

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, January 5, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please join us to hear OBoze, from the Bozeman Symphony - free concert at the Mammoth Map Room, Friday, Jan 9, 7:00 pm. sponsored by the Electric Peak Arts Council.

OBoze features three talented performers in a delightful ensemble of double reed instruments. Their repertoire spans several centuries of musical styles around the globe. You will hear music from Handel's "Fireworks," Beethoven's trios,

Jacob's trio with a Scottish flair to jazzy tunes and everything in between! Join OBoze for a concert of unique and uplifting music that will please the young and the young at heart.

Winter Survival and Overnight Winter Camping Training.

Wednesday - January 28 from 900 AM-1600 PM in the Snowlodge Conference Room. Come for all of it or any part you can!

Contact Jamie Hanson 307-344-2886 or Jamie_Hanson@NPS.Gov



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)

NPS staff will collect, chip, and re-use them as mulch at the Park's Stephens Creek Nursery. Please remove all decorations. Questions? Call: 307.344.2314

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.

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: 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 – Tonight at 6:00 pm. Sign up in the Parkwide Recreation Office or call 344-5224. Cost is \$2. Meet in the Mammoth Employee Recreation Hall.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone sees rise in marijuana cases; drug is still illegal on federal land

January 04, 2015 7:20 am • Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — An increasing number of visitors to Yellowstone National Park are being prosecuted for possessing small amounts of medical and recreational pot, which remains illegal on federal land.

Park rangers attribute the trend both to ignorance of federal law and the growing prevalence of legal pot in other states, including neighboring Colorado, which has legal medical and recreational marijuana.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Cheyenne reports it prosecuted 21 marijuana cases from Yellowstone in 2010 and 52 in 2013. As of Dec. 17, the office had handled 80 cases in 2014.

Those convicted of misdemeanor possession commonly receive a \$1,000 fine.

The numbers are small compared to the millions who trek each year to the nation's first national park. The bulk of the 2.2-million-acre park is in Wyoming, with slivers extending into Montana to the north and Idaho to the east.

Tim Reid, the chief ranger, said he believes the increase mirrors the prevalence of pot in society.

Alex Freeburg, a criminal defense lawyer in Jackson, Wyo., frequently handles marijuana possession cases from Yellowstone. He said his clients often are surprised when they're charged for small amounts of marijuana.

"I think that it's fair to say that it is the legalization in a couple of states. They know it's illegal but they don't think it's a crime," Freeburg said. "There's some sort of disconnect."

The typical marijuana case arises from a traffic stop in which rangers say they smell the drug in the vehicle.

"And most people, most of the time, if a ranger says, 'Do you have any marijuana in your car?' they'll say yes," Freeburg said. "In which case, there's not a lot a criminal defense attorney can do for them."

That happened to Gary Godina, an artist from Waipahu, Hawaii, who was cited in Yellowstone in October 2013.

Godina said rangers pulled him over for speeding in a vehicle with Colorado plates and then told him they smelled marijuana. He said he told them he had 3 grams of the drug that he had purchased earlier in Colorado.

“Yeah, I had to go overnight,” Godina said. “They took me up to some holding cell in Montana.”

Godina’s home state is among 23 states and Washington, D.C., that allow marijuana use by people with various medical conditions. “I have glaucoma, so it’s basically a medical thing,” Godina said.

In April, he pleaded guilty and was fined \$1,000.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 937 AM MST MON JAN 5 2015

[Winter Storm Warning until 5AM Tuesday](#)

Rest Of Today: Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. New snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 7 to 14 inches. Near steady temperature in the upper 20s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 28 to 34. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Lows 10 to 16. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 29 to 35.

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IN THE NEWS

Chronic deer disease marches closer to Yellowstone

By Angus M. Thuermer Jr. – WyoFile.com - January 6, 2015

Wyoming Game and Fish identified seven new deer-hunt areas in 2014 where deer are infected with Chronic Wasting Disease, including one area within 40 miles of Yellowstone National Park.

The number is almost double the normal annual increase, but in line with historic trends when considering a two-year average, the agency said. Game and Fish identified no new deer hunt areas in 2013.

“Every year we detect CWD in two to four new hunt areas,” Game and Fish Wildlife Disease Specialist Hank Edwards said. “We’re average, if you combine the last two years.”

Chronic Wasting Disease, contagious, always fatal and with no known cure, affects the central nervous system of deer, elk and moose. It is a type of spongiform encephalopathy, a relative of Mad Cow Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

CWD reduces animals to walking skeletons before death. It is among the factors likely responsible for the decline of deer numbers in Wyoming and dissatisfaction among hunters.

Infection of herds can have other implications for hunters. The federal Centers for Disease Control says hunters should avoid eating meat from infected deer.

Game and Fish maps show the disease is endemic among deer in more than half of the state — especially in the east and the Bighorn Basin.

The deer-hunt areas where CWD was detected include 116 west of Meeteetse. The western boundary of that hunt area is fewer than 40 miles from the world’s first national park. Deer hunt area 123 near Lovell also made the list. In central Wyoming, new areas include 36 near Shoshoni, 160 near Lander and 97 near Muddy Gap.

Areas 98 and 84 were the final two areas identified. They straddle Interstate 80 west of Rawlins. (A WyoFile story last week misidentified one of the areas and a new area has since been included on the 2014 list.)

78 hunter-killed deer test positive

Game and Fish collected or received 1,335 samples by the end of November, according to an agency newsletter. From those, lab workers identified 78 hunter-killed deer as positive.

The wildlife agency’s testing — on both hunter-killed elk and deer — is focused at the frontier of the disease as it spreads slowly west. Area 116 near Meeteetse appears to be the closest to Yellowstone found so far, according to Game and Fish infection maps.

All but 160 at Lander are adjacent to hunt areas where CWD had previously been discovered in deer, according to a WyoFile review of Game and Fish infection maps.

In the southwest, a positive deer had been found earlier near Green River in hunt area 132. It appears to be the westernmost deer case discovered. West of the Continental Divide, a positive moose had been found in Star Valley.

Results for deer in 2014 are now final, unless a sample was misidentified and has to be reclassified, Edwards said.

“If you look on the bright side, this goes to show that our survey is working,” Edwards said. “We’re detecting where we’re expecting.”

“It didn’t show up in a location quite a ways from a known area,” he said. “There really weren’t any surprises so far.”

CWD is slow-spreading, he said, especially when compared to something like West Nile virus, which crossed Wyoming in about a year.

“Most diseases move much, much quicker,” he said. “We’ve had (CWD) in the state 30-40 years. It’s taken this long to get this far.”

Newly discovered infected areas are where CWD is expected, said Scott Edberg, deputy chief of Game and Fish’s wildlife division.

“The new areas for deer are adjacent to current areas so that’s not a big surprise,” he said. “In most of the new hunt areas the prevalence rates have been very low.”

Wyoming has been surveying for CWD for more than 20 years, he said. By the end of 2013 the state had tested 50,174 samples.

“I doubt there’s another state that’s come close to that,” Edberg said.

Contaminated environment

CWD, caused by a mis-shapen protein or prion, may not be present only in animals. The malady may have contaminated the landscape, said Lloyd Dorsey, the policy director for Wyoming Wildlife Advocates.

“This disease is likely in the environment as well as in animals,” he said. “There is a very important story being told.”

The latest announcements mean that infected deer, elk or moose hunt areas have been identified in 20 of Wyoming’s 23 counties, he said.

“To dismiss it as no big deal does a disservice to Wyoming citizens and all our wildlife resources,” he said. “It is a serious issue that should never be cavalierly dismissed.”

Dorsey’s group filed a lawsuit last year challenging the elk hunt in Grand Teton National Park. The group also has criticized artificial winter feeding of elk west of the Continental Divide.

Artificial feeding is known to exacerbate the spread of diseases. Deer, elk and moose in northwest Wyoming “may be more at risk (to CWD) due to winter concentration of elk on feedgrounds,” Wyoming’s CWD action plan says.

That action plan will be revised this spring, Edberg said. The existing plan contemplates no “large-scale culling” even if CWD is found on a feedground. “Large-scale culling to reduce prevalence of CWD could have more severe effects on deer, elk and moose populations than CWD,” the plan states.

The plan needs regular revisions, Edberg said.

“We’re just trying to keep it current, keep it adaptable, especially on transmission — if there’s any way we can slow it down, prevent its spread,” Edberg said.

Game and Fish is reviewing the update internally before it is released for public comment. Today’s plan doesn’t mention predators as a potential solution to reducing the spread or prevalence of CWD, something Dorsey said is lacking.

“Having a functioning population of predators is an excellent tool against the increase or prevalence of a disease — as (is) not artificially concentrating large numbers of deer or elk,” he said. “Those are two tools they have right now — predators and allowing wildlife to spread out across the landscape.”

New elk hunt area also infected

In 2014 the agency also identified a new elk hunt area — 108 near Rawlins — where it found an elk with the disease. It is not contiguous to an already known elk hunt area where CWD has been discovered. There have been infected deer found or hunted in the area, however.

The elk discovery came as Game and Fish concludes its second year of testing an elk vaccine at its laboratory in Sybille Canyon between Laramie and Wheatland. The Canadian company Prevent provided the vaccine.

The company provided a vaccine that prolonged the life of a handful of whitetail deer in a different study done by researchers from New York University, among others. Vaccinated deer lived longer compared to unvaccinated deer infected at the same time. (Goni, et al. Mucosal immunization with an attenuated Salmonella vaccine partially protects white-tailed deer from chronic wasting disease, Vaccine 2014)

In Sybille, 40 elk are being studied, 20 of them control animals that get saline injections instead of actual vaccinations.

“The elk are naturally exposed to CWD in our facility,” said Dr. Mary Wood, state wildlife veterinarian. That means CWD is in the environment of the research pens at Sybille. There’s no known way to cleanse them.

Sybille “has had CWD since late ‘70s, early 80s,” Wood said. “We know our animals are exposed to a pretty reasonable dose.”

Researchers could have fed the elk CWD-infected brain material to ensure they were heavily exposed to the disease. But the goal is to test the vaccine in a more natural environment a free-ranging animal would be exposed to, Wood said. The elk test began in February, 2013.

“Only just now we have a couple of elk that are becoming clinical for CWD,” meaning it is now observable, she said. Regarding results, “it’s probably still a bit too early.”

The challenge in developing a CWD vaccine lies in the fact that the mis-shaped protein is a part of the elk. Unlike a virus or bacteria, it is “something the animal normally has,” she said. Except for its deformity.

“The body doesn’t recognize it as something foreign,” she said. It’s very hard to just target the one (protein) that’s misfolded.”

A vaccine that puts off infection for a time or that prolongs the life of a diseased animal may not resolve the issue, she said. A diseased animal that lives longer as a result of a vaccine might also spread CWD farther or for a longer time.

‘We still don’t know when an animal is shedding” diseased prions or proteins, she said. “There’s not a way to determine that at this point.”

Dorsey also cautioned against putting too much hope in medicine.

“I hope after years of a failed s19 vaccine for brucellosis in elk, people would look upon another silver-bullet vaccine with skepticism,” he said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 823 AM MST TUE JAN 6 2015

Rest Of Today: Mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the late morning and early afternoon...then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow early in the afternoon. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 14 to 20. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 31 to 37.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs 29 to 35.

Preliminary Storm Information from the National Weather Service

Two Ocean Plateau Snotel	19 inches
Sylvan Lake Snotel	19 inches
Lewis Lake Divide Snotel	19 inches
Sylvan Road Snotel	18 inches
Parker Peak Snotel	18 inches
Canyon Snotel	13 inches
Yellowstone East Entrance	12 inches
2 miles NE of Silver Gate	11.3 inches
Thumb Divide Snotel	11 inches
Snake River Ranger Station	10.5 inches
Lamar Ranger Station	10 inches
West Yellowstone Gate Coop	6.5 inches
Tower Falls Ranger Station	3.6 inches

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IN THE NEWS

The Cutler Lake skaters

Pucks and ice spray still flying after more than a decade on Gardiner-area hockey hotspot

Published: Tue, 01/06/2015 - 9:00pm | Hunter D'Antuono – Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer



Chris Geremia breaks away from the pack during a hockey game on Cutler Lake near Gardiner, Saturday.

Fresh powder blanketed the Paradise Valley Saturday morning, as a line of vehicles bounced up the windy section of the road that is Old Yellowstone Trail. The walk down the steep path to the frozen lake shore was made more precarious by giant, lumpy duffel bags loaded down with helmets, pads and sticks. One person even went to the trouble to haul three large tree stumps and a rectangular board to slap on top of them — the components for the perfect bench to lace up skates.

Cutler Lake has now served for over a decade as the spot for Gardiner-area hockey enthusiasts. The recent cold snap made quality hockey possible again last weekend. The skaters dubbed the ice as “phenomenal” Saturday morning. Nary a nick or crack could be detected before the puck hit the ice. Despite the brilliant sunshine, sub-teen temperatures assured the ice wouldn’t grow soft today.

Equipped with a “redneck zamboni,” some of the players made the bouncy trip up the road the night before to resurface the ice in preparation for Saturday’s game. The Cutler Lake skaters’ “zamboni” is actually a sort of drilling rig fitted with a pump. A hole is drilled in the ice to the water, which is then pumped through a hose to the designated rink area, so a thin sheet of water could fill in any gouges.

Weather permitting, every Saturday and Sunday the skaters will gather to play hockey at 11 a.m.

“We’ve had a lot better skaters over the past five years,” Joe Lang, a longtime player at Cutler said. “But everyone is welcome.”

Brad Bulin is new to Cutler and to ice skating. But he has learned quickly from his fellow players.

“Now I know how to stop — I can go out there and not hurt anybody,” Bulin joked.

The U.S. Forest Service purchased the land surrounding the lake from Church Universal Triumphant around 2000. The spots’ potential for skating and hockey was realized the following winter, and the new public land created a home base for the “Cutler Lake Fighting Perch.” A fierce-looking orange fish biting a hockey stick in half was emblazoned on the jerseys many of Saturday’s skaters. The perches glare on the front of the jersey is almost as intense as the players when the game pace picks up.

Over the years, Cutler Lake has seen hockey enthusiasts originating from all parts of the country.

Carolyn Harwood learned to skate when she was 3 on a backyard rink at her childhood home in Michigan. She enjoys the picturesque backdrop Montana provides for recreation.

“There’s not a place in Michigan you can skate surrounded by mountains,” Harwood said. “So it’s sweet.”

Once the game is in full swing, a fair share of friendly trash talk is exchanged. And the play can intensify in turn until blood is drawn — literally.

“As you can tell, we have no fun out here,” Harwood laughed.

Sometimes, the Cutler Lake skaters hold a barbecue out on the ice, and on cloudless nights, they have held skates under the light of the full moon.

At the end of play Saturday, the players exchanged their hockey sticks for snow shovels. In a synchronized fashion, they skated in neat concentric circles to clear the rink of ice shavings and loose snow. They will be back next weekend.

More photos accompany the online article at <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/cutler-lake-skaters>

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 754 AM MST WED JAN 7 201

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 34 to 40.

Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Patchy fog early in the morning. Lows 17 to 23. Southwest winds around 15 mph until early morning.

Thursday: Partly cloudy early in the morning then clearing. Patchy fog early in the morning. Highs 30 to 36.

Thursday Night: Colder. Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy ice fog after midnight. Lows 6 to 12.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Patchy ice fog in the morning. Highs 25 to 31.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 13 to 19.

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Rachel Cudmore used her iPhone to take and send this stunning image of Swan Lake Flats as she began her courier run this morning.

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YNP Fire Department will need to enter your residence between Jan. 12th and Jan. 14th to **exchange the fire extinguisher in your home**, as well as, inventory Smoke and CO Detectors for the Housing Office Data Base. Please let us know if there are any concerns we need to be aware of by emailing Bradley_Auttelet@nps.gov . Thank You - YNPFD

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.



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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone at 36 degrees below zero

Ben Pierce, Outdoors Editor, Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Posted: Thursday, January 8, 2015 12:15 am

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — The view through the windshield was obscured with ice crystals as we drove beneath the Roosevelt Arch in Gardiner. Dawn's first light cast a golden glow over Mount Everts and the raw landscape ahead. The thermometer on the dashboard read minus-17 degrees.

My friend Erik Petersen and I traveled to Yellowstone on this frigid morning to visit Lamar Valley. We'd hoped to spot some wildlife and get in a little cross-country skiing. At the North Entrance gate I had to open my door to hand my park pass and driver's license to the ranger. My window was frozen shut.

The road from Gardiner to Cooke City is the only road open to wheeled vehicles year-round in Yellowstone. Snowmobilers headed to the mountains around Cooke City and wildlife watchers make up the bulk of traffic.

"My impression is that the reintroduction of the wolf has over time created a significant increase in the number of people that are coming into the park for wildlife viewing in the winter," Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said.

Towers of sulfurous steam billowed into the arctic air as we turned east at Mammoth Hot Springs. A few cow elk foraged among the sagebrush on the snowy hillsides. A lone duck shot through the sky above the Gardiner River high bridge.

In the forested hills high above the Black Canyon of the Yellowstone River we spotted a drop tine bull elk feeding in the snow. The bull was pushing through the powder that had cloaked the park during the last storm, coming up with a mouthful of grass for its efforts.

I choked on the freezing air as I stepped out of the truck to shoot a few photographs. The mercury had dipped to minus-22 degrees by the time we got back in the truck. The thought of wildlife surviving through the winter here was almost beyond belief.

Near Blacktail Pond we passed a herd of bison foraging south of the road. The light had not yet crested the hills and blue-hued frost hung on the beards of the bulls. Each breath ejected from their nostrils with a blast of steam adding a new layer to their crystalline coats.

At Tower-Roosevelt we crossed the Yellowstone River. The sun lifted over the horizon and painted the landscape in vibrant tones. Bison dotted the hills north of the Lamar River.

We passed a group of wildlife watchers with spotting scopes at Slough Creek and crested the last hill before reaching Lamar Valley. The sunlight pouring over Druid Peak illuminated a freezing fog rising over the river. The thermometer on my dash had dipped to 31 degrees below zero.

“The Lamar Valley is a pretty unforgiving winter environment,” Nash said. “To see those animals in that environment, it is a great study in nature.”

We stopped at the first pullout to talk with a group of wildlife watchers. One of them told us there was a pack of wolves down in the valley.

“They’re in between those cottonwood stands, but you can’t see them right now because of the fog,” he said. “They’re feeding on an elk they took down a couple days ago.”

Near the Buffalo Ranch we pulled off the road to have a look. The silhouette of a dog appeared in the mist, then another and another. I pulled out the binoculars and trained them on the shapes — coyotes. The dogs had dug a little line in the snow and their heads were turned back toward us.

One of the coyotes trotted out of the trench and bounded through the snow. It crossed the road just in front of us and worked its way up a hill to the north, stopping to look back across the Lamar. With the sun rising over the valley I was shocked to see the mercury had fallen to an unthinkable 36 degrees below zero.

At Soda Butte, we watched a big horn sheep bedded down on a powdered slope and a bison feeding on grass buried beneath four feet of snow. He’d take a step, swing his broad head methodically back and forth, disappear in the snow, rise for a quick breath and then repeat.

“For wildlife it is about making a living this time of year,” Nash said. “They are trying to survive. You see that big hump on a bison, that big head they use like a snowplow to get to something to eat.”

Ahead, the monolithic summits of Abiathar Peak and The Thunderer and Barronette Peak loomed large. We decided to turn back toward the valley in hopes that the fog above the river had cleared.

We were in luck. By noon the veil shrouding the Lamar Valley had lifted.

In the distance, by the riverside, five wolves circled what could only be an elk carcass. We watched them through binoculars.

They were all dark and large, even at this distance — alive and thriving at minus-36 degrees.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 637 AM MST THU JAN 8 2015

Today: Mostly sunny early in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 27 to 33.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 6 to 12.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Highs 28 to 34.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Lows around 16.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 14 to 20.

Sunday: Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 25 to 31.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, January 9, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Printer and fax cartridges free for Gov't use!

FX-4, Canon cartridge (quantity 2) for Canon L900, LC-8500, 9000, 9000L, 9000MS, 9000S, 9500, 9500MS, 9500S, Q-03A, HP cartridge (quantity 5) for HP Laser Printers 5P, 5MP, 6P, 6MP.

Bartering is encouraged - we're currently looking for an office mascot or an interesting pencil holder..... call Alec or Bethany at LEO at x2123 if interested in any of the items listed above.



YNP Fire Department will need to enter your residence in Mammoth between Jan. 12th and Jan. 14th to **exchange the fire extinguisher in your home**, as well as, inventory Smoke and CO Detectors for the Housing Office Data Base. Please let us know if there are any concerns we need to be aware of by emailing Bradley_Auttelet@nps.gov. Thank You - YNPFD

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.



Wellness Incentive Program forms for December may be sent to Stacey Gunther via email, fax or IOM through January 9th to allow employees to participate who may have been away for the holiday. Participation for November and December will be combined into one drawing. For the January-March drawings, 1 Bridger Bowl ski coupon per month will be included from among prizes participants may choose from. As always, program details may be found on the [Sharepoint](#) site.



Please join us to hear OBoze, from the Bozeman Symphony - free concert at the Mammoth Map Room, TONIGHT at 7:00 pm. sponsored by the Electric Peak Arts Council. OBoze features three talented performers in a delightful ensemble of double reed instruments. Their repertoire spans several centuries of musical styles around the globe. You will hear music from Handel's "Fireworks," Beethoven's trios, Jacob's trio with a Scottish flair to jazzy tunes and everything in between! Join

OBoze for a concert of unique and uplifting music that will please the young and the young at heart.

Winter Survival and Overnight Winter Camping Training. Wednesday - January 28 from 900 AM-1600 PM in the Snowlodge Conference Room. Come for all of it or any part you can! Contact Jamie Hanson 307-344-2886 or Jamie_Hanson@NPS.Gov



IN THE NEWS

Poll: Most Montanans don't hate bison

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Thursday, January 8, 2015 5:49 pm

With at least six bison-limiting bills awaiting legislative consideration, a new Montana poll appears to show that a majority of Montanans would support restoring bison to public lands.

On Wednesday, San Francisco polling firm Tulchin Research released survey results indicating that Montanans want the state to manage wild bison as wildlife and would support efforts to establish a state bison herd.

More than 80 percent of those surveyed indicated they liked bison while just 4 percent said they viewed bison unfavorably.

A smaller percentage – 68 percent – said they consider bison to be wildlife, but another 15 percent said bison could be wildlife or livestock.

Livestock industry legislators from areas in northeastern Montana near Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations have submitted the majority of the anti-bison bills so far.

Rep. Bill Harris, R-Winnett, has submitted a bill that would revise Montana laws related to managing bison as livestock, not wildlife.

But according to the poll, almost three-quarters of those surveyed said bison should be managed like deer, elk or other wildlife, not livestock.

With those numbers, it's not surprising that three-quarters of those surveyed supported the state restoring wild bison to some of Montana's public lands or the tribes restoring wild bison to tribal lands.

Those numbers dropped slightly to around two-thirds if the bison were disease-free Yellowstone bison, showing the stigma that still surrounds Yellowstone bison and the threat of brucellosis.

It's that threat of disease in addition to the competition posed by bison for grazing resources that have prompted some of the bills being drafted in the Legislature.

Sen. Rick Ripley, R-Wolf Creek, and Rep. Mike Lang, R-Malta, would revise management of bison, although the specifics of their bills are not yet available.

Some are anticipating one of the bills would prohibit the creation of a Montana herd. In the poll, 63 percent opposed such a bill.

In 2013, legislators proposed a bill that would allow landowners to shoot bison on their land. In the poll, 60 percent were opposed to a similar bill.

Sen. John Brendan, R-Scobey, chairs the Senate Fish and Wildlife Committee and has long opposed the creation of a state bison herd.

This year, Brendan's bill would require the approval of county commissioners prior to bison relocation. Lang proposed a similar bill in 2013, which was vetoed by Gov. Steve Bullock.

But according to the poll, three-quarters of the respondents agreed that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks should make management decisions about bison, not county politicians.

In 2011, bison opponents passed Senate Bill 212 that already requires the approval of adjacent landowners.

Rep. Alan Redfield, R- Livingston, saw two of his anti-bison bills die in 2013. Now he's returning with a bill that would require an analysis of available forage before bison could be transplanted into an area.

Redfield witnessed some of the pushback against bison bills that occurred in 2013. In December, Redfield said he'd be talking to some of the other bison-bill sponsors to encourage bills that would have a better chance of passing and having an effect.

Tulchin Research conducted a telephone survey of 500 registered Montana voters in mid-December and concluded the margin of error was 4.4 percentage points.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 637 AM MST FRI JAN 9 2015

Today: Partly cloudy early in the morning then clearing. Highs 25 to 31.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Lows around 18. Southwest winds around 15 mph after midnight.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 27 to 33.

Saturday Night: Cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening... Then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 16 to 22. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Sunday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 25 to 31.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 15 to 21.

Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32.

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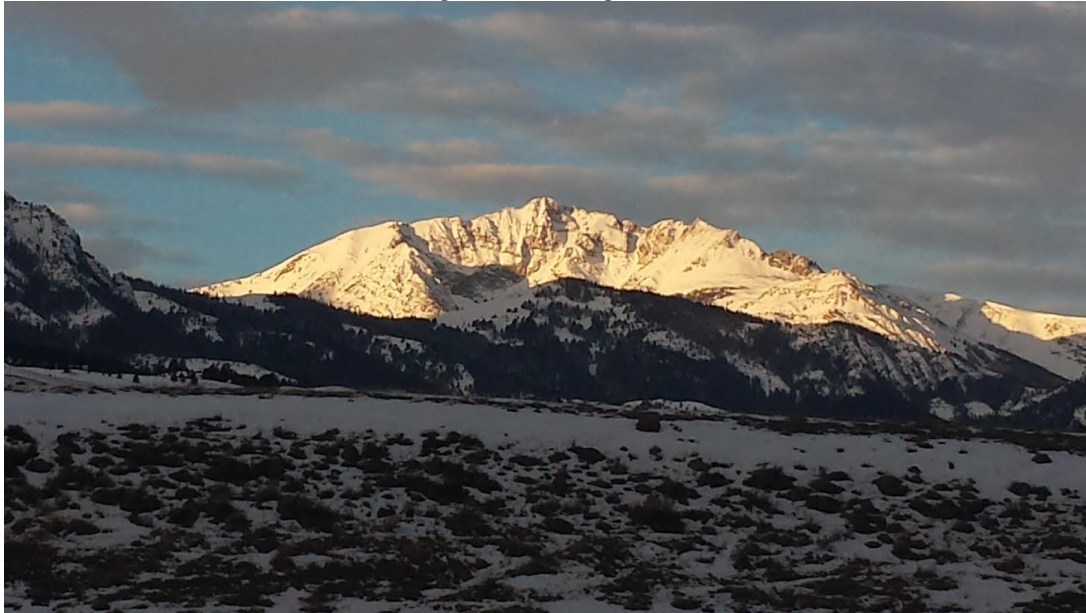
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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, January 12, 2015



Electric Peak on Saturday morning.
(photo by Bonnie Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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You can send any 2014 calendars featuring **Yellowstone, wildlife, or various national parks to the Youth Programs Office.** We use the photos with students in Expedition Yellowstone. Thanks.

“WARM YOUR SOUL” ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, with all-you-care-to-eat with home-made soup, bread and desserts while listening to great live music! Join us at the Terrace Grill for a true community event with a family-friendly seating at 5 p.m. with children’s sing-a-long OR an adult seating at 7:30 p.m. with a live acoustic jam with local musicians. All proceeds support the little learners at Snoopy Cooperative Preschool. Good food, good music, good cause!

Call (307) 344-7311 today for reservations to this special event. Adults \$20/Children \$5

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 707 AM MST MON JAN 12 2015

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Areas of fog late in the morning. Patchy fog late in the afternoon. Highs 26 to 32.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow early in the evening...then chance of snow late in the evening. Slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 8 to 14. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 22 to 28.

Tuesday Night: Clear. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 3 to 9.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 25 to 31.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 5 to 11.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Online Submission Form for Bird Sightings! Have you seen a raptor (hawk, eagle, falcon, owl, vulture, accipiter) or rare bird in Yellowstone lately? If so, you can now submit your observation online. No paperwork needed (though handwritten forms are still accepted). Please spread the word to visitors and staff without access to email. Go to <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/wildlife-sightings.htm> to submit your sighting. You can also submit observations for bears, fish, or other rare animals.

Finding yourself depressed by the winter doldrums? Then make plans early to jump start your workday on Thursday, January 22nd from 8am-noon at the Mammoth Community Center by attending an informative and interactive **safety workshop focusing on office safety**. The half-day session will cover topics such as office ergonomics/layout, eye strain, fire safety, housekeeping, travel, safe lifting and stretching.

If interested, please sign up at:

P:\Safety Committee (Employee)\Safety Sessions Parkwide\Office_Worker_Safety_Sessions_2015

The copy center will be closed this Friday, Jan. 16. The mailroom will be open for business. If you need help with mail, call Scott at the supply center and he will be able to help you. The big printers in the copy center will be turned on if anyone needs to print to them. Scott will be glad to retrieve them for you. If you have any printing or copy requests that you need by Friday, please get them to me by Thursday so I can have them done for you by Friday.

The Yellowstone Gateway Museum in Livingston is seeking submissions for its “Exploring Yellowstone through ART” exhibit to run from May 1-September 30, 2015. Past or current residents of Park County, Montana, as well as Yellowstone National Park, may submit one work of art in any medium, including sculpture. Size may not exceed 25 inches. Artwork must be of Yellowstone or be inspired in some way by the park; a brief story explaining the artist’s inspiration for the work of art is encouraged and may be included in the exhibit. Please contact Karen Reinhart at [kreinhart@parkcounty.org](mailto:kreinhardt@parkcounty.org) or call 406-222-4184 for details. DEADLINE: April 1, 2015.

Livingston Friends of the Library invites the public to its upcoming **Humanities Montana-sponsored living history event** — “Alcohol, Corsets, and the Vote: A Conversation with Mary Long Alderson” presented by Gardiner resident Anne Foster. The event is free and open to the public.

In celebration of the Montana women's suffrage centennial, join suffragette, temperance worker, dress reformer, and journalist Mary Long Alderson for a conversation. This first-person presentation invites the audience into a 1914 Montana parlor to discourse on the issues of the day. Chairwoman of the Montana Floral Emblem campaign, president of the Montana Christian Temperance Union, and a leader in the Montana Woman Suffrage Association, Mrs. Alderson is eloquent and passionate. Drawing from her own editorials and other writings, Mary explains the benefits of votes for women as well as the evils of drink and tight lacing. Following the first-person interpretation, scholar Anne Foster steps into the present to detail her research and answer questions with a modern view.

Anne Foster is an archivist and living historian who has worn a corded petticoat while baking biscuits in 1864 Arizona, a hoop while spinning wool in 1865 Montana, a bustle to travel by narrow gauge train through 1876 Colorado, and an s-curve corset to pan for gold in 1905 Alaska.

The event will be held at the Livingston Park County Public Library Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. Partial funding for the Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau program is provided by a legislative grant from Montana's Cultural Trust and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Important File Naming Tips for Successful Backup and Restore

The Yellowstone IT Branch backs up nearly all files stored on the network drives nightly so if you lose files we can often recover a recent copy for you. Unfortunately we have found that when trying to restore documents from our backups that some of our file names are too long. Long file names have prohibited us from retrieving some files.

It is easy to forget that that each file name not only contains the file name but also all the path that leads to it and the date and time of the backup. Here is an example and please forgive me if you recognize this file but it demonstrates the point I am trying to make.

A file on the P: drive called Facilities_Topo_11x17.pdf -- is not such a long name at 25 characters but our backup computer sees it like this: "\\inpyellapps\parkwide\Tuesday, December 30, 2014, 3:00 pm)Comprehensive Planning\Current Comprehensive Planning files\Old Faithful Comprehensive Plan EA Draft\base maps\Facilities_Topo_11x 17.pdf"

Including folder names, this complete file name is over 150 characters longer than the file name alone. It is really not yet even approaching the limit BUT the name could be made much shorter just by removing the "Comprehensive Plan" and its derivatives from all but the first instance. Shortening your folder names by renaming, organizing and reducing the number of subfolders can really pay off when you need to recover that critical file.

- - - - -



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Call (307) 344-7311 today for reservations to this special event. Adults \$20/Children \$5

IN THE NEWS

Wildlife professionals celebrate 20 years of wolves

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 7:27 am

GARDINER – A gray wolf crouched at the crest of Junction Butte in Yellowstone National Park early Monday morning, her attention focused on the valley below.

Yellowstone wolf biologist Doug Smith said the wolf and three or four others trotting through the trees belonged to the Junction Butte Pack.

The wolf raised her head to voice a lazy howl, to the pleasure of about three dozen human observers peering through spotting scopes from the road.

Almost half of the observers were veteran wildlife professionals, many now retired, who came together for the first time exactly 20 years ago.

That’s when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, nonprofit groups and park employees transplanted what would eventually be a total of 66 gray wolves into Idaho and the park.

On Monday, the group returned to the park to celebrate that effort and see the fruits of their work two decades on.

Their excited chatter was silenced as a second and then a third howl rose from the valley. All the spotting scopes swung together in the direction of the howls, and people started counting wolves as the howling chorus continued for a few minutes.

Eleven wolves materialized in the valley, and the word passed that they belonged to the Prospect Pack.

The two packs kept their distance, observing an unseen boundary between their territories.

People who watch park wolves on almost a daily basis joined in and later said they hadn’t observed so many wolves and such interaction in a long time. Smith agreed.

“We were a whisker away from not seeing anything,” Smith said. “This is a good day. It’s almost like karma.”

An hour later, the group gathered under the Roosevelt Arch at the north entrance of the park for a small ceremony to mark the day.

“Twenty years ago, few of us thought it would happen. This may not ever happen again,” Smith said.

On Jan. 12, 1995, a horse trailer with eight wolves, the first of 35 from Fort St. John, British Columbia, passed under that same arch, the culmination of several years of preparation, environmental studies and lawsuits.

In the end, it was a Republican senator from Idaho, James McClure, who carried legislation, starting in 1990, to reintroduce the wolf, and a Republican senator from Wyoming, Alan Simpson, who helped it through, as long as wolves could be shot outside the park.

John Varley, former director of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, credited former National Park Service Director Bill Mott, then 82 years old, with taking up the torch in 1988.

“I don’t know what we would have done without Bill Mott – he sold it. I wish he could have been around to see the wolves going through the arch,” Varley said.

What is karma to Smith is a curse to some in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, who still don’t want wolves on the landscape.

Ranchers, hunters and outfitters sometimes vehemently oppose wolf management even after the initiation of wolf hunting and trapping. They still want wolf population numbers to be knocked down to about 300 in the three states.

But Suzanne Stone of Defenders of Wildlife pointed out that was the minimum to allow wolves to survive under state management, not the maximum.

She quoted former USFWS wolf recovery coordinator Ed Bangs and his thoughts on the Endangered Species Act.

“He compared the ESA to an ambulance used to get the critically endangered patient, the wolf, to the hospital, which was the states. In Idaho, the wolf arrived and the first thing they did was try to turn the wolf back into a critically endangered patient. That’s not recovery,” Stone said.

In 2013, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks reported a minimum number of about 630 wolves and 28 packs with breeding pairs.

Idaho residents and politicians have been more aggressive, killing wolves in hunting derbies and state-sponsored eliminations of packs.

Stone said in Idaho, she’s seen more animosity to wolves in the last three years since the hunting season began than 20 years ago.

“We’ve gone from 1,000 wolves to around 550. Yet there’s a push to reduce the numbers to 100 or 150,” Stone said.

Some Montanans feel the same way.

Montanans in Sanders County will hold their own wolf and coyote hunt this weekend.

Carter Niemeyer, a former Wildlife Services wolf trapper who helped with the introduction, said opponents still raise the same claims that the wolves are a different species, carry disease and have extreme impacts on cattle and elk. It's just that now those opponents are also in Oregon and Washington as wolves colonize regions farther west.

"There's a certain component that doesn't accept wolves. And it runs deeper than wolves, to property rights and anti-government feelings. I don't know if there's any public relations that could have been done to change that," Niemeyer said.

But the people in attendance on Monday always wanted wolves, even knowing what they were up against.

Former park interpreter Norm Bishop said that during the 1990s, he got into the habit of saying, "If wolves are reintroduced..." when he spoke to various groups.

Then while talking to a school group in 1999, he started to say that and stopped himself as the realization hit him that he no longer needed to say "If."

"There was about 30 seconds there before I could recover myself," Bishop said. "We had done it."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 652 AM MST TUE JAN 13 2015

Today: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 23 to 29.

Tonight: Mostly clear early in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the late evening and overnight. Lows 1 to 7.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 24 to 30.

Wednesday Night: Clear. Patchy fog. Lows 3 to 9.

Thursday: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 8 to 14.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, January 14, 2015



World's Tallest Upright Petrified Tree is up Tom Miner Basin. Height 34 feet, 3 inches, base diameter is 2 feet, 11 inches. Its base is at the base of a cliff and its top extends over 10 feet above the cliff. Google Gallatin Petrified Forest for more information, on both trees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Online Submission Form for Bird Sightings! Have you seen a raptor (hawk, eagle, falcon, owl, vulture, accipiter) or rare bird in Yellowstone lately? If so, you can now submit your observation online. No paperwork needed (though handwritten forms are still accepted). Please spread the word to visitors and staff without access to email. Go to <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/wildlife-sightings.htm> to submit your sighting. You can also submit observations for bears, fish, or other rare animals.

The copy center will be closed this Friday, Jan. 16. The mailroom will be open for business. If you need help with mail, call Scott at the supply center and he will be able to help you. The big printers in the copy center will be turned on if anyone needs to print to them. Scott will be glad to retrieve them for you. If you have any printing or copy requests that you need by Friday, please get them to me by Thursday so I can have them done for you by Friday.

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P:\Safety Committee (Employee)\Safety Sessions Parkwide\Office_Worker_Safety_Sessions_2015

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Anne Foster is an archivist and living historian who has worn a corded petticoat while baking biscuits in 1864 Arizona, a hoop while spinning wool in 1865 Montana, a bustle to travel by narrow gauge train through 1876 Colorado, and an s-curve corset to pan for gold in 1905 Alaska.

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Important File Naming Tips for Successful Backup and Restore

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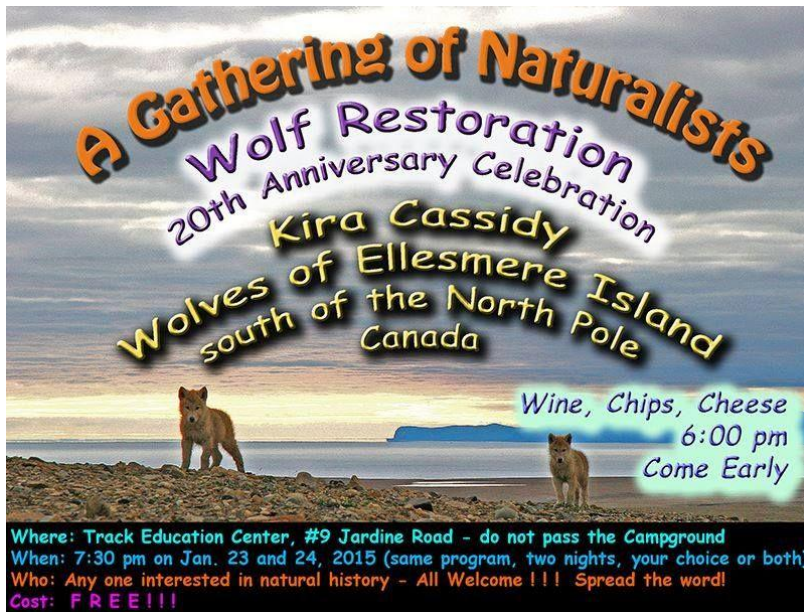
Including folder names, this complete file name is over 150 characters longer than the file name alone. It is really not yet even approaching the limit BUT the name could be made much shorter just by removing the "Comprehensive Plan" and its derivatives from all but the first instance. Shortening your folder names by renaming, organizing and reducing the number of subfolders can really pay off when you need to recover that critical file.



YNP Fire Department will need to enter your residence in Mammoth through Jan. 14th to **exchange the fire extinguisher in your home**, as well as, inventory Smoke and CO Detectors for the Housing Office Data Base. Please let us know if there are any concerns we need to be aware of by emailing Bradley_Auttelet@nps.gov. Thank You - YNPFD

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





“WARM YOUR SOUL” ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, with all-you-care-to-eat with home-made soup, bread and desserts while listening to great live music! Join us at the Terrace Grill for a true community event with a family-friendly seating at 5 p.m. with children’s sing-a-long OR an adult seating at 7:30 p.m. with a live acoustic jam with local musicians. All proceeds support the little learners at Snoopy Cooperative Preschool. Good food, good music, good cause!

Call (307) 344-7311 today for reservations to this special event. Adults \$20/Children \$5

IN THE NEWS

2 decades on, wolves are at home in the Rockies

Animosity for the species is ‘way down,’ coordinator says.

Posted: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 4:30 am

[2 decades on, wolves are at home in the Rockies](#) By Mike Koshmrl, Jackson Hole News and Guide

Two decades ago this week federal managers released the initial batch of gray wolves into the Northern Rockies, repatriating a controversial carnivore that’s since spurred dozens of lawsuits, countless scientific studies and large doses of delight and indignation.

The action also planted a seed for a regional wolf population that’s grown to nearly 2,000 and become a fixture in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and American West after a decades-long absence last century.

In Yellowstone National Park’s Lamar Valley, where there was a “soft release” of 14 Canadian wolves into an enclosure, the wolves weren’t returned to the wild until late March 1995. But the lobos’ presence in the pens and transport into the park proved to be a spectacle.

Jackson Hole News editor Angus M. Thuermer Jr. reported the reintroduction from the scene.

“Caught in Canada, tranquilized, weighed, injected, tagged, collared, caged, exported, imported and transported, they entered Yellowstone’s north gate in a horse trailer at 8:36 a.m. Thursday,” Thuermer wrote Jan. 18, 1995.

He described his first glimpse.

“I see the fleeting silhouette loping through the woods,” Thuermer reported. “Wolf. It is the floating nature of the gait, the size of the head, the erect ears and thick fur that make this animal distinct. Purposeful and relentless in its stride, it glides in and out of the trees as it cruises the perimeter of its 1-acre pen at Crystal Creek.”

With less fanfare and hoopla, 11 wolves were also released beginning that week in central Idaho in a more abrupt “dump and run”-style of reintroduction.

Another round of releases followed in 1996, bringing the total number of transported wolves to 66. They thrived, and within five years the wolf population in the Greater Yellowstone had grown to 177 animals in 18 packs.

Their success was wholly expected, said Ed Bangs, the retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wolf reintroduction coordinator.

Bangs and colleagues correctly predicted about a 10 percent annual population growth rate.

“People think they’re like this really timid animal,” Bangs said in an interview from Helena, Montana. “Wolves are big, bold, adaptable, resilient large predators.

“Once you turned them loose in really good habitat, they did really, really well,” Bangs said. “It’s not like we were really smart. They are just really good animals.”

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation challenged the reintroduction persistently, even while it was underway. Because of an injunction obtained by the bureau, federal managers were told by the Department of Justice they must keep the wolves confined to the 2-foot-wide, 3-foot-high and 4-foot-long steel shipping crates for 33 hours. At that point the Canadian packs were already being trucked south. Their crates were placed in the Yellowstone pen with the wolves still in them.

The courts reversed the stay the evening of Jan. 12, 1995, and biologists “rushed back to open the crates,” according to the Jackson Hole News archives.

At the time of the release Wolf Fund director Renee Askins had been advocating for wolf reintroduction for nearly 17 years. In that time Askins toured around Wyoming and the West trying to sway public opinion.

“Our whole strategy was to try to understand what the specific concerns were and then to address them literally one by one,” she said in an interview. “My staff called it ‘behind enemy lines lecture tours.’”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, meanwhile, studied wolf reintroduction through an environmental impact statement. The feds ended up going with the plan they preferred — establishing “nonessential experimental populations” in Yellowstone and Idaho.

Even with the plan on the table the prospects looked grim, Askins said.

“Western agriculture had been in control of the politics of the West for so long that no one thought there was a chance in hell it would ever fly,” the former Moose resident said.

Success, Askins said, was owed to “a lot of people working collaboratively with an enormous amount of information and passion.

“Inch by inch by inch,” she said. “Both politically and logistically, it took that. It was about changing the culture. It was about engaging the national public in a way that empowered them to want to achieve something.”

Askins had pledged to shutter the Wolf Fund once the feat was complete.

Having become accustomed to free meals of road kill, the Yellowstone wolves were at first hesitant to abandon the pens.

“It certainly surprises me that they are as tied to the pen as they are,” U.S. Biological Survey wolf expert Dave Meach told the Jackson Hole News. “It shows what happens when you bring animals in from the wild who never knew anything about a pen.”

After a week all 14 Yellowstone wolves were on the run in the wild.

In the 20 years since there’s been no shortage of legal trouble for the lobo. Since 2011 wolves have been a state-managed, hunted species in Idaho and Montana, which provide most of their Northern Rocky range.

Jurisdiction of Wyoming wolves has swung between the state and federal government. Their Endangered Species Act listing was removed in 2012, but protections were restored in September.

The political and legal instability aside, Bangs said wolves are doing well.

“I think the state guys have done a really good job,” he said. “By and large, there are still a lot of wolves, and the wolf population really hasn’t gone down at all.”

At last official count there were a minimum of 1,592 wolves in the Northern Rockies region. That’s down slightly from an apex of 1,749 in 2011, but roughly double estimates from a decade ago.

Bangs, who retired in 2011, said that in his opinion “animosity is way down” for wolves in the West.

“I think the average person is kind of over it,” he said.

The antics of wolf extremists on both sides of the issue persist, he said.

“It takes two to maintain a dysfunctional relationship,” Bangs said. “You’ve got the wolf lovers and wolf haters still lobbing grenades.

“They’re just doing that to torment the other side,” he said, “and it really has no effect on anything.”

On the 20th anniversary of wolf reintroduction, Askins thanked all those involved.

“I personally couldn’t be happier and prouder of the success of wolves,” she said. “And I couldn’t be more honored to be a part of the tribe of people that really worked so hard to make the reintroduction happen.

“There were people that will be my heroes for life,” she said. “They were oftentimes really hidden from a lot of the spotlight and all the press. Their work made reintroduction a reality.”

Askins singled out Bob Barbee, then Yellowstone’s superintendent, and John Varley, the park’s chief of research.

Budget committee questions funding for bison, brucellosis

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Posted: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 2:57 pm |

A Legislative discussion over the budget of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks led to questions of who should be paying for bison and brucellosis management.

On Tuesday, FWP was the first department to defend its budget request to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation as part of House Bill 2, the state budget bill.

FWP managers will spend most of this week explaining their budget and operations, which are currently predicted to cost more than \$85 million annually.

But only \$1.6 million is requested each year from the general fund, since FWP is supported mainly by sportsmen’s dollars and federal grants.

FWP Operations Chief Paul Sihler detailed the \$7.5 million that would fund the department-management portion of FWP’s budget, which includes the budgets of headquarters and regional managers and front-desk staff, state property taxes and management of aquatic invasive species.

In 2014, FWP juggled accounts and programs to make \$1.4 million in cuts.

On Tuesday, Sihler proposed new spending in only two areas: \$57,000 a year to add bison management positions in Region 3 and another \$57,000 to pay for Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation land leases. Neither would use general fund money.

“This is to fund two (full-time employees), one in Gardiner and one in West Yellowstone, to address public safety and property damage from bison being outside of the park and in that tolerance zone,” Sihler said.

Sihler said the technicians would haze bison away from private property where they aren’t wanted or public areas where they posed a safety hazard, such as roads.

Sen. John Brendan, R-Scobey, asked if the technicians could shoot bison on sight with the new “machine guns” FWP has received.

FWP is getting 113 Sig Sauer Model 716 automatic rifles to replace its aging arsenal of M-14 rifles, said FWP spokesman Ron Aasheim. The M-14s were obtained through the National Defense Authorization Act 1033 Program, which transfers excess military equipment to law enforcement agencies.

Sihler said only wardens were authorized to use the FWP rifles, but the technicians would be allowed to shoot bison if necessary.

Sen. Jim Keane, D-Butte, asked if federal money, either Pittman-Robertson funding or from Yellowstone National Park, could pay for the positions.

Sihler said the Pittman-Robertson Fund, which collects taxes on guns and ammunition, funds state wildlife efforts through a program of matching grants, so Montana had to pitch in some money.

Once wildlife leaves the park and enters Montana, the state becomes responsible, Sihler said.

Carl Glimm, R-Helena, asked if Pittman-Robertson funds could pay for testing bison for brucellosis.

“It might be a prudent expenditure of state resources because we are funding them entirely ourselves through the Department of Livestock. It might be worth looking into to manage that risk of what that cost is a little better,” Glimm said.

After Brendan said he’d rather see federal funds or license funds paying for brucellosis testing, Sihler re-emphasized that Pittman-Robertson funds could be spent only on wildlife, not cattle.

Bill sponsor Nancy Ballance, R-Hamilton, recalled in-depth discussions during the last Legislature about where Pittman-Robertson money could be spent related to depredation and suggested that the requirements of Pittman-Robertson funds be reviewed.

“We’ll have to talk about this further,” Sihler said.

The appropriations subcommittee will hear from the departments of Agriculture and Livestock next week.

The budget of the Department of Livestock – which is currently around \$400,000 in debt -- is proposed to be more than \$12 million annually with \$2.5 million requested from the general fund.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 752 AM MST TUE JAN 14 2015

Today: Mostly sunny. Patchy fog late in the morning. Highs 23 to 29.

Tonight: Clear. Patchy fog. Lows 3 to 9.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 6 to 12. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Friday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the morning... Then mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 30 percent.

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Add this to the must see list! Tucked high in the mountains of the Teton Wilderness Area in Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest is Parting of the Waters. Two Ocean Pass, North Two Ocean Creek flows south along the Continental Divide before splitting into Atlantic Creek to the east and Pacific Creek to the west.

Parting of the Waters-Atlantic Creek to the Atlantic Ocean 3488 miles. Pacific Creek to the Pacific Ocean 1353 miles.

"A drop of rain falling anywhere within the North Two Ocean Creek drainage has an equal chance of flowing either into the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans."- Wikipedia

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! When operating a snowmobile in Yellowstone National Park, it is required that you carry a radio! If you have any questions, please contact Brandon Lipke in the Safety Office at 344-2030.





Medcor regrets to announce **Dr. Joseph Keel's resignation from the Mammoth Clinic**. While we are sorry to see Dr. Keel depart, we are supportive of his plans to pursue a new direction in his medical career as a traveling physician. We wish him the best of luck in his new adventure!

His last day at Mammoth Clinic will be March 6th. There will be a farewell open house on March 5th with details to follow.

You can continue to have your health care needs met at the Mammoth Clinic. The rest of the clinic staff remains in place and Medcor is bringing in other providers to maintain full-time services while we recruit for a permanent Family Medicine physician.

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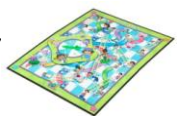
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Warm The Soul
Friday January 30
Good food, Good music, Good cause

All You Care to Eat
Lodge-made Soups,
Fresh Bread, and Desserts at the
Mammoth Terrace Grill

Family Friendly Seating at 5 p.m.
With Children's Sing-a-long

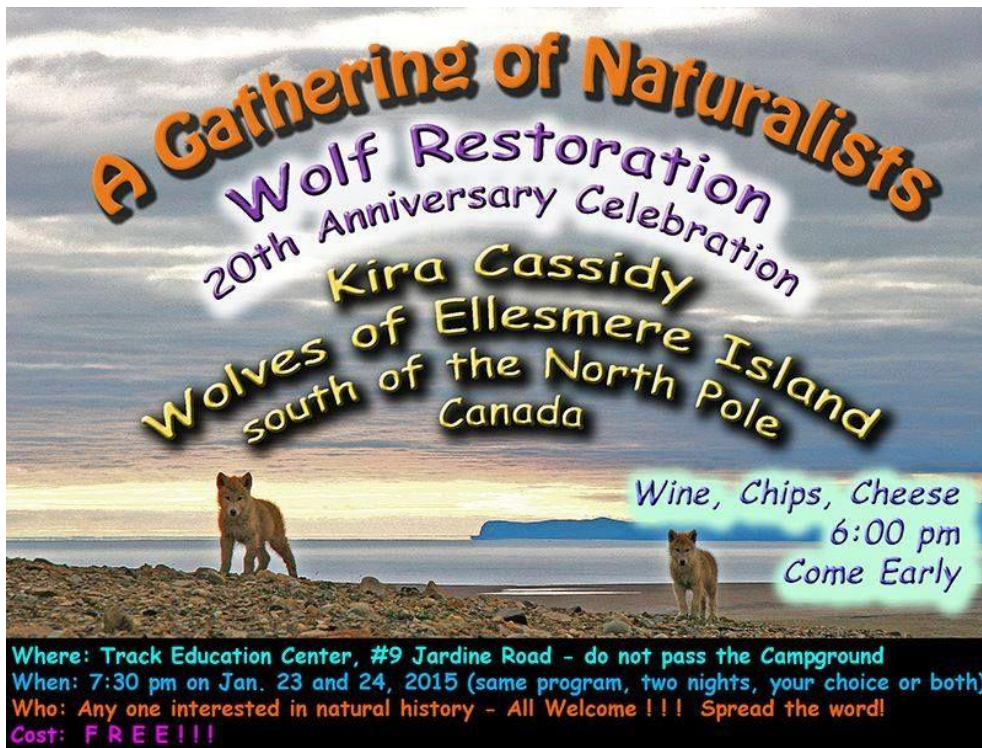
Adult Acoustic Evening at 7:30 p.m.
Live acoustic jam with local musicians

Adults \$20
Children \$5

Call (307) 344-7311 today
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Be sure to ask for the
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All proceeds benefit our community's
Snoopy Cooperative Preschool

Thanks to Xanterra, local musicians, and you!



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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 753 AM MST THU JAN 15 2015

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Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 11 to 17. West winds around 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the morning. Highs 21 to 27.

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

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The recent presentation “**Pathways to the Past: Twelve Thousand Years of Prehistory and History in Yellowstone National Park**” by Staff Archaeologist Staffan Peterson was recorded and is available at P:\Videos\Training\2015\Staffan Peterson - Yellowstone Archeology



REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER!
When operating a snowmobile in Yellowstone National Park, it is required that you carry a radio! If you have any questions, please contact Brandon Lipke in the Safety Office at 344-2030.



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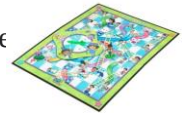
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Game night + Potluck at the MCC! Thursday, January 22nd @ 6pm. Bring a game to play ours. Please bring a dish to share too. See you there!



Warm The Soul Friday January 30
 Good food, Good music, Good cause

All You Care to Eat
 Lodge-made Soups,
 Fresh Bread, and Desserts at the
 Mammoth Terrace Grill

Family Friendly Seating at 5 p.m.
 With Children's Sing-a-long

Adult Acoustic Evening at 7:30 p.m.
 Live acoustic jam with local musicians

Adults \$20
 Children \$5

Call (307) 344-7311 today
 for reservations
 Be sure to ask for the
 "Warm the Soul" event

All proceeds benefit our community's
 Snoopy Cooperative Preschool

Thanks to Xanterra, local musicians, and you!

A Gathering of Naturalists
 Wolf Restoration
 20th Anniversary Celebration
 Kira Cassidy
 Wolves of Ellesmere Island
 south of the North Pole
 Canada

Wine, Chips, Cheese
 6:00 pm
 Come Early

Where: Track Education Center, #9 Jardine Road - do not pass the Campground
 When: 7:30 pm on Jan. 23 and 24, 2015 (same program, two nights, your choice or both)
 Who: Any one interested in natural history - All Welcome !!! Spread the word!
 Cost: FREE!!!

IN THE NEWS**More Gardiner-area bighorn sheep die***Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer*

Posted: Monday, January 19, 2015 5:30 pm

The Upper Yellowstone bighorn sheep herd has seen at least 31 members die since December, most likely from pneumonia.

In mid-December, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks reported that 10 wild sheep had died, but they were mostly lambs.

The Upper Yellowstone herd roams an area from Gardiner north to the Tom Miner Basin and had about 130 members in two groups prior to December, said FWP Region 3 chief biologist Howard Burt.

In the month since, biologists have removed an additional 21 bighorn sheep carcasses. Most of the herd's lambs have died.

Burt said the carcasses are still being tested, so the causes of death are unknown. But biologists expect to find the bacteria responsible for pneumonia.

Herds in the area have suffered small bouts of pneumonia in the past, and a few animals, mostly lambs, have died almost every year.

But this year, the dead animals were all ages, prompting a greater level of concern.

So far, the herd inside Yellowstone National Park appears to have remained healthy.

Pneumonia can be deadly to bighorn sheep, and large die-offs have been documented throughout the West. Often, wild sheep come into contact with domestic sheep prior to the die-offs.

The same bacteria that poses little problem for domestic sheep can be lethal to wild sheep.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Yellowstone Begins Bison Capture Operations**

Yellowstone National Park has begun bison capture operations at its Stephens Creek facility near the park's North entrance.

Members of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) agreed to an operating plan that targets the removal of 800 to 900 bison that migrate out of the park's northern boundary this winter to reduce population growth and to reduce the potential for a mass migration of bison into Montana.

Federal, state, and tribal members of the IBMP have agreed to use hunting as the primary method for removing bison from the population. This winter, hunting in Montana is expected to remove up to 350 bison from the population, while an additional 500 to 600 animals that leave the park boundary may be captured and transferred to tribal groups for processing and distribution of meat and other parts to their members for nutrition and cultural practices.

For safety reasons, the area around the Stephens Creek facility is closed to the public until further notice. A map and information on the closure is available for public review during normal business hours at the Superintendent's Office, the Chief Ranger's Office, and the temporary Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs.

In 2000, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and the Governor of Montana signed a court-mediated agreement that included guidelines to limit the bison population in Yellowstone to around 3,000 animals. The removal of bison from the northern breeding herd during each of the next several winters will progress towards that guideline.

The cooperating agencies operating under the IBMP are the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Montana Department of Livestock, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the InterTribal Buffalo Council, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Nez Perce Tribe.

The IBMP has been successful at conserving a wild, wide-ranging population of bison, with no detected transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle. Its partners will continue to work together to ensure the effective management of Yellowstone bison.

Information on the IBMP is available online at www.ibmp.info. Additional information about Yellowstone bison and their management can be found at www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/bison.htm.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 552 AM MST TUE JAN 20 201

Today: Mostly cloudy until late afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Highs 20 to 26. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy until early morning then clearing. Isolated snow showers in the evening. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 7 below to 1 above zero. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Highs 20 to 26.

Wednesday Night: Clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 6 below to 2 above zero.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs around 26.

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YNP@Work

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Wednesday, January 21, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Presented by Katy Duffy, recently retired YNP resource education ranger.

Instruction on survival and skills in a winter environment. This class is open to all and is strongly encouraged for anyone that works or travels in a winter environment. Instruction emphasis is on Patrol Rangers. Individuals are encouraged to attend the lecture even if they have no intention of participating in the overnight.

There is no fee for the class. You are responsible for over-snow transportation to the training sites.

Topics include: Pre-Plan/Hazard Analysis, Avalanche awareness, Emphasis on ski/snowshoe and snowmobile travel. Proper gear and equipment selection/maintenance, Winter shelters, Route finding, Winter EMS

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Winter Survival Overnight: Dates: TBD - Likely mid-late February. Location: Hedges Peak near Canyon. Skis or snowshoes required.

Other Gear/Equipment needs will be addressed in the classroom lecture. Please contact Jamie Hanson for more information or to sign up. Email or 307-344-2886

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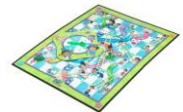
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Where: Track Education Center, #9 Jardine Road - do not pass the Campground
 When: 7:30 pm on Jan. 23 and 24, 2015 (same program, two nights, your choice or both)
 Who: Any one interested in natural history - All Welcome !!! Spread the word!
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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Reminds News Crews, Film Crews And Still Photographers About Permit Rules

Yellowstone National Park takes the opportunity early each calendar year to remind news reporters, still photographers, and film, video and audio crews to review permitting regulations before attempting to capture images and sounds in the park.

Shooting photos and videos in Yellowstone for personal use does not require a permit. However, federal regulations and National Park Service (NPS) policies place some restrictions on other types of film, photography, and media activities due to concerns over visitor safety and impacts on fragile park resources.

Permits are not usually required for news-gathering organizations. However, news crews larger than two people or those using satellite trucks, production vehicles and some specialized equipment may require a permit due to the potential impact on park visitors and resources. While NPS employees performing their duties in public may be photographed or recorded at any time, any personal interviews must be arranged in advance through the park's Public Affairs Office at 307-344-2015 or by email at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov. Park entrance fees are typically waived for members of the media who are gathering news inside the park. Journalists should be prepared to present appropriate identification at park entrance stations or any time upon request of a uniformed NPS employee. Anyone traveling through the park for projects outside park boundaries must pay the park entrance fee.

The regulations are somewhat different for film, video and audio crews who are not involved in daily news gathering activities. As a general rule, a film permit is required for any individual, business, group, organization or institution that may be paid, reimbursed, or provided any measure of financial or in-kind support for any costs associated with an audio, film, or video produced within Yellowstone National Park. This applies not only to those shooting feature films, but those who capture audio, film, or video footage for documentaries, news magazines, commercial advertisements, school projects, product demonstrations, web sites or promotional or training films, videos, or stock footage.

Permits are not required for amateur or professional still photographers taking landscape photos. However, commercial still photographers using models, props, special lighting or specialized equipment may be required to secure a film permit. Portrait and wedding photographers must have a permit if they choose to use the images for advertising purposes in print or online. Still photographers taking photos of park employees for magazine use may also be required to have a permit. Time-lapse photography requires a permit if the images are presented in a moving film or video sequence as opposed to individual stills. Additional details regarding film permits are available online at www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/filmpermit.htm or by calling the park's Visitor Services Office at 307-344-2107. It takes at least ten business days to process a request for a film permit. Crews are strongly advised not to make any travel arrangements until a permit is approved.

News crews and those working under a film permit are generally allowed to work only in the same areas accessible to the general public. Travel off boardwalks or off established trails in thermal areas is always prohibited. Crews are also advised to avoid working during peak visitation times in high-traffic areas. An application fee as well as costs associated with having one or more uniformed NPS employee monitors on hand during filming may also be required as a condition of a permit. Film and news crews are reminded that violation of any park regulation or terms of a permit may result in issuance of a violation notice and/or suspension of privileges granted by a permit.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 707 AM MST WED JAN 21 2015

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs 17 to 23.

Tonight: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 7 below to 1 above zero.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs around 26.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 4 to 10.

Friday: Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Occasional flurries through the day. Highs around 27.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the evening... Then slight chance of snow showers after midnight. Lows 8 to 14. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning... Then chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 27 to 33. Chance of snow 40 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, January 22, 2015



*Dave Hill of Lake Maintenance making a packing run at the East Entrance.
Thanks to Dennis Lenzendorf for the photos.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mid-winter Eagle Survey Results: Participants in the annual mid-winter eagle survey on January 10th counted 7 bald eagles and 4 golden eagles park-wide. Most of Yellowstone's eagles migrate south or to lower elevation areas (e.g. Paradise Valley) for the winter where food is more abundant. Generally, between 35 and 45 bald eagles and 3-10 golden eagles are observed from Gardiner to Livingston during the survey. Surveys outside the Park were done in cooperation with the Forest Service. (Photo of the golden eagle taken by Joe Keel on the day of the survey.)

Bald Eagles: Old Faithful (1), Gibbon Falls (1), Madison River (2), Hayden Valley (1), Lamar Valley (2). Golden Eagles: Hellroaring Area (1), Lamar Valley (3)

Thanks to: John Cataldo, Molly Moore, Katy Duffy, Erik Oberg, Jodi Lyle, Joe Keel, Temia Keel, Beth Coombs, Matt Nagel, Brenna Cassidy, Kira Cassidy, Amanda Bramblett, Bret DeYoung, Lora DeYoung, Sue Mills, Rick Lee, and Dennis Clark.

A quick reminder that the **Research Library** will be closed this Friday, 1/23. We will reopen for regular hours on Monday, 1/26.



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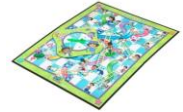
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IN THE NEWS

Genetic data sheds new light on brucellosis in Montana

By Brett French – The Billings Gazette

Wyoming seems to be off the hook.

For years wildlife managers and biologists have contended that the disease brucellosis was spread to Yellowstone National Park and into Montana via wild elk and bison that had visited Wyoming's winter feedgrounds and carried the bacteria north, infecting other elk and bison.

Recent research shows this is not true.

"The data is suggesting very little connection between the Wyoming feedgrounds and Yellowstone and Paradise Valley elk," said Pauline Kamath, a U.S. Geological Survey ecologist who works out of the Northern Rockies Science Center in Bozeman.

Feedgrounds aren't totally scot-free, though. Kamath's research also showed that a large herd of elk that winters in the Madison Valley seems to have been infected by elk that visited a winter elk feeding ground in Idaho.

Kamath presented the results of her study Saturday at Montana State University during a brucellosis talk organized by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. About 50 people attended.

Recent research

Wyoming was long blamed for Montana's problems because, since 1909, it has concentrated elk on winter feedgrounds — at first to keep the elk from eating ranchers' grass and more recently to artificially sustain wildlife populations for the state's popular elk hunting industry. Last year, there were more than 20 state-sponsored winter feedgrounds in western Wyoming.

It's widely accepted among scientists that brucellosis is more easily spread when animals are concentrated, such as on feedgrounds.

But Kamath's analysis of 250 tissue samples from elk, wild bison, farmed bison and cattle debunks the long-held belief that Montana's wildlife was infected by Wyoming's feedground practices.

Similar genetic research has been used to track whether a dentist infected his patients with HIV as well as to find out that severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was transmitted to humans via an infected bat.

Not from cattle

Brucellosis can cause female ungulates to abort their first calves as well as infect humans with undulant fever. The most likely transmission source is when uninfected animals or people come into contact with aborted material from an infected host.

Another popularly circulated belief was that the outbreaks of brucellosis in cattle herds in the Paradise Valley, south of Livingston, was due to infected corriente cattle brought in from Mexico or Texas.

“Based on the cases and isolates we have there are no genetics from outside the (Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem) suggesting that,” Kamath said. “It’s very unlikely that something from outside is the source.”

Lessening risk

Over the last three years, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has enacted measures such as hazing, fencing and lethal removal of elk to try and keep elk and cattle separated to prevent the disease from spreading to cattle.

Opponents have charged that there’s little evidence that elk are the source of the infections, but Kamath’s research shows otherwise.

By examining the brucella abortus bacteria in tissue from infected animals, Kamath could trace the infection almost like a family tree, showing where it originally came from and where it had split off to different hosts.

“It’s pretty accepted that (brucellosis) was introduced into the system when they brought in dairy cattle,” Kamath said, marking the first time brucellosis was found in the Yellowstone, Paradise Valley areas.

Separate source animals brought brucellosis to Wyoming and Idaho, her analysis showed.

Not proof positive

Yet without actually seeing a cow touch infected elk birthing material, Kamath said she couldn’t say positively that elk were the source of outbreaks of brucellosis in Montana cattle.

“I can just say it was the most likely route of transmission” based on the genetic analysis, she said.

The preponderance of evidence does point to elk as the source of outbreaks, though, said Neil Anderson, FWP lab supervisor in Bozeman.

“I’m a wildlife guy and I don’t want it to come from elk,” he said. “But it’s hard to say that elk are probably not the source.”

It’s been here

In the 1930s the U.S. Department of Agriculture attempted to wipe out brucellosis in all livestock with an intensive eradication and vaccination program. The work was so successful that brucellosis is believed to only persist in the United States in wildlife in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

What’s odd is that the disease can be traced back in elk and bison in Montana and Wyoming 30 to 40 years, yet it’s only in the last seven years that cattle tested positive for brucellosis in Montana. Why that has happened is unknown.

“There’s something that’s driving this expansion in the system,” Kamath said.

Wildlife managers believe it may be higher concentrations of elk in Montana on private and public lands — up to 2,600 elk in some herds — changes in elk movements or simply because of increased surveillance.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 836 AM MST THU JAN 22 2015

Rest Of Today: Partly cloudy. Patchy fog late in the morning. Highs 21 to 27.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers after midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 3 to 9. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Friday: Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs 25 to 31. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening...then mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows 8 to 14. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Saturday: Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Saturday Night: Cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the evening... Then isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows 15 to 21. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the morning. Highs 31 to 37.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 Road Construction Projects

Norris to Golden Gate (Expected completion date October 1, 2015.)

- Admin. Travel: Expect snow removal activities with some short delays, April 1-14. Road construction and half hour delays start April 15.
- Public Travel: Expect road construction and half hour delays, April 17-October 1.
- The entrance to Norris Campground will be closed, April 18-May 10 for construction activities.

Isa Lake Bridge Replacement (Expected completion date September 10, 2015.)

- Closed to Public and Administrative travel, April 13- June 11 (7 AM).
- Open with road construction and half hour delays, June 11-September 10.



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Bald Eagles: Old Faithful (1), Gibbon Falls (1), Madison River (2), Hayden Valley (1), Lamar Valley (2). Golden Eagles: Hellroaring Area (1), Lamar Valley (3)

Thanks to: John Cataldo, Molly Moore, Katy Duffy, Erik Oberg, Jodi Lyle, Joe Keel, Temia Keel, Beth Coombs, Matt Nagel, Brenna Cassidy, Kira Cassidy, Amanda Bramblett, Bret DeYoung, Lora DeYoung, Sue Mills, Rick Lee, and Dennis Clark.

A quick reminder that the **Research Library** will be closed today. We will reopen for regular hours on Monday, 1/26.



Winter Survival Stories: A Wildlife Seminar

Thursday, February 5th 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room beside the Recreation Hall

Could you use your head as a snowplow or stay warm when temperatures plummet below 0°F? Discover some of the amazing adaptations wildlife possess to cope with the severity of winter in Yellowstone.

Presented by Katy Duffy, recently retired YNP resource education ranger.

Instruction on survival and skills in a winter environment. This class is open to all and is strongly encouraged for anyone that works or travels in a winter environment. Instruction emphasis is on Patrol Rangers. Individuals are encouraged to attend the lecture even if they have no intention of participating in the overnight.

There is no fee for the class. You are responsible for over-snow transportation to the training sites.

Topics include: Pre-Plan/Hazard Analysis, Avalanche awareness, Emphasis on ski/snowshoe and snowmobile travel. Proper gear and equipment selection/maintenance, Winter shelters, Route finding, Winter EMS

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IN THE NEWS

Bill would require range study for bison transplants

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer – Posted 15 hours ago

A bill that would require Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to hire someone to evaluate forage prior to transplanting bison could run into legal issues over who is hired.

On Thursday, Rep. Alan Redfield, R-Livingston, presented the first bison bill of the session to the House Agriculture Committee.

House Bill 194 would require FWP to contract with either the Montana State University College of Agriculture or the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service to conduct a forage analysis prior to moving bison to other locations in the state.

The 2011 Legislature passed Senate Bill 212, which already requires that FWP go through several steps, including getting landowner approval and developing contingency plans for escape or other emergencies.

As part of the determination of an area's ability to support animals, HB 194 adds the requirement of a range analysis that considers both drought years and severe winters.

"We're always asked to use science to determine our actions. This puts science at the forefront. FWP and the DOL don't have qualified staff that are trained to do range work. We have to look outside those agencies," Redfield said. "I went to the two agencies I did to prevent potential lawsuits over bias."

MSU is conducting a range analysis of the Gardiner Basin where bison graze when they leave the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. It's costing \$117,000.

Redfield said a private analysis would cost \$35,000 but groups might claim some private contractors are biased.

Redfield's bill had seven supporters, including Park County Commissioner Marty Malone, the Montana Association of Counties, United Property Owners of Montana and a host of livestock groups.

Sportsmen's representatives and wildlife advocates opposed the bill, although some said they did so reluctantly.

National Wildlife Federation spokesman Ben Lamb said he appreciated Redfield's measured approach but that it could have unintended consequences.

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- - - - -

Yellowstone begins transferring bison for slaughter

By Matthew Brown - 4:42 p.m. MST January 22, 2015

BILLINGS (AP) – Yellowstone National Park has begun shipping wild bison for slaughter as part of a plan to reduce the park's population by as many as 900 animals this winter.

On Wednesday and Thursday, more than 150 bison captured near the park's northern border with Montana were removed from holding, loaded onto trailers and shipped off, according to the Buffalo Field Campaign, a wildlife advocacy group.

There were 4,900 bison in the park last summer. For more than two decades, officials have tried to curb the animals' winter migration into Montana to guard against potential disease transmission to livestock.

Park spokesman Al Nash confirmed the shipments of recently-captured animals for slaughter. But he said the park no longer plans to offer timely updates on how many bison are captured and shipped.

The information instead will be posted on a bi-weekly basis to an interagency bison management website. Nash said information on how many animals are being held also would be released on a bi-weekly basis.

"There will be additional bison captured in coming weeks but it's impossible to predict when and how many," Nash said.

The bison taken Wednesday were turned over to American Indian tribes. Their meat will be distributed to tribal members.

Stephany Seay with the Buffalo Field Campaign said group members have been in the field counting bison being put into Yellowstone's Stephens Creek capture facility over the past two weeks. They also are tracking the number being shipped out, Seay said.

Seay said the park's unwillingness to share that information shows "they're trying to hide it."

"I think they're ashamed of what they're doing," she said.

Park spokesman Nash responded that "giving people numbers on a regular basis is not hiding."

"We have promised to provide regular reporting of our bison management activities," he said.

The first such report was released Thursday. It covers a two-week period ending Jan. 16 and did not have any information on this week's shipments.

Seay estimated that about 80 bison remained at Stephens Creek on Thursday.

At least 73 bison have been killed by state-licensed and tribal hunters after crossing the park's border, according to wildlife officials.

Montana has tried to increase hunting opportunities in recent years as an alternative to the often-criticized shipments to slaughter.

Nash said upcoming bison captures would be planned to minimize impacts on hunters and ensure opportunities for hunting outside the park.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 822 AM MST FRI JAN 23 2015

Rest Of Today: Cloudy. Slight chance of snow showers late in the morning...then occasional snow showers early in the afternoon. Occasional flurries in the afternoon. Highs 25 to 31. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries in the evening...then slight chance of snow showers after midnight. Lows 9 to 15. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Saturday: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 26 to 32.

Saturday Night: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of snow showers in the morning...then occasional flurries in the afternoon. Highs 31 to 37. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 13 to 19.

Monday: Mostly sunny. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 35 to 41.

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Contribute to the park's social media!

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

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, January 26, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Do you have a **laser printer that needs cleaning or repair?** Printer repair guy is planning a trip down this week. Let Lori Wilkinson know Make/model/problem, or if you just want a cleaning done.

Reminder: There is a box allocated for food to be donated to the Gardiner Food Pantry located on the first floor outside the Visitor Services Office. If you wish to donate any non perishable items, don't hesitate to drop it off in

the box. The Gardiner Food Pantry is always thankful for any and all donations, especially breakfast items, pancake mix, peanut butter and jam. Thanks!

Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday January 29, 2015. For government work contact Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work please contact Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

Upcoming CPR classes!

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

Date/Time: **TOMORROW**, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: Mammoth EMS classroom

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

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Mammoth EMS classroom

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



Winter Survival Stories: A Wildlife Seminar

Thursday, February 5th 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room beside the Recreation Hall

Could you use your head as a snowplow or stay warm when temperatures plummet below 0°F? Discover some of the amazing adaptations wildlife possess to cope with the severity of winter in Yellowstone.

Presented by Katy Duffy, recently retired YNP resource education ranger.

Instruction on survival and skills in a winter environment. This class is open to all and is strongly encouraged for anyone that works or travels in a winter environment. Instruction emphasis is on Patrol Rangers. Individuals are encouraged to attend the lecture even if they have no intention of participating in the overnight.

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From Katy Duffy:

Thank you very much to everyone who participated in my delightful retirement parties on January 15th. Deep appreciation also goes to everyone who donated to my gift. I doubt that anyone will be surprised to hear that I will use it to purchase outdoor gear. I plan to spend lots of time outdoors observing birds and other wildlife, vegetation and geologic features while skiing, hiking and bicycling Yellowstone and the rest of the GYE. I'm so glad I don't need to say good-bye as I expect to see each of you and hope to perpetuate the many precious friendships I've made while I am—and you are—enjoying our magnificent natural backyard.

Gardiner/Mammoth Community:

The School Board has identified three areas based on the strategic plan that they would like to create committees to formulate recommendations for each initiative. If you would like to serve on one of these committees or feel like you may be a Subject Matter Expert (SME) to work on one of these committees, please let me know. We would like to have two parents/community members, two students, and a SME to serve on each committee in addition to two staff members and a board member.

Committees are as follows:

- Facilities Committee (co-chaired by Holly Long and Dan Rhodes)** - will be responsible for considering the needs, wants and preferences of our school and our community, developing a plan that prioritizes our facility needs.

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- Communication Committee (chaired by Bob Fuhrman)** - will identify strategies to carry out our communication initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan.

In addition, there will be an **Academic Program Committee** who will review our academic programs to ensure that current course offerings are meeting the needs of our students. The School Improvement Team will serve as this committee, but if you are interested please let Mike Baer know in case there are openings on this committee.

Please let me know if you are interested in serving on one of these committees. If you are interested, please let me know which committee.

You can reach me at baltzleyp@gardiner.org or 410.979.1594 or JT Stroder at jtstroder@gardiner.org or [406-224-7323](tel:406-224-7323), if you have any questions.

We look forward to working together on these committees.

Patricia C. Baltzley
410.979.1594
Chair, Gardiner School Board



**MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID**

Sometimes, first aid isn't
a **bandage**,
or **CPR**,
or the **Heimlich**,
or calling **911**.

Sometimes, first aid is **YOU!**

Someone you know could be experiencing a mental illness or crisis. You can help them. You are more likely to encounter someone — friend, family member, coworker, neighbor, or member of the community — in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. Mental Health First Aid teaches a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate professional, peer, social, or self help care. Anyone can take the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid course — first responders, students, teachers, leaders of faith communities, human resources professionals, and caring citizens.

Sometimes, the best first aid is you.
Take the course, save a life,
Strengthen your community.





Mental Health First Aid
Friday February 13, 2015
8AM to 5 PM
Yellowstone Association classroom in
Gardiner

Course is **FREE!**
To register, contact Juanita
Bueter at bueterj@gardiner.org
or at (406) 848-7563
In support of our community:
Big Bear Stampede

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IN THE NEWS

Bison hunt in Jackson Hole sets record

22 hours ago • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — Hunters have killed about 300 bison in the Jackson Hole region, eclipsing the all-time high and helping reduce the number of wild bison to levels closer to where wildlife managers prefer.

While there were a few reports pending from a handful of hunters, Wyoming Game and Fish Department officials said that 299 hunters had successfully downed a bison during the state’s five-month season for hunting the Jackson Bison Herd. The season ended Jan. 18.

In total, 190 cows and calves were downed by hunters and another 109 bulls were killed.

Success rates were also well above average, with 98 percent of bull hunters filling their tag. Some 92 percent of cow-calf hunters harvested an animal, though the success rate would have been 84 percent if 16 mistakenly killed bulls — mostly hard-to-discern yearling males — were removed from the equation.

“It’s been an exceptional year for hunting bison, for whatever reason,” Game and Fish spokesman Mark Gocke said.

The previous record harvest for the Jackson Bison Herd was set in 2007, when 267 animals were killed.

“Over the past seven years we were only over 200 three times,” Gocke said of the harvest. “Given this year’s harvest, it’s hard not to think that it’s going to be an aberration.”

The average harvest has been 220 since 2007.

The hunting season was extended this year until Jan. 18, but the extra week was not especially productive for bison hunters.

Aly Courtemanch, the Game and Fish biologist who manages the herd, said the herd’s seasonal movements overall worked in favor of hunters.

Bison hunting is permitted on the National Elk Refuge and Bridger-Teton National Forest but prohibited in Grand Teton National Park except on privately owned inholdings.

“The last few years they’re on the refuge for opening day in August, and then usually they leave and mostly stay within the park,” Courtemanch said. “They really haven’t been coming back until late December — and then they move back and forth.

“This year, for whatever reason, they came down in early December and stayed,” she said. “They were just in open hunt areas and more accessible to hunters.”

Hunter harvest was steady and slow, Gocke said, which might have decreased pressure at any one time enough to make the herds stick to the refuge.

Factoring in calves that will be birthed, the year’s hunt is expected to dent the Jackson Bison Herd by roughly 100 animals. It last numbered 825.

Wildlife managers want a herd population of 500 and are trying to do so steadily between now and 2022.

In coming months Game and Fish will assess the herd population, get public comment and set the bison-hunting season regulations for next year.

Courtemanch said she doesn’t anticipate much change, except for a small reduction in the number of bull tags.

“We need to keep harvest pretty high,” she said, “because we want to keep that population hopefully on the downward trend.”

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/bison-hunt-in-jackson-hole-sets-record/article_d6aa4f38-5e2f-51c0-b1ac-46c0b20f21ec.html#ixzz3PwIX3524

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 852 AM MST MON JAN 26 2015

Today: Partly cloudy in the late morning and early afternoon then clearing. Patchy fog late in the morning. Highs 38 to 44.

Tonight: Clear. Lows 15 to 21.

Tuesday: Sunny. Highs 38 to 44. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the evening...then mostly cloudy with chance of snow after midnight. Lows 19 to 25. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Wednesday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 31 to 37.

Wednesday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 12 to 18.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, January 27, 2015



Jasmine Alkhatib (Concessions Management Office) and some friends snowshoed to the Hell Roaring Suspension Bridge on Saturday, January 24th.

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- - - - -

The copy center will be closed this Friday, January 30. The mailroom will be open for business. If you have mail questions on Friday, you can contact Scott in the property office. If you will have work requests for me in the copy center, please have them to me by Thursday so I can get them to you.

Thanks, Deb Mailroom/Copy Center

Reminder: There is a box allocated for food to be donated to the Gardiner Food Pantry located on the first floor outside the Visitor Services Office. If you wish to donate any non perishable items, don't hesitate to drop it off in the box. The Gardiner Food Pantry is always thankful for any and all donations, especially breakfast items, pancake mix, peanut butter and jam. Thanks!

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We look forward to working together on these committees.

Patricia C. Baltzley

410.979.1594
Chair, Gardiner School Board

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The recent presentation “**Pathways to the Past: Twelve Thousand Years of Prehistory and History in Yellowstone National Park**” by Staff Archaeologist Staffan Peterson was recorded and is available at P:\Videos\Training\2015\Staffan Peterson - Yellowstone Archeology

- - - - -

MEDCOR Winter Clinic 2015. Old Faithful Medical Clinic will be staffed for the following hours: January 28th Wednesday 1pm to 5:30 pm and January 29th Thursday 8 am to 11am. We prefer that you call Mammoth Clinic to schedule an appointment to prevent long wait times, however walk ins are welcome! Mammoth Clinic 344-7965

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EMPLOYEE RECREATION UPCOMING EVENTS

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Sometimes, first aid isn't
a **bandage**,
or **CPR**,
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or calling **911**.

Sometimes, first aid is **YOU!**

Someone you know could be experiencing a mental illness or crisis. You can help them. You are more likely to encounter someone — friend, family member, coworker, neighbor, or member of the community — in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. Mental Health First Aid teaches a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate professional, peer, social, or self help care. Anyone can take the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid course — first responders, students, teachers, leaders of faith communities, human resources professionals, and caring citizens.

Sometimes, the best first aid is you.
Take the course, save a life,
Strengthen your community.



Mental Health First Aid
Friday February 13, 2015
8AM to 5 PM
Yellowstone Association classroom in
Gardiner

Course is **FREE!**
To register, contact Juanita
Bueter at bueterj@gardiner.org
or at (406) 848-7563
In support of our community:
Big Bear Stampede

IN THE NEWS

Study: Bison don't compete much with cattle for grass

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Posted: Monday, January 26, 2015 6:30 pm

Ranchers fear bison for two main reasons: disease and grazing competition. But a new study shows that bison aren't the competitors they would seem to be.

On Monday, Utah State University researchers published a study showing ranchers should be more worried about competition from rabbits rather than bison. And even though the study looks at southern Utah, the findings have implications for bison in Montana.

Ecologist Dustin Ranglack led a team that studied how cattle, bison and rabbits, mainly jackrabbits, foraged on the grasses of the Henry Mountains in southern Utah.

A herd of 300 to 400 wild bison is allowed to roam the public land of the Henry Mountains.

But like much of the West, the public land contains grazing allotments, and the permit holders increasingly contend that bison are competing with their cattle for grass.

The number of complaints jumped during the drought period of 2007 to 2012.

“When comparing southern Utah and Montana, a Montanan would wonder how a cattle rancher could stay in business because Utah is really sparsely vegetated,” Ranglack said. “If you are going to see any competition, you’re going to see it there.”

Ranglack surveyed the 21 Henry Mountains ranchers on their observations and assumptions about what was going on. The 12 who responded own 70 percent of the allotment acreage in the area.

Not surprisingly, the ranchers believed that bison were high-level competitors for grass except in the winter. They didn’t consider bison to be too aggressive or a problem when it came to water.

Rabbits didn’t really factor into the equation for the ranchers. But they should have.

Ranglack and his team set up 40 test plots in cattle allotments where bison were known to feed. Some weren’t fenced at all, some were fenced to exclude cattle and bison but not rabbits, and some had fencing that kept all mammals out.

Over two years, Ranglack found that cattle consumed about half of the grass while bison ate about 13 percent.

But rabbits ate more than a third of the vegetation.

Part of the reason is because Utah ranchers and hunters have coyote extermination programs to preserve young livestock and game animals. Without coyotes to eat the rabbits, the rabbit populations cycle, getting so big that they crash due to a lack of food and then rebounding.

Ranglack’s paper suggested that leaving more coyotes on the landscape would keep the rabbit numbers down, benefiting ranchers by leaving more forage for other animals.

Similarly, ranchers insist that bison should be hunted to leave more forage, when in truth, bison eat little of the grass used by cattle.

“These findings demonstrate that the local ranchers’ perceptions were either based on a misunderstanding of the ecological interactions in this system or were reported with bias to suit their political stance in the (Henry Mountains) bison controversy. Either way, our study illustrates how management decisions based on perceptions are unlikely to lead to the desired outcome, highlighting the need for science when integrating local ecological knowledge into management strategies,” Ranglack wrote in the study.

Ranglack said places in Montana like the American Prairie Reserve or the C.M. Russell Wildlife Refuge have much more vegetation than Utah. So large herds of bison and cattle would have to be confined into smaller spaces to see any competitive interaction.

“It’s going to depend on the relative densities. But if we’re not finding competition in the Henry Mountains, you’re not going to see it in central Montana,” Ranglack said.

This study has possible implications for Montana’s consideration of a state bison herd.

A recent bill would require a rangeland assessment before bison are moved into any area of Montana other than the Gardiner Basin.

But while bison eat about the same amount as cattle and 90 percent of what they eat is similar, they tend to graze in different areas, according to another study Ranglack conducted last year.

“Bison are a hardier species, so they use terrain that cattle don’t or won’t. They also don’t have to drink every day, so they don’t constantly congregate near water sources like cattle,” Ranglack said. “They take advantage of all the spaces in between.”

Ranglack just earned his Ph.D. at USU and will be moving to Bozeman in May to help Montana State University ecologist Bob Garrott study elk.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 706 AM MST TUE JAN 27 2015

Today: Mostly sunny late in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog late in the morning. Slight chance of rain early in the afternoon. Chance of snow late in the afternoon. Chance of rain late in the afternoon. Highs 41 to 47. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening. Chance of rain until early morning. Snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Lows 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Wednesday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 11 to 17.

Thursday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 31 to 37.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 10 to 16.

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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

Wednesday, January 28, 2015



A group of park employees participated in last weekend's Co-op Employee Recreation Program annual Grand Targhee Ski Trip

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After several months of a variety of treatments in Seattle, we have made it back home and now are proceeding with the recovery phase and getting things back to normal.

Just wanted to send out a huge thank you to all of you who have sent us good wishes, moral support, and helped take care of things while we were away. Couldn't have done it without you. Particular thanks go to Hank, Cheryl, Ralph, Ken, Carrie, Jen, Zehra, Sarah, Alana, Dr. Steve, Pat, Brian, Sonya, and Harold.

We have been overwhelmed by all of you who have generously donated your valuable vacation time to the leave share program. That has allowed us to keep things normal and focus on getting stronger every day. Thanks again for all of your support.

--- Dan Mahony and Janet Lewis.

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Norris to Golden Gate (Expected completion date October 1, 2015.)

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The copy center will be closed this Friday, January 30. The mailroom will be open for business. If you have mail questions on Friday, you can contact Scott in the property office. If you will have work requests for me in the copy center, please have them to me by Thursday so I can get them to you. Thanks, Deb Mailroom/Copy Center.

Reminder: There is a box allocated for food to be donated to the Gardiner Food Pantry located on the first floor outside the Visitor Services Office. If you wish to donate any non perishable items, don't hesitate to drop it off in the box. The Gardiner Food Pantry is always thankful for any and all donations, especially breakfast items, pancake mix, peanut butter and jam. Thanks!

Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday January 29, 2015. For government work contact Tom Monroe at X-2321 or Bob Hester at X-2322. For personal work please contact Randy Stands at (406)220-7891.

Upcoming CPR classes!

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

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Mammoth EMS classroom

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



Winter Survival Stories: A Wildlife Seminar

Thursday, February 5th 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room beside the Recreation Hall

Could you use your head as a snowplow or stay warm when temperatures plummet below 0°F? Discover some of the amazing adaptations wildlife possess to cope with the severity of winter in Yellowstone.

Presented by Katy Duffy, recently retired YNP resource education ranger.



From Katy Duffy:

Thank you very much to everyone who participated in my delightful retirement parties on January 15th. Deep appreciation also goes to everyone who donated to my gift. I doubt that anyone will be surprised to hear that I will use it to purchase outdoor gear. I plan to spend lots of time outdoors observing birds and other wildlife, vegetation and geologic features while skiing, hiking and bicycling Yellowstone and the rest of the GYE. I'm so glad I don't need to say good-bye as I expect to see each of you and hope to perpetuate the many precious friendships I've made while I am—and you are—enjoying our magnificent natural backyard.

Gardiner/Mammoth Community:

The School Board has identified three areas based on the strategic plan that they would like to create committees to formulate recommendations for each initiative. If you would like to serve on one of these committees or feel like you may be a Subject Matter Expert (SME) to work on one of these committees, please let me know. We would like to have two parents/community members, two students, and a SME to serve on each committee in addition to two staff members and a board member.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES**America's National Parks and America's New Year Celebration® Team Up for Adventure in 2016***127th Rose Parade® set to be the Kick-off to the National Park Service Centennial*

WASHINGTON -- The National Park Service and the Pasadena Tournament of Roses® today announced a collaboration between the two organizations, in honor of the National Park Service's Centennial in 2016.

"We are delighted to form this historic partnership that will bring about a great level of visibility to the National Park Service on the first day of our centennial year," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "Our relationship is a tribute to our mutual commitment to engaging America's youth, supporting an ethic of volunteerism and embracing diversity of American culture."

Because of this alliance, the Tournament of Roses announced the theme "Find Your Adventure" for the 127th Rose Parade. The Rose Parade will take place Friday, January 1, 2016 in Pasadena, California and will be followed by the 102nd Rose Bowl Game.

The Rose Parade is a part of America's New Year Celebration - a treasured tradition that attracts millions of television viewers annually around the world. Rose Parade float designers will be encouraged to use the National Park Service's natural, cultural and historic sites and cultural programs as inspiration for their floral masterpieces.

"As proponents of the American spirit, the Tournament of Roses encourages people to find beauty in the landscape that builds the backdrop of their lives," said 2016 Tournament of Roses President Mike Matthiessen. "By teaming up with the National Park Service, we hope to illuminate how communities across the country can uncover enriching adventures."

The "Find Your Adventure" theme is a nod to "Find Your Park," a two year public engagement campaign in which the National Park Service and National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, aim to increase awareness and excitement about the National Park Service's Centennial celebration. The Rose Parade is just one of the ways the National Park Service will kick off a second century - which officially begins on August 25, 2016 - of protecting treasured places, telling American stories, and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 751 AM MST WED JAN 28 2015

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Tonight: Clear. Lows 12 to 18.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs 31 to 37.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 8 to 14.

Friday: Sunny. Highs 31 to 37.

A graphic titled "YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK Record Highs across the park" featuring a table of temperature records. The background is a scenic view of a snowy mountain landscape with evergreen trees. The title is in a green box, and the table is a light green with dark green headers.

Location	January 27 Unofficial High	Record High (Year)
Bechler	55°	50° (1935)
Pahaska Tepee	54°	43° (2005)
Old Faithful	52°	41° (2005)
Mammoth Hot Springs	52°	49° (1942)
Cooke City	46°	38° (1995)
West Yellowstone	44°	35° (2013)
Lake Village	42°	40° (1942)

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Lake Rangers Mike Hardin (right) and Eric Amundson (on snowmobile) conducting sound testing at the East Entrance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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--- Dan Mahony and Janet Lewis.

Don't forget to reserve your tickets today for the "WARM YOUR SOUL" **TOMORROW**, with all-you-care-to-eat home-made soups, chilies, bread, desserts, and great live music! Join us at the Terrace Grill in Mammoth Hot Springs for a true community event. The **5 p.m.** family-friendly seating includes a children's sing-a-long **OR** attend the adult seating at **7:30 p.m.** which includes a live acoustic jam featuring local musicians. Thanks to the generous support of Xanterra and our local musicians, 100% of the proceeds from tickets will support the little learners at Snoopy Cooperative Preschool. Good food, good music, good cause! Call (307) 344-7311 today for reservations to one of the "Warm Your Soul" Events. Adults \$20/Children \$5

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MCC Chili cook off and sledding party! Tuesday, Feb. 17 @ 6 pm. \$5 entry fee (donations accepted for tasters) All \$ goes back to MCC. BIG prizes for chili contest winners! Please bring chill fixings to share. The MCC will provide hot cocoa and s'mores. Watch our website for updates! <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com> THINK SNOW!



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Patricia C. Baltzley, 410.979.1594 - Chair, Gardiner School Board

Attention: Access Control will begin on the YCR building this Monday Feb 2nd. If you currently have access to the Admin building, with your NPS issued ID card or PIN, you will have access to the YCR building with those same credentials. If you need access to YCR and don't currently have a PIN or card contact Jennifer Carpenter for help obtaining them. So when there is a reader next to a door, if the LED is green the door is unlocked – no need to enter PIN or use ID card. If the LED is red the door is locked and you'll need to use PIN or card to get in.





Former PAO employee Dan Hottle and Amanda welcomed their new daughter, Zia Raine Hottle, on Tuesday, January 20th. According to Dan, she is 6 lbs. 12 oz., 21 3/4 inches of perfection!

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or calling **911**.

Sometimes, first aid is **YOU!**

Someone you know could be experiencing a mental illness or crisis. You can help them. You are more likely to encounter someone — friend, family member, coworker, neighbor, or member of the community — in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. Mental Health First Aid teaches a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate professional, peer, social, or self help care. Anyone can take the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid course — first responders, students, teachers, leaders of faith communities, human resources professionals, and caring citizens.

Sometimes, the best first aid is you.
Take the course, save a life,
Strengthen your community.



Mental Health First Aid
Friday February 13, 2015
8AM to 5 PM
Yellowstone Association classroom in
Gardiner

Course is FREE!
To register, contact Juanita
Bueter at bueterj@gardiner.org
or at (406) 848-7563
In support of our community:
Big Bear Stampede

IN THE NEWS

Thermal imaging used to fight disease

Posted: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 5:44 pm

[Thermal imaging used to fight disease](#) By RUFFIN PREVOST / Cody Enterprise |

A high-tech method for detecting disease in domestic cattle is helping researchers in Yellowstone learn more about how sarcoptic mange effects gray wolf survival and behavior during the park's long, cold winters.

Mange is a contagious disease among canines caused by mites that burrow into the skin, resulting in infections that bring irritation, persistent scratching and fur loss. Mange alone isn't necessarily fatal, but it can leave wolves more vulnerable to dehydration, malnutrition and hypothermia.

Quantifying those ill effects among individual wolves in the wild has proven tricky, leaving researchers looking for a reliable way to take objective measurements.

For Paul Cross, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, a moment of insight came when he learned how thermal imaging was used in the cattle industry to detect cows infected with foot-and-mouth disease.

The heat-sensitive cameras can pick up on the heat caused by related inflammation in a cow's hoof within a day or two of contracting the disease.

"This was rolling around in the back of my mind, and I started thinking about what we can do with mange and thermography in Yellowstone," Cross said in October during the 12th Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem held at Mammoth Hot Springs.

Heat-sensing video cameras could help show the metabolic costs of mange in specific wolves, Ross realized. So he set up an experiment using rented and borrowed gear that would otherwise cost up to \$100,000 to buy new.

For a control group, researchers shaved bald patches on captive wolves at the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone. This gave them a look at healthy skin temperatures that would not be visible due to fur, and offered insight about body heat lost due to bald patches. In the wild, Ross set up thermal videocameras near carcasses where Yellowstone wolves were feeding.

Ross said the project is one that could only be done in Yellowstone, where detailed conventional photography and other data gathered over many years by the Yellowstone Wolf Project helped researchers match well-documented individual wolves to their thermal images.

Video captured by Ross and his associates revealed that heavily infected sites on mangy wolves were significantly warmer than the rest of their bodies. That meant their metabolisms worked harder to generate heat, a problem made worse as wolves also lost body heat from patches of skin where fur was missing.

“As a warm-blooded animal, you don’t have the option of just getting colder,” Ross said. Some infected wolves may hang around thermal areas more than healthy wolves. And because wind can play such a big role in heat loss, it may influence which places infected wolves frequent or avoid as they look to escape freezing breezes.

Based on results from the thermal imaging study, mangy wolves in Yellowstone typically increase their food consumption 10-30 percent, Ross said.

Mange first showed up in Yellowstone’s wolves in 2007, and it cycles through packs with varying intensities. Some animals handle it better than others, and it appears likely to affect how the highly social animals interact, hunt and mate.

Because mange is highly contagious and effects coyotes, foxes and wolves across the region, it’s unlikely the disease will be eradicated from Yellowstone. So researchers may be looking for more data from innovative techniques like thermal imaging cameras to better understand how mange and other diseases affect the complex dynamics of wolf packs in Yellowstone and beyond.

“Few wolves die explicitly of hypothermia due to mange,” Ross said. “But mange can be one pretty good predictive factor of whether a wolf will die.”

Autopsy confirms man in Yellowstone died from hypothermia
20 hours ago • By [Brett French](#)

An autopsy performed on a 52-year-old Belgrade man who was found dead along a Yellowstone National Park ski trail Saturday confirmed the cause of death was hypothermia.

“One thing I think everyone is fairly confident of is that there is no indication of foul play,” said Al Nash, Yellowstone chief of public affairs.

He did say, however, that the autopsy showed the victim, Merik Morgan, had consumed alcohol, which may have contributed to his death, although no blood alcohol content analysis had yet been given to the park.

Snowshoers spotted the body of Morgan about noon Saturday along Frog Rock Trailhead, which is south of the Grand Loop Road, 8.5 miles east of Mammoth Hot Springs. Morgan’s body was not far from the ski trail along Blacktail Plateau Drive.

The temperature Friday in Mammoth was in the 30s, dropping into the mid-20s overnight — not unseasonably cold for this time of year.

An experienced outdoorsman, Morgan worked this past summer as a guide for an Arizona-based trekking company in Yellowstone, hiring on with the group in 2012.

“He loved the outdoors and was a really good guide,” said Scott Cundy, a co-owner of The Wildlands Trekking Co.

Morgan also seems to have been well versed in winter recreation. His profile on the company's website said he worked in winters as the avalanche control director and a ski patroller at Moonlight Basin in Big Sky. Big Sky officials would only confirm that he was a former employee and was not working at the mountain this season. Morgan had also worked as a ski patroller in the 1990s at Bridger Bowl Ski Area outside of Bozeman.

The Belgrade News reported in February 2014 that a Merik Michael Morgan had been cited for his fourth DUI after the van he was driving struck another auto in downtown Bozeman. At the time of the incident, Morgan blew 0.244 percent on a breathalyzer test, showing his blood alcohol was more than three times the legal limit for driving, according to the report.

The article further stated that Morgan was charged with two DUIs in 2001, another in 2006 and a fourth in 2010 that was pleaded down to negligent endangerment.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/autopsy-confirms-man-in-yellowstone-died-from-hypothermia/article_d99ba5f7-804e-55ee-a1f7-338d64500fe2.html#ixzz3QEHLtYiw

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 908 AM MST THU JAN 29 2015

Today: Mostly sunny. Patchy fog late in the morning. Highs 31 to 37.

Tonight: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 3 to 11.

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

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Patchy fog. Lows 1 to 9.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 28 to 34. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 6 to 12.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, January 30, 2015



Thanks to Jane Olsen for this gorgeous shot of Chocolate Springs taken on January 14th

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The copy center is closed today. The mailroom is open for business. If you have mail questions today you can contact Scott in the property office.

With the unseasonably warm weather causing snow to melt into dens we can expect some bears to emerge earlier than normal. Although we have not yet observed any bears emerging from dens inside of YNP, **black bear activity has been reported in Montana and grizzly bear activity in Wyoming** so it is not too early for field crews to start carrying bear spray and to begin taking the standard precautions for working safely in bear country.

-- Kerry Gunther

Don't forget to reserve your tickets today for the "WARM YOUR SOUL" TONIGHT with all-you-care-to-eat home-made soups, chilies, bread, desserts, and great live music! Join us at the Terrace Grill in Mammoth Hot Springs for a true community event. The **5 p.m.** family-friendly seating includes a children's sing-a-long **OR** attend the adult seating at **7:30 p.m.** which includes a live acoustic jam featuring local musicians. Thanks to the generous support of Xanterra and our local musicians, 100% of the proceeds from tickets will support the little learners at Snoopy Cooperative Preschool. Good food, good music, good cause! Call (307) 344-7311 today for reservations to one of the "Warm Your Soul" Events. Adults \$20/Children \$5

After several months of a variety of treatments in Seattle, we have made it back home and now are proceeding with the recovery phase and getting things back to normal.

Just wanted to send out a huge thank you to all of you who have sent us good wishes, moral support, and helped take care of things while we were away. Couldn't have done it without you. Particular thanks go to Hank, Cheryl, Ralph, Ken, Carrie, Jen, Zehra, Sarah, Alana, Dr. Steve, Pat, Brian, Sonya, and Harold.

We have been overwhelmed by all of you who have generously donated your valuable vacation time to the leave share program. That has allowed us to keep things normal and focus on getting stronger every day. Thanks again for all of your support.

--- Dan Mahony and Janet Lewis.



MCC Chili cook off and sledding party! Tuesday, Feb. 17 @ 6 pm. \$5 entry fee (donations accepted for tasters) All \$ goes back to MCC. BIG prizes for chili contest winners! Please bring chill fixings to share. The MCC will provide hot cocoa and s'mores. Watch our website for updates! <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com> THINK SNOW!



Attention: Access Control will begin on the YCR building this Monday Feb 2nd.

If you currently have access to the Admin building, with your Yellowstone National Park issued ID card or PIN, you will have access to the YCR building with those same credentials. If you need access to YCR and don't currently have a PIN or card contact Jennifer Carpenter for help obtaining them. So when there is a reader next to a door, if the LED is green the door is unlocked – no need to enter PIN or use ID your park card. If the LED is red the door is locked and you'll need to use a PIN or card to get in.



Former PAO employee Dan Hottle and Amanda welcomed their new daughter, Zia Raine Hottle, on Tuesday, January 20th. According to Dan, she is 6 lbs. 12 oz., 21 3/4 inches of perfection!

IN THE NEWS

Utah study: Jackrabbits bigger problem for cattle than bison

3 hours ago • By Brett Prettyman, The Salt Lake Tribune – published in The Billings Gazette

Turns out rabbits may be bigger food competitors for southern Utah cattle than bison.

Utah State University researcher Dustin Ranglack collected jackrabbit and cottontail scat for two years in a study of the dynamics between the wild bison and cattle sharing the range on Utah's remote Henry Mountains.

His research may lead to changes in long-held perceptions about competition between the herds.

In a study published in the "Journal of Applied Ecology," Ranglack showed that black-tailed jackrabbits and desert cottontails, not bison, are the main forage competitors for cattle in the Henry Mountains study area in Garfield County.

The discovery came as a bit of a surprise to Ranglack, a researcher with Utah State University's Department of Wildland Resources and Ecology Center, state wildlife biologists and ranchers who have run cattle on the Henrys for generations.

"Bison are the most obvious presence on the landscape, other than cattle. They are big animals and they leave big dung pats," Ranglack said.

"But when you walk around, it becomes pretty obvious there is a fairly substantial jackrabbit population. You see a lot of pellets," he said. "It turns out rabbits were consuming twice as much forage as the bison."

Ranglack, along with his USU faculty mentor Johan du Toit and statistician Susan Durham, determined cattle consumed 52.3 percent of the grass biomass removed by herbivores in the study area.

Lagomorphs — hares, rabbits and pikas — took out another 34.1 percent.

Bison accounted for only 13.7 percent of the grass consumption.

Eighteen bison arrived on the Henry Mountains in 1941 after being transplanted from Yellowstone National Park and released in the Robber's Roost area of the San Rafael Desert. The animals moved to the Henrys and remain one of the few free-roaming bison herds in the country.

Ranchers with cattle on the Henry Mountains have had concerns about bison and aired them publicly with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources over the years. Most rancher complaints have centered on the number of bison on the range and the wildlife agency's ability to accurately count the animals.

Ranglack and his crew built 40 exclosures in the study area. Half of the structures kept bison and cattle from grazing on vegetation in the exclosure area. The other half also kept rabbits away from the grasses.

The team had predicted bison and cattle would be the top consumers of grass on the public rangeland in the Steele Butte North grazing allotment, about 20 miles south of Hanksville.

Ranchers worried bison were using lands designated as winter range for cattle and reducing the forage.

The results took all the parties to a place few, if any, expected the discussion to lead: predators.

Surveys handed out by the researchers and returned from 12 of the of the 21 cattle producers in the study area (representing 3,556 of 5,019 grazing permits) prior to the project showed the ranchers believed bison were a high-level competitor to cattle. Rabbits were considered a low-level competitor.

At the same time, ranchers believed the Henry Mountains coyote population should be controlled.

"I was concerned when I first presented this to the ranchers because it was a little contrary to what had been said in the past," Ranglack said. "They really felt like bison were a problem and I was about to say otherwise."

During his presentation Ranglack got to the part showing rabbits were the second top forage consumer and he didn't even need to mention coyote control.

"I heard them saying they needed to stop shooting coyotes," Ranglack said. "They jumped right to that conclusion on their own. I didn't have to say a word about it."

The study concludes: "The reduction or elimination of predator removal programs may result in an increase in forage availability for wildlife and livestock."

Paul Pace, a fourth generation rancher in the Henry Mountains, was at the meeting when the results were shared.

"We are not arrogant enough to think we know it all," Pace said. "The more we can do this type of legitimate research and not the chasing-the-dollar type of research, the better."

"There are a lot of dynamics on desert allotments," he added. "Now we have observed this, the next question is: How does it play into management?"

Pace doesn't expect major changes in coyote control in the Henrys.

"Predator control is being done to protect the trophy deer herd," he said. "I don't see anybody worrying about controlling rabbits to help bison or cattle."

Bill Bates, wildlife section chief with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, said the bison on the Henry Mountains are doing well. Some have been relocated to the Book Cliffs of eastern Utah.

The post hunting season population objective for bison on the Henry Mountains is 325 animals. The state averages about 70 hunting permits annually and roughly 1,000 hunters apply through a lottery for each available permit.

Ranchers, biologists and researchers were all equally surprised by the results of the study, but also equally impressed with the collaboration involved.

“Everybody was involved from Day 1 on this project,” Bates said. “We have better communication and a better partnership with the livestock operators in that area as a result of the process. This has increased our ability to manage effectively.”

The rabbits’ variable lifecycle complicates the management question after Ranglack’s research. State and federal biologists estimate rabbit populations were below peak numbers during the study. That means the small mammals can have an even larger impact on the available forage base in the future. On the other hand, the impact could go down when the cycle is on the low side.

The enclosures are still on the mountain and could be used for additional research. Ranglack said the next step might be studying the impact of a controlled coyote population on rabbits.

“With appropriate ecological monitoring and adaptive adjustments, we believe livestock and wildlife can co-exist and perhaps even benefit each other,” Ranglack says. “For bison to be restored at ecologically meaningful scales in North America, they’ll likely have to share rangelands with cattle. We think this balance can be achieved.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 637 AM MST FRI JAN 30 2015

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Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 8 to 14.

Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 28 to 34. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 5 to 11.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs 24 to 30. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Sunday Night: Not as cold. Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows around 19. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Monday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 27 to 33.

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