

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, December 2, 2015



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Library and Archives hours are changing! Because of staffing issues, we will now be open M-F 9am-4pm except when we close Wednesdays and Fridays at **noon**. The archives will be closed all day Fridays.



Our next blood drive will take place at the Mammoth Community Center on **Monday, December 7th between 1:00 - 4:30 PM**. Grab a friend and stop by to donate! Save a life this holiday season, there is no better feeling!

You can email me, call, or sign yourself up on line at www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth).

As always, food or drink donations are always happily accepted. Don't forget to bring your photo ID. Thank you and have a great week.



There is still room in the **Avalanche 1 Refresher** training tomorrow (December 3rd) in the Tower Ranger Station from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. The class is taught by the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

Please dress to be in the classroom for a few hours and outside for an hour or two! Come prepared with your beacon, probe, shovel, and the pack that you'll be carrying them in so that you can practice getting them out quickly. If you have any questions, give Elizabeth Hall a call at 344-7986. Thanks!

Upcoming CPR classes!



Healthcare Provider CPR

Date/Time: Friday, December 11, 2015 12:30 am – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Cooke City Fire Station

AND

Date/Time: Monday, December 21, 2015 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m.
Location: MCC (bring your lunch with you)

Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 8:30 am – 4:30 p.m.
Location: MCC EMS classroom

AND

Date/Time: Friday, January 22, 2016 8:30 am – 4:30 p.m.
Location: MCC

Contact Juanita Bueter with questions. Sign up on the P drive at [P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2015 First Aid and CPR sign up](#). Space is limited.



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

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

If you are able to participate, please bring a new pair of pajamas to the Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Potluck Dinner on December 15 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. or arrange a drop-off or pick-up with Mary Kay Woodin x2469. Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

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

Our goal is to donate 50 pajamas to the local Pajama Program. We collected 68 pajamas last year for those in need in Park County. Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a great book!

UPCOMING EVENTS



From Mammoth to the Moon! Come send Wade, Jenna, and Brook Vagias off to Craters of the Moon with a great launch on Saturday, December 12th from 5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. in the Mammoth Hotel Map Room. Bring a dish to share. Children Welcome!





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IN THE NEWS

NPS: 'Paddling' resolution would benefit select few

By Ruffin Prevost Yellowstone Gate | Posted: Monday, November 30, 2015 1:29 pm

http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article_2024d6a6-97a1-11e5-bcae-2b5353497b93.html

The head of the National Park Service is “strongly opposed” to proposed legislation that would open rivers in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks to paddlers, saying the bill caters to “the benefit of a very select few.”

In a Nov. 13 letter to Rep. Bob Bishop, R-Utah, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said the bill would hamper his agency's ability to properly manage Yellowstone's rivers and other natural resources.

Introduced by Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., H.R. 974 would require the Park Service to establish rules for the use of kayaks, canoes, rafts and other “hand-propelled” watercraft on 50 specific river segments in Yellowstone National Park and parts of Grand Teton National Park that are not currently open to paddling.

The bill was approved last month by the House committee, but its fate is uncertain.

It could be ignored during a busy year-end session of Congress, or included as a rider in a wide-ranging federal spending bill.

While many national parks allow recreational paddlers, Yellowstone restricts such use to lakes, banning all paddlers from the park's rivers and streams. In Grand Teton, paddling is allowed on some lakes and a 26-mile segment of the Snake River.

Jarvis said in his letter Yellowstone's rivers are unlike any other scenic resource in the country and are home to sensitive and endangered fish and birds.

Opening rivers to paddlers would also increase the risk of transmitting aquatic invasive species, he said.

If the bill is passed, “the interests of a small group of recreational paddlers would be placed above those of all other Americans and above the protection of these fragile resources,” Jarvis wrote.

Yellowstone already allows paddling on almost all of the park's lakes, and issues 2,000 permits annually for non-motorized boating, Jarvis wrote.

Park advocates have criticized the bill for how it forces the Park Service to address the issue of paddling in Yellowstone, saying it sets a bad precedent and amounts to Congressional meddling in how park resources are managed.

Stephanie Adams, Yellowstone program manager for the National Parks Conservation Association, said opening Yellowstone's rivers to paddlers could "damage native trout habitat and serve to disrupt prime habitat for endangered grizzly bears."

Backers of the bill say Yellowstone managers have repeatedly declined to engage them on the matter, citing a 1950 paddling ban as prohibiting them from considering allowing paddling, or even studying the issue.

Lummis, who recently announced she will not seek re-election in 2016, said the paddling ban is "no longer applicable" and amounts to "outdated regulations (that) have prevented responsible public enjoyment of these waterways."

"I took great care to ensure the Park Service has the time, resources and public input necessary to write a responsible management plan," Lummis said in a written statement.

Under the proposed law, the Park Service would retain management over paddling and set rules based on environmental reviews. Commercial rafting would not be allowed on any newly opened rivers or streams.

Lummis said the bill would "align Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park with other national parks across the country that offer this low-impact way for the public, and especially America's youth, to have truly unforgettable experiences."

Excluded from the list of rivers proposed for paddling are most of the Teton high country, Hayden Valley, Lamar Valley, Firehole River through the geyser basins and Gibbon River, according to the American Packrafting Association, which has lobbied Lummis on the legislation.

Brad Meiklejohn, Packrafting Association president, said anglers, hikers and equestrians already frequent many of the rivers paddlers want to use, and that Jarvis has "has prematurely and inappropriately drawn conclusions" about paddling "without his agency ever having done a thorough analysis."

Elk hunting changes worry people in Gardiner

Michael Wright Chronicle Staff Writer Nov 28, 2015

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/economy/elk-hunting-changes-worry-people-in-gardiner/article_12844c82-2c14-512f-8d09-0aad55541282.html

"If we didn't have hunting, everybody would be out of work," said Susan Johnson, who is part of the family owned Hell's A-Roarin' Outfitters in Gardiner.

Now her and others are worried that their livelihood or favorite hunting spot could be hanging in the balance as state wildlife officials mull changes to the rules in a hunting district in their backyard. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has proposed to limit the number of hunters in district 313 to 75 people, a large drop from more than 1,500 who were allowed to hunt there this season.

FWP biologists say the change is necessary because the number of mature bull elk in the herd — which migrates out of Yellowstone National Park in the winter and is known for producing trophies — is declining and that hunter harvest rates are "unsustainable." Locals have started a fight against the idea, and the Montana Outfitters

and Guides Association has joined in with a report that tries to poke holes in FWP's numbers and offers a counter proposal.

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission will take up the proposal in December as part of its annual season setting duties, and chairman Dan Vermillion said he hasn't seen as much public interest in an individual hunting district in years.

All this over a few animals, yes, but those animals mean big money for a little town like Gardiner and a sparsely populated outdoorsy state like Montana.

A report from FWP said fishing and hunting accounted for \$1.26 billion in spending in 2014, based on the number of days spent hunting or fishing and average expenditures for each. Hunting accounted for about a quarter of that.

While Montanans do a lot of fishing and hunting here, the contribution from non-residents is pretty significant. FWP's report estimates the average spending for a non-resident on a day of elk hunting was \$577.08, which trounces the \$86.25 a resident spends.

Out-of-staters spend a lot of money on having people take them hunting, too. A report from the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research said that in 2014 non-residents spent \$194.8 million on outfitter or guiding services. In Park County alone, non-residents spent nearly \$20 million on outfitting services, the report said.

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry said there are 664 licensed hunting outfitters in the state, and that includes Susan Johnson and Hell's A-Roarin'. Johnson said her business takes hunters out about 120 days out of the year, but if this change in district 313 happens, that might decrease.

In a report written by MOGA executive director Mac Minard and president Rob Arnaud, they estimate that the department's change could cost the small town as much as \$1.9 million in money spent there and cost FWP about \$390,000 in license revenue.

"Given there is not a biological threat posed by regulated hunting the economic impact that will be realized through elimination of the unlimited system is unnecessary and ill-advised," the authors wrote in their report.

Minard, though, said it's not a matter of outfitters putting their own economic well-being ahead of the well-being of the elk herd.

"We're not going to do that, and we never have," Minard said.

He thinks the data that FWP is basing this decision on is flawed.

FWP surveys say the number of mature bulls per 100 cows in the herd has been decreasing. Their most recent survey said there were 2.7 for every 100 cows — a far cry from the 60.1 counted in 1995.

In the report he co-authored, Minard says that FWP is ignoring the reintroduction of the wolf as a factor in the elk's decline and that FWP is ignoring the rest of the herd and only counting the animals in Montana.

FWP biologist Karen Loveless, the person responsible for putting forward this change, disputed Minard's claims. She said carnivore predation wasn't the reason for the decline because bulls were dying faster than calves, and wolves and grizzly bears take the most vulnerable animals, not the prettiest.

She also said that FWP does look at data on the entire herd and that bulls in the entire herd are, in fact, declining. The most recent FWP count of the total range of the herd showed 6.5 mature bulls per 100 cows, which is down from counts in the late '90s that went as high as 60.9.

She added that FWP's management decisions have to focus on the animals that enter Montana because they don't have jurisdiction over elk that stay in Yellowstone all winter.

Minard's report also said that FWP hasn't fully implemented the tool it has had to limit the number of people in the hunting district over the last few years. Right now, anyone who applies before March 15 for a permit to hunt in the district gets it.

But, later in the year, some of the permits are also sold over the counter, which Minard believes should be done away with before they try FWP's new idea. Last year, 44 people bought permits for the district over the counter.

Vermillion, the commission chair, recalled discussions over the unlimited permit system and allowing some to be sold over the counter, saying he remembered it being something of a concession to the outfitters, allowing them to get permits for hunters who failed to apply before the deadline.

"It was an attempt to accommodate the preexisting economic activity and still accomplish our biological goal," Vermillion said.

Now that FWP believes its data shows that hasn't worked, they are looking at the change. Hunting season changes happen regularly but not all are this contentious.

"This is probably a unique circumstance where you have a community right in the heart of it," said FWP spokesman Ron Aasheim.

Locals held their own community meeting about the district last Monday to voice their concerns and talk about what could be done differently. State Rep. Alan Redfield, R-Pray, moderated the meeting and said about 250 people came and had a calm and collected discussion about the ideas. The group included business owners and regular joe hunter-types, he said, and only a few of them supported FWP's proposal.

While the economic concerns are palpable, he said some of the people there were just worried they won't be able to hunt in their favorite district next year.

Vermillion said he has fielded calls from both business people and sportsmen who are against the idea, though he added that he has heard a lot of support from sportsmen as well.

"I've gotten calls from plenty of people that support it," Vermillion said, "and plenty of people who were vehemently opposed to it."

FWP is hosting its own public meeting on the issue Dec. 3 in Livingston. The commission is expected to take up the proposal at its next meeting, Dec. 10.

Vermillion said he, for one, isn't sure how he is going to vote.

Yellowstone's skiing history reminds of early-day hardships

Posted: Monday, November 30, 2015 12:29 pm

[Yellowstone's skiing history reminds of early-day hardships](#) By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News

The winter activities of skiing and snowshoeing haven't always been just about recreation. For most of their existence, both methods of winter transportation served as critical means of getting around before the luxuries of snow plows, studded winter tires and snowmobiles came into existence to make winter travel much easier.

On Tuesday, Yellowstone Historic Center employee Thor Godar took a group of 30 attendees back in time during an educational talk as part of the Yellowstone Ski Festival, where he explained how skiing and snowshoeing made life possible for the few that braved our area's harsh winters in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Through descriptive stories and photographs, those who attended gained an appreciation for those brave individuals and learned how these simple inventions made life possible for those who called the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem home then.

Godar first explained why West Yellowstone is home to some of the best cross-country skiing conditions around. The town is known for its reliable early-season snow, which brings in skiers early on to train on the world-class Rendezvous Ski Trails groomed by well-known groomer Doug Edgerton.

West Yellowstone averages around 176 inches of snow a year, while Yellowstone ranges anywhere from 50-600 inches of snow, depending on the area. The snow West Yellowstone gets throughout the winter doesn't melt much, as temperatures rarely hover above 32 degrees during the peak of the day and plummet to sub-zero temperatures most evenings.

After discussing just how cold the area can be in the winter months, Godar transitioned to the unique history this area has when it comes to skiing and snowshoeing.

In 1908, the Union Pacific Railroad began bringing visitors to the West Entrance of the park, which sparked the start of what is now the small mountain town of West Yellowstone. The railroad used a rotary plow on the front of the train to clear the track, and started bringing tourists to the West Entrance from mid June through mid September.

Much earlier, Yellowstone had around 18 Native American tribes in and around the park, but most tribes left in the winter due to harsh temperatures and extremely deep snow. Early French trappers used snowshoes in Yellowstone to get around and the first known white man to explore Yellowstone in the winter was John Colter, who circumnavigated the park in the winter to scout for fur companies.

In 1887, arctic explorer Frederick Schwatka and Frank Haynes set off from Mammoth for an expedition throughout Yellowstone in the winter. The winter of 1887 is still known today as an extremely harsh winter, with temperatures varying from -10 to -50 degrees fahrenheit. Schwatka only made it to Norris before leaving the expedition, but Haynes and the others completed the trip and the first photographs of Yellowstone in the winter were captured.

Yellowstone became the world's first national park in 1872, and it wasn't long until poachers invaded the park in the winter months to trap and kill wild game when the park was patrolled the least. In 1886, the U.S. Army brought in troops to watch over the park. The U.S. Army didn't realize just how brutal winters are in Yellowstone, and sent up troops from Arizona who had no experience on skis. Fortunately, the troops eventually mastered long-distance skiing and were critical in saving the park's wildlife.

The park continued to develop as years passed and began building hotels for summer visitors. Winter keepers were essential in aiding members of the U.S. Army as they made their rounds from patrol cabin to patrol cabin, each approximately 10 miles apart. The keepers also shoveled the roofs to prevent them from collapsing under the weight of feet of snow.

One of those keepers was Sam Eagle, who was stationed at the Fountain Hotel. In the summer, Sam would catch trout for the hotel's dinner menu in the morning, teach fly-fishing in the afternoon and served as a bartender in the evening.

The Fountain Hotel is where Sam met his wife Ida, and the two saved up their money to move to what is now West Yellowstone when the Union Pacific Railroad came to town in 1908. They purchased a lease close to the Union Pacific Depot at the corner of what is now Canyon Street and Yellowstone Avenue for \$10 a year to open Eagle's Store, which is still family-owned and open to this day.

Back then, Sam's store was also the post office and he was the postmaster for a number of years. In the winter he would ski 20 miles to Island Park, Idaho to pick up the mail, spend the night, and ski back to West Yellowstone the following day.

Godar continued to talk about how skis served a critical role in town for transportation, as vehicles were useless during the winter months in the early days. Even when the New Deal economic program brought snow plows to town in the 1930s, cars were still essentially useless due to the bad roads, and most were still put up on blocks until summer rolled back around.

To get around town, people used skis. Town had many trails between businesses and homes, which were utilized as the most convenient mode of transportation.

Overall, Yellowstone and the town of West Yellowstone have a rich history of winter travel, exploration and survival. Even though town hasn't seen the extreme temperature drops and extreme deep snow of the past in recent years, town still draws in the masses during the winter for reliable snow conditions and abundant recreational activities in the park and the areas surrounding it.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 638 AM MST WED DEC 2 2015

Today: Patchy fog in the morning. Cloudy until late afternoon... Then a 20 percent chance of snow late in the afternoon. Cloudy late in the afternoon. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Lowest wind chill readings 16 below to 26 below zero early in the morning.

Tonight: Cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of fog after midnight. Lows 5 to 13. South winds around 15 mph.

Thursday: Not as cold. Partly cloudy until late afternoon then becoming mostly cloudy. Areas of fog in the morning. Highs 30 to 36. South winds around 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy. Lows around 17. South winds around 15 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 9 to 15.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We are 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 or here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Wellness Incentive Program Current](#). 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!

For Mammoth Community Center (MCC) information and to book your public, private or work events contact us at:

<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>, mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com Mammoth Community Center (MCC) PO Box 503, YNP WY 82190

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 3, 2015



Zach Allely presented the 2015 Environmental Achievement Good Neighbor Award to Dylan Hoffman, Xanterra Director of Sustainability. Xanterra was recognized for "Strengthening Community through Sustainable Food Choices in Yellowstone National Park." You are what you eat. Xanterra believes that this old adage is particularly poignant when that fare is fueling the adventures of visitors to the world's first national park. Our public lands provide a window into untainted ecosystems; and guests who recreate in them are putting a high priority on the environment when choosing their destination. Xanterra believes that, as a steward of these special places, they have a unique responsibility to ensure their operations have as little impact on the natural environment as possible, and nowhere is that idea more salient than in providing healthy and sustainable cuisine to park guests.

Sustainable cuisine's impacts don't stop at environmental sustainability. One of the most significant and far-reaching effects from a commitment to sustainable cuisine is the multitude of ancillary impacts that sustainable food choices have on local economies and community development. Keeping food dollars local creates jobs, builds community, protects habitat, and maintains a farming and ranching heritage—all critical values in our rural western communities.

There is no legal definition of sustainable food, so, Xanterra has worked to create a standard by which they can prioritize and measure their commitment. Currently, Xanterra focuses on food and beverage items that are:

- Produced within 500 miles
- From production systems that minimize harm to the environment
- Third-party certified or verified (such as Fair Trade, USDA Organic, GMO free, Marine Stewardship Council Certified, etc.)
- Vegetarian and/or vegan
- Having minimal impact on animal welfare (cage free, free range, no added hormones).

With the complex food systems in Yellowstone (remote locations, harsh climates, seasonal operations, and the need to keep food options varied and affordable) the implementation of a sustainable cuisine program requires commitment from all levels of the organization along with a focus on diligence and persistence. Meeting the demands of Xanterra's quality standards while finding producers who can service Xanterra's high peak-season volumes can be challenging for a small business. In many cases, to balance quality and sustainability goals, Xanterra helps build the local infrastructure to support these otherwise undeveloped markets and has been able to build a sustainable food program that allows them to partner with hundreds of local producers in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and the surrounding region.

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You can email me, call, or sign yourself up on line at www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth).

As always, food or drink donations are always happily accepted. Don't forget to bring your photo ID. Thank you and have a great week.

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Location: Cooke City Fire Station

AND

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IN THE NEWS

Mining company pulls application to drill on public land

Published: Tue, 12/01/2015 - 1:43pm Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/mining-company-pulls-application-drill-public-land>

A Canadian mining company says it will withdraw its application to do exploratory drilling on public lands in Emigrant Gulch.

But the company will continue to pursue its explorations on private land in the gulch, Lucky Minerals' Vice President Shaun Dykes said Tuesday.

Yellowstone District Ranger Alex Sinkiewicz said today the Custer Gallatin National Forest, in conjunction with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, decided the level of review appropriate for the proposed mineral exploration would be an environmental assessment, and he had been in contact with Dykes recently.

Dykes said an environmental assessment would cost too much time and money.

"An EA would take two to three years and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," Dykes said, adding, "For several small holes in the ground, it's ridiculous."

The Forest Service has not formally responded to Lucky Minerals yet, Sinkiewicz said.

Lucky Minerals would still need a permit from the DEQ to perform exploratory drilling on private land, DEQ spokeswoman Krist Ponozzo said Tuesday.

Ponozzo said the agency's next steps are not clear at this time, but since the Forest Service and the DEQ were working together on the Lucky Minerals proposal, she said it was likely the DEQ would also require an EA before issuing a permit to the company, which would have the option of changing its proposal.

The DEQ is still determining what the "path forward" might be, she said.

Dykes said it's important that industry be allowed to explore in Emigrant Gulch because if there's nothing there, then "no worries."

"But it's so stupid," he said, to leave the question of what minerals are in Emigrant Gulch — and how deeply underground — unanswered.

"If you leave it unanswered," we'll (the mining industry) keep coming back," Dykes said.

Dykes said Lucky Minerals will continue the process of obtaining a DEQ permit and hopes to be able to begin work on private land in Emigrant Gulch next summer.

The original Lucky Minerals proposal called for 12 drill holes on public land and up to 23 on private land.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 752 AM MST THU DEC 3 2015

Today: Partly cloudy until late afternoon then becoming mostly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 29 to 35. South winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Lows 13 to 19. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Friday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with chance of snow until late afternoon...then mostly cloudy with snow likely late in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Friday Night: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 4 inches. Lows 8 to 14. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow in the morning...then partly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Areas of fog after midnight. Lows 5 to 11.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, December 7, 2015



Congratulations Shelby Coy on 15 years!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our next blood drive will take place at the Mammoth Community Center **TODAY** between **1:00 - 4:30 PM**. Grab a friend and stop by to donate! Save a life this holiday season, there is no better feeling!

You can email me, call, or sign yourself up on line at www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: mammoth). As always, food or drink donations are always happily accepted. Don't forget to bring your photo ID. Thank you and have a great week.



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Healthcare Provider CPR

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AND

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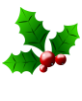
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IN THE NEWS**Crews remove biggest catch of lake trout from Yellowstone**

Associated Press Updated 9 hrs ago

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/crews-remove-biggest-catch-of-lake-trout-from-yellowstone/article_f2790845-fdd8-5c59-a457-25dce44f19b8.html

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Crews this year recorded their biggest catch yet in a long-running effort to reduce the number of non-native lake trout in Yellowstone Lake, a National Park Service fisheries biologist said.

Some 315,000 lake trout were captured and killed during netting operations that began in May and ended in October, Todd Koel, leader of Yellowstone National Park's native fish conservation program, said.

"That's more than we've ever caught," Koel said. "It's because we put out even more effort than we have ever before to catch them. ... And also there's a lot lake trout out there."

Non-native lake trout were first discovered in the 132-square-mile Yellowstone Lake in 1994. Lake trout is a voracious species that feeds on the native cutthroat trout in the lake.

Cutthroat populations plummeted because of the lake trout, affecting other species like the grizzly bear that feed on cutthroats.

In order to boost the cutthroat population, park managers have been trying since the mid-1990s to reduce the lake trout numbers. The effort was ramped up in 2012 with netting, electroshocking and other methods.

The program costs about \$2 million a year — funded by the federal government and private donations.

Koel said about 1.2 million lake trout have been killed in just the last four years.

In 2012 and 2013, about 300,000 lake trout were removed each year and another 277,000 in 2014.

"Each year, we're putting more and more effort out there and each year we've been killing a lot of fish," Koel said. "We're still waiting for that crash in our catch. We haven't seen that yet, but the predictions are there that's going to happen. So we'll keep this up until it does."

Meantime, cutthroat populations have been showing signs of rebounding.

"There are a lot of cutthroat in Yellowstone Lake and they're really big. They're huge. They're beautiful," Koel said.

He said the aggressive fight against lake trout will continue next year.

Fisheries biologists are working to restore cutthroat, arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout to various streams elsewhere in the park.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

[Last Update:](#) 608 AM MST MON DEC 7 2015

Today: Windy. Chance of snow early in the morning...then snow in the late morning and afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 28 to 34. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Tonight: Windy...snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Lows 21 to 27. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph early in the morning. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tuesday: Breezy...cloudy. Snow likely early in the morning... Then snow likely...possibly mixed with rain in the late morning and afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Tuesday Night: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow...possibly mixed with rain in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 24 to 30. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Wednesday: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning... Then snow likely...possibly mixed with rain in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 12 inches. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Wednesday Night: Breezy...colder. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 15 to 21.

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YNP@Work

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IN THE NEWS

Bison on its way to becoming America's national mammal

Andrew Wernette Forum News Service Updated 15 hrs ago

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/bison-on-its-way-to-becoming-america-s-national-mammal/article_66b7cd54-e37a-5132-a7b8-7da329563ac0.html

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The bald eagle may soon have a companion as the animal epitome of the United States.

The U.S. Senate passed a bill Friday titled the National Bison Legacy Act, which would establish the American bison as the national mammal. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., is a co-sponsor of the bill, along with Sen. Mark Heinrich, D-N.M.

The bill has gone before three consecutive Congresses, but this is the first time it has passed either the Senate or the House.

Hoeven said he was approached by the National Bison Association earlier in the year about co-sponsoring a bill to grant the bison the status of national mammal, to which he was intrigued.

"It appealed to me right away, and I said, 'Sure, I'll give it a swing,'" he said.

Now that it's through the Senate, Hoeven said he felt the bill had a good bipartisan base support in the House of Representatives. If it's approved there, the bill will land on the president's desk.

"I'm hopeful that it won't take too long in the House side," Hoeven said. "I think the main point upfront is it's a tremendous symbol for our country."

He said the bison had a "remarkable story," as it was a once-populous and important animal in the surrounding environment that came to the brink of extinction. There's also a link to North Dakota, he said, in that Theodore Roosevelt was one of the main people who worked to save the species.

From this, the bison also serves as a model of conservation, Hoeven said.

Will the bison become as ubiquitous as the bald eagle in being a symbol for America?

"That'll be interesting to see, won't it?" Hoeven said with a chuckle.

Dave Carter of the National Bison Association, which is based in Colorado, likewise said his organization was glad at the bill's advance.

“We primarily represent the private ranchers who raise bison,” Carter said, which he later admitted was a minimal share of the livestock industry.

He said the movement for the National Bison Legacy Act began three years ago when his and other associations, connected to the bison, including conservation groups, sat down and agreed that the bison needed to be the national mammal.

Since then, he said the bill has gone before Congress each year, with former Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., sponsoring it before he retired in 2014.

Carter said he was glad Hoeven “took the reins.”

Since bison don't have the marketing resources that other players in the livestock industry do, Carter sees its possible ascent to national recognition as a boost for those who raise the animal.

“It gives us a great platform to talk about all of the great attributes of bison,” he said.

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 837 AM MST WED DEC 9 2015

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Tonight: Windy...cloudy. Snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Lows 14 to 20. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Thursday: Breezy. Chance of snow early in the morning...then snow in the late morning and afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Thursday Night: Cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 6 to 13 inches. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Friday: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 18 to 24.

Friday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 2 to 8. showers. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 28 to 34. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday Night: Cloudy. Numerous snow showers in the evening... Then chance of snow after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 11 to 17. Chance of snow 60 percent.

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 653 AM MST THU DEC 10 2015

Today: Breezy. Chance of snow early in the morning...then snow in the late morning and afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Snow until early morning...then chance of snow early in the morning. Snow accumulation around 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 9 inches. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Friday: Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning.

Friday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 4 to 10.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25.

Saturday Night: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 7 to 13.

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nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, December 14, 2015



Silent night...Slough Creek cabin taken over Thanksgiving weekend. (photo by Neil Fried)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



You are invited to the **Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Community Potluck** Tuesday, December 15th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Hotel Map Room! There will be wonderful items available at the silent auction just in time for the holiday season and a special presentation from Yellowstone's Littlest People! Please bring a dish to share. Keep your eyes out, there might also be a jolly special guest coming for a visit! Everyone is welcome!



Come celebrate at the **Holiday Progressive Party for NPS, YPF, and YA!** Wednesday, December 16th from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Admin, YCR, and REYP buildings. Please meet at the Christmas tree in front of the Admin Building at 4:30 p.m. for some quick words from Pete Webster.





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

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

If you are able to participate, please bring a new pair of pajamas to the Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Potluck Dinner on December 15 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. or arrange a drop-off or pick-up with Mary Kay Woodin x2469. Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

- Pajamas must be brand-new.
- **Looking for the following sizes: 3 month old Girls, 1 year old Girls, 2 year old Boys, 3 year old Girls, 5 year old Girls, 8 year old Boys, 10 year old Boys, 13 year old Boys, 15 year old Boys**
- Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.
- Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe.

Our goal is to donate 50 pajamas to the local Pajama Program. We collected 68 pajamas last year for those in need in Park County. Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a great book!

Mountain Mobile Auto Glass will be at the Mammoth Garage for the last time this year on Thursday Dec. 17. For Government work, call Tom Monroe at X-2321. For personal work, call Randy Stands at(406)220-7891.

The Mammoth Clinic will be closed from Thursday 12/24 through Sunday 12/27 . We will re-open on Monday 12/28. Merry Christmas everyone!

Upcoming CPR classes!



Healthcare Provider CPR

Date/Time: Monday, December 21, 2015 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m.

Location: MCC (bring your lunch with you)

Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 8:30 am – 4:30 p.m.

Location: MCC EMS classroom

AND

Date/Time: Friday, January 22, 2016 8:30 am – 4:30 p.m.

Location: MCC

Contact Juanita Bueter with questions. Sign up on the P drive at <P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2015 First Aid and CPR sign up>. Space is limited.



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To receive a driving or walking route for counting birds:

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Dear Yellowstone-area parents,



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Please send 3-4 high-resolution pictures of you and your family, hiking, camping, or being active in Yellowstone. Provide a 50-word caption for your picture and a credit for the photo. Send your pictures to Dawn Webster at nps_yell_education_training@nps.gov by January 15, 2016. By providing the photo, you are allowing Yellowstone National Park and Yellowstone Association to use it in online and printed media (details available).

We look forward to seeing your photos and hearing your stories!

Thank you,

The Yellowstone Education Media Team

We are looking for photos of your child in Yellowstone:

- On the trail hiking with your family, hiking with a ranger, on a boardwalk
- Having fun on the trail! Jumping or running, with wildflowers, with elk antlers and other cool finds
- Recording their experience (taking a photo, filming, drawing, etc.)
- Inspecting a plant or rock, looking through a magnifying glass or binoculars
- Enjoying the park in all its seasons: sunshine, rain, or snow!
- With things you take along to enjoy a day in the park (with their backpack, muddy boots)
- Exploring near a river
- Enjoying the park, with a close-up smile
- Enjoying thermal features with an adult
- Ready for weather in any season (in rain gear, with mittens, with hat)
- Safely viewing any kind of wildlife
- Being bear safe, with bear spray or a storage locker
- Teens having fun
- At a campground with your family, in a tent or next to tent
- With a ranger or on a tour
- Enjoying a visitor center, museum, or park exhibits with parents
- Working on a Junior Ranger or Young Scientist booklet or scavenger hunt or being sworn

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the months of October and November! Names were drawn from among the employees who participated and met the program goal of 500 points per month. The following employees will receive an award for their participation:

Eric Reinertson-YCR

Brenna Cassidy-YCR

Sarah Holman-REYP

Becky Wyman-Concessions

Kira Cassidy-YCR

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Special BONUS: One **FREE BRIDGER BOWL COUPON** will be up for grabs each month from December-March.....don't miss out! Here's to your health!

Employee Recreation:

Yoga Classes are happening and we have a new instructor *and* new day of the week! In addition to our Monday noontime class taught by Robin Park or Jessi Gerdes, we are also offering a Thursday noontime class taught by Daria Uporsky. These are geared towards beginner – intermediate level participants. All employees are welcome to come! The classes are \$5 each in the Mammoth Recreation Hall.

Pick-up volleyball happens every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. All skill levels are welcomed and encouraged. It's the perfect way to break out of your off-season rut and be social and active!

Also, save the date for the annual Grand Targhee Employee Ski Trip! The trip this year will be January 22, 23 and 24. Stay tuned for more details!

Soon we'll have all our regular winter activities and events scheduled so keep an eye out for our weekly Activity Calendars.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

[Last Update:](#) 709 AM MST MON DEC 14 2015

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Tuesday: Breezy. Areas of blowing snow early in the morning. Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 16 to 22. East winds 15 to 25 mph shifting to the northwest 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Breezy...colder. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 2 below to 4 above zero. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 11 to 17. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Wednesday Night: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 3 below to 3 above zero.

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YNP@Work

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Tuesday, December 15, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Employee Recreation:

Canyon coach trips are happening again this winter. Ski or snowshoe Dunraven Pass, Mt. Washburn & Canyon Trails. These trips are very much geared towards cross-country skiers but snowshoers and sightseers are

welcome. Xanterra Transportation is kind enough to provide the rec program with the snow coaches and drivers at a very discounted price so due to the popularity of these trips, non-Xanterra employees are eligible on a space-available basis. Signups do not begin until Monday, December 28th at 8:00 am. Please call Leigh Ann at 344-5225 or stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office on the stage in the Mammoth Recreation Hall.

Dates for these trips are:

Saturday, January 9th

Wednesday, January 20th

Saturday, February 6th

Sunday, February 21st – SIGHTSEEING ONLY TRIP

Yoga Classes are still happening. We have a new instructor and new day of the week we are offering classes! In addition to our Monday noon time class taught by Robin Park or Jessi Gerdes, we are also offering a Thursday noon time class taught by Daria Uporsky. These are towards beginner – intermediate level participants. All employees are welcome so please come! The classes are in the Mammoth Recreation Hall and are \$5 each.

Pick-up volleyball happens every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. All skill levels are welcomed and encouraged. It's the perfect way to break out of your off-season rut and be social and active!

Big Screen Movie Night is every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the Xanterra Aspen Dorm upstairs lobby.

Also, save the date for the annual **Grand Targhee Employee Ski Trip!** The trip this year will be January 22, 23 and 24. Stay tuned for more details!

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 923 AM MST TUE DEC 15 2015

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 15 to 21. Northeast winds around 15 mph shifting to the east late in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero. Southeast winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday: Chance of snow early in the morning...then snow showers likely in the late morning and afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 12 to 18. West winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Wednesday Night: Cloudy. Snow showers likely in the evening... Then chance of snow showers after midnight. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 2 to 3 inches. Lows 5 below to 1 above zero. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow showers in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 11 to 17. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Thursday Night: Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 6 to 12. Chance of snow 60 percent.

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There is a **new printer in the copy center**, a Xerox D 110 black and white copier. You may still print to the Xerox 4110, also a black and white copier that prints the same as the D110. Both can do 2-side, punch 3 holes for binders, and staple. When you are going to add a printer, you search for YELL Copy Center, and scroll down until you find the printer you are looking for.

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- Enjoying a visitor center, museum, or park exhibits with parents
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We will collect Christmas trees and greens for recycling after the holidays. These greens are chipped each year for use as weed control and trail surface at the Stephens Creek Nursery.

- **Gardiner collection site:** behind the Heritage and Resource Building in Gardiner.
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Brenna Cassidy-YCR  
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## **WEATHER**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 753 AM MST WED DEC 16 2015

**Today:** Chance of snow early in the morning...then snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 11 to 17. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

**Tonight:** Cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 2 to 3 inches. Lows 2 below to 8 below zero. Southwest winds around 15 mph shifting to the east late in the evening. Chance of snow 70 percent.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers early in the morning...then chance of snow in the late morning and afternoon. Highs 11 to 17. Chance of snow 40 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 12 below to 22 below zero in the morning.

**Thursday Night:** Breezy. Not as cold. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows around 8 above. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

**Friday:** Breezy. Not as cold. Cloudy with snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 4 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

**Friday Night:** Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Lows 17 to 23.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 17, 2015

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REYP Sweets Shoppe candy giveaway winners!

- Grand Prize - Giant Hershey Kiss - Sarah Haas
- 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Peanut Butter Cups - Wesley Brown
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Peppermint Patties - Sam Reid
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Hershey Candy Bar-Aaron Strong (YA)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Hershey Candy Bar - Jackson Bartlett



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**The Mammoth full DS3 turn up happened ahead of schedule** Monday December 14. Mammoth connection speeds are now 44.736Mbps, which is 725% faster than at the beginning of the year. There are still reliability issues with the NPS owned point to point wireless link to the garage, and CenturyLink has aging equipment which limits service to the interior, but this was a big improvement made possible when CenturyLink delivered fiber to Gardiner as part of the Connect America Fund (CAF II).

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There is **a new printer in the copy center**, a Xerox D 110 black and white copier. You may still print to the Xerox 4110, also a black and white copier that prints the same as the D110. Both can do 2-side, punch 3 holes for binders, and staple. When you are going to add a printer, you search for YELL Copy Center, and scroll down until you find the printer you are looking for.

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### Upcoming CPR classes!



#### Healthcare Provider CPR

Date/Time: Monday, December 21, 2015 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m.  
Location: MCC (bring your lunch with you)

#### Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 8:30 am – 4:30 p.m.  
Location: MCC EMS classroom

AND

Date/Time: Friday, January 22, 2016 8:30 am – 4:30 p.m.  
Location: MCC

Contact Juanita Bueter with questions. Sign up on the P drive at <P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2015 First Aid and CPR sign up>. Space is limited.

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**Yellowstone Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 20, 2015.** Participate in a century-old tradition! Spend a morning or longer counting and enjoying birds in the Mammoth-Gardiner area. If you like birds, this free event is for you. Beginning birders will count with more experienced birders.

To receive a driving or walking route for counting birds:

Meet at the Yellowstone Grill in Gardiner at 7 AM. Bring Binoculars, warm clothing, water or hot beverage and snacks. For more information or to sign up for a route, please call Woody Martyn at 406-224-1476 or Katy Duffy at 307-699-2696 or email [owlpals@wyellowstone.com](mailto:owlpals@wyellowstone.com)

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Please send 3-4 high-resolution pictures of you and your family, hiking, camping, or being active in Yellowstone. Provide a 50-word caption for your picture and a credit for the photo. Send your pictures to Dawn Webster at [nps\\_yell\\_education\\_training@nps.gov](mailto:nps_yell_education_training@nps.gov) by January 15, 2016. By providing the photo, you are allowing Yellowstone National Park and Yellowstone Association to use it in online and printed media (details available).

We look forward to seeing your photos and hearing your stories!

Thank you,

The Yellowstone Education Media Team

We are looking for photos of your child in Yellowstone:

- On the trail hiking with your family, hiking with a ranger, on a boardwalk
- Having fun on the trail! Jumping or running, with wildflowers, with elk antlers and other cool finds
- Recording their experience (taking a photo, filming, drawing, etc.)
- Inspecting a plant or rock, looking through a magnifying glass or binoculars
- Enjoying the park in all its seasons: sunshine, rain, or snow!
- With things you take along to enjoy a day in the park (with their backpack, muddy boots)
- Exploring near a river
- Enjoying the park, with a close-up smile
- Enjoying thermal features with an adult
- Ready for weather in any season (in rain gear, with mittens, with hat)
- Safely viewing any kind of wildlife
- Being bear safe, with bear spray or a storage locker
- Teens having fun
- At a campground with your family, in a tent or next to tent
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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 808 AM MST THU DEC 17 2015

Today: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers...then snow likely late in the afternoon. Little or no snow accumulation. Highs 9 to 15. South winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 60 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 13 below to 23 below zero in the morning.

Tonight: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows around 8 above. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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Saturday Night: Colder. Snow likely. Light snow accumulations. Lows 10 to 16. Chance of snow 60 percent.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, December 23, 2015



*Merry Christmas from your friends at YCR!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note, with the retirements of Rick McAdam and Mary Murphy, there will be a transition period in the Concessions Management Office. Sue Williams will be taking the lead in concessions' operations and Dale Reinhart will be taking the lead in concessions' facilities.

Therefore, all questions relating to facility management, programs and projects with our concessioners should be addressed to Dale Reinhart. Additionally, all inquiries about concessions operations should be directed to Sue Williams.

Dale will still be a point of contact in winter operations. Becky Wyman will oversee CUA operations. We thank you for your patience and understanding while the concession's office is in this transition and we obtain more staff. .

Thanks! Zach Allely-Acting Chief, Concessions Management

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**The Mammoth Clinic will be closed** from Thursday 12/24 through Sunday 12/27 . We will re-open on Monday 12/28. Merry Christmas everyone!

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Christmas came early for the White family. Laura and Chris welcomed 7 lb. 3 oz. Whittaker Lee White on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 p.m.

Ciella and Alexander love helping out with their little brother.

Congratulations to the newest resident of Yellowstone!

## CYBERSECURITY TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

### Before You Go

- **Update your mobile software.** Treat your mobile device like your home or work computer. Keep your operating system software and apps updated, which will improve your device's ability to defend against malware.
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IN THE NEWS

Montana governor allows bison to roam outside Yellowstone

By Matthew Brown Associated Press

Updated 11 hrs ago

Wild bison will be allowed to migrate out of Yellowstone National Park and stay in parts of Montana year-round under a Tuesday move by Gov. Steve Bullock that breaks a longstanding impasse in a wildlife conflict that's dragged on for decades.

The Democratic governor's decision likely won't end the periodic slaughters of some bison that roam outside Yellowstone in search of food at lower elevations. But it for the first time allows hundreds of the animals to linger year-round on an estimated 400 square miles north and west of the park.

The move has been eagerly sought by wildlife advocates — and steadfastly opposed by livestock interests. Ranchers around Yellowstone are wary of a disease carried by many bison and the increased competition the animals pose for limited grazing space.

Bullock said in a statement he will continue to pressure the National Park Service to reduce Yellowstone's population of roughly 5,000 bison. Absent from Tuesday's announcement was a population target of 3,500 bison that the governor previously proposed as a condition of expanding where bison can roam.

Still, the governor expressed confidence that the livestock industry would be protected, and referred to his decision as a "modest expansion" of conditions under which bison can remain outside the park.

Supporters of the change said its significance was much greater, marking the first time in more than a century that bison would be allowed year-round in Montana: "It's a historic step forward for bison," said Stephanie Adams with the National Park Conservation Association.

Federal officials and representatives of American Indian Tribes that collaborate with the state on managing bison will have to sign off on Bullock's decision, but little if any opposition is expected.

Yellowstone has one of the largest wild bison herds remaining in the world. Since the 1980s, more than 6,300 have been slaughtered and almost 1,900 killed by hunters, largely in response to fears over the spread of the disease brucellosis.

Roughly half of the park's bison test positive for exposure to the disease, which can cause pregnant animals to abort their young. No bison-to-cattle transmissions of brucellosis have been documented and most infections of cattle over the past decade have been traced to diseased elk. Yet it remains a major concern for ranchers who can find their operations stigmatized after an outbreak.

Jay Bodner with the Montana Stockgrowers Association said Bullock's decision sets up a scenario in which the park's bison population could continue to increase. That will create pressure for still more expansions of their habitat without resolving concerns over disease, he said.

"We'll have continuing need to increase these zones" where bison are allowed, Bodner said. "We don't know that (state agencies) have adequate resources to make sure bison remain within these zones."

He said state officials need to pursue more aggressively negotiations with the Park Service on maintaining a more consistent bison population size.

Bullock's 12-page decision notice said up to 600 bison would be allowed during spring in an area stretching north from Hebgen Lake near the Idaho-Montana border. Most of that area is within the Gallatin National Forest.

During summer, only 250 bison would be allowed.

Sam Sheppard with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks said the state remains committed to managing bison in a balanced manner.

"It doesn't just open it up completely to unlimited numbers" of bison, Sheppard said. "The upside is, we can manage them more as wildlife."

Matt Skoglund with the Natural Resources Defense Council said allowing bison outside the park will prove people can successfully share the landscape with the animals.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 924 AM MST WED DEC 23 2015

Today: Breezy. Snow in the late morning and afternoon... Then chance of snow late in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 13 to 19. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 1 to 4 inches. Lows 2 to 8. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday: Breezy. Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 14 to 20. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Colder. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 below to 1 above zero. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Christmas Day: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs around 16.

Friday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 9 below to 17 below zero. Wind chill readings 27 below to 37 below zero.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We are 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 or here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Wellness Incentive Program Current](#). 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!

For Mammoth Community Center (MCC) information and to book your public, private or work events contact us at:

<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>, mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com Mammoth Community Center (MCC) PO Box 503, YNP WY 82190

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, December 24, 2015



Have a wonderful holiday!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note, with the retirements of Rick McAdam and Mary Murphy, there will be a transition period in the Concessions Management Office. Sue Williams will be taking the lead in concessions' operations and Dale Reinhart will be taking the lead in concessions' facilities.

Therefore, all questions relating to facility management, programs and projects with our concessioners should be addressed to Dale Reinhart. Additionally, all inquiries about concessions operations should be directed to Sue Williams.

Dale will still be a point of contact in winter operations. Becky Wyman will oversee CUA operations. We thank you for your patience and understanding while the concession's office is in this transition and we obtain more staff. .

Thanks! Zach Allely-Acting Chief, Concessions Management

The Mammoth Clinic will be closed from **TODAY** through Sunday 12/27 . We will re-open on Monday 12/28. Merry Christmas everyone!



Christmas came early for the White family. Laura and Chris welcomed 7 lb. 3 oz. Whittaker Lee White on Friday, December 18th at 9:15 p.m.

Ciella and Alexander love helping out with their little brother.

Congratulations to the newest resident of Yellowstone!

We hope you have had time to enjoy the new issue of *Yellowstone Science* on-line at nps.gov/yellowstonescience. Staff at the Yellowstone Center for Resources is hard at work on our next issue and want to ask if you have any wolf photos that you would like to share for our spring issue. Contact Charissa Reid, if so.



Winter Clinic at Old Faithful 2016

On-site clinic will be held on January 6th 1:00 pm to 5pm and January 7th 9:00am to 11:30am

Please call Mammoth Clinic at 307-344-7965 to schedule an appointment. Walk in patients are also welcome, but will be worked in between scheduled appointments. We look forward to serving you soon!

CYBERSECURITY TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

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## **IN THE NEWS**

### **Battle lines will be drawn in fight over delisting grizzly bears**

By Michael Wright Chronicle Staff Writer

Updated Dec 20, 2015

Not everyone who ventures out into the wild gets to see one. They are hard to find, until they aren't. But they are there. Everybody knows it, and everybody wants to know more, which is why a room full of people at the Bozeman Public Library spent a recent night listening to Frank van Manen tell them what government researchers have learned about the Greater Yellowstone's grizzly bears.

"When you're out here in the ecosystem," van Manen said during the presentation, "you sense the presence of large predators."

The skinny, bald man from the Netherlands is the leader of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, the group tasked with providing policymakers and bear managers with information about the Yellowstone population, which they last counted at 717 bears. Over the course of his presentation, he moved through what the IGBST has learned about the region's iconic carnivore.

This presentation came at a poignant time. For the second time in the last 10 years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has decided the grizzly's current presence is enough. USFWS and state wildlife officials have been meeting and talking for well over a year, looking for a way to take the grizzly bears off the endangered species list, a move that would remove protections for the bears and give state wildlife managers more leeway in managing the animals.

A delisting proposal has been rumored to be on the way for months now, but it hasn't come. And that has made some anxious. The directors of wildlife agencies in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana sent a letter to USFWS director Dan Ashe in August, calling a delisting proposal "long overdue" and saying they expected to see a proposal in early November. Ashe wrote back a month later, after USFWS had at least two more meetings with the states, telling them a delisting proposal would come by the end of 2015.

Now, USFWS spokeswoman Serena Baker has said any proposal for delisting won't be out until early 2016.

"Right now ... there are no formal agreements yet that have been made," Baker said. "We're continuing to work with states and partners on those issues."

Armed with the data that comes from van Manen's team, they all believe the Yellowstone population is recovered. But they want to be sure whatever they put forward can be defended in court.

Besides, they've been through all of this before.

Before man moved west, the grizzly bear had a lot of room to roam. Grizzlies lived on the plains, but people pushed them into the mountains, which are now the only places they thrive.

The grizzlies of the lower 48 were first listed as "threatened" in 1975, just two years after President Richard Nixon signed the Endangered Species Act into law. The number of bears in the Yellowstone area had dwindled to fewer than 150. The endangered species listing stopped the hunting of the bears and created the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, which van Manen has led since 2012.

Since then, the USFWS has been working on restoring grizzly populations in six recovery zones around the West: the North Cascades, Selkirks, Cabinet-Yaak, Bitterroots, Northern Continental Divide and Greater Yellowstone. Grizzlies have been documented in each area except the Bitterroots, and the two largest populations are in the Northern Continental Divide and Greater Yellowstone.

After 40 years, the government considers the recovery of grizzlies in the Yellowstone region a great conservation success. Numbers-wise, they feel confident the bears should be delisted. The recovery goal for the Yellowstone bears was 500, and the numbers have hovered around the 700-level for the past few years. They consider the population to be stable.

Chris Servheen, the USFWS grizzly recovery coordinator, said other biological factors like distribution and reproduction indicate the population is recovered.

The Fish and Wildlife Service first tried to remove protections for the bears in 2007, but the agency was sued by environmental groups almost immediately.

Tim Preso, managing attorney at Earth Justice, was one of the attorneys who worked on the case. In a decade and a half of fighting legal battles on behalf of the environment, Preso has gone to battle over a staggering variety of environmental issues: wolves, bison, fracking fluids disclosure and, in 2007, grizzly bears.

"I think the setting for that case was pretty stark," Preso said.

He says that because the abundance of whitebark pine was declining. Whitebark pine trees exist in cold, high-elevation places in western North America. The high-calorie seeds from the trees are fantastic fall feed for grizzly bears preparing to hibernate.

"They can really put on fat, just from that resource," van Manen, the government researcher, said in an interview.

But white pine blister rust and mountain pine beetle have killed stands of the trees in forests across the region over the last decade or so. The tree itself became a candidate for endangered species listing in 2011, and the USFWS says whitebark pine is in "an overall long-term pattern of decline" across its range.

Preso said the decline of whitebark had just begun when USFWS proposed delisting the Yellowstone grizzlies. Green islands on mountaintops turned red, then gray, and he said the government hadn't examined the effect that change would have on the bears.

That became one of the key arguments in the suit, and a federal district judge agreed with Preso in 2009. The bears went back on the list.

After that, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team was tasked with studying the effect of the whitebark pine decline on the bears. The team now has six years of data on the trees and how bears are responding. They also know a lot more about what a bear's diet actually looks like, something that has impressed onlookers.

"It's provided a much better picture than anyone had before," said Scott Christensen, the director of conservation at the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

Researchers and others like to say that grizzly bears are “opportunistic omnivores,” meaning they eat whatever they can find, from moths to pine cones to elk calves. Van Manen said they’ve documented more than 250 different foods that grizzlies eat — depending on the time of year and how available it is.

With the decline in whitebark pine, researchers found that bears that relied on the seeds had been choosing to eat something else instead.

“Bears already responded by switching to more animal matter,” van Manen said.

He added that the diet change hasn’t changed bears’ body weights, one of their main concerns. But some point to a bigger consequence of relying more on meat.

Bonnie Rice, of the Sierra Club, said that the bear’s move from whitebark pine to meat leads to more bears being killed. A grizzly bear relying on meat is more likely to eat livestock or elk instead, or even their own young. Relying on livestock or game animals puts them in situations where they might end up in human conflicts, which can lead to the bears being killed by wildlife managers. 2015 has been a big year for bears dying.

The latest IGBST count said 59 bears died so far this year, either by human or natural causes. That’s more than twice the number killed in either 2013 or 2014. Other years since 2009 have approached that total, but 59 is the most kills the IGBST has counted since.

Researchers have come up with mortality limits that they say can keep the numbers stable if the states follow them. But Rice would rather see no mortality.

“Any kind of even small mortality of females can have a very large effect on the population,” Rice said. She added that the Sierra Club is opposed to delisting, saying this isn’t the right time because the bears face too many threats.

Rice is also concerned that this year’s bear count, down about 5 percent from 2014, comes after years of the population remaining relatively flat.

The government biologists say there are already too many bears in the Yellowstone region.

“There is a limit to the number of how many animals in a population constrained habitat,” van Manen said. He said the habitat is constrained by social tolerance in the states surrounding the park. They’re only allowed to go so far. He likes to compare it to a sardine can — only so many sardines fit inside.

Rice, and some others in the environmental community, reject that comparison. There is more public land for the bears to roam on, she said, if only the states would let them.

“There’s a bigger sardine can out there,” Rice said.

Still USFWS and the states appear bent on delisting the bears. They feel the data on whitebark pine and population levels are lined up and that they can defend it. All that’s left is working with the states to figure out how to manage the grizzlies in the post-delisting world. Like a boxer who was just knocked out, the government appears ready for another fight.

Wildlife managers in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana are probably more eager than anyone to see a delisting proposal come forward.

In the letter to Ashe in August, the directors of the three states’ wildlife agencies flashed frustration with how long they’ve been waiting.

“States and communities have little incentive to support species recovery if success does not end ESA constraints and return species to state management,” the letter said.

A letter USFWS director Ashe sent to them in September seems to indicate they agree on a few things. The letter, which first appeared on WyoFile early this month, said the states had agreed to a 19,279-square-mile monitoring

area — including Yellowstone National Park and parts of all three states — where the killing of bears will be capped based on how many are out there.

The letter also said they have agreed to try for a population of about 674 bears, the average of the IGBST population estimates between 2002 and 2014. At that level, 7.6 percent of adult females and 15 percent of adult males could be killed. If the population exceeds that, the percentages increase. Below 674, the percentages decrease. When population counts dip below 600, “no discretionary mortality would be allowed unless necessary to address human safety issues.”

All of that and more, the USFWS hopes, will be published in the conservation strategy that is attached to a delisting rule. The states have been working on a joint document to define how they are going to manage bears after delisting.

“We want the delisting mainly to have more management flexibility,” said Ken McDonald, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks wildlife division administrator.

Part of that means hunting. McDonald said hunting won’t be the biggest component of Montana’s plan to manage the bears, but it will be part of it.

He said he hoped hunting would eliminate some of the management kills and teach the bears to stay away from high conflict areas.

“It’s just more of a tool to help manage the bears,” McDonald said.

The other states have an interest in having hunting seasons, too, but director Ashe has told them that the hunting seasons shouldn’t allow mortality limits to be exceeded. And it seems they’ve agreed to that, but there’s another wrinkle in Ashe’s September letter.

Ashe wrote that outside of the 19,279-square-mile monitoring area, the states won’t be subject to the mortality limits, meaning there’s a possibility they could do whatever they want. How the states respond to that won’t be known until there’s an actual delisting proposal out for the public to view with whatever outrage or pleasure they might have.

One thing that most everyone agrees on with grizzly bears is connectivity. The westward migration of people separated the Rocky Mountain population of grizzly bears. The room to roam they once had disappeared, so they holed up in the Northern Continental Divide and Greater Yellowstone area.

The Yellowstone bears live on something of a genetic island. Each of the other active populations can intermingle with populations on the Canadian border.

Intermingling introduces new genes to the population, something important for genetic diversity and long-term sustainability for grizzly populations. This puts Yellowstone bears in a tough spot. No new genes are coming in.

Grizzly sightings have been recorded in places farther north and west of the Greater Yellowstone area, getting ever closer to the Northern Continental Divide population, those bears in and around Glacier National Park.

“We’ve come close,” Servheen said. “I think we’re making great progress, but it’s a gradual process. We can’t really make them go anywhere.”

Since it’s such a gradual process, that’s one thing that won’t be solved in any delisting proposal. Van Manen said it wasn’t the most crucial thing for the bears, because they are already above a certain population threshold for genetic diversity. But it’s still a long-term goal shared by many, one that would bring grizzlies a little closer to their original range.

But for now, the forthcoming delisting proposal is the event on everyone’s minds. Battle lines will be drawn in a familiar way — those who want to see the bears delisted, and those who don’t.

Rice and the Sierra Club already know where they stand. It’s not the right time, they say.

“These bears are facing too many threats to remove those protections now,” Rice said.

Others take more of a wait-and-see approach.

“We want to make sure that any delisting rule that’s contemplated adequately protects a stable grizzly bear population,” said Scott Christensen of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. He added that their top concerns were protecting core habitat, reducing human conflict and ensuring they are managed as one population, not three separate state populations.

Preso, the Earth Justice attorney, said they haven’t made any decisions for or against the delisting. He has questions, especially on the bear’s change to a meat-based diet since the decline of the whitebark pine and this year’s population decrease.

“What are the likely long-term consequences of reliance on a meat-based food source ... and how secure is this population going forward from a prolonged decline?” Preso said.

An Oregon native, Preso practiced law in Washington, D.C., before coming to work for Earth Justice in 2000. Work in D.C. was fun, lucrative, intellectually rewarding, but there were reasons he didn’t want to stay there forever.

In his office recently, he pulled two maps from a shelf. One was of the world, the other of the lower 48. Each was shaded using different metrics for the scope of human development. Shading meant humans had been there, built roads, civilizations. White spaces represented areas that remained relatively undisturbed, wild.

The Yellowstone area, where all these grizzlies live, was one of the whitest spaces.

“What we have in our backyards here is a really rare resource. Not just in the lower 48, but on the entire planet,” he said. “I think future generations will be really happy for the investment that people made in trying to keep this place as special as it is.”

## **WEATHER**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 954 AM MST THU DEC 24 2015

**Today:** Breezy. Snow likely in the late morning and afternoon...then chance of snow late in the afternoon. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Highs 13 to 19. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

**Tonight:** Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Lows zero to 6 above zero. South winds around 15 mph until early morning.

**Christmas Day:** Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 12 to 18.

**Friday Night:** Colder. Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 9 below to 17 below zero.

**Saturday:** Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs around 11. Lowest wind chill readings 18 below to 28 below zero in the morning.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear. Lows 6 below to 16 below zero.

## **WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We are 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 or here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Wellness Incentive Program Current](#). You may begin participation at the beginning of any month. Simply complete a certification form and submit it to Stacey Gunther by the fifth day of the following month (i.e. send by April 5th for wellness participation during March). Five names will be drawn each month for an award.

**Interested in receiving the latest health and wellness updates?**

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

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, December 29, 2015



Santa and the elf had a successful trip around the park on Christmas Eve day! While visiting resident children at Old Faithful, he delivered gifts and received cookies, sparkling oats for his reindeer and made snow angels. Santa also visited the OF Geyser as it erupted and greeted many winter travelers.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We will collect Christmas trees and greens for recycling after the holidays.** These greens are chipped each year for use as weed control and trail surface at the Stephens Creek Nursery.

- **Gardiner collection site:** behind the Heritage and Resource Building in Gardiner.
- **Mammoth collection site:** Mammoth Community Center trash and recycle site.

~~~~~PLEASE REMOVE ALL ORNAMENTS~~~~~



The Mammoth Clinic will be closed from Thursday 12/31 through Sunday 1/3 . We will re-open on Monday 1/4/16. Happy New Year everyone!



A big thank you to all of those who donated pajamas! We collected 79 pairs of pj's for children and families in Park County. Truly remarkable generosity. Wishing you and yours a healthy, happy 2016!



We hope you have had time to enjoy the new issue of *Yellowstone Science* on-line at nps.gov/yellowstonescience.

Staff at the Yellowstone Center for Resources is hard at work on our next issue and want to ask if you have any wolf photos that you would like to share for our spring issue. Contact Charissa Reid, if so.



Winter Clinic at Old Faithful 2016

On-site clinic will be held on January 6th 1:00 pm to 5pm and January 7th 9:00am to 11:30am

Please call Mammoth Clinic at 307-344-7965 to schedule an appointment. Walk in patients are also welcome, but will be worked in between scheduled appointments.

We look forward to serving you soon!

CYBERSECURITY TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

Before You Go

- **Update your mobile software.** Treat your mobile device like your home or work computer. Keep your operating system software and apps updated, which will improve your device's ability to defend against malware.
- **Back up your information.** Back up your contacts, photos, videos and other mobile device data with another device or cloud service.
- **Keep it locked.** Get into the habit of locking your device when you are not using it. Even if you only step away for a few minutes, that is enough time for someone to steal or destroy your information.
- Use strong PINs and passwords.

While You Are There

- **Stop auto connecting.** Disable remote connectivity and Bluetooth. Some devices will automatically seek and connect to available wireless networks. And Bluetooth enables your device to connect wirelessly with other devices, such as headphones or automobile infotainment systems. Disable these features so that you only connect to wireless and Bluetooth networks when you want to.
- **Think before you connect.** Before you connect to any public wireless hotspot – like on an airplane or in an airport, hotel, train/bus station or café – be sure to confirm the name of the network and exact login procedures with appropriate staff to ensure that the network is legitimate. Do not conduct sensitive activities, such as online shopping, banking, or sensitive work, using a public wireless network. Only use sites that begin with “https://” when online shopping or banking. Using your mobile network connection is generally more secure than using a public wireless network.
- **Think before you click.** Use caution when downloading or clicking on any unknown links. Delete emails that are suspicious or are from unknown sources. Review and understand the details of an application before installing.
- **Guard your mobile device.** To prevent theft and unauthorized access or loss of sensitive information, never leave your mobile devices—including any USB or external storage devices—unattended in a public place. Keep your devices secured in taxis, at airports, on airplanes, and in your hotel room.

COMMON CYBERSECURITY THREATS WHILE TRAVELING

- **Unsecured wireless networks.** While public wireless networks provide great convenience, allowing people to connect to the Internet from almost anywhere, they are unsecure and can allow cyber

criminals access to your Internet-enabled devices. Beyond the typical public wireless networks found at airports, restaurants, hotels, and cafes, they are increasingly available in other places, such as on airplanes and in public parks.

- **Publicly accessible computers.** Hotel business centers, libraries, and cyber cafes provide computers that anyone can use. However, travelers cannot trust that these computers are secure. They may not be running the latest operating systems or have updated antivirus software. Cyber criminals may have infected these machines with malicious viruses or install malicious software. One example is keylogger malware which, when installed, captures the key strokes of the computer's users and sending this information to criminals via email. Through this malware, criminals are able to receive users' personal information, such as name, credit card numbers, birthdates, and passwords.
- **Physical theft of devices.** Thieves often target travelers. Meal times are optimum times for thieves to check hotel rooms for unattended laptops. If you are attending a conference or trade show, be especially wary — these venues offer thieves a wider selection of devices that are likely to contain sensitive information, and the conference sessions offer more opportunities for thieves to access guest rooms.

Post-Holiday Special at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge! (How Does "Free" Sound About Now?)



After all you've done to make the holidays great for your family and friends, it's time to reward yourself with big savings on a winter getaway at Yellowstone's Old Faithful Snow Lodge.

Pay regular rate on a lodge room with two queen beds and receive free round trip snowcoach transportation—a \$234 per person value!

\$249* per night per room includes lodging and round trip snowcoach transportation** for up to two people.

*Special rate applicable for a lodge room with two queen beds, single or double occupancy. Taxes, fees and gratuities not included. (Limited lodging and snowcoach seats available.)

**Free snowcoach transportation only available from North Entrance/Mammoth Hot Springs

-Dates of reservation must include at least two of the following nights during the same stay in order to qualify for the special-Jan. 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 2016

-Additional charge for extra persons more than two per room

-Two-night minimum stay required

-Additional charge for extra persons more than two per room

-Guests will be responsible for paying regular lodging and snowcoach rates if changes to the reservation eliminate any of the qualifying dates

-This special cannot be combined with any other packages, specials or discounts

Dear Yellowstone-area parents,



Do you have a favorite memory of spending time with your kids in Yellowstone National Park? We thought so! Yellowstone's education media team, in partnership with Yellowstone Association, is developing an activity guidebook to help visiting families enjoy Yellowstone. By sharing your photos and stories, our guide book will encourage visiting families to feel comfortable about spending time in and venturing out into Yellowstone.

Please send 3-4 high-resolution pictures of you and your family, hiking, camping, or being active in Yellowstone. Provide a 50-word caption for your picture and a credit for the photo. Send your pictures to Dawn Webster at nps_yell_education_training@nps.gov by January 15, 2016. By providing the photo, you are allowing Yellowstone National Park and Yellowstone Association to use it in online and printed media (details available).

We look forward to seeing your photos and hearing your stories!
Thank you, The Yellowstone Education Media Team

We are looking for photos of your child in Yellowstone:

- On the trail hiking with your family, hiking with a ranger, on a boardwalk
- Having fun on the trail! Jumping or running, with wildflowers, with elk antlers and other cool finds
- Recording their experience (taking a photo, filming, drawing, etc.)
- Inspecting a plant or rock, looking through a magnifying glass or binoculars
- Enjoying the park in all its seasons: sunshine, rain, or snow!
- With things you take along to enjoy a day in the park (with their backpack, muddy boots)
- Exploring near a river
- Enjoying the park, with a close-up smile
- Enjoying thermal features with an adult
- Ready for weather in any season (in rain gear, with mittens, with hat)
- Safely viewing any kind of wildlife
- Being bear safe, with bear spray or a storage locker
- Teens having fun
- At a campground with your family, in a tent or next to tent
- With a ranger or on a tour
- Enjoying a visitor center, museum, or park exhibits with parents
- Working on a Junior Ranger or Young Scientist booklet or scavenger hunt or being sworn

Employee Recreation:

The Grand Targhee Employee Ski Trip will be here before we know it. You don't want to miss this trip! Here is the flyer for more information: ([Targhee3](#)). If you would like to sign up or just have a question, please call Leigh Ann at 344-5225.

Canyon Coach Trips are almost full. Ski or snowshoe Dunraven Pass, Mt. Washburn & Canyon Trails. These trips are geared towards cross-country skiers but snowshoers and sightseers are welcome. Xanterra Transportation is kind enough to provide the rec program with the snow coaches and drivers at a discounted price so due to the popularity of these trips, non-Xanterra employees are eligible on a space-available basis. Please call Leigh Ann at 344-5225 or stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office on the stage in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. Dates for these trips are:

MH/Gardiner employees:

- Saturday, January 9th
- Wednesday, January 20th
- Saturday, February 6th
- Sunday, February 21st – SIGHTSEEING ONLY TRIP

Snow Lodge employees:

- Wednesday, January 6th
- Wednesday, February 10th

Fitness classes are offered every WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY in the Mammoth Recreation Hall.

- New day, new class! Join Robin (RYT 200) for Wednesday lunchtime "Yogalates" starting January 6th. Going from 12 pm – 1 pm, this class will begin with a traditional yoga warm-up flow followed by a blend of strengthening yoga poses and pilates-style core work. Each class will end with restorative yoga poses for a nice stretch and to balance the body and mind. All levels welcome!
- The Thursday Yoga class taught by Daria Uporsky is geared towards beginner – intermediate level participants. This class also goes from 12 pm – 1 pm.

All employees are welcome so please come! The classes are in the Mammoth Recreation Hall and are \$5 each.

Education Seminars:

Winter Bird Seminar presented by Katy Duffy

Discover how adaptations enable birds like bald eagles, trumpeter swans and even tiny chickadees to survive winter in Yellowstone.

- Snow Lodge: Thursday, January 21st 7:00 pm Employee Pub
- Mammoth Hot Springs: Tuesday, January 26th 6:00 pm Mammoth Conference Room

“This ain’t Alice’s Park : true stories of living and working in Wonderland” presented by Jessi Gerdes

She will talk about several different accounts of literature from real park employees detailing their life while working in Yellowstone.

- Snow Lodge: Tuesday, February 2nd 7:00 pm Employee Pub
- Mammoth Hot Springs: Thursday, February 18th 6:00 pm Mammoth Conference Room

IN THE NEWS

Study shows winters warming in Yellowstone

By Brett French Billings Gazette

Dec 27, 2015

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/study-shows-winters-warming-in-yellowstone/article_385cb471-bc0a-52fe-9878-0e693fb614b8.html

Since 1948, the Greater Yellowstone Area has consistently warmed, especially in the winter and summer months, according to a recently released [U.S. Geological Survey study](#).

Using an algorithm developed at the University of Montana, Adam Sepulveda, a research zoologist at the Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Bozeman, calculated temperatures at 50 different sites within the GYA between 1948 and 2012 at different elevations and with varied sun exposure to look for patterns. The study appears in the latest issue of the journal Plos One.

Given the warming trend, Sepulveda said “the most recognized threat” to the region is the possibility of less snowfall.

“Our data show us that winter is warming the fastest, and particularly March,” he said, which is the primary snow-producing month in the GYA.

Steve Running, a regents professor of ecology at the University of Montana, whose department developed the algorithm Sepulveda used, said “our biggest temperature changes (around the Northern Rockies) are in the winter months.”

“Whereas 40 to 50 below zero used to be common in the winter, now it’s 20 to 30 below, which still sounds cold, but that’s a lot warmer,” Running said.

The impact of that climate change could eventually be dramatic — and not just for the Greater Yellowstone Area.

“The warming winter temperatures in the GYA are of large concern because the majority of surface water in this region originates as mountain snowpack,” Sepulveda wrote. “These surface waters feed three major rivers that provide critical societal and environmental services: the Snake-Columbia, the Green-Colorado, and the Yellowstone-Missouri rivers. Increases in winter and spring temperatures in the West result in less snow accumulation in the winter and earlier timing of water released from the snowpack, which affect the timing of water delivery to downstream irrigation users, municipalities, and hydropower production facilities and influence recreational water uses (e.g., angling and boating) in gateway and downstream communities.”

As regions go, the varied elevations and terrain of the GYA will help armor it somewhat against that gradual change.

“It has the potential to be more resilient at least to extremes,” Sepulveda said, “because it’s a larger area with topographic and climate variability.”

“Think of the diversity of habitat in an Iowa cornfield, you have one,” Running explained. “In Yellowstone, you have a mixture of habitats that gives the whole ecosystem more resilience.”

Yet even with those protections, warm areas will get warmer and so will cool areas. That means crowding some species like amphibians into a shrinking number of cool, wet areas. As that variety in habitat is lessened, so too are species likely to be trimmed.

“This idea that diversity produces stability tends to be a very important maxim for many things, including conservation,” Sepulveda said.

The GYA is a 34,000-square-mile ecosystem that crosses the corners of three states: Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. It’s the largest protected reserve in the lower 48 states and therefore home to robust populations of large mammals like bison, grizzly bears and elk. At the center of the ecosystem is Yellowstone National Park, a protected reserve for those species.

For Yellowstone scientists, the greatest concerns from a warming climate include: changes in the composition of plants and animals; altering the amount and timing of spring snowmelt, which affects water levels, vegetation growth and the movement of wildlife from migrating bison to spawning trout to the arrival of pollinators; and fire frequency and season length could increase, according to the [park’s website](#).

Sepulveda said he and his collaborators on the study worked hard to “not pitch the worst-case scenario,” so there is the potential — depending on how humans respond to an increasingly warmer climate — for the climate to be “warmer or worse, based on your perspective.”

“It’s really hard to figure out how warm things will get,” Sepulveda said. “The important thing, though, is that no matter what projections you look at things are progressively warming.”

Sierra Club: Timing not right for griz delisting

By Lew Freedman Cody Enterprise- Monday, December 28, 2015 2:12 pm

http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article_b77cdf6-ada7-11e5-a432-e7297fcfe245.html

More Yellowstone grizzlies have died in the region this year than at any other time since the population has been monitored, and the Sierra Club says that demonstrates this is not the right time to remove the animal from the Endangered Species List.

The assessment by the Interagency Grizzly Study Team that 59 bears have died in 2015 comes as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is poised to announce its view on the status and future of the Yellowstone grizzly.

Indications are the federal agency is about to respond to studies from various groups that say the Yellowstone grizzly population has recovered and take steps beginning to delist it as an endangered species.

The Sierra Club wants to put the brakes on the process.

“There is a lot of uncertainty,” said Bonnie Rice, senior representative of the Sierra Club’s Yellowstone/Northern Rockies campaign.

The question of how many grizzlies are in the ecosystem has been debated for years.

These bears were delisted in 2009, but a court proceeding reinstated them under endangered species protection and triggered long-term studies on the bears' food sources and adaptability.

This year several groups have declared the species recovered. Using two different methods it was estimated there are 757 Yellowstone bears, or up to 1,200.

Most government agencies have used the lower figure to be conservative.

A later review of bear mortality reduced the first total to 717 based on 2014 activity.

The Sierra Club views the 59 deaths this year, the most since monitoring began in the 1970s, as alarming. With additional death cases to be investigated, the club suggests the true number of bears could be dropping into the low 600s or even lower.

"We could be seeing the start of a downward trend," said Rice, suggesting any thought of delisting be placed on hold until numbers and mortality trends can be better determined.

As for the wide discrepancy between the estimates of the size of the population, Rice said, "There's a huge range out there. The public is confused. There is just uncertainty."

Some 54 of the bear deaths were attributed to people. A key reason the court held back delisting in 2009 was the requirement of learning what bears are eating besides diminishing supplies of white bark pine, a major food source.

Studies indicate the bears have adapted by eating moths and other foods to maintain high caloric intake.

State and federal officials and scientists also say the bears have extended their range beyond the core Yellowstone area and that is why they are turning up near communities they haven't visited for years.

"Bears are looking for replacement food," Rice said. "That brings them into more conflict."

The Sierra Club argues bears are wandering so they can eat.

They are more apt to pursue meat for dinner in the way of elk and mule deer carcasses, producing more conflicts with people that they lose.

"Definitely more needs to be done in terms of avoiding conflict," Rice said.

Before delisting takes place, the Sierra Club believes a corridor connecting the Yellowstone bear with the Northern Rockies bear should be opened to ensure genetic diversity for future generations, leading to thousands of bears in the region.

To the Sierra Club, right now it does not appear the programs in place have guaranteed recovery of the species.

"We're not there yet," Rice said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 838 AM MST TUE DEC 29 2015

Today: Cloudy. Snow likely early in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Highs 12 to 18. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 below to 3 above zero.

Wednesday: Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Highs 10 to 16.

Wednesday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 below to 11 below zero.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. Highs 10 to 16. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero in the morning.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 9 below to 15 below zero.

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<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>, mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com Mammoth Community Center (MCC) PO Box 503, YNP WY 82190

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, December 30, 2015



Enjoy a wonderful New Year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**The Mammoth Clinic will be closed** from Thursday 12/31 through Sunday 1/3 . We will re-open on Monday 1/4/16. Happy New Year everyone!



A big thank you to all of those who donated pajamas! We collected 79 pairs of pj's for children and families in Park County. Truly remarkable generosity. Wishing you and yours a healthy, happy 2016!

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We hope you have had time to enjoy the new issue of *Yellowstone Science* on-line at [nps.gov/yellowstonescience](http://nps.gov/yellowstonescience). Staff at the Yellowstone Center for Resources is hard at work on our next issue and want to ask if you have any wolf photos that you would like to share for our spring issue. Contact Charissa Reid, if so.



#### **Winter Clinic at Old Faithful 2016**

On-site clinic will be held on January 6th 1:00 pm to 5pm and January 7th 9:00am to 11:30am

Please call Mammoth Clinic at 307-344-7965 to schedule an appointment. Walk in patients are also welcome, but will be worked in between scheduled appointments.

We look forward to serving you soon!

#### **Post-Holiday Special at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge! (How Does “Free” Sound About Now?)**



After all you’ve done to make the holidays great for your family and friends, it’s time to reward yourself with big savings on a winter getaway at Yellowstone’s Old Faithful Snow Lodge.

***Pay regular rate on a lodge room with two queen beds and receive free round trip snowcoach transportation-a \$234 per person value!***

\$249\* per night per room includes lodging and round trip snowcoach transportation\*\* for up to two people.

\*Special rate applicable for a lodge room with two queen beds, single or double occupancy. Taxes, fees and gratuities not included. (Limited lodging and snowcoach seats available.)

\*\*Free snowcoach transportation only available from North Entrance/Mammoth Hot Springs

-Dates of reservation must include at least two of the following nights during the same stay in order to qualify for the special-Jan. 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 2016

-Additional charge for extra persons more than two per room

-Two-night minimum stay required

-Additional charge for extra persons more than two per room

-Guests will be responsible for paying regular lodging and snowcoach rates if changes to the reservation eliminate any of the qualifying dates

-This special cannot be combined with any other packages, specials or discounts

#### **Dear Yellowstone-area parents,**



Do you have a favorite memory of spending time with your kids in Yellowstone National Park? We thought so! Yellowstone’s education media team, in partnership with Yellowstone Association, is developing an activity guidebook to help visiting families enjoy Yellowstone. By sharing your photos and stories, our guide book will encourage visiting families to feel comfortable about spending time in and venturing out into Yellowstone.

Please send 3-4 high-resolution pictures of you and your family, hiking, camping, or being active in Yellowstone. Provide a 50-word caption for your picture and a credit for the photo. Send your pictures to Dawn Webster at [nps\\_yell\\_education\\_training@nps.gov](mailto:nps_yell_education_training@nps.gov) by January 15, 2016. By providing the photo, you are allowing Yellowstone National Park and Yellowstone Association to use it in online and printed media (details available).

We look forward to seeing your photos and hearing your stories!

Thank you, The Yellowstone Education Media Team

We are looking for photos of your child in Yellowstone:

- On the trail hiking with your family, hiking with a ranger, on a boardwalk
- Having fun on the trail! Jumping or running, with wildflowers, with elk antlers and other cool finds
- Recording their experience (taking a photo, filming, drawing, etc.)
- Inspecting a plant or rock, looking through a magnifying glass or binoculars
- Enjoying the park in all its seasons: sunshine, rain, or snow!
- With things you take along to enjoy a day in the park (with their backpack, muddy boots)
- Exploring near a river
- Enjoying the park, with a close-up smile
- Enjoying thermal features with an adult
- Ready for weather in any season (in rain gear, with mittens, with hat)
- Safely viewing any kind of wildlife
- Being bear safe, with bear spray or a storage locker
- Teens having fun
- At a campground with your family, in a tent or next to tent
- With a ranger or on a tour
- Enjoying a visitor center, museum, or park exhibits with parents
- Working on a Junior Ranger or Young Scientist booklet or scavenger hunt or being sworn

### **Employee Recreation:**

**The Grand Targhee Employee Ski Trip** will be here before we know it. You don't want to miss this trip! Here is the flyer for more information: ([Targhee3](#)). If you would like to sign up or just have a question, please call Leigh Ann at 344-5225.

**Canyon Coach Trips** are almost full. Ski or snowshoe Dunraven Pass, Mt. Washburn & Canyon Trails. These trips are geared towards cross-country skiers but snowshoers and sightseers are welcome. Xanterra Transportation is kind enough to provide the rec program with the snow coaches and drivers at a discounted price so due to the popularity of these trips, non-Xanterra employees are eligible on a space-available basis. Please call Leigh Ann at 344-5225 or stop by the Parkwide Recreation Office on the stage in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. Dates for these trips are:

MH/Gardiner employees:

- Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – SIGHTSEEING ONLY TRIP

Snow Lodge employees:

- Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

**Fitness classes** are offered every WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY in the Mammoth Recreation Hall.

- New day, new class! Join Robin (RYT 200) for Wednesday lunchtime "Yogalates" starting January 6<sup>th</sup>. Going from 12 pm – 1 pm, this class will begin with a traditional yoga warm-up flow followed by a blend of strengthening yoga poses and pilates-style core work. Each class will end with restorative yoga poses for a nice stretch and to balance the body and mind. All levels welcome!
- The Thursday Yoga class taught by Daria Uporsky is geared towards beginner – intermediate level participants. This class also goes from 12 pm – 1 pm.

All employees are welcome so please come! The classes are in the Mammoth Recreation Hall and are \$5 each.

**Education Seminars:**

**Winter Bird Seminar** presented by Katy Duffy

Discover how adaptations enable birds like bald eagles, trumpeter swans and even tiny chickadees to survive winter in Yellowstone.

- Snow Lodge: Thursday, January 21st 7:00 pm Employee Pub
- Mammoth Hot Springs: Tuesday, January 26th 6:00 pm Mammoth Conference Room

**“This ain’t Alice’s Park : true stories of living and working in Wonderland”** presented by Jessi Gerdes

She will talk about several different accounts of literature from real park employees detailing their life while working in Yellowstone.

- Snow Lodge: Tuesday, February 2nd 7:00 pm Employee Pub
- Mammoth Hot Springs: Thursday, February 18th 6:00 pm Mammoth Conference Room

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 853 AM MST WED DEC 30 2015

**Today:** Cloudy. Snow likely early in the morning...then chance of snow early in the afternoon. New snow accumulation around 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 1 to 2 inches. Highs 9 to 15. Chance of snow 60 percent.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 below to 9 below zero.

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy. Highs 10 to 16.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear. Lows 8 below to 14 below zero.

**New Years Day:** Not as cold. Mostly sunny. Highs 18 to 24. Lowest wind chill readings 16 below to 26 below zero in the morning.

**Friday Night:** Clear. Lows 9 below to 1 above zero. **WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We are 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 or here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Wellness Incentive Program Current](#). 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!

**For Mammoth Community Center (MCC) information and to book your public, private or work events** contact us at:

<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>, [mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com](mailto:mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com) Mammoth Community Center (MCC) PO Box 503, YNP WY 82190