

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, March 2, 2015



Even nature wears the occasional flat hat!

.ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please communicate with VSO directly for any courier needs for the March 3rd courier runs. Rachel will be returning to work from A/L on the morning of the 3rd and heading straight into the park. Thanks!

The HR office at Mammoth will be short staffed during part of the first week of March, as we will be at Bighorn Canyon for meetings.

Tuesday: Darl Williams and John Rhoades will be the only people in the office.

Wednesday morning: Bernie Adams will be alone in the office and Jenny Hill will join him in the afternoon.

Thursday morning: Bernie Adams and Jenny Hill. We should be back to full staff in the afternoon on Thursday.

Hello!

The Centennial is fast approaching and plans are underway to commemorate our 100th birthday on a national scale. We ask that you share your own hopes and aspirations – your birthday wish – for the National Park Service as it enters into its second century. Your wishes will be compiled with others into a 2-3 minute video, and shared with NPS leadership and hopefully shared with all NPS employees and with the public.

This [link](#) will take you to a questionnaire to share your “Birthday Wish” by March 2.

Thank you for participating.

Sincerely,

Julie Fonseca de Borges (Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park - Seattle Unit / Bainbridge Island

Japanese American Exclusion Memorial)

David Goldstein (Christiansted National Historic Site)

Michelle Haas (Zion National Park)

Maureen Joseph (National Capital Region)

Jenny Parker (Technical Preservation Services)

Bill Ramsey (Natchez Trace Parkway)

Tom Schaff (Scotts Bluff National Monument)

Miranda Stuart (National Interagency Fire Center)



After thirty years of dedication to Wonderland, Eleanor Clark is retiring. Please join us for an evening of food and stories to **congratulate Eleanor Clark on her retirement** and wish her well in her coming adventures. Wednesday, March 4th from 5-7 p.m. at the Yellowstone Association!



Please join us for a Farewell Potluck for Dr. Joe and Temia Keel! Potluck party will be on Tuesday, March 10th from 6-8pm at the Mammoth Community Center gym. Bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice. Join us to say farewell to our friends as they move on to their next adventure!



There is also an **open house Thursday March 5 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the clinic if you want to stop by and say goodbye to Dr. Keel!

Electric Peak Arts Council presents: "Montana's Musical Ambassador" -- that's what the Bozeman Chronicle called Bruce Anfinson. With the state's natural wonders and rich cultural heritage portrayed so well in his songs, it's a well-deserved title.

He has traveled the world with his music, including Germany, Taiwan, Thailand, Costa Rica, and Japan and has entertained folks from all fifty states. His music has been featured on National Public Radio *All Things Considered* and he has performed on the American Public Radio program, *Mountain Stage*, broadcast nationwide from Charleston, West Virginia.

Bruce has shared the stage with such musicians as Merle Haggard, Michael Martin Murphy, Tony Rice, Bill Stains, Doc Watson, [David Grisman](#), Ramblin' Jack Elliot, [Rob Quist](#), [Jack Gladstone](#), Kostas, Big Sky Mudflaps, Mission Mountain Wood Band, Doug Kershaw, and Pure Prairie League, to name a few.

Friday night, 7 pm, Gardiner Community Church (NOT a church function, this is just a great venue for music, please come!)

Lane Baker has retired! Please join Lane and her Yellowstone friends in celebrating her distinguished career with the NPS! April 11th at 6:30 p.m. at Chico Hot Springs. RSVP needed by March 11 via email to Tara Ross and Bonnie Schwartz at laneparty@gmail.com. Upon your RVSP they will send you specific information on cost, lodging, etc. Questions, call 307-344-2301 or 307-344-2881.

Thursday March 26, 2015 @ 6 PM the First Annual Y2DAK Spring Film Festival at the MCC will feature the following Montana based filmmakers and their work:

Roshan Patel "Pride"

Madison McClintock "Fungiphilia Rising"

Brett Kruxthausen "Power to Print"

Eddie Roqueta "Silencing the Thunder"

The evening features the films, the film makers and fabulous food. Y2DAK (Yellowstone Youth Doing Acts of Kindness) is a non-faith based Gardiner/Mammoth youth service group that does community service locally, and beyond! Join us on the 26th and learn more about our group : -)

Upcoming CPR classes!

Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

March 3, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

March 10, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

March 24, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

Health Care Provider (for EMS personnel):

March 4, 2015 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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](#)

IN THE NEWS**Groups push legislation to open paddling in YNP**

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Posted: Saturday, February 28, 2015 8:00 pm

Two river-recreation groups are taking a second stab at getting Congress to open access to streams in Yellowstone and Teton National Parks, but they're running into the same resistance as last year.

Earlier this month, at the request of the American Packraft Association and American Whitewater, Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyoming, introduced H.R. 974, the Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act.

The bill would require a three-year study of the environmental effects and implications of allowing hand-propelled boats on streams in the two parks. After that, the bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations allowing the use of such vessels.

That's less aggressive than last year's bill, which would have opened up streams for consideration without a study.

When accused of trying to manage the parks through legislation, American Packraft Association board member Forest McCarthy said he had tried to work through National Park Service channels.

"Our communications with the park up to that point ... was that their hands were tied. There was this 1950s fishing regulation, and they therefore could not consider paddling and it would basically take an act of Congress for them to ever do anything," McCarthy said. "So we reached out to our delegation in Wyoming."

The fishing regulation prohibits paddling in order to curb overfishing in the parks' streams. All YNP rivers are closed to boating except for a section of the Lewis River between Lewis Lake and Shoshone Lake.

Last year's bill also included language that would have allowed commercial access or outfitting on the rivers. That was removed from H.R. 974.

As last year's bill passed out of the House of Representatives, several groups rallied against the bill. The Department of the Interior also opposed the bill, saying it bypassed federal law.

The National Parks Conservation Association opposed the bill because opening hundreds of miles of stream would degrade river habitat and disturb park wildlife.

McCarthy said his group met with the NPS after last year's bill failed to gain traction. This bill is the result.

"I see it as a tremendous opportunity. Others bring up the impacts on wildlife and other visitors and those are some valid questions," McCarthy said. "But we want to see river paddling given fair consideration."

He said the bill wouldn't pass if Lummis can't secure funding for the study.

NPCA Northern Rockies Regional Director Bart Melton said the NPCA remains opposed.

"I think they're downplaying exactly what the legislation does. The special interest group from Jackson (Hole) says it would only affect 480 miles of stream. That's inaccurate. The bill said it would open any streams within the park for consideration," Melton said.

Yellowstone National Park is one of the few places in the nation where the ecosystem is allowed to function naturally and wildlife advocates worry that increased human pressure on streams could upset the balance.

Melton said the Congressional Budget Office estimated last year that a smaller study and four years of park management would cost about \$4 million.

Congress is unlikely to allocate an additional \$4 million to the Park Service. That means the money will be taken out of some other NPS program, Melton said.

Lightweight packrafts are fairly new on the recreation scene but they're gaining popularity with people who like to get away from crowded rivers. They allow enthusiasts to hike into remote areas and paddle out.

McCarthy said allowing packrafts in the park can foster a new generation of people who enjoy and support national parks. Boating is already allowed in some national parks.

On Tuesday, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition sent letters to several congressmen opposing the bill.

The GYC argued that "each new use or activity proposed inside Yellowstone should be carefully analyzed and weighed by biologists and National Park Service managers tasked with conserving this special place"

American Packraft Association Vice President Tom Turiano said his group is not trying to push for paddling in the Hayden Valley and any rule would still require public input and park management.

"There's a lot of fear about what this bill means for wildlife, the aesthetics of the park and setting precedents with regard to managing parks by legislation. But I feel like the bill can address all those issues," Turiano said.

Read more: http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/groups-push-legislation-to-open-paddling-in-ynp/article_ba6adc3e-f4bf-5fa7-b714-cf0a2a32bd05.html#disqus_thread

In hot water: Boiling River temps up; scientists have a few ideas why

Published: Thu, 02/26/2015 - 5:02pm

Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise

If you think Yellowstone National Park's Boiling River feels hotter this winter, you're right.

The temperature of the thermally heated water that flows into the Gardner River at the popular swimming hole has been increasing slightly since August of last year, park spokeswoman Amy Bartlett said Tuesday.

In August, the temperature was approximately 134 degrees Fahrenheit. Over the past seven days, the temperature has ranged from about 136.5 to 139.5 degrees.

These temperatures are too hot to swim in, explained park geologist Henry "Hank" Heasler Tuesday, but dilution with cold water occurs where the Boiling River meets the Gardner. He said 120 degrees is the temperature considered "scalding," which can burn people, especially children.

Park regulations prohibit swimming in hot springs and runoff that are of entirely thermal origin. The prohibition is two-pronged — one, thermal features are fragile and can be damaged by human activity; and two, hot springs are dangerous because water temperatures can spike suddenly.

But park regulations allow swimming in many places where hot water meets a cold water stream — like where the Boiling River meets the Gardner. The swimming hole is located within the park between the North Entrance at Gardiner and Mammoth Hot Springs.

Longtime locals swimming at Boiling River Sunday told Enterprise Managing Editor Justin Post the water seemed hotter than they've ever remembered it. A small cascade of hot water which in the past has been pleasant to sit under was unapproachably hot Sunday, Post said.

And a loose rock berm, built up informally by swimmers over the years, used to be at the edge of a cold water “no man’s land” in the winter. On Sunday, swimmers were sitting on those rocks and even on the other side of them, Post said.

Heasler, who has been with the park for about 12 years, said he and his staff aren’t absolutely certain what’s going on, but they are examining a couple of theories.

One theory is cold water flowing into the Boiling River through underground sinkholes in the underlying travertine is being blocked or diverted somehow.

A test of the hypothesis happened by accident last summer when water flowing into a sinkhole was temporarily diverted while park staff addressed a small area of invasive plants.

While that water was diverted, the temperature of Boiling River increased, Heasler said.

Heasler had another confirmation of this theory in January. On one of the coldest days of the winter, the Boiling River temperature climbed to 140 degrees.

“I went and looked, and the sinkhole had frozen over,” Heasler said.

Heasler compared the water flow to a kitchen faucet. Imagine turning on the hot water, he said. That water is pretty hot. Then turn on the cold water. The amount of water coming out of the faucet doesn’t change, but by turning on the cold water, the temperature drops. And conversely, by turning down the cold water, the temperature rises.

Another explanation for the perceived increase in temperature could be that the Gardner River itself is at lower seasonal flow rates, which means less cold water to dilute the hot, Heasler said. Stream flows are naturally lower in winter when mountain water is locked up in frozen snowpack at higher elevations. Rivers run higher in the spring and summer when snow melts.

And a graph showing Boiling River’s temperature from March of last year to the end of January of this year shows the stream’s lowest temperatures, between 105 and 110 degrees, occurring in late May-early June, the time of highest runoff.

The water flow and temperature of Boiling River and the Gardner River are monitored at gauging stations placed by the United States Geological Survey.

With continual, real-time data coming from the gauging stations, park safety staff have the information they need to “quantify” public safety decisions around Boiling River, Heasler said. Park staff use stream flow rates to determine when to close and open Boiling River each spring.

When the Gardner reaches a high flow rate, rangers close the area due to high water. And when the flow rate drops, they re-open it. People can even watch online at home to assess when the swimming might be closed or about to open, Heasler said.

Heasler said he could not address the question of whether park officials would ever consider closing Boiling River if the water temperatures remained high.

“People who work with safety would have to decide that,” Heasler said, adding, “Yellowstone is a dynamic place and conditions do change.”

The USGS provides its nationwide National Water Information System online for anyone to access, Heasler said. The web address is <http://waterdata.usgs.gov>.

Read more: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/hot-water-boiling-river-temps-scientists-have-few-ideas-why>

Various groups stand against Yellowstone paddling bill

21 hours ago • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — The Greater Yellowstone Coalition is among various groups opposing proposed legislation that would open up more rivers and streams to paddling in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

The Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act, which was introduced last month by U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., is “not the right mechanism” to address a new recreational use in a national park and “would set a dangerous precedent,” wrote Caroline Byrd, who directs the Bozeman environmental advocacy group.

“It is a blunt approach that fails to consider the existing recreational activities and natural values provided by waters in some of the world’s most iconic places — Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks,” Byrd wrote in a letter sent to Wyoming, Idaho and Montana congressional representatives.

“Congressional intervention on behalf of a single new use ignores highly controversial issues,” Byrd wrote, “such as user conflicts, the need for new infrastructure at put-ins and take-outs, new costs associated with management and search and rescue, park service funding and impacts to wildlife and their habitats.”

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition joins the National Parks Conservation Association and Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance in opposing the paddling bill.

“The alliance opposes legislative action that would restrict the Park Service’s authority and discretion to best protect park wildlife and natural values for current and future generations,” Siva Sundaresan, the Jackson Hole alliance’s conservation director, wrote in an email.

The American Packrafting Association supports the bill.

Lummis introduced a similar proposal last year that failed to pass Congress.

Her latest bill includes a number of changes, such as a prohibition against more commercial use and a requirement that the National Park Service have funding before beginning a three-year study of associated effects.

Lummis has said that she took care in drafting the bill to preserve the discretion of park managers to manage paddling as they do any other recreational activity in the parks and to ensure park managers have the time and resources necessary to conduct the proper studies and analysis.

She noted that the types of hand-propelled watercraft allowed on waterways in the parks would remain at the discretion of the National Park Service.

“It does have some changes,” Scott Christensen, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition’s conservation director, said. “But the effect is basically the same — the premise of this is that they’re forcing the Park Service to conduct NEPA to study a use.”

“It’s a cliché, but it’s a slippery slope, and I can totally envision other user groups saying, ‘Oh, this is a nice path forward,’” Christensen said of using legislation to change park regulations. “That is the root of our opposition to this.”

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/various-groups-stand-against-yellowstone-paddling-bill/article_1086145b-bf29-5af2-9f39-619198fa605f.html#ixzz3TFL0G91N

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 837 AM MST MON MAR 2 2015

Today: Partly cloudy in the late morning and early afternoon then becoming mostly cloudy. Snow likely late in the afternoon. Little or no snow accumulation. Highs 26 to 32. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight: Snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 1 below to 7 below zero. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tuesday: Colder. Cloudy with chance of snow in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 4 to 10. Chance of snow 50 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 14 below to 24 below zero until late afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Lows 10 below to 16 below zero.

Wednesday: Not as cold. Partly cloudy. Highs 14 to 20. Lowest wind chill readings 22 below to 32 below zero in the morning.

Wednesday Night: Not as cold. Mostly clear. Lows around 1. Wind chill readings 12 below to 22 below zero.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

Contribute to the park's social media!

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

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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

Interested in receiving the latest health and wellness updates?

Access the free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Sign up by pasting this link into your internet browser: <https://newslettersignup.mayoclinic.com/> and following the subscription instructions. There are some great topics for weekly tailgate safety/wellness sessions.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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

YNP@Work

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Tuesday, March 3, 2015



Plowing started yesterday as the winter season draws to a close.
(photo by Doug Smith)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new date for the installation of the higher bandwidth CenturyLink DS3 circuit in Mammoth has been moved to the end of May 2015 due to changes in CenturyLink's construction schedule.

FISSA Report: IMR is at 30%, YELL is at 25%. FISSA **training is due June 1, 2015**. Link: [2015 Federal Information Systems Security Awareness + Privacy and Records Management \(FISSA+\)](#). We strongly recommend that you complete your required training now and not later. You can take this course outside of the Department of the Interior (DOI) network, (at home, for example), via the same DOI Learn URL.

I will be gone from the Mailroom/Copy Center starting Friday, March 13 until Wednesday, March 18. The Mailroom will be open for business and there will be someone from the Supply Center to cover the Copy Center. If you have any projects you know you will have during this time, please try to get them to me before I leave. Everyone is still learning in this operation. If you have a print request when I am gone, please email YELL Office Services. If you happen to have questions during this time, call Barb Agle in the Supply Center (x2085). Thanks for everyone's patience during this time,
Deb McPherson

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Health Care Provider (for EMS personnel):

March 4, 2015 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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](#)

Spring Opening Report for Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Plows: Plows are currently staged at Roaring Mountain

Present Location:

Roaring Mountain

Anticipated Destination:

Norris

Snow Conditions:

8” hard packed snow and ice

Weather:

Cloudy, 7 degrees

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

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Monday, March 3, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

None

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

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone National Park Receives “Ticket To Ride” Grant From The National Park Foundation

Yellowstone National Park was selected to receive a 2014 *Ticket to Ride* grant from the National Park Foundation (NPF), the official charity of America’s national parks, for Yellowstone’s *Connecting Native American Youth to Yellowstone* program. The NPF *Ticket to Ride* program, supported by a grant from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, helps students explore the outdoors by providing transportation and program support to national parks around the country. The grant is for the 2014/2015 school year.

Now in its third year and with continued support from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund and Disney Friends for Change, *Ticket to Ride* provides financial resources for transportation and in-park educational programming that make national park field trips possible for schools across the country. The grant from Disney will help more than 60,000 students across the nation visit and learn in their local national parks this school year. Disney is committed to connecting kids with nature, ensuring they appreciate and understand the beauty and value of our natural resources.

Ticket to Ride funding will help provide bus transportation for most of the 300 students, teachers and chaperones from tribal schools who will participate in *Expedition Yellowstone*, a residential, curriculum-based education program for grades 4 – 8, or in a ranger-led *Yellowstone Field Trip* program from March through May 2015. The Yellowstone Park Foundation, the park’s primary fundraiser, will support full or partial scholarships for many of the students participating in the *Expedition Yellowstone* program.

Some schools partnering with Yellowstone this spring include St. Francis Indian School from South Dakota; Wyoming Indian Elementary School; Hardin Intermediate, Hardin Middle, Hardin High, Crow Agency, Fort Smith, and Lame Deer schools from Montana.

For many students, the *Ticket to Ride* field trip will be their first visit to a national park. Welcoming Native American youth to the lands their ancestors walked upon will strengthen relationships between Yellowstone and its associated tribes. By engaging youth in healthy outdoor physical activities and hands-on, place-based, interactive learning, the park hopes to open the doors to future stewardship and preservation of ecosystems in and beyond the Park, as well as to reinforce the cultural and historical value of tribal contributions to this landscape.

For information about the National Park Foundation, go to www.nationalparks.org. For information about the Yellowstone Park Foundation or to donate toward *Expedition Yellowstone* student scholarships and field trips, go to www.ypf.org.

IN THE NEWS

Gardiner resort tax allocated

Published: Fri, 02/27/2015 - 2:50pm | Liz Kearney –Livingston Enterprise

The Park County Commission approved allocating about \$220,000 in Gardiner resort tax funds during a commission meeting held at the Gardiner Community Center Wednesday night.

The resort tax had been collected from visitors who purchased lodging, restaurant meals and other goods and services deemed “luxuries” during the town’s first season of collecting a 3 percent resort tax.

Gardiner-area merchants collect the resort tax seasonally, from June through September.

The commission voted to allocate roughly \$98,000 to a number of civic and nonprofit groups — including the Gardiner Community Center, the rodeo grounds, and additional funding to the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce. About \$120,000 went to the Gardiner Water & Sewer District.

The Water District had originally requested \$198,000 to repair and upgrade a sewer line that runs through Gardiner along the south bank of the Yellowstone River.

At a meeting in mid-January a citizen board appointed by the County Commission to review the resort tax applications recommended denying the Water District's request because there was not a Water District representative at the meeting to answer their questions. There wasn't enough money to fund all the civic organizations in addition to the Water District's full amount, and committee members said they didn't feel qualified to offer just partial funding without a better understanding of the project.

At Wednesday evening's meeting, the commissioners agreed to allocate about the \$120,000 to the Water & Sewer District with the condition the district come up with the balance from its reserve fund, Ron Shorter, the Water & Sewer District's manager, said Thursday.

The district has about \$200,000 in reserves, Shorter said.

The project

The funds will be used to upgrade an existing Gardiner sewer line. Shorter said the line was probably installed in the 1930s or '40s. It's made of vitreous clay pipe buried about 4 feet deep and runs through private property on the south bank of the Yellowstone River. The pipe extends from Park Street to Water Street. At Water Street, on the west end of town, the pipe ends at a lift station that pumps the sewage across the Yellowstone to the sewer lagoon located near the town's green boxes.

Five or six years ago, the sewer line was inspected by a video camera sent down through the pipes.

The video revealed portions of the pipe are cracked and leaking and that there are multiple bad joints, Shorter said.

The plan is to repair the pipe by installing a "slip lining," made of a polyethylene-fiberglass resin. The lining is pulled through the pipe then inflated, curing in place.

Read more: http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/gardiner-resort-tax-allocated?cookie_check=1

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 636 AM MST TUE MAR 3 2015

Today: Cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of blowing snow in the morning. Areas of blowing snow early in the afternoon. Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow late in the morning. Slight chance of snow early in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 3 inches. Highs 7 to 13. Northwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and early afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 9 below to 15 below zero. Wind chill readings 21 below to 31 below zero.

Wednesday: Not as cold. Partly cloudy. Highs 16 to 22. Lowest wind chill readings 22 below to 32 below zero in the morning.

Wednesday Night: Not as cold. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero.

Thursday: Not as cold. Partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 6 to 12.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS



After thirty years of dedication to Wonderland, [Eleanor Clark is retiring](#). Please help us congratulate Eleanor Clark on her retirement and wish her well in her coming adventures. **TONIGHT** from 5-7 p.m. at the Yellowstone Association.

The new date for the installation of the higher bandwidth CenturyLink DS3 circuit in Mammoth has been moved to the end of May 2015 due to changes in CenturyLink's construction schedule.

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Deb McPherson

The HR office at Mammoth will be short staffed during part of the first week of March, as we will be at Bighorn Canyon for meetings.

Wednesday morning: Bernie Adams will be alone in the office and Jenny Hill will join him in the afternoon.
Thursday morning: Bernie Adams and Jenny Hill. We should be back to full staff in the afternoon on Thursday.



Please join us for a Farewell Potluck for Dr. Joe and Temia Keel! The potluck party will be on **Tuesday, March 10th from 6-8pm** at the MCC. Bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice. Join us to say farewell to our friends as they move on to their next adventure!

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Anticipated Destination:

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8” hard packed snow and ice

Weather:

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

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Monday, March 3, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 652 AM MST WED MAR 4 2015

Today: Mostly sunny until late afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 16 to 22. Lowest wind chill readings 21 below to 31 below zero early in the morning.

Tonight: Partly cloudy then becoming mostly clear after midnight then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 2 below to 4 above zero. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thursday: Not as cold. Partly cloudy. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 7 to 13. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Highs 32 to 38.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 7 to 13

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.ANNOUNCEMENTS

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Presenters Sought For Seventh Annual Winter Photo Festival

Photographers are invited to share their favorite winter images of the region with the public during the Seventh Annual Winter Photo Festival to be held next week in West Yellowstone.



*Bison at Christmas Tree Rock
(NPS Photo by Richard Jehle)*

The festival will be held at the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. The festival is sponsored by the National Park Service and the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center.

Photographers are asked to bring photographs in digital format (either Powerpoint or in JPEG format readable by Microsoft Photo Editor) on a thumb drive or photo CD. Photographs must be winter images from within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Presenters must provide narration during the presentation, explaining or interpreting their photos. Photographers are encouraged to provide tips on their photography techniques and presentations will be limited to twenty-five images or five minutes.

Photographers should arrive at the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center between 6:15 and 6:30 PM on March 11th to allow adequate time to load their images onto the computer. All files will be deleted from the computer following the program.

Interested photographers should contact Rich Jehle at 307-344-2840 or 307-344-2754 or by email at rich_jehle@nps.gov for more information. Participants must register by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 10.

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Moose family, table of 4. "Willows please."

(Thanks to Tom Schwartz for the photo & caption)



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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, March 9, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robin Parks' lunchtime yoga class for **today has been cancelled** but will resume on Monday, March 16th.

Farewell and Welcome at the Supply Center: Please join us in extending **our best wishes to Karin Schwartz** as she departs the Supply Center. Karin has decided to spend more time with family and wanted to slip out without any fanfare at work. She and Tom are still at Tower, so we'll see Karin around. Also, please join us in **welcoming Jim Williams** on a one-year detail to the Supply Center and Mailroom from the North Entrance.

FISSA Report: IMR is at 30%, YELL is at 25%. FISSA **training is due June 1, 2015**. Link: [2015 Federal Information Systems Security Awareness + Privacy and Records Management \(FISSA+\)](#). We strongly recommend that you complete your required training now and not later. You can take this course outside of the Department of the Interior (DOI) network, (at home, for example), via the same DOIlearn URL.

Gardiner area residents let your voice be heard.

A community survey on behalf of the Gardiner Housing Working Group was launched 2 weeks ago. The intent of the survey is to gain a better understanding of housing needs in order to identify if additional housing is needed and if so, what tools, programs and grants are available to help the community move forward. The survey deadline has been extended to **March 12th**. Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GardinerCommunityHousing>

Please come for a Farewell Potluck for Dr. Joe and Temia Keel! The potluck party will be **TOMORROW from 6-8pm** at the MCC. Bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice. Join us to say farewell to our friends as they move on to their next adventure!

If anyone is able to help set up tables and chairs, please meet at the MCC gym around 5pm!



Lane Baker has retired! Please join Lane and her Yellowstone friends in celebrating her distinguished career with the NPS! April 11th at 6:30 p.m. at Chico Hot Springs. RSVP needed by March 11 via email to Tara Ross and Bonnie Schwartz at lanesparty@gmail.com. Upon your RVSP they will send you specific information on cost, lodging, etc. Questions, call 307-344-2301 or 307-344-2881.

Thursday March 26, 2015 @ 6 PM the First Annual Y2DAK Spring Film Festival at the MCC will feature the following Montana based filmmakers and their work:

Roshan Patel "Pride"
 Madison McClintock "Fungiphilia Rising"
 Brett Kruxthausen "Power to Print"
 Eddie Roqueta "Silencing the Thunder"

The evening features the films, the film makers and fabulous food. Y2DAK (Yellowstone Youth Doing Acts of Kindness) is a non-faith based Gardiner/Mammoth youth service group that does community service locally, and beyond! Join us on the 26th and learn more about our group : -)

Upcoming CPR classes!

Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

March 10, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom
 March 24, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

Health Care Provider (for EMS personnel):

March 4, 2015 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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](#)

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What: Half Marathon and 10k FUN RUNS followed by prizes, food and discounted soaking.

When: Sunday, April 12th, registration starts at 8, first race at 9

How Much: **Preregistration: \$15 by MARCH 15 gets you race entry, refreshments, cool canvas swag bag and drawing entry.**

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Greeting to all Yellowstone staff and partners-

The Green Team strives to keep you informed on how the park is reducing its environmental impact. We send e-hints to suggest ways in which we can all participate in this goal and share challenges and experiences. We also know that many of you are already doing great things to lessen your "footprint" at work and at home.

The Green Team wants to help get your ideas out to the community!

- Do you have suggestions as to how we can be a little (or a lot) greener? Do you have suggestions about fuel, energy, water, or waste reduction, or green purchasing ideas?
- Would you be willing to share information about successfully sustainable projects you are working on?
- What projects could be more sustainable and how?
- What do you do in your everyday life to help reduce your environmental impact?
- Do you have any resources that you use, when you have a question about the latest information on environmental issues? Or that you use for inspiration to make more eco-conscious choices?

OR

Do you have a question you'd like answered?

You are probably not the only one. This month's e-hint responds to a request we had for more information about idling and the need to warm up diesel engines – or not. Are you wondering what else is being done in Yellowstone to make our operations more sustainable? Just ask.

We would really like your input, and we invite your participation.

You can reply to this email, or come talk with us. The Green Team holds regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month and is open to all. The meetings are held in Mammoth, but if you would like us to make a visit to your area, please let us know. We'll do our best to answer your questions, help with projects and initiate improvements when possible, and continue to post your ideas in our upcoming e-hints.

--The Green Team

Coming up: news on the 2015 waste program, Lamar's solar spill.

I will be gone from the Mailroom/Copy Center starting Friday, March 13 until Wednesday, March 18. The Mailroom will be open for business and there will be someone from the Supply Center to cover the Copy Center. If you have any projects you know you will have during this time, please try to get them to me before I leave. Everyone is still learning in this operation. If you have a print request when I am gone, please email YELL Office Services. If you happen to have questions during this time, call Barb Agle in the Supply Center (x2085). Thanks for everyone's patience during this time,
Deb McPherson

IN THE NEWS

Lady Bruins Win First State Title

Bruins top Saco-Whitewater-Hinsdale 55-48

Published: Sat, 03/07/2015 - 11:14pm Hunter D'Antuono- Livingston Enterprise

The Gardiner Lady Bruins won their first state basketball championship over the Saco-Whitewater-Hinsdale Lady Panthers 55-48 in Missoula Saturday night.

Hannah Dean lead the Bruins in scoring, putting up 22 points before the final buzzer, followed by Tess Thomas with 14 points.

After a modest start of only tying the Panthers 11-11 at the end of the first quarter, the Bruins picked up momentum, cruising into lead 27-17 by the half. The Bruins stayed on top through the third quarter, only faltering early in the last part of the final quarter, when the Panthers came within 1 point of tying the Bruins. Gardiner resurged in the final minutes, making their free throws in stride until the final buzzer.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 651 AM MDT MON MAR 9 2015

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs 39 to 45. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 16 to 22. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny. Highs 40 to 46.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 19 to 25.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs 45 to 51.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain and snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 24 to 30. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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Tuesday, March 10, 2015



Staff and family members at Grant hike the West Thumb Geyser Basin with Sacha Charney, interpretive ranger, leading the group on March 7, 2015

Thanks to Sandra Gladish for the caption & photo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING OPENING UPDATE - Status as of Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Plows: Plows are currently staged at Norris; peeling ice from Madison to Gibbon Falls and Madison to West Yellowstone, plowing government area at Old Faithful

Present Location: Norris. **Anticipated Destination:** Plowing Norris area today, may start toward Canyon.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL: Norris to Canyon, Canyon to Fishing Bridge

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL: Mammoth to Norris, Norris to Madison, Madison to West Yellowstone

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

Dr. Staffan Peterson, Yellowstone Park Archaeologist, gives a presentation entitled “**Pathways to the Past: Twelve Thousand Years of Prehistory and History in Yellowstone National Park**” on Thursday, March 19, at 7:00 PM. at the Livingston-Park County Public Library. The program is free and all are welcome. 222-4184. www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org

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IN THE NEWS

Jackson bison numbers are down, as planned

POSTED: TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015 4:30 AM

By Mike Koshmrl Jackson Hole Daily

Hunters have helped wildlife managers cut the number of bison in Jackson Hole to lower than it's been in years. The bison count in Jackson Hole dropped to fewer than 700 animals this year, and the herd is now at its smallest in more than a decade, according to recent surveys.

The smaller Jackson Bison Herd was anticipated since mid-February, when wildlife managers completed an official classification of bison using feed lines on the National Elk Refuge and found 674. Last year the estimate was 825.

In the past couple of weeks more searching discovered another 17 bulls in Grand Teton National Park, bringing the total up to 691, Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologist Aly Courtemanch said.

“Last year really helped us get there,” Courtemanch said last week. “We had such a strong hunt season; we harvested 299 bison.”

The record harvest and smaller population are welcome news for wildlife managers who are working to reduce the herd to 500, a goal established by a 2007 interagency federal plan.

Sex and age ratios in the bison herd were similar to recent years, biologists found. The ratio of calves to cows was 51-to-100, and there were 55 bulls for every 100 cow bison, Courtemanch said.

The 2007 plan aims for an even sex ratio in the herd to “maximize maintenance of genetic variation.”

“That’s something that we’re definitely paying attention to,” Courtemanch said of the male-female ratio, “and this year we’re going to bring a proposal to the public to reduce bull tags again to try to adjust that.”

Game and Fish will roll out its proposal for the 2015 bison hunt at a public meeting scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. March 26 at the Antler Inn. Other big game species will also be discussed.

Although fewer bull licenses will probably be proposed, the overall scope of the bison hunt figures to be similar to last year, Courtemanch said.

“Right now we have 691 bison, but in a couple months here we’re going to have a couple hundred calves hit the ground,” she said. “That’s the challenge: So many calves are born and survive that we need to keep up that hunting pressure so that the population doesn’t start to increase again.”

At peak levels — coming out of a period when bison hunting was prohibited by court order on the National Elk Refuge — there were more than 1,200 bison in Jackson Hole.

The Jackson herd began in 1948 when 20 bison were moved from Yellowstone National Park to the Moran Wildlife Park, a fenced enclosure that let tourists see the animals.

A buffalo breakout in 1968 started the free-roaming herd, and in 1980 the creatures discovered the elk refuge and its free winter meals, set out for elk. As late as 1989 there were only a few more than 100 bison in the herd, but a court battle conducted by the Fund for Animals stopped hunting for several years, and the bison population exploded.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 751 AM MDT TUE MAR 10 2015

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Wednesday: Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs 43 to 49.

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YNP@Work

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Wednesday, March 11, 2015



Refreshing to see some areas still have snow! A Canyon snow angel by 3 year Reagan Wray!
(photo by Jan Cauthorn-Page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Photo by Nate Bowersock.

Spring Migration is Underway! Submit your observations of migratory birds, like the yellow-headed blackbird shown here, and contribute to Yellowstone's effort in monitoring the effects of climate change on park resources.

What to Submit: Species that do not regularly winter in Yellowstone, but that either breed here or migrate through the park. You can find the Yellowstone bird checklist at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/birds.htm>. We welcome observations made anywhere in Yellowstone Park, Gardiner, and West Yellowstone.

Where to Submit: P_Birds_First Arrivals. Just fill in the appropriate information in the blank cells in this excel spreadsheet and save your work. That's it!

When: Accepting submissions now through June.

Questions: Lisa Baril: ph- 307-344-2218 or email- Lisa_Baril@partner.nps.gov

Save the date for Earth Day 2015!

The Gardiner-Yellowstone celebration is on Saturday, April 25th.

Join us for: BBQ, giveaways, e-waste collection, solar energy ribbon cutting, educational enviro expo, and other fun activities for residents and local organizations! [visit our Facebook page.](#)

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SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Plows: Plows are currently staged at Grebe Lake Trailhead; peeling ice from Mammoth to Norris in construction area; area plow running at Old Faithful

Present Location:

Grebe Lake Trailhead

Anticipated Destination:

Canyon

Equipment:

1 dozer and 2 blowers down

Weather:

Cloudy, 9 degrees

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

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Monday, March 3, 2015 – Mammoth to Norris

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Norris to Canyon

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Canyon to Fishing Bridge

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 753 AM MDT WED MAR 11 2015

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Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain early in the evening. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 24 to 30. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late evening and overnight. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday: Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs 37 to 43. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 19 to 25.

Friday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 42 to 48.

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Present Location:
Canyon

Anticipated Destination:
Old Faithful

Snow Conditions:
16" hard packed snow and ice

Equipment:
1 dozer and 2 blowers down

Weather:
Cloudy, 19 degrees

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Friday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 21 to 27.

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Saturday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening...then mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 28 to 34. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, March 13, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Photo by Nate Bowersock.

Spring Migration is Underway! Submit your observations of migratory birds, like the yellow-headed blackbird shown here, and contribute to Yellowstone's effort in monitoring the effects of climate change on park resources.

What to Submit: Species that do not regularly winter in Yellowstone, but that either breed here or migrate through the park. You can find the Yellowstone bird checklist

at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/birds.htm>. We welcome observations made anywhere in Yellowstone Park, Gardiner, and West Yellowstone.

Where to Submit: P_Birds_First Arrivals. Just fill in the appropriate information in the blank cells in this excel spreadsheet and save your work. That's it!

When: Accepting submissions now through June.

Questions: Lisa Baril: ph- 307-344-2218 or email- Lisa_Baril@partner.nps.gov

Save the date for Earth Day 2015!

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NEW Boiling River Hours: 0500 to 2100! As well, the **Blacktail bear management closure** went into effect this week until 06/30. Thanks, Mammoth Rangers

2015 SAGE LEAPERS 2ND ANNUAL "SPRINT TO SOAK" CHICO HALF MARATHON AND 10K.



What: Half Marathon and 10k FUN RUNS followed by prizes, food and discounted soaking.

When: Sunday, April 12th, registration starts at 8, first race at 9

How Much: **Preregistration: \$15 by MARCH 15 gets you race entry, refreshments, cool canvas swag bag and drawing entry.**

Same day registration: \$10 gets you race entry, refreshments and drawing entry.

PLEASE RSVP VIA THE INFO BELOW EVEN FOR SAME DAY REGISTRATION

To learn more, RSVP and to check out the prizes visit the Sage Leapers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1552590771669802/> or contact Rachel Cudmore (cudmorerachel@gmail.com) for more information.

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IN THE NEWS

Near record winter warmth in Wyoming

The Associated Press

This winter has been the third warmest winter on record in Wyoming, and it has been the second warmest west of the Continental Divide, according to the National Weather Service.

In the three-month period from December through February — known as the climatological winter — meteorologists logged temperatures that were 6 degrees hotter than the average across Wyoming.

In Jackson, for example, temperatures averaged 4.5 degrees above normal those three months, National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Jones said.

"In Jackson in February 2015 the average high was above 38, but the average low was 18 and only one day were you below zero," said Jones, who works for the weather service's Riverton office. "Six days in the row at the start of the month you guys didn't even go below 30."

The lows in Jackson in February usually average out to 7.7 degrees, he said, meaning that lows were about 10 degrees warmer than the historical average. The normal high averaged out across February in town was 33 degrees.

December temperatures in Jackson averaged 21.8, Jones said. January came in at 18.4 degrees and February at 28.2, for a three-month average of 22.8 degrees. Normally Jackson winters average 18.3 degrees, Jones said.

While the Snake River basin's overall snowpack has held on at higher elevations at 94 percent of the median, it's all but disappeared in the lower elevations.

"Our coldest temps usually occur when you have a snowpack," Jones said. "Snow depth on the ground after right around February 10th or so is pretty much nonexistent, at least in town. Zero."

But meteorologist Jim Woodmencey said a blast of winter weather is still possible.

"This is Wyoming, and when it feels like spring in March, don't get too used to it," he said. "We're not really out of the woods as far as getting a lot of snow in March or April."

Jones said long-term predictions are for a warmer than average spring.

"I'm sure there are other parts of the U.S. that would be very, very happy to be that far above normal," Jones said, "but that's not always a great thing when you are dependent on ski areas and runoff."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 622 AM MDT FRI MAR 13 2015

Today: Sunny. Patchy fog early in the morning. Highs 46 to 52.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 21 to 27. South winds around 15 mph early in the morning.

Saturday: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs 46 to 52. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Breezy...cloudy. Slight chance of rain and snow after midnight. Lows 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Sunday: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow and rain in the morning... Then rain likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Highs 44 to 50. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Sunday Night: Breezy. Rain and snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 28 to 34. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Monday: Cloudy. Chance of snow and rain in the morning...then chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 42 to 48. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

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 How Much: Preregistration CLOSED.
 General registration: \$10 gets you race entry, refreshments and drawing entry.
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www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org

IN THE NEWS**Sleeping Giant Ski Area closed for season**

Posted: Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:20 pm | Updated: 10:08 am, Fri Mar 13, 2015.

By LEW FREEDMAN – Cody Enterprise Staff writer

Sleeping Giant Ski Area has closed early for the season because of consistently warm weather.

That means there will be no skiing this weekend at the North Fork ski area, nor the March 20 weekend when the season-ending annual Rails and Bails competition was scheduled.

Melting snow, turning bare ground into mud on the approach to the ski lifts, coupled with forecasts indicating even overnight temperatures might not rise above freezing, clinched the decision.

“I came up to the mountain this morning and looked at it, and it was raining,” General Manager Jon Reveal said Thursday afternoon. “We are just starting to lose the snow we had left at the bottom of the mountain.”

The scene felt inappropriate and, despite a reluctance to give in to Mother Nature, Reveal said closing early is the right choice.

“If people are going to have to walk through mud to get to the lifts, that’s not the presentation we want to make,” he added. “So we are calling it quits for the year.”

The mild winter has plagued Sleeping Giant for weeks. Heavy snowfall in November and December jump-started what shaped up as a banner season and attracted good crowds to the slopes, Reveal added.

But there was an unseasonable warm spell in late January and early February that held back some skiers. And with spring officially approaching on the calendar, and day-time highs in the 50s in Cody, Reveal said it was working on potential skiers’ minds.

They think there is “no skiing,” he said.

A check ahead to projected lows for the next several days told Reveal the prospects of a late temperature reprieve was unlikely. He read overnight numbers of 36-43 degrees – and that was only likely to further erode the snow. “The weather is our enemy right now,” Reveal said.

Spring skiing continues daily at Red Lodge Mountain where the resort has received 94 inches of snow since early February.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 806 AM MDT MON MAR 16 2015

Today: Partly cloudy early in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs 46 to 52. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning.

Tonight: Cloudy. Slight chance of rain until early morning. Slight chance of snow in the late evening and overnight. Lows 26 to 32. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 46 to 52. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tuesday Night: Cloudy. Chance of rain showers and snow showers in the evening...then chance of rain showers and slight chance of snow showers after midnight. Lows 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of snow showers in the morning...then slight chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 44 to 50. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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Temia and I wish to thank the Gardiner-Mammoth YNP community for all the kindness and support shown to us in these four years. It has been a wonderful experience to live in the Park and a great privilege to be two of its members.

We are starting a new chapter but this is not an ending to our involvement with this special community. Joe Keel

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NEW Boiling River Hours: 0500 to 2100! As well, the Blacktail bear management closure is now in effect until 06/30. Thanks, Mammoth Rangers.

Caution for cyclists on the road segments between the West Entrance, Madison and Mammoth Hot Springs (cycling is not open to Old Faithful or Canyon).

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Select Yellowstone Roads Open For Spring Bicycle Season

Bicyclists willing to brave the often unpredictable elements of spring in Yellowstone National Park are able to travel 49 miles of park roads from the West Entrance at West Yellowstone, Mont., to Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyo., beginning today.

There is no bicycle access to Old Faithful or Canyon until the first interior park roads open to public motorized vehicle access on Friday, April 17.

A bicycle trip into Yellowstone this time of year is not to be undertaken lightly.

The quickly changing weather can be challenging. Snow and ice may still cover sections of road which may be lined with tall snowbanks. Pullouts may remain snow packed. Extra caution is advised traveling through the five mile long road construction zone north of Norris Junction, which is not paved and may be muddy.

Bicyclists are required to ride single file and follow all other rules of the road. Cyclists should expect to encounter and yield to snowplows or other motorized vehicles operated by park employees or construction workers traveling in conjunction with park operations.

Bears, bison, elk, wolves and other wildlife could be encountered at any time. Riders are strongly encouraged to carry bear spray, and should be prepared to turn around and backtrack when encountering wildlife on the road, and must stay out of closed areas.

No services are available along these sections of road. Cell phone coverage throughout the park is sparse and unreliable for communicating emergencies. Riders need to have a plan for self-rescue or repair, and be prepared to be out in severe winter conditions for an extended period of time in the event they experience a mechanical breakdown, injury or other emergency.

The road from the North Entrance at Gardiner, Mont., to Cooke City, Mont., at the park's Northeast Entrance is open all year to cyclists and automobiles, weather permitting.

Cyclists are urged to call 307-344-2109 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays for updated road access information, or call 307-344-2113 for 24-hour weather information before committing to any ride in the park. Additional planning information is also available online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/springbike.htm>.

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

IN THE NEWS

Montana man drowns in ocean while saving son during vacation

Associated Press Monday, March 16, 2015 2:16 pm |.

SHELTER COVE, Calif. (AP) — Authorities in Northern California say a Montana man drowned after rescuing his 13-year-old son, who slipped on a rock and fell into the ocean during a family vacation.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Department tells the Eureka Times-Standard (<http://bit.ly/1EVXGAj>) that 44-year-old Steve Arthur Bierle of Gardiner, Montana, died Sunday in Shelter Cove.

The sheriff's office says Bierle was able to push his son back onto the beach before a large wave forced the father underwater. A short time later, Bierle was spotted floating face-down, but he was too far from shore for any witnesses to attempt a rescue.

The Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department responded and recovered Bierle from the ocean. Resuscitation attempts were unsuccessful, and he died at the scene.

Shelter Cove is in a remote area of redwoods and towering mountains referred to as the Lost Coast.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/ap_news/montana/montana-man-drowns-saving-son-who-fell-in-ocean/article_7760e038-7a4c-55b0-9981-2745e76038c6.html

22 reasons to follow Yellowstone on Instagram

http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/reasons-to-follow-yellowstone-on-instagram/article_defb7f52-3a02-52e0-8316-2513f8e7f30a.html

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 651 AM MDT TUE MAR 17 2015

Today: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning. Scattered rain showers in the late morning and afternoon. Highs 45 to 51. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers until early morning. Scattered snow showers in the late evening and overnight. Lows 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow showers in the morning...then slight chance of rain showers and snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 41 to 47. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Wednesday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 16 to 22. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs 41 to 47.

Thursday Night: Clear. Lows 17 to 23.

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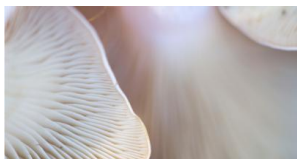
Please join us for an entertaining evening of films and food! Thursday, March 26th 6pm @ the Mammoth Community Center.

This Film Festival is a fundraiser for **Y2DAK**. (**Y**ellowstone **Y**outh **D**oing **A**cts of **K**indness), a community service group for all kids, grades 7-12, from the Gardiner-Mammoth Community. We are raising \$ for our volunteer service trip to Guatemala in 2016.

Cost: \$7/pp. Kids under 7 free. Food for purchase: Chili with all the fixings (meat and veg), brats, popcorn, soda, lemonade, and beer!

These films will enlighten and entertain you. All are made by MSU student filmmakers. We hope to have some of the filmmakers on hand to discuss their work. All are family friendly.

“**Pride**” by Roshan Patel. **Pride** explores the cultural relationship between residents of Gujarat, India and the last remaining population of Asiatic Lions in the world. With fewer than 50 lions in the wild at the turn of the 20th century, rural communities started working with the government to create a haven for this top predator and are successfully securing its place in the ecosystem. The film is the winner of Best Wildlife Conservation Film category in 2014 New York Wild Film Festival.



“**Fungiphilia Rising**” by Madison McClintock. **Fungiphilia Rising** is an invitation to explore the fascinating world of mushrooms throughout the American West. In addition to revealing the multifaceted role mushrooms play in our culture, the film aims to bring awareness to the important ecological functions they perform in our world’s ecosystems and built environments.

“**Silencing the Thunder**”, by Eddie Roqueta. When temperatures drop in Montana, wild bison migrate to lower elevations outside the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. But once outside, they run the risk of being killed because some carry a chronic disease called brucellosis that ranchers fear could spread to cattle. Silencing the Thunder presents the obstacles ranchers face, as well as the side of those trying to protect one of America’s most iconic animals. An 2015 International Wildlife Film Festival Official Selection.



“**Power to Print**” , by Brett Kruxthausen. The Power to Print explores the burgeoning technology of 3D printing and takes you along with filmmaker Brett Kuxhausen as he tries to print one of the most provocative and talked about creations of 3D printing: a plastic gun..

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Wide loads on the roads today from Old Faithful to Canyon and Old Faithful to Mammoth.

Plows: Widening the road from Old Faithful to Isa Lake. Area plows running at Old Faithful and Canyon.

Present Location:

Mud Volcano

Anticipated Destination:

Lake

Snow Conditions:

18-20" slush

Equipment:

1 blower down

Weather:

Overcast, 38 degrees

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

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Canyon to Fishing Bridge

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Mammoth to Norris

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Norris to Madison

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Madison to West Yellowstone

Monday, March 16, 2015 – Madison to Old Faithful

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – Norris to Canyon

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – Old Faithful to West Thumb – ****INTERIOR EMPLOYEES ONLY**** Contractor will be working at Isa Lake area.

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

Caution for cyclists on the road segments between West Entrance, Madison and Mammoth (cycling is not open to Old Faithful or Canyon).

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 651 AM MDT WED MAR 18 2015

Today: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers and isolated rain showers through the day. Highs 37 to 43. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 17 to 23. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Thursday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 39 to 45.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 18 to 24.

Friday: Mostly sunny. Highs 45 to 51.

Friday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, March 23, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Admin Travel: The Isa Lake bridge contractor has begun work for this season. Admin travelers should expect workers, trucks and heavy equipment on the road between the DeLacy Creek trailhead and the Lone Star trailhead. Please use caution, as there is no formal traffic control during Admin travel. This road segment will close to ALL traffic April 13, when the temporary bridge will be removed.
- Public Travel: June 11, 2015, the road will open to ALL travel, with possible half hour delays until project completion, September 10, 2015.

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

- Admin Travel: Expect snow removal activities with some short delays. Road construction and half hour delays start April 15, possibly sooner.
- 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.

Please join us for an entertaining evening of films and food! Thursday, March 26th 6pm @ the Mammoth Community Center.

This Film Festival is a fundraiser for **Y2DAK**. (Yellowstone Youth Doing Acts of Kindness), a community service group for all kids, grades 7-12, from the Gardiner-Mammoth Community. We are raising \$ for our volunteer service trip to Guatemala in 2016.

Cost: \$7/pp. Kids under 7 free. Food for purchase: Chili with all the fixings (meat and veg), brats, popcorn, soda, lemonade, and beer!

These films will enlighten and entertain you. All are made by MSU student filmmakers. We hope to have some of the filmmakers on hand to discuss their work. All are family friendly.

“**Pride**” by Roshan Patel. **Pride** explores the cultural relationship between residents of Gujarat, India and the last remaining population of Asiatic Lions in the world. With fewer than 50 lions in the wild at the turn of the 20th century, rural communities started working with the government to create a haven for this top predator and are successfully securing its place in the ecosystem. The film is the winner of Best Wildlife Conservation Film category in 2014 New York Wild Film Festival.

“**Fungiphilia Rising**” by Madison McClintock. **Fungiphilia Rising** is an invitation to explore the fascinating world of mushrooms throughout the American West. In addition to revealing the multifaceted role mushrooms

play in our culture, the film aims to bring awareness to the important ecological functions they perform in our world's ecosystems and built environments.

“Silencing the Thunder”, by Eddie Roqueta. When temperatures drop in Montana, wild bison migrate to lower elevations outside the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. But once outside, they run the risk of being killed because some carry a chronic disease called brucellosis that ranchers fear could spread to cattle. Silencing the Thunder presents the obstacles ranchers face, as well as the side of those trying to protect one of America's most iconic animals. An 2015 International Wildlife Film Festival Official Selection.

“Power to Print”, by Brett Kruxhausen. The Power to Print explores the burgeoning technology of 3D printing and takes you along with filmmaker Brett Kuxhausen as he tries to print one of the most provocative and talked about creations of 3D printing: a plastic gun..

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 752 AM MDT MON MAR 23 2015

Today: Breezy. Numerous snow showers through the day. Numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds late in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Highs 38 to 44. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tonight: Numerous rain showers early in the evening. Numerous snow showers in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tuesday: Numerous snow showers in the morning...then numerous snow showers and rain showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 7 inches. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tuesday Night: Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 12 to 18. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Wednesday: Cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning...then scattered snow showers and rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 39. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows 15 to 21. Chance of snow 20 percent.

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YNP@Work

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Wednesday, March 25, 2015

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- Public Travel: June 11, 2015, the road will open to ALL travel, with possible half hour delays until project completion, September 10, 2015.

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Mammoth residents are invited to attend a meeting
March 31, 5:00 - 6:00 PM at the Mammoth Community Center Gym



To hear updates and discuss:

RECYCLING - park goals, why some choose not to recycle, questions and concerns.

COMPOSTING - the park's program and plans to add a compost bin to the MCC recycle hub.

TRASH - plans to co-locate Lower Mammoth trash and recycle bins to the MCC.

ADDRESSES & STREET SIGNS - samples, maps and implementation plans.

HOUSING UPDATES

DOOR PRIZES - includes three piece set of recycling Stack & Carry Bins to two Mammoth residents.

Door prizes provided by the Yellowstone Park Foundation and the Yellowstone Association.

Contacts: Lloyd Krueger, Lori Gruber, Debby Young

YELLOWSTONE CO-OP EMPLOYEE RECREATION PROGRAM YCERP.ORG

Lunchtime Yoga Classes Added

Jessi Gerdes will teach two Monday classes, 3/30 and 4/6, in Robin Park's absence.

Class is held in the Mammoth Recreation Hall, 12:00 pm to 12:45 pm. Cost: \$5 per class.

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Plows: Area plows running at Lake

Present Location:

Lake

Anticipated Destination:

Grant Village

Snow Conditions:

20" packed snow and ice

Equipment:

2 blowers down

Weather:

1" new snow, overcast, 20 degrees

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

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 – Lake to Grant

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Mammoth to Norris

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Norris to Madison

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Madison to West Yellowstone

Monday, March 16, 2015 – Madison to Old Faithful

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – Norris to Canyon

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – Old Faithful to West Thumb – **INTERIOR EMPLOYEES ONLY**** Contractor will be working at Isa Lake area.**

Thursday, March 19, 2015 – Canyon to Lake

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

Caution for cyclists on the road segments between West Entrance, Madison and Mammoth (cycling is not open to Old Faithful or Canyon).

IN THE NEWS

As they enter 2nd century, national parks need \$11.5 billion in repairs

21 hours ago • By Rob Chaney Missoulian

MISSOULA — America's national parks have \$11.49 billion in deferred maintenance backlogged as they head into the 2016 fiscal year.

That includes about \$267 million at national parks in Montana alone, where deteriorating roads compose a major part of the to-do list.

“A mile of road costs about \$2 million just to rebuild,” said Tami DeGrosky, the superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park in Idaho and supervisor of Montana's Big Hole National Battlefield. “Most of these facilities were built during the ‘Mission 66’ era of the 1960s, and they’ve only received overlays or chip-seals for the most part since then.”

Big Hole National Battlefield has just two miles of paved road and a \$2.2 million maintenance backlog. In contrast, Glacier National Park has \$178.5 million in unfinished repairs. Yellowstone National Park, which touches Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, has a combined \$686.5 million request.

The figures are tallied in President Barack Obama's 2016 federal budget request. National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis said about half the \$11.49 billion was for roads and bridges.

Glacier's deferred maintenance includes 750 miles of trails that would cost \$13.5 million to repair, and 314 acres of campgrounds with \$3.7 million worth of work. It also lists \$7.3 million in water and wastewater system repairs.

Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site in Deer Lodge needs \$3.1 million in building repairs and \$242,358 in roadwork, according to the report.

In addition to almost \$1 million in roadwork, Big Hole National Battlefield needs \$447,114 in wastewater system work and \$579,714 to repairs on its park housing.

Obama's 2016 budget request includes an increase of \$242.8 million for operations and construction repairs on non-transportation assets, and another \$300 million annually for three years to restore high-priority non-transportation needs.

Obama also is requesting \$150 million in the Federal Lands Transportation Program bill for nationally significant projects. If approved by Congress, the money would go out in a competitive grant format. The National Park Service turns 100 in 2016.

"We're hoping to get support in Congress to pass that budget," DeGorsky said. "We need to improve that infrastructure, so we can move forward to our second century."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/as-they-enter-nd-century-national-parks-need-billion-in/article_71bdbec3-6e5b-553f-b0e1-89e90dfd9515.html#ixzz3VPN315Uj

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 721 AM MDT WED MAR 25 2015

Today: Cloudy. Scattered snow showers through the day. Scattered rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 31 to 37. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 16 to 22. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Thursday: Cloudy with isolated snow showers in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 37 to 43. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 21 to 27.

Friday: Not as cool. Partly cloudy. Highs 47 to 53.

Friday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 25 to 31.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, March 30, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorandum

To: All Yellowstone National Park Employees, Concession/Contractor Employees and Residents
From: Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park
Subject: Administrative Travel During “Shoulder” Season

I would like to clarify what constitutes acceptable administrative travel via wheeled vehicle during the “shoulder seasons” in Yellowstone National Park. This memorandum applies to every NPS, concession, contractor and cooperator employee, their family members, and to any other person using park roads during a “shoulder season,” when the interior roads are closed to public wheeled vehicles.

Administrative Travel is defined as wheeled vehicle travel necessary to accomplish the work of the government. During periods of Administrative Travel on interior roads, driving is restricted to travel in and out of the park interior to accomplish the work of the government. Use of the interior park roads to support normal domestic travel for employees duty stationed in the interior of Yellowstone is an extension of government work due to the remote duty station, and authorized as Administrative Travel.

Inappropriate use of an interior road closed to the public, but open to Administrative Travel, may result in disciplinary or administrative action. Law Enforcement Rangers will patrol roads that are open for Administrative Travel to assess their condition and to provide for public safety as staffing permits.

- **Interior roads** are those which were over-snow roads this past winter season.
- **Interior park residents** are employees who are duty stationed and reside in areas accessible only by interior roads.

This memo is not intended to restrict the day-to-day domestic access and egress of those residents duty stationed and required to live in the interior of Yellowstone.

All Park Residents or Employees can:

- Utilize the interior roads via wheeled vehicle before they switch to and after they switch from over-snow travel for getting in and out of the park interior to conduct the necessary day-to-day tasks of government work.

- Utilize whatever entrance is most appropriate for the type of access/egress or government work they need to accomplish.
- Travel during the spring plowing season to accomplish work, but must limit their travel to roads that have been “open to Administrative Travel.” No wheeled vehicle travel is permitted in the spring until the section of road has officially been returned to District control and opened to Administrative Travel.
- Travel before or after daily plowing operations as needed for emergencies (life safety, critical maintenance, etc.), or DURING plowing operations with proper communications with Snow Crew, Ranger Operations and/or the Communication Center.

Interior Park Residents can:

- Utilize the roads via wheeled vehicle before they switch to and after they switch from over-snow travel for getting in and out of the park to conduct the necessary domestic day-to-day tasks of life.
- Utilize whatever entrance is most appropriate for the type of access/egress needed to accomplish a specific domestic task.
- Travel during the spring plowing season, but should limit their travel if possible to roads that have been “open to Administrative Travel,” or attempt to travel before or after plowing activities are scheduled each day (this has been going on for many years, and works quite well within the interior residential areas).
- Travel in the event of an emergency during plowing hours, but need to coordinate and communicate with the Snow Crew foreman working the stretch of road necessary to travel upon. On duty ranger patrol or the Communication Center staff can help coordinate if necessary.
- Have friends and family visit them at their interior park residences. The resident should make arrangements for entry into the park.

Please recognize that this policy attempts to strike a balance and acknowledge the hardships inherent with living in the interior of the park and limit the movement of those employees during those times only to the extent necessary to be fair and balanced with public access considerations. As government employees we serve the American people, and are entrusted to do so with the highest level of integrity to our mission and our profession(s). We must ensure the preservation of the public trust for which we are charged and avoid preferential treatment or any perception thereof knowing that the public, the local communities and other area residents are denied access during these transitional times of year.

Thank you for helping to protect Yellowstone and make it a safer, transparently equitable place to work and live.

Steven F. Iobst

Now that most of the snow issues are gone do to the nice spring weather, we can **move the remaining vehicles from the Mammoth campground**. This should be cleared before April 24th to aid in the readiness for the season, May 1st. Thanks, Brandon Lipke

**Mammoth residents are invited to attend a meeting
TOMORROW, 5:00 - 6:00 PM at the Mammoth Community Center Gym**



To hear updates and discuss:

RECYCLING - park goals, why some choose not to recycle, questions and concerns.

COMPOSTING - the park's program and plans to add a compost bin to the MCC recycle hub.

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SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Monday, March 30, 2015

Plows: Area plows running at Bridge Bay and Grant Village**Present Location:** Grant Village**Anticipated Destination:** Heart Lake Trailhead**Watch for wide loads today from Grant to Mammoth****Snow Conditions:** 18" hard packed snow and ice**Equipment:** 1 blower down**Weather:** Clear, 23 degrees**Communication Center will announce when official "Administrative Travel" is allowed.****CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:**

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Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Madison to West Yellowstone

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IN THE NEWS**National parks call on Americans to 'Find Your Park'**

52 minutes ago • Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After nearly 100 years, the National Park Service holds some of the most beautiful and historic places in the country, though there's also an \$11 billion backlog of unfunded maintenance and a visitor base that's aging and mostly white.

With its centennial approaching in 2016, the park service will launch a major campaign Thursday in New York City to raise support and introduce a new, more diverse generation of millennials and children to "America's best idea," the national parks. First lady Michelle Obama and former first lady Laura Bush will co-chair the campaign, calling on Americans to "Find Your Park" to enjoy their public lands.

Sustaining the national parks and keeping them relevant to visitors for another 50 or 100 years is a growing challenge, park officials told The Associated Press. Many facilities date back 50 years or more and are in danger of failing entirely, such as a 70-year-old water pipeline at the Grand Canyon that breaks regularly and could cut off the water supply to the popular tourist attraction, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis said. Lodging at Glacier National Park needs a major overhaul, and the nearly 100-year-old Memorial Bridge in Washington, D.C., needs at least \$150 million in repairs — more than the agency's entire annual construction budget.

Behind the scenes, officials are seeking to expand fundraising and bolster congressional support to improve the parks.

While the national parks counted 292 million visitors in 2014, those visitors tend to be older and whiter than the U.S. population overall.

"If we were a business and that was our clientele, then over the long term, we would probably be out of business," Jarvis said.

The push to "Find Your Park" is the third major campaign in the national parks' history.

An outcry over deplorable park conditions in 1915 originally led to the creation of the National Park Service. In the 1950s, there were calls to close parks because of their neglected conditions. That inspired a campaign to rebuild infrastructure and invite returning World War II veterans and their families to visit parks, with the memorable slogan "See the USA in your Chevrolet."

"They came in droves, and in the back seat of that station wagon in the national parks were today's boomer generation," Jarvis said. "They are our base today ... The question that we're facing is who's going to be the next generation of park supporters."

In studying public perceptions, park officials found many people think national parks are only located in the West — places such as Yellowstone and Yosemite. They don't realize urban sites such as the Statue of Liberty, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Little Rock Central High School and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington are also national parks. So the agency wants to redefine the word "park" and show that these sites increasingly reflect the nation's diversity.

Over the next year, an advertising campaign will include TV spots, digital ads and online videos about how people connect with their favorite parks. Corporate sponsors are supporting the effort with co-branded ads. American Express will encourage volunteerism in parks, while retailer REI and health insurance company Humana will promote healthy activity.

The White House announced an initiative to give all fourth grade students and their families free admission to the national parks during the next school year.

Celebrities including the science guy Bill Nye, actresses Bella Thorne and Roselyn Sanchez, E! News anchor Terrence J. and singer Mary Lambert are joining the effort, urging millennials to put down smartphones for some park time. Lambert, 25, said she has found inspiration for her music in parks, and she suspects more people her age are looking for places like parks to connect and have fun — beyond the Internet and social networking.

Nye said national parks are the legacy of the next generation to protect.

"The National Park Service is 100 years old. I hope you stop and think, 'well why isn't it 200 years old?'" Nye said. "It just shows you, I think, how close people came to sort of paving the whole country over."

President Barack Obama requested an increase of \$432 million to support the National Park Service in his 2016 budget proposal. It's a sustained request that would lift the agency's budget to \$3 billion annually to address deferred maintenance and other needs but likely will face resistance in Congress.

A fundraising campaign also is under way to raise hundreds of millions of dollars to rebuild historic infrastructure with private funds. Campaign planners hope building public support will also help build support in Congress.

It's a critical moment to "reset the parks for the next century," so that they don't become parks for people of the past, said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. "If we don't reach out and become relevant to a broader population, we won't have the support the parks need to do their jobs in the future."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/national-parks-call-on-americans-to-find-your-park/article_c45f3c6c-f07c-5b9e-8c1c-180c8746a98e.html#ixzz3VsY3YcKI

Departing Yellowstone spokesman reflects on decade tackling park's tough issues

By: Ruffin Prevost | March 28, 2015



One of the first things Al Nash can remember about Yellowstone National Park is the smell.

"I remember how stinky it was—that sulfur smell," Nash said, recalling a trip to Yellowstone with his parents when he was a young child, more than 50 years ago.

"I remember my mom shooing my sister and I into the car while my dad was trying to get a photo of a black bear in a pull-out," he said.

Those early Yellowstone memories came flooding back this month as Nash, the chief of public affairs for Yellowstone since 2006, reflected on nearly a decade in that role just before his last day on the job March 18.

"It's the longest I've lived in one place, and the longest I've ever held one job," said Nash, who left Mammoth Hot Springs and the National Park Service for a job in Billings, Mont. as the new chief of communication for the Montana/Dakotas office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The last nine years have seen sweeping changes in how the public finds and shares information about everything, including national parks.

Nash said the rise of social media drastically changed his job. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other online platforms were not dominant information channels a decade ago. Drones—unmanned aerial vehicles equipped with tiny, high-definition cameras—went from secret Pentagon technology to consumer gadget over that same period.

"The advent of all this new technology has allowed for a more rapid information flow," Nash said. "But that makes our job more complicated than it once did."

With Yellowstone often at the center of a new or long-simmering public policy controversy, public affairs now often involves monitoring and responding to a seemingly infinite flow of real-time, online digital information streams.

For Nash, much of his work has involved, as he diplomatically puts it, “working with people who may have an incomplete understanding of Yellowstone and how the park operates.”

Explosive rumors

All too often, that has included “people out there who are convinced that Yellowstone is going to explode at any moment, and that we are keeping that fact from them.”

Public fascination with the Yellowstone supervolcano has been steady, or even increased, during Nash’s tenure, with many people fixating on [erroneous rumors of imminent eruptions](#).

Another challenge has been what Nash described as “the ongoing issue we have in helping visitors understand that (Yellowstone’s) wild animals are truly wild, and that they are visiting a wild environment.”

“I frankly wonder if our challenges in that area aren’t getting greater over time now, simply because visitors today have less experience with wild, large animals than visitors may have had 30 years go,” he said.

Perhaps the biggest step forward for Yellowstone during Nash’s time in public affairs has been resolving the dispute over winter use. This past winter saw the first season operating under [a newly adopted plan to manage snowmobile and snow coach travel](#), after more than a decade of lawsuits and public controversy.

“We felt it was a very good first year” under the new plan, Nash said. Park officials may make “some small adjustments” before next winter, but the biggest challenge was a lack of snow at times, especially between West Yellowstone, Mont. and Old Faithful, Nash said.

Looking ahead, Nash sees a few issues that are likely to be near the top of his successor’s priority list.

“[Bison management](#) has been even more challenging than winter use,” Nash said, and the issue has no likely easy fix on the horizon.

“There are those who have a naive perception that we can either be entirely hands-off or that we’re going to ‘ranch’ the bison herd,” Nash said. “The park needs to continue to engage them so they realize both of those points of view are not realistic.”

Growing crowds of diverse visitors seeking increasingly complex services will be “a continuing challenge for park staff, and for my successors,” he said.

“Issues and discussions about climate change are going to take on an ever-increasing role” in public discourse about Yellowstone, Nash said.

Lake favorites

Nash said his favorite part of Yellowstone is the Lake area, where he started his tenure with the Park Service in 1995 as a seasonal ranger-naturalist at Fishing Bridge.

“Whether it’s a quick hike out to Storm Point or something more daunting like [a hike up to Avalanche \(Peak\)](#), or just standing there on Fishing Bridge at sunset, there’s just something especially magical to me about that part of the park,” he said.

The move back to Billings, where Nash worked previously as a broadcast journalist, was partly because he had “begun to feel a bit stale when writing the same news release for the ninth time.”

But it was also a chance, he said, to enjoy some of the amenities and conveniences of a larger city that simply don’t exist in Mammoth or Gardiner, Mont.

“But just because I won’t be living and working here doesn’t mean that my passion for this place fades,” Nash said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Being the public face of Yellowstone during a wide range of hotly contested issues “was not always easy and not always fun, but it has been consistently rewarding,” he said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 721 AM MDT WED MAR 25 2015

Today: Cloudy. Scattered snow showers through the day. Scattered rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 31 to 37. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy with scattered snow showers. Lows 16 to 22. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Thursday: Cloudy with isolated snow showers in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 37 to 43. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 21 to 27.

Friday: Not as cool. Partly cloudy. Highs 47 to 53.

Friday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 25 to 31.

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Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, March 31, 2015



Can you spot the difference? ☺ One was taken March 30, 2008 and the other March 30, 2015.
(photos by Melanie Condon)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Now that most of the snow issues are gone due to the nice spring weather, we can **move the remaining vehicles from the Mammoth campground**. This should be cleared before April 24th to aid in the readiness for the season, May 1st. Thanks, Brandon Lipke



Annual 4-H Easter Egg Hunt

Location: Gardiner School (meet at the big bear in front)

Date: Thursday April 2, 2015

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Ages: 5 and under



Mammoth residents are invited to attend a meeting

TONIGHT, 5:00 - 6:00 PM at the Mammoth Community Center Gym

To hear updates and discuss:

RECYCLING - park goals, why some choose not to recycle, questions and concerns.

COMPOSTING - the park's program and plans to add a compost bin to the MCC recycle hub.

TRASH - plans to co-locate Lower Mammoth trash and recycle bins to the MCC.

ADDRESSES & STREET SIGNS - samples, maps and implementation plans.

HOUSING UPDATES

DOOR PRIZES - includes three piece set of recycling Stack & Carry Bins to two Mammoth residents.

Door prizes provided by the Yellowstone Park Foundation and the Yellowstone Association.

Contacts: Lloyd Krueger, Lori Gruber, Debby Young



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

- Admin Travel: The Isa Lake bridge contractor has begun work for this season. Admin travelers should expect workers, trucks and heavy equipment on the road between the DeLacy Creek trailhead and the Lone Star trailhead. Please use caution, as there is no formal traffic control during Admin travel. This road segment will close to ALL traffic April 13, when the temporary bridge will be removed.
- Public Travel: June 11, 2015, the road will open to ALL travel, with possible half hour delays until project completion, September 10, 2015.

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

- Admin Travel: Expect snow removal activities with some short delays. Road construction and half hour delays start April 15, possibly sooner.
- 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.

Upcoming CPR classes!

Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

April 7, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the 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](#)

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Plows: Area plows running at Grant Village

Present Location:

Heart Lake Trailhead

Anticipated Destination:

Lewis Lake Campground

Watch for wide loads today from Old Faithful to Lake; Lake to Mammoth

Snow Conditions:

18” hard packed snow and ice

Equipment:

1 blower down

Weather:

Partly cloudy, 20 degrees

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

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 – Grant to South

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Mammoth to Norris

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Norris to Madison

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – Madison to West Yellowstone

Monday, March 16, 2015 – Madison to Old Faithful

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – Norris to Canyon

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – Old Faithful to West Thumb – ****INTERIOR EMPLOYEES ONLY**** Contractor will be working at Isa Lake area.

Thursday, March 19, 2015 – Canyon to Lake

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 – Lake to Grant

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

Caution for cyclists on the road segments between West Entrance, Madison and Mammoth (cycling is not open to Old Faithful or Canyon).

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 852 AM MDT TUE MAR 31 2015

Today: Breezy. Partly cloudy early in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the afternoon. Highs 52 to 58. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Tonight: Windy. Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms early in the evening...then scattered thunderstorms late in the evening. Scattered snow showers in the late evening and overnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 14 to 22. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph shifting to the west 15 to 20 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Wednesday: Breezy...colder. Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning...then scattered snow showers and rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 30 to 36. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Wednesday Night: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows 9 to 15. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers. Highs 29 to 35. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 6 to 12.

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