission to travel to Old Faithful in 1955. The popular coaches are known for their dependability, and are used to make long distance trips.

Seely says newly installed motors and sound deadening materials in the Bombardier coaches has improved the visitor experience, and that the Bombs were the quietest snow coach in the park last year.

“I’ve always been a believer in preserving history; we want to preserve the experience like when people went into the park the first time,” Seely said. “The way you see Yellowstone is part of the Yellowstone experience.”

The successful combination of skis at the front and tracks at the rear on the Bombs prompted Seely to design a similar, yet modern snow coach called the Yellowstone Grizz. He worked for three years with SnoBear USA to design, develop and test the new coach. The wide variety of coaches available for visitors will only enhance visitor experiences in Yellowstone.

“I believe that skis equate to Yellowstone in winter,” he said. “That’s how it began and we want to preserve that. All of our (snow coaches) will be on tracks and skis.”

Along with the fleet of coaches and snowmobiles heading into the park, See Yellowstone Alpen Guides will also be operating over 40 snowmobiles that will be rentable for use outside the park, along with offering half-day rentals. They will also do something that has never been done before by providing daily-guided tours up to the summit of Two Top.

The new acquisition allows for Yellowstone Automotive, housed in the Yellowstone Alpen Guides garage, to continue his normal auto repair business throughout the winter months, rather than transitioning over to working on the Bombardier coaches.

“We will make that available so he can keep his clients year-round,” Watt said. “We can cross-utilize the shops a little.”

The Three Bear Lodge general manager says the whole process with the transfer has been stressful, but now that everything has been cleared, the new opportunity is exciting.

“Now that we have it, we’re excited for the whole opportunity,” he said. “We will have lots of fun marketing opportunities. We want to try to promote West Yellowstone; eat and stay here and we’ll take you in the park.”

Watt says they will also continue offering summer kayak and hiking tours, just as Alpen Guides offered in the past.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

[Last Update:](#) 652 AM MST FRI DEC 12 2014

Today: Breezy. Mostly sunny until late afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 37 to 43. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy early in the evening...then mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers in the late evening and overnight. Lows 21 to 27. South winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Saturday: Cloudy. Numerous snow showers early in the morning... Then scattered snow showers in the late morning and afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the morning. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 15 to 21. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Highs 25 to 31. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Sunday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows 6 to 12. Chance of snow 20 percent.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, December 15, 2014



Slip sliding away...

ANNOUNCEMENTS



After more than 32 years with the National Park Service, **Katy Duffy is retiring!** Please join us for cake and coffee January 15, 3:30 - 5:30, in the Superintendent's Conference Room to wish her well.



Community Tree Lighting and Potluck Dinner

TONIGHT 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.

Dave Hallac recently accepted a position as Superintendent of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Outer Banks Group, which includes Wright Brothers National Memorial and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Be sure to swing by bid him bon voyage at YCR during the holiday party before he leaves this week!

Holiday Progressive Party!



When: **TOMORROW**

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Where: Mammoth Admin Offices

Superintendent and Concessions Offices: Appetizers (in the Supt. conf room)

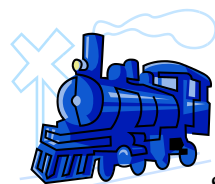
Maintenance: Sandwich shop

YCR: Soup, chili, and bread

RVP: a variety of tasty foods

Admin: a variety of tasty foods

REYP: Sweets shop



The Polar Express movie + Gingerbread house making + Potluck **this Thursday**, December 18 at the MCC starting at 5:30pm. MCC will provide the graham crackers and icing for the gingerbread houses. Please bring a dish to pass, decorations for your gingerbread house and pj's to watch the movie.

See you there!



The **Mammoth Clinic** will be closed for **Christmas on Dec 24, 25, and 26** re-opening on Monday Dec 29. We will also be closed for New **Years on Dec 31, Jan 1 and Jan 2** re-opening on Monday Jan 5. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Free and open to the public

The Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, The Friends of GNFAC and the Yellowstone Association sponsor this introductory seminar. Topics include: avalanche terrain recognition, the affect weather has on avalanche hazard, the development of the mountain snowpack, decision making skills, and basic search and rescue procedures.

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Thanks everyone,
Deb
Mailroom

The new ice trekkers are in at the warehouse. The small size was ordered because the monster grips were too big for the 4-7 shoe sizes. Please give us some kind of feedback on them.
Thanks-Safety Office

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.

Yellowstone Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 21, 2014



Participate in a century-old tradition! Spend a morning or longer counting and enjoying birds in the Mammoth-Gardiner area. If you like birds, this **free** event is for you. Beginning birders will count with more experienced birders.

To receive a driving or walking route for counting birds:

Meeting Location Best Western restaurant in Gardiner

Time 7 AM

Bring Binoculars, warm clothing, water or hot beverage and snacks.



For more information or to sign up for a route, please call Woody Martyn at 406-224-1476 or contact Katy Duffy at 307-344-2296, katy_duffy@nps.gov



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.

Noon-time Yoga is back!!!

Robin Park, a certified yoga instructor, will be having noon-time yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, in the Mammoth Rec. Hall. Cost is \$5 per class.

Sponsored by the Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Program (YCERP). If you have questions, please call Leigh Ann Wright at (307) 344-5225.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Monday Marks Start Of Yellowstone's Winter Season

Yellowstone National Park will open to the public for motorized oversnow travel as scheduled on Monday morning, December 15.

Recent warm weather and limited snowfall has resulted in very little snowpack on many of the park's interior roads. Until appreciable snowfall is received and conditions on the park's packed, groomed roads improve:

- Visitors will be able to take commercially and non-commercially guided snowmobile trips or travel by commercial snowcoach between the park's South Entrance and Old Faithful.
- Commercial snowcoaches with rubber tracks or large oversnow tires or other high clearance commercial wheeled vehicles will be permitted to transport visitors between West Yellowstone and Old Faithful.
- Commercial snowcoaches with rubber tracks or large oversnow tires will be permitted to offer visitor travel on road segments linking Mammoth Hot Springs, Norris, Madison, Canyon, and the northern end of Hayden Valley.

The road from the northern end of Hayden Valley through Fishing Bridge Junction to West Thumb is not currently suitable for any type of guided visitor travel. Travel through the park's East Entrance over Sylvan Pass to Fishing Bridge is scheduled to begin Sunday, December 22.

Park staff members will continue to closely monitor conditions and weather forecasts. Additional sections of the park will open to guided snowmobile and snowcoach travel as soon as enough new snow permits.

The road from the park's North Entrance at Gardiner, Mont., through Mammoth Hot Springs and on to Cooke City, Mont., outside the park's Northeast Entrance is open to automobile travel all year.

At Old Faithful, the Geyser Grill, the Bear Den Gift Shop, and the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center open for the season on December 15. The Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins and the Obsidian Dining Room open on Thursday, December 18.

The Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, dining room, and gift shop will open for the season on Saturday, December 20. The Yellowstone General Store, the medical clinic, campground, post office, 24-hour gasoline pumps, and the Visitor Center at Mammoth Hot Springs are open all year.

All communities around and on the way to Yellowstone are open year-round, with local businesses offering a wide range of winter recreation opportunities. Extensive information and assistance for planning a visit to Yellowstone is available on the park web site at <http://www.nps.gov/yell>.

IN THE NEWS

Two environmental studies could increase freedom for Yellowstone bison

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Posted: Sunday, December 14, 2014 12:15 am

BOZEMAN — Gardiner resident Bonnie Lynn is bracing herself for another gut-wrenching bison hunt north of Yellowstone National Park.

The snows inside the park haven't mounted high enough to prompt the bison to seek the lower ground near Gardiner and West Yellowstone. But once it does, Lynn, her neighbors and the tourists who rent her guest cabin along Beattie Gulch near the park border will be in the thick of the shooting and the bison entrails left behind by successful hunters.

Lynn had the peace and quiet of her getaway for several years but lost it two years ago when the bison hunt was reauthorized. Since hunters have to wait for the bison to leave the park, they wait for their chance in the open Forest Service land near Beattie Gulch and the bison don't get much farther.

Lynn said the killing has affected her business and her peace of mind.

"This has been so tragic, and it's way more than unsightly gut piles," Lynn said. "This year, we anticipate it will be way more than 185 (bison) killed on five acres in front of our driveway. These animals should have a broader landscape and a safe and ethical hunt. I can understand the Native Americans' desire to hunt, but this is not respectful of the animal."

Some people have recently suggested ways to take the pressure off Beattie Gulch — move hunting farther inside or farther outside the park — but both have legal hurdles.

But it's possible that two imminent changes — one to bison management near West Yellowstone and the other to management of Yellowstone bison overall — may lead to better possibilities in the future.

Four tribes — the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Montana, and the Nez Perce, Umatilla and Shoshone-Bannock in Idaho — have treaty rights to hunt Yellowstone bison. Montana hunters also get a limited number of tags.

With only two places to hunt — near Gardiner and West Yellowstone — hunters would like to stalk bison on a broader landscape.

“Coming from a ranching family, I can see it from both sides. I can understand some of the concerns that ranchers have,” said Kootenai wildlife manager Tom McDonald. “But what we really need to do is just allow bison to get out and express themselves on the landscape, and over time through our diligence, people can become accustomed to them on the landscape.”

But so far, ranchers’ concerns have constrained wandering bison to bulges of land near the park, creating problems with gut piles, over-grazing and ultimately population control.

As of this summer, about 4,900 bison lived inside the park. The northern herd, which migrates out near Gardiner during the winter, has 3,500, and the rest belong to the central herd, which trundles out near West Yellowstone.

That’s more than ranchers and the Montana Department of Livestock want.

So during recent Interagency Bison Management Plan meetings, DOL representatives pushed for the removal of as many as 1,000 bison through hunting or capture-and-slaughter this winter.

Last winter, about 650 animals were removed, half by hunters.

The IBMP partners reached a tentative compromise of 900 for this year.

But as of three weeks ago, the tribes were still trying to work that number down, worried that the cull would select against animals with migratory tendencies. Plus, a larger herd means more animals leave the park, providing more hunting opportunity.

State veterinarian Marty Zaluski opposed any drop in the number and dismissed hunting as a primary tool. He suggested the tribes would get more opportunity if tribes could hunt bison inside the park.

Although a few were interested, it would require an act of Congress, said Dave Hallac, Yellowstone Center for Resources director.

“These suggestions have come up informally several times over the past few years,” Hallac said. “Part of the reason for establishing the park was to protect animals from hunting. So hunting is not compatible with the existing laws.”

Park County Commissioner Marty Malone said he thinks those laws might not be as strong for parts of the park that poke farther into Montana.

Malone cites a 2005 paper by Lee Whittlesey that describes how the 7,600-acre area called the Cinnabar Triangle near Gardiner was added to the park after 1925 by executive order of President Theodore Roosevelt. The park was established in 1872.

“(The park) determined early on that elk needed forage — they weren’t worried about bison,” Malone said. “My theory is that it’s no different than Forest Service ground. As I read it, it was an executive order to purchase the property so it would just take an executive order to allow hunting. It would take the pressure off those homeowners.”

Hallac said he didn't think it worked that way. But if that land were opened to hunting, it would just push bison back farther in to the park.

"The bison don't like being shot at, and they run back in the park. Sometimes they run miles, and you would have to move the boundary again," Hallac said. "I think people need to take a harder look at the problem we are trying to solve. The only reason we have to manage bison is because they aren't treated as wildlife."

Some of the bison that run back into the park now end up in the bison trap at Stevens Creek just inside the park and are shipped to slaughter.

McDonald said the CSKT tribal council voted to support the slaughter effort this year. But they also encourage transporting the animals across the park to augment the dwindling central herd.

Others suggest trucking bison to Cutler Meadows to spread the hunt to the north end of the Gardiner Basin.

The park has resisted such shipments so far because it would intervene in natural processes.

"If you're going to intervene - round up bison at Stevens Creek - why don't you haul them over and restore them into the upper Gallatin, much of which is inside the park?" said Gallatin Wildlife Association President Glenn Hockett. "And then there's the opportunities outside the park."

—
Those opportunities, both inside and outside the park, may expand in the near future.

After a year's delay, more area around Hebgen Lake may open up to bison year-round.

The DOL and FWP conducted an environmental study of allowing bison onto almost 422,000 acres of national forest land with no cattle in the upper Gallatin Basin.

The majority of almost 120,000 public comments submitted in September 2013 supported the proposal.

It stalled in May after the Board of Livestock refused to vote on the study, saying it would wait for a new Yellowstone bison management plan, which is only in initial development.

In response, Gov. Steve Bullock ordered FWP to develop a compromise option, Alternative G, which would base the size of the area bison could use on the population inside the park.

The comment period closed on Thursday, and the governor will probably decide within a few months.

Livestock producers regularly demand that park adhere to the old IBMP population objective of between 3,000 and 3,500 bison.

So Alternative G allows bison to roam the largest area of almost 256,000 acres of national forest if the population is below 3,500 but allows no change to current conditions when the population exceeds 4,500.

Bison advocates protest that the compromise forces the park to slaughter bison.

"It's worse than no action. Alternative B, the proposed action, was already a compromise," Hockett said.

CSKT hunters use the area west of the park more than the Gardiner basin, so they'd like to see more bison there. But McDonald said even Alternative G would be a win.

"I'm one of the ones who thinks the population should be larger. But (Former FWP supervisor) Pat Flowers told me from the get-go that you make progress by baby steps," McDonald said.

Bart Melton, of the National Parks Conservation Association, said the NPCA questioned the conditions connecting acreage to population size.

"The reality is that only Yellowstone's central herd would use those lands. So we're saying attach the habitat only to the population of the central herd. There's only 1,400 bison in that central herd and that's pretty far below 3,500," Melton said. "The larger question of the population as a whole - let's address that in the new bison conservation plan."

{span style="font-size: 16px;"} Anticipation of the new plan is already growing.

In March, Hallac proposed a new bison plan to account for all the changes that have occurred since 2000 when the first plan was developed, including greater tolerance and better information about brucellosis.

FWP Region 3 supervisor Sam Sheppard said the formal notice of intent would be published soon. Scoping meetings will follow before an environmental study is compiled.

Many have high hopes for the new plan but are worried at the loss of IBMP leadership.

Flowers retired this year, YNP supervisor Dan Wenk is temporarily working for a year for the National Park Foundation, and Hallac will be leaving Dec. 15 to be the superintendent of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Hallac said his staff has been involved all along so his departure would not delay the IBMP progress.

Many already know what they'd like to see.

Some hope the bison population objective will be modified, some want greater emphasis on brucellosis vaccination and eradication, while others, such as the NPCA, foresee greater freedom for bison as wildlife in Montana.

"The science tells us that separation between bison and cattle has worked. So let's capitalize on that and use the habitat in Montana where there is zero chance of conflict occurring. Allow bison to be managed more like other wildlife species in Montana," Melton said.

Hockett wants to promote the "Swiss-cheese" model where bison are allowed to roam as wildlife but are hazed to keep them out of holes or areas where livestock producers don't want them. But he knows the DOL will resist that.

"We already have elk on the greater Yellowstone landscape that pose a larger brucellosis risk. To say bison are the brucellosis boogeyman, I think that argument has gone away," Hockett said.

McDonald said the tribes have suggested manipulating habitat inside the park to redistribute the bison between the herds and leave the park at different times.

“That’s one of the things we push. Habitat has been manipulated for bison for thousands of years. Native peoples have used fire as a tool to direct where animals would be, specifically for harvesting,” McDonald said.

But Sheppard said any big change in the IBMP is still a few years out, so Lynn and her neighbors will have to endure a few more grisly winters.

“We’re looking to take what we’ve learned and use that as a new starting point for a conversation,” Sheppard said. “We haven’t gotten to scoping yet, but I’m anticipating a significant number of comments.”

Read more: http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/two-environmental-studies-could-increase-freedom-for-yellowstone-bison/article_35ba8cf0-8261-11e4-9054-c7b67dd86370.html?mode=story

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Delaware North presents donation to local school district

Posted: Friday, December 12, 2014 6:00 am

[Delaware North presents donation to local school district](#)

By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News

Enhanced learning opportunities are just around the corner at the West Yellowstone School District, as Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts donated \$10,000 to the district in front of the student population last Thursday morning.

The money will be spend on SMART boards, which take the place of a traditional chalkboard by using technological advances that allow interaction on the large screen. SMART boards run a price of around \$2,700 a piece, and offer an interactive experience for students to become engaged in during school.

According to district superintendent Mary Margaret Williams, this will help the district in improving their technology, which is a goal they are working towards.

Williams says the boards will be a great tool for the classes, as teachers can download lessons, save notes, have students interact with problems on the boards, enhanced demonstrations, videos and more.

“Our goal is to get them in all the classrooms,” she said. “All of the elementary classrooms will now have them, along with a few secondary classrooms, including math.”

The superintendent says the boards will have multiple uses, and are essentially a computer that doubles as a whiteboard. She says without the donation from Delaware North, the district would have been able to only purchase one SMART board this year.

“This kind of technology comes with a high price tag,” she said. “We didn’t have the money to provide SMART boards. Providing teachers with this tool will definitely improve their instruction. They’ve definitely filled a need. Without that, we wouldn’t be able to provide these for our teachers.”

Williams says they should have the SMART boards within the next few months, and says she's very appreciative of Delaware North for their support of the West Yellowstone School District.

"The teachers have been wanting SMART boards, so this is huge," she said.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 707 AM MST MON DEC 15 2014

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Tonight: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 4 to 10.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 24 to 30.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Lows 15 to 21.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 24 to 30.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows around 13.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, December 16, 2014



The night provided performances from kids big and little, along with some help in lighting the tree at the annual tree lighting potluck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IN THE NEWS

Pneumonia outbreak kills 10 bighorns in Gardiner area

16 hours ago • Billings Gazette

Ten bighorn sheep have died over the past two weeks following an outbreak of pneumonia in a herd that lives along the upper Yellowstone River near Gardiner.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff has collected a mix of dead rams, lambs and one adult ewe and taken them to the state wildlife lab in Bozeman, where all were determined to have died from pneumonia.

Historically, pneumonia affects bighorn sheep herds differently. According to FWP wildlife veterinarian Jennifer Ramsey, "Sometimes we'll see a large scale, all age die-off in which most of the population dies, and that population never really rebounds. Yet in other herds we seem to see a low-level mortality year after year."

In the Gardiner area, bighorn sheep have experienced a small number of pneumonia cases each of the last few years, but not to this extent.

It is not possible to detect the source of the pneumonia outbreak.

Pneumonia outbreaks have occurred in bighorn sheep populations with no known contact with domestic sheep (or goats). However, research has shown bacteria can be transmitted from healthy domestic sheep (or goats) to bighorn sheep, causing pneumonia in the wild sheep. There are currently flocks of domestic sheep in the area.

FWP, within its scope of authority, works to ensure separation of domestic and wild sheep. This includes the lethal removal of any wild sheep known to have been in direct contact with a domestic sheep.

In the meantime, FWP encourages the public to keep their distance from the Gardiner bighorn sheep, especially at this time as they are stressed. People are asked to report any sick, coughing or dead sheep to the Region 3 headquarters — or wild sheep in close proximity to domestic sheep — by calling 406-994-4042.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/pneumonia-outbreak-kills-bighorns-in-gardiner-area/article_469ca087-fd8c-5da5-8982-b2564d09aa15.html#ixzz3M4x13jGC

Cow tests positive for brucellosis after grazing in Park County

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Posted: Monday, December 15, 2014 5:08 pm

Within one week of a report of brucellosis being found in a Madison County herd, a second cow has tested positive, this time related to activities in Park County.

The cow belongs to a Carbon County rancher and was recently tested after it had spent time grazing on property leased in Park County, which is in the Designated Surveillance Area for brucellosis.

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, confirmed late Friday that the test was positive for the bacterial disease, according to Department of Livestock state veterinarian Marty Zaluski.

Zaluski said the same cow tested negative when it left Park County last year so it was probably exposed to the disease this year.

Previous investigations of livestock in Montana as well as Idaho and Wyoming indicated that elk are the most likely source of brucellosis.

The DOL will consult with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to analyze elk movement in Park County where the cattle were grazing.

The affected cattle herd is now quarantined in Carbon County while the rest of the animals are tested.

On Dec. 5, Zaluski reported that a cow in Madison County had tested positive. The rest of that herd has since been tested and no other animals tested positive.

“That’s an infection rate of less than one-tenth of 1 percent,” Zaluski said. “It shows that our program is working, that we are finding infected animals before the disease can spread.”

Created to maintain the brucellosis-free status of the rest of the state, the Designated Surveillance Area is a region in southwest Montana surrounding Yellowstone National Park where the disease has been documented in elk. It includes areas in Beaverhead, Gallatin, Madison and Park counties.

All ranchers working within the area must test for the disease if they move their cattle out of the region or sell their animals.

If any animal within the surveillance area tests positive, the rancher has to test his entire herd, but it has no effect on any other ranchers in Montana.

Read more: http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/wildlife/cow-tests-positive-for-brucellosis-after-grazing-in-park-county/article_a7bac1d2-84b7-11e4-aedb-e331244dfad9.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: 722 AM MST TUE DEC 16 2014

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

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 15 to 21.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 25 to 31. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows around 14.

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

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 11 to 17.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, December 17, 2014





“Olive” this time of year! Photos from the progressive holiday party.
A wonderful turnout and what a spread of food!
(CRO winter wonderland, REYP sweets shop, Maint. Sandwich Islands, YCR lumberjacks)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Friends of Gallatin NF Avalanche Center (GNFAC) present **Avalanche Awareness Seminar**. **TOMORROW, 9:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.** Yellowstone Association HQ Classrooms in Gardiner, MT
Free and open to the public

The Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, The Friends of GNFAC and the Yellowstone Association sponsor this introductory seminar. Topics include: avalanche terrain recognition, the affect weather has on avalanche hazard, the development of the mountain snowpack, decision making skills, and basic search and rescue procedures.

For more information, contact: Zachary Park, YA Program Manager at (406) 848-2850



The Polar Express movie + Gingerbread house making + Potluck
TOMORROW at the MCC starting at 5:30pm. MCC will provide the graham crackers and icing for the gingerbread houses. Please bring a dish to pass, decorations for your gingerbread house and pj's to watch the movie.
 See you there!



The copy center will be closed on Friday. If you have any print or copy requests, please get them to me as soon as you can. The mail room will be open for business and mail will be metered and taken to the Post Office. If you need assistance on Friday and you don't see anyone in the mail room, please contact someone at the supply center. The copiers will be on, so if you need to print something, the supply center folks will get it for you.

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Meeting Location Best Western restaurant in Gardiner

Time 7 AM

Bring Binoculars, warm clothing, water or hot beverage and snacks.



For more information or to sign up for a route, please call Woody Martyn at 406-224-1476 or contact Katy Duffy at 307-344-2296, katy_duffy@nps.gov

Join us for the Mid-Winter Bald and Golden Eagle Survey Saturday January 10, 2015 to document bald and golden eagles wintering in and around Yellowstone. This is an ongoing national citizen science effort with participation by Yellowstone since 1987. Surveys begin ~ 8am and end at noon or earlier. Everyone welcome. To sign up send me an email with your preferred area (see below) to Lisa Baril (Lisa_Baril@partner.nps.gov) by January 6. Observers must provide their own transportation, but I will help coordinate rides among volunteers.

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The new ice trekkers are in at the warehouse. The small size was ordered because the monster grips were too big for the 4-7 shoe sizes. Please give us some kind of feedback on them.
 Thanks-Safety Office

Noon-time Yoga is back!!!

Robin Park, a certified yoga instructor, will be having noon-time yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, in the Mammoth Rec. Hall. Cost is \$5 per class.

Sponsored by the Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Program (YCERP). If you have questions, please call Leigh Ann Wright at (307) 344-5225.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Geyser Eruption Predictions Now Available On Your Smartphone and Tablet

The largest concentration of active geysers in the world—approximately half of the world's total— is found in Yellowstone.



You can now discover the natural wonder of the most famous geyser of all, Old Faithful, and other geysers with a free app that you can use during your visit to the park and at home. The new app will help you find out when Old Faithful and five other predictable geysers could erupt.

The app also features a link to a webcam so that you can view live eruptions of Old Faithful and other nearby geysers. The FAQ section provides answers to several of the frequently asked questions that explain how a few geysers can be predicted and other fascinating details about Yellowstone's geysers.

You can follow the Social Media Feed and see what's happening in Yellowstone by browsing the park's Twitter, YouTube and Flickr sites. Because every eruption is different, the app's Photo Gallery contains an array of geyser eruption photos.

The NPS Geysers app was developed in partnership with Dr. Brett Oppegaard, Washington State University (Vancouver) and University of Hawaii, and the National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park and Harpers Ferry Center. The app was made possible, in part, by a donation from Canon USA, Inc., through the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

The NPS Geysers app is now available in the Google Play Store and in the Apple App Store.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 907 AM MST WED DEC 17 2014

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Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 12 to 18.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 18, 2014



Zach...working on the budget?

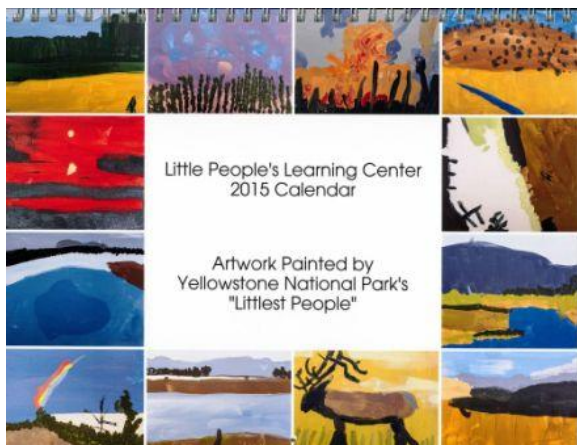
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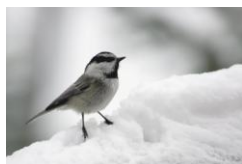
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Thank you to everyone that came to the Christmas Tree Lighting on Monday! The event was a huge success, perhaps one of the biggest turnouts in the last few years. Little Peoples Learning Center and Snoopy School would like to thank everyone that came out to support this fun evening.

The copy center will be closed on Friday. If you have any print or copy requests, please get them to me as soon as you can. The mail room will be open for business and mail will be metered and taken to the Post Office. If you need assistance on Friday and you don't see anyone in the mail room, please contact someone at the supply center. The copiers will be on, so if you need to print something, the supply center folks will get it for you.

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 707 AM MST WED DEC 17 2014

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

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 16 to 22.

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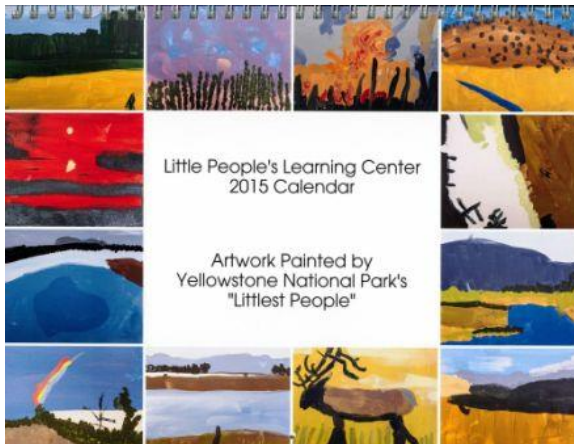
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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, December 19, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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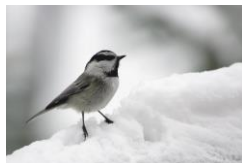
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Because of limited staffing over the holidays, the **Heritage and Research Center** will be closed starting next Wednesday until Monday, January 5. If you have questions or immediate research needs, we will try to accommodate them, but the response time may be longer and research appointments will have to be made in advance.



A big thank you to all of those who donated and helped transport pajamas! We collected 68 pairs of pj's and 2 books for children and families in Park County. Happy Holidays!!

You are invited to a special program: **“Pathways to the Past: Twelve Thousand Years of Prehistory and History in Yellowstone National Park”** Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00 PM. This presentation is free and located in the Gardiner School multi-purpose room.

Join us for the Mid-Winter Bald and Golden Eagle Survey Saturday January 10, 2015 to document bald and golden eagles wintering in and around Yellowstone. This is an ongoing national citizen science effort with participation by Yellowstone since 1987. Surveys begin ~ 8am and end at noon or earlier. Everyone welcome. To sign up send me an email with your preferred area (see below) to Lisa Baril (Lisa_Baril@partner.nps.gov) by January 6. Observers must provide their own transportation, but I will help coordinate rides among volunteers.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 823 AM MST FRI DEC 19 2014**Winter Storm Watch for Northwest Wyoming from Saturday evening through Monday morning**

Rest Of Today: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 15 to 21.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 24 to 30.

Saturday Night: Cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Sunday: Snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 4 inches. Highs 27 to 33. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Sunday Night: Snow. Light snow accumulations. Lows 18 to 24. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Monday: Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Light snow accumulations. Highs 27 to 33. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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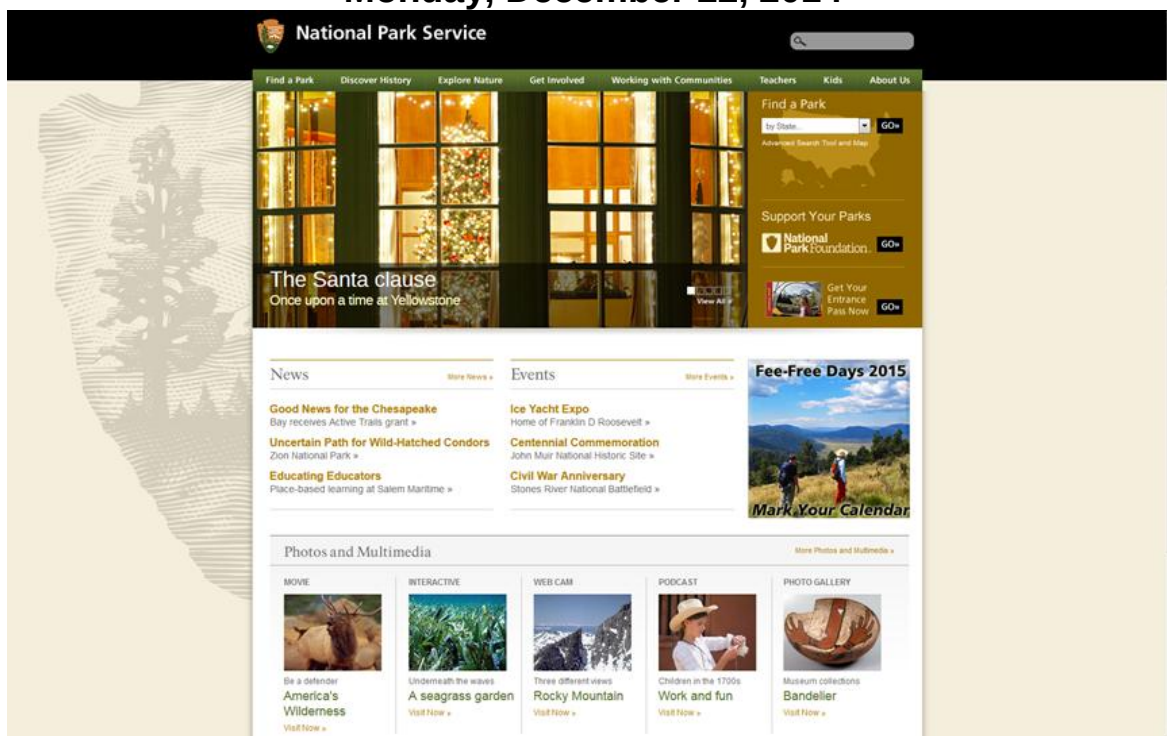
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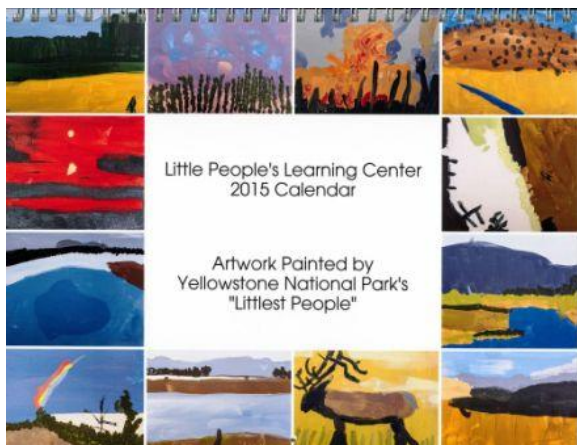
A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, December 22, 2014



A screen shot of the YELL feature that went live this morning. You can see it on-line at www.nps.gov through December 25. This feature links to the web page titled "How Three Kids Saved Yellowstone's Christmas."

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Upper 8 plex YCC 12/18/14 am
Watch out the bison are back in the Mammoth area!
(photo by Yasmine Alkhatib)

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All Mammoth/Gardiner residents are invited to **recycle holiday trees and greens**, Dec. 26-Jan. 31, by simply dropping-off at the following locations:



Mammoth - Beside any dumpster
Gardiner - Designated area behind the Heritage and Research Center
(Next to Gardiner School)

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IN THE NEWS

Park Service finds major problems at Yellowstone jail

December 19, 2014 11:18 am • By Ruffin Prevost Yellowstone Gate

CODY, Wyo. — The National Park Service has changed how it manages a short-term detention site in Yellowstone National Park after a review of operations there found serious deficiencies, and even recommended a temporary closure of the facility.

After inspections of lockups at Yellowstone and Yosemite National Park conducted a year ago by the Department of the Interior Office of Inspector General, auditors determined that the Yellowstone lockup “did not provide effective security.”

An OIG management advisory issued Jan. 13 and based on health and safety concerns recommended closure of the Yellowstone jail until changes could be implemented.

The report noted that Yellowstone failed to comply with “departmental requirements regarding inmate monitoring, inspections, emergency planning and evacuation planning.”

Many OIG concerns focused on how the facility, which is located in Mammoth Hot Springs in a separate building from the Yellowstone Justice Center, was usually unstaffed, and was typically monitored only by closed-circuit television.

But Yellowstone’s jail was not closed, because park managers began to make changes recommended by the report, said Jeffrey G. Olson, public affairs chief for the Park Service.

Olson was unable to provide a copy of the OIG advisory that recommended closure, or a Jan. 27 response by the Park Service.

After a request made Dec. 16 by Yellowstone Gate, Olson cited “people on annual leave combined with upcoming holidays” as cause for delay in locating copies of the documents.

The main OIG audit report, issued May 8 and publicly released last month, noted that the Park Service in its January response “concurred with the recommendation in the management advisory and had begun to take action.”

According to a Park Service compliance report provided by Olson, those changes included: on-site monitoring of inmates, developing appropriate written plans and policies and working to establish third-party inspections of the jail.

Long history of lockups

The inspections at Yellowstone and Yosemite were made as part of a review of how the National Park Service conducts operations at detention facilities at sites ranging from the Grand Canyon to Lake Mead. Inspectors chose to visit lockups at Yellowstone and Yosemite because “these two parks have a long history of operating lockup facilities” and “both parks feature federal courthouses presided over by resident magistrate judges,” the report stated.

Like Yosemite, Yellowstone reports arrests of approximately 150 people each year, and most inmates are not held longer than 48 hours.

Auditors “found that detention officers did not directly supervise inmates,” and only personally observed inmates “when delivering meals or transporting inmates to the Yellowstone Justice Center,” less than a half-mile away.

Interior Department guidelines require that rangers personally observe inmates at least once every half hour, a widely followed standard for detention facilities. But Yellowstone’s lockup was not regularly staffed by anyone, according to the report.

Dispatch personnel stationed about a quarter-mile from the lockup remotely monitored detainees by closed-circuit television. But “a dispatcher would only be aware of an emergency at the lockup if he or she saw it on the CCTV or if an inmate pressed a call button to speak with a dispatcher,” the report said.

Dispatchers were trained to report emergencies to Mammoth Hot Springs district rangers responsible for the lockup, but auditors “were told that a dispatcher could be occupied by other work during the busy season, and might not monitor the lockup CCTV for several hours at a time.”

Range of noncompliance

The report found Yellowstone was not compliant or was only partially compliant with 19 out of 20 key guidelines mandated by Interior Department standards. Among the management deficiencies cited were that Yellowstone’s lockup:

- lacked a formal inspection program to review operations, equipment and facilities.
- had not developed required written policy manuals, emergency plans or evacuation plans.
- had not conducted required emergency training and did not have a formal general-staff training program.
- lacked enough female officers to routinely conduct pat-downs and searches of female inmates.
- lacked written policies about inmate behavior, methods of processing new inmates and handling medical issues.

Construction was completed in 2008 on the 14,700-square-foot Yellowstone Justice Center, which replaced a cramped judicial building half that size constructed in 1903, and first used as an engineer’s office. Part of the initial reason for building the new \$6.8 million YJC was to create a new detention facility.

“Ultimately, funding precluded that from happening,” Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said in an email.

Budget constraints meant delaying construction on a planned detention wing initially meant to be part of the new YJC, according to public comments made in 2007 by project manager Vickie Roseberry. The proposed detention wing was then considered as a future second phase of the project, but no plans have moved forward on that front.

Instead, a guard house built by the U.S. Army in 1911 is still being used as the park’s lockup, as it has been for more than a century.

“The facility was refurbished in 2009 to modern jail standards,” Nash said. “It contains 4 cells and can hold up to 18 prisoners.”

Following the rules

Alex Friedmann, managing editor of Prison Legal News and an advocate for prisoners’ rights and criminal justice reform, said it was “somewhat ironic that the federal government wasn’t following its own rules.”

“It’s usually the case that the federal government is very big on making sure regulations are followed by everyone,” Friedmann said. “If you’re going to run a lockup and deprive people of one of their fundamental rights, maybe you need to do it properly and according to your own rules,” he said.

Failing to monitor prisoners presents a serious safety issue, particularly regarding medical issues, Friedmann said.

Someone locked up, for instance, for driving under the influence could suffer a short time later from drug- or alcohol-related health problems that require immediate care. But the detainee might go unnoticed for hours, Friedmann said, especially if a remote video feed wasn’t monitored or the medical problem wasn’t obvious on video.

Friedmann also questioned why Yellowstone — once a remote outpost plagued by 19th-century poachers and accessible only on horseback — still needs its own separate federal jail and courthouse.

“If you’re only locking up 150 people per year, why can’t the Park Service contract with nearby local agencies to handle their detainees?” he said. “It’s kind of a self-fulfilling prophecy that if you invest a lot of money in these facilities, then you need to justify the cost and fill it.”

It was unclear what consequences, if any, responsible Park Service employees faced for the deficiencies in handling detainees.

Olson, the public affairs chief, said he had “no idea” whether any Yellowstone employee had faced disciplinary measures for failing to follow Interior Department procedures. He did not follow through on a request made Tuesday to find out.

Yellowstone Gate has filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act for the January management advisory and response, as well as all other records related to the OIG inspection and Park Service response.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/park-service-finds-major-problems-at-yellowstone-jail/article_ebc8d898-0195-5e5b-b4ce-7af4604fa447.html#ixzz3MdtPziPb

Study: Transplanted Yellowstone herd is genetically diverse

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Friday, December 19, 2014 5:00 pm

A recent scientific study revealed that Yellowstone bison are genetically pure and diverse, but quarantine operations should select individuals to retain that diversity in offshoot herds.

Genetic research conducted by Colorado State University, Texas A&M University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed a number of details about Yellowstone bison while analyzing the bison used in the recently completed quarantine study.

Tribes and other groups have treasured the Yellowstone bison as the herd that is most closely related to the plains bison.

While other groups of bison that survived the slaughter of the late 19th century were bred with cattle, most people assumed the Yellowstone herd had escaped such interbreeding.

Like other studies before it, this research found no cattle genes among the Yellowstone herd, confirming genetic purity.

In addition, researchers found that, unlike some bison herds, the Yellowstone herd contained a significant amount of genetic diversity. The Yellowstone herd is the largest wild herd in the U.S., even though its numbers are controlled, and that may help maintain its genetic variety.

However, the genetics of the two subpopulations within Yellowstone – the northern herd and the central herd – are slightly different, and the larger northern herd is slightly less genetically diverse. But this is the herd that supplied all the quarantine animals in 2006.

When small groups of animals are separated from a larger population, they carry less genetic variation than the population as a whole.

When scientists sampled the 200 bison used for the quarantine feasibility study, they found slightly lower genetic diversity, although the group was still robust.

The study did note that some females in the quarantined group weren't effective mothers and deserted their calves in favor of other calves.

They attributed the problem to the fact that all the quarantined bison were only a year old when they were caught so they were immature. Also the quarantine facility didn't provide enough room for the bison mothers to bond with their calves in seclusion.

Now that the majority of these bison are reunited on the Fort Peck Reservation, they can continue to breed amongst themselves, which is better for retaining genetic diversity than the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposal to split the group among four locations.

And because the study found that almost all the males father at least one calf, the transplanted herd can continue passing those genes down, reducing the effects of inbreeding.

That might not have been the case if bison behaved like elk where one dominant male tends to breed with all the females in his harem.

But scientists noted that while the most dominant bison bulls bred with the most females, all bulls were successful in passing their genes to offspring so few genes would be lost.

However, even the most diverse small herd cannot stay healthy in the long run with no new blood. Eventually, some genes are lost through a process called genetic drift.

So the scientists recommended the future infusion of more Yellowstone bison into the herd and that the bison selected for transplant should be some of the most diverse based upon DNA analysis.

The authors concluded that "ongoing genetic monitoring of these herds after reintroduction to the wild could facilitate the long-term conservation of genetic diversity and preservation of the American bison species."

The research was published in the December issue of the journal Wildlife Biology.

Read more: http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/wildlife/study-transplanted-yellowstone-herd-is-genetically-diverse/article_33e84726-87db-11e4-8c17-cb1888876a32.html?utm_medium=desktop&utm_source=block_674295&utm_campaign=blog

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 852 AM MST MON DEC 22 2014

Today: Breezy. Numerous snow showers. New snow accumulation around 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 1 to 3 inches. Highs 20 to 26. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy then becoming partly cloudy after midnight then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated snow

showers early in the evening...then occasional flurries in the late evening and early morning. Lows 1 to 7. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 18 to 24.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 10 to 16.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 24 to 30.

Wednesday Night: Snow likely. Light snow accumulations. Lows 14 to 20. Chance of snow 70 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!

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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

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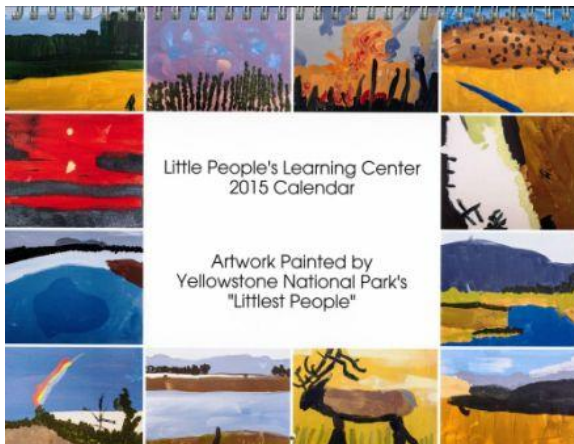
YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, December 23, 2014



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Need a last minute gift? How about a **Little People's Learning Center 2015 calendar** featuring Yellowstone artwork by the kids. They are a wonderful gift for that hard to buy for person on your list and are only \$15!! There are also cards with the artwork available \$2.50 a piece or 5 for \$10. Contact Mary Kay Woodin at 344-2059 or Amy Bartlett 344-2013 to grab a gift today!



Upper 8 plex YCC 12/18/14 am
Watch out the bison are back in the Mammoth area!
(photo by Yasmine Alkhatib)

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

East Entrance Of Yellowstone National Park Opens For The Winter Season

Commercial and non-commercially guided snowmobiles and all types of snowcoaches may now travel from the park's East Entrance over Sylvan Pass to Fishing Bridge Junction.

Due to various road restrictions in place, travelers should consult the current road conditions map at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkroads.htm>.

Road status can change with little warning due to adverse weather conditions which could require temporary road closures to all oversnow travel.

Park staff continue to closely monitor oversnow road conditions and weather forecasts. Temporary restrictions will be removed once conditions improve.

The road from the park's North Entrance at Gardiner, Mont., through Mammoth Hot Springs and on to Cooke City, Mont., outside the park's Northeast Entrance, is open to automobile travel all year.

Extensive information and assistance for planning a visit to Yellowstone is available on the park web site at <http://www.nps.gov/yell>.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 837 AM MST MON DEC 23 2014

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 18 to 24.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 12.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 29.

Wednesday Night: Cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Lows 16 to 22. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Christmas Day: Snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation around 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 to 6 inches. Highs 19 to 25. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Thursday Night: Colder. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows around 5.

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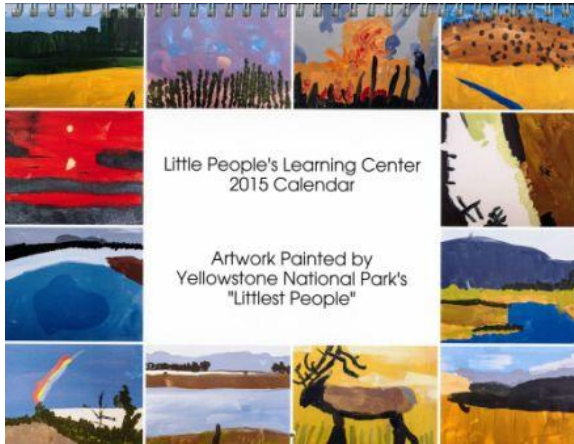
(photo by Peter Galindo)

To the delight of Aquanauts everywhere, Xanterra took delivery of a new submarine yesterday! The 60 foot submarine, "Lava Swimmer" will be used for underwater excursions in Lake Yellowstone this summer. With its enhanced ice breaking capabilities it will begin sea trials this spring with full operation planned for June.

Or it could be a new 30,000 underground propane tank to serve the Gardiner facility, but I like the first story better...

ANNOUNCEMENTS-YNP@Work will be on hiatus until **Monday January 5th**. Happy New Year!

Superintendent Dan Wenk and Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst, agree with the Director's memo about recognizing NPS employee's for their hard work and dedication throughout 2014. YELL employees who are scheduled to work on Wednesday, December, 24, will be granted 3 hours admin leave in advance of the employee's normal departure time with supervisor's approval. Dan, Steve and I would also like to extend our best wishes for a safe, warm and happy holiday season to you, your family and friends. We will see you in the New Year!!! Jan Laye-Superintendent's Office



Need a last minute gift? How about a **Little People's Learning Center 2015 calendar** featuring Yellowstone artwork by the kids. They are a wonderful gift for that hard to buy for person on your list and are only \$15!! There are also cards with the artwork available \$2.50 a piece or 5 for \$10. Contact Mary Kay Woodin at 344-2059 or Amy Bartlett 344-2013 to grab a gift today!

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EMPLOYEE RECREATION

The winter recreation program is underway! The Mammoth employee recreation hall, located behind the Mammoth Hotel, is open to all park employees and their immediate family members 5 am – Midnight, seven days a week. The hall includes an exercise area with free weights, weight machines, ellipticals and a treadmill. You'll also find a full court basketball court, ping pong table and lending library where you can donate or pick out a book or magazine. We ask that you bring a second clean pair of shoes while using the sports court or weight and aerobic area. Our activity calendars can be found on <http://www.ycerp.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunchtime Yoga -- Robin Park, a certified yoga instructor, will host lunchtime yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays in late December and into January in the Mammoth Rec. Hall. Cost is \$5 per class. Upcoming classes: Dec 24, 29. Jan. 5, 7, 12, 14 (last Wednesday class), 19, 26. If you have questions, please call Leigh Ann Wright at (307) 344-5225.

Full Moon Ski to Tower Fall -- Monday, January 5th, 6:00 pm. Sign up in the Parkwide Recreation Office or call 344-5224. Cost is \$2. Meet in the Mammoth Employee Recreation Hall.

The 7th Annual Employee Ski Trip to Grand Targhee Resort! Details below.

WHEN	• Depart: Friday, January 23rd 2015 • Return: Sunday, January 25th 2015
WHAT'S INCLUDED	• Round trip bus transportation from YNP to ski resort • Two nights lodging slopeside at the luxury Teewinot lodge • Full day / full access lift pass • Some food, snacks, and a \$20 gift card for the resort that can be used in any of the restaurants or shops
COST	• Basic Rate (Alpine Quad): \$185 per employee (Quad Occupancy) • See alternate rates below
SIGN UP DEADLINE	• You must sign up / reserve a space no later than <u>January 15, 2015</u> • You must pay in advance to reserve a space
HOW TO SIGN UP FOR MORE INFORMATION	• Call Leigh Ann Wright (YCERP Director): 344-5225 • Call Andrew Coghill (YCERP Assistant Director): 344-5224 • Please leave a detailed message and contact information if we cannot answer your call. • Stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office (in Mammoth next to Conf. Room)

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

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

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

This trip is provided by the Yellowstone Co-Op Employee Recreation Program (YCERP)

We will have irregular office hours during the holidays. Please call the Parkwide Office at 344-5225 or 344-5224.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 852 AM MST WED DEC 24 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow early in the afternoon. Chance of snow early in the afternoon. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Lows 15 to 21. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Christmas Day: Snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 to 7 inches. Highs 17 to 23. Northeast winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Thursday Night: Much colder. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 below to 3 above zero. Northeast winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Highs 7 to 13.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 6 below to 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!