



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 1, 2003 03-77

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK ISSUES PROSPECTUS FOR GUIDED HORSEBACK RIDES

Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey announced today that the National Park Service (NPS) has issued a prospectus for two concession contracts, valid for ten years each, to provide guided horseback rides from dude ranches in Grand Teton National Park. Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51—Concession Contracts and Permits, the NPS has determined that existing concessioners, Trail Creek Ranch, Inc. and Gros Ventre River Ranch, are preferred Offerors for these contracts. The current concession permits between the NPS and the existing concessioners will expire December 31, 2003.

Guided horseback ride services operate from June through September. Concessioners will be responsible for providing their own base of operations outside park boundaries. There are no government-assigned facilities, employee housing or concessioner-owned facilities within the park for these services. Selected Offerors would not be required to purchase any personal property utilized by the existing concessioners.

Prospectus packages are available by contacting Rebecca Rhea, Chief, Business Resources Division, Grand Teton National Park, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012. The cost for a copy of the prospectus is \$35, if delivered by Federal Express, or \$30 per copy, if picked up in person. Checks and money orders (no cash accepted) must be payable to the National Park Service and a business address must be provided to receive a Federal Express package.

Contract offers must be received at Grand Teton National Park, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012 (Federal Express address: Moose Warehouse, Moose, WY 83012) **no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 1, 2004**. Telephone inquiries may be directed to 307-739-3434.

-NPS-  
[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 13, 2003 03-01

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK ISSUES PROSPECTUS FOR GUIDED CLIMBING AND MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL**

Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that the National Park Service (NPS) has issued a prospectus for a concession contract, valid for ten years, which provides for guided climbing and a mountaineering school within Grand Teton National Park. The NPS has determined that the existing concessioner, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides, is a preferred offeror for this contract, pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51 - Concession Contracts and Permits.

Mountaineering services are available year-round, with the peak season for climbing taking place from early June through late September. This business opportunity does not include any assigned facilities within the park; however, there is a land assignment at Corbet High Camp located near Teepe Moraine in Garnet Canyon.

Prospectus packages are available by contacting Judy Jennings, Chief, Business Resources Division National Park Service, Intermountain Region, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287. The cost for a copy of the prospectus is \$35, if delivered by Federal Express, or \$30 per copy, if picked up in person. Checks and money orders (no cash accepted) must be payable to the National Park Service and a business address must be provided to receive a Federal Express package.

Contract offers must be received at Intermountain Regional Office, Business Resources Division, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287 (Federal Express address: 12795 West Alameda Parkway Lakewood, CO 80228) **no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 14, 2003**. Telephone inquiries may be directed to 303-969-2661 or 303-969-2205.

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[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 3, 2003 03-02

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK BEGINS SNOW PLOWING ON THE TETON PARK ROAD

Superintendent Steve Martin announced that cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter hiking and dog walking along the Teton Park Road will end for the winter season on Monday, March 10 as the annual road plowing begins. The Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail in Grand Teton National Park will also close for the 2003 winter season at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 9 in conjunction with road closures in Yellowstone National Park.

Plowing of the Teton Park Road will begin at 8:00 a.m., Monday, March 10. Although access to the roadway will not be available for winter recreation, park visitors may continue to use areas adjacent to the roadbed for skiing and snowshoeing. Leashed dogs are not permitted in areas off the road. Depending on snow conditions and plowing progress, portions of the road may become accessible to non-motorized users before April 1st. For safety reasons, visitors are requested **not** to access the Teton Park Road while snowplows are operating.

The Flagg Ranch Visitor Information Station will close for the winter season on Sunday, March 9 at 5:00 p.m. Flagg Ranch Resort will close for the season after breakfast on Monday, March 10. The Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway will remain closed to all use until June 1, due to springtime grizzly bear activity.

Ranger-led snowshoe hikes originating from the Moose Visitor Center end on Sunday, March 16. The Moose Visitor Center remains open daily, throughout the springtime, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Winter car camping at the Colter Bay Visitor Center parking area will end on Tuesday, April 15.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 10, 2003 03-03

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### OUT OF BOUNDS SKIER RESCUED IN GRANITE CANYON

Tej S. Dhillon, age 30, of Fresno, California was rescued on Saturday, March 8, from a 100-foot cliff where he was stranded while skiing out of bounds on the Northwest Passage of Granite Canyon in Grand Teton National Park. Using a 5:1 mechanical pulley system, park rangers lifted Dhillon up to a secure slope where they could safely ski out of the canyon.

Park dispatchers received a call at 3:17 p.m. Saturday afternoon from ski patrol staff at Teton Village after Dhillon's companion, David Humphrey of South Lake Tahoe, had skied out to notify patrollers that his partner was "cliffed-out" and could not proceed up or down. Due to gusty winds, wing-icing conditions, and poor visibility the park's contract helicopter could not facilitate the rescue operation. Teton County Search and Rescue volunteers responded to assist rangers with the technical rescue required for extricating Dhillon.

Rangers reached the top of the cliff where Dhillon was stranded at 7:40 p.m. and immediately set up an anchor and pulley system. They reached Dhillon, perched on a cliff edge, at approximately 8:30 p.m., hoisting him to a secure slope above by 9:45 p.m. Two other backcountry skiers in Granite Canyon, Trevor Bain of Jackson and Derek Stal of Wilson, were key elements in the success of the rescue operation as they climbed up to a ridge top and waited until after dark to direct rescuers to the exact area where Dhillon was stranded, saving hours of valuable search time. Dhillon and all rescue staff safely skied out, reaching the Granite Canyon trailhead at 11:50 p.m.

Dhillon and his two ski companions were dressed for a day of skiing at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. They were not carrying shovels, probes, transceivers or packs with extra food, water and clothing. The avalanche danger was rated as Considerable on Saturday at the 8,500-foot elevation where they were skiing. Downhill skiers and snowboarders entering Granite Canyon from the ski resort are reminded that this area is backcountry wilderness. Users should consult a map before traveling unfamiliar terrain and be prepared for the unexpected by carrying essential survival equipment in the event that an unexpected emergency requires spending more time than originally planned in the outdoors.

This marks the first major search and rescue for 2003 in Grand Teton National Park and the first rescue in Granite Canyon since 2001.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 17, 2003 03-04

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### WINTER VEHICLE STORAGE AREA FLOODS

Due to recent warm temperatures and quick snow melt, unprecedented flooding was discovered Friday morning, March 14, at an outdoor area used by Grand Teton National Park as winter storage for vehicles and temporary structures. The flooded area, known as the Blacktail storage site, is an old borrow pit created in 1963 during road construction on Highway 89/191. The park and various highway construction companies have used the five-acre depression for over 30 years without flooding. Park personnel, who were at the storage area on Tuesday evening, March 11, observed no signs or indications of flooding.

Approximately 45 park vehicles were affected by the floodwater. A mix of new and old vehicles, three trailer houses, some small buildings and miscellaneous building materials was stored at this location, which also serves as a practice shooting range for area law enforcement personnel during summer months.

Park officials notified the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and a DEQ representative surveyed the site on Sunday. A Maxim Technologies, Inc. environmental scientist collected water samples on Sunday as well. No significant gas or oil leaks were noted and several of the stored vehicles contain sealed fuel systems, which prevent leakage. Following established hazardous materials procedures, booms were installed around the flooded area to contain possible pollution and blotters were used to absorb any floating contaminants.

Throughout Friday, melt water continued to flow into the area from an arroyo at the north end of the storage site. A gully draining the accelerated snowmelt was significantly enlarged and eroded due to the substantial runoff. After surveying the bench area above the storage site, park staff determined that an apparent flash flood of snowmelt occurred due to unprecedented warm temperatures causing a quick snowpack thaw over still frozen ground. Floodwaters have dropped by one foot since Sunday afternoon.

Park staff worked throughout the weekend salvaging materials and vehicles from the storage area.

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Grand Teton  
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PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 19, 2003 03-05

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### THE TETON PARK ROAD OPENS FOR ANNUAL SPRING ACTIVITIES

Due to recent mild weather and the snow plowing progress, the Teton Park Road in Grand Teton National Park is now open to hikers, bikers, inline skaters and other non-motorized activities from the Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. The southern portion of Jenny Lake Loop Road from String Lake to the junction with Teton Park Road (the one-way section) was plowed yesterday and may have patches of snow and ice until more melting occurs. **Non-motorized users need to be alert for, and yield to, snowplows and administrative vehicles traveling the roadway.** "The annual springtime opening of the Teton Park Road is a much anticipated event for local residents and visitors. It allows for a unique and excellent opportunity to enjoy access to the roadway before vehicle traffic begins," said Superintendent Steve Martin. The Teton Park Road will open to vehicle traffic on May 1.

**Leashed dogs are permitted, but are restricted to paved areas only.** Rangers will closely monitor the area and violators may receive citations. Owners failing to keep their pets leashed may force the prohibition of dogs on the Teton Park Road during this popular time. *Mutt Mitt* stations are available at the Teton Park Road closure gates; pet owners are reminded to use these waste disposal bags to pick up after their dogs, removing the presence of pet waste for visitors using this area.

As a reminder, entrance stations are operating and collecting fees. Fee options are as follows:

- \$10 7-day Pass for bicycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$20 7-day Pass for vehicle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$40 Annual Parks Pass valid for one-year entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone
- \$50 National Parks Pass valid for one-year entrance to all national park units
- \$ 5 Satellite Pass used in conjunction with either a National Parks or Annual Parks Pass to allow entry into **Grand Teton only** for family members traveling in a separate vehicle

**When entering the park using a pass, please be sure to bring personal identification.**

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 31, 2003 03-06

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### REMINDER OF SPRING BEAR ACTIVITY IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent Steve Martin reminds local residents and visitors to be alert for signs of bear activity within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. This is the time of year when bears emerge from their winter dens and appropriate precautions for traveling in bear country should be taken accordingly. Recently, bears and bear tracks have been sighted in the vicinities of Moran Junction and Flagg Ranch.

When bears come out of their winter dens, they begin to search for any food source that helps restore depleted fat reserves after hibernation. Winter-killed wildlife carcasses provide an immediate source of protein and are vigorously defended by hungry bears. Bears also dig up and eat burrowing rodents and the tubers of spring wildflowers. Female bears, accompanied by cubs, are especially protective of their young. **Do not approach a bear under any circumstances.** This is particularly important for situations involving bears with cubs or bears near a carcass.

When traveling in bear country, precautionary measures should include carrying pepper spray and keeping it easily accessible to use. Take time to become familiar with the proper handling of pepper spray and remember that it is not a substitute for being alert and exercising good safety practices, such as making noise and traveling in a group - not alone - while in the backcountry.

Visitors should report any bear sightings or signs, as soon as possible, to the nearest visitor center or ranger station. This timely information will assist park staff in keeping bears away from unnatural food sources. Access to human food habituates bears. Habituated animals often lose their fear of humans, which threatens the safety of both park visitors and the bears themselves.

For further information on spring conditions and bear activity in Grand Teton National Park, call 307/739-3300.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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PO Box 170  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 1, 2003 03-07

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ACQUIRES KEY INHOLDING IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

*Snake River Ranch, National Park Service, The Conservation Fund,  
and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Partner to Protect Critical Land in Jackson Hole*

The National Park Service announced today that a 35-acre tract of land at the southwest boundary of Grand Teton National Park was purchased to protect critical wildlife habitat and preserve the magnificent viewshed of the Teton Range. Formerly owned by the Resor, Hauge and Laughlin families of the Snake River Ranch, the land is located just west of the Granite Canyon entrance station on the Moose-Wilson Road.

With assistance from The Conservation Fund, this 35-acre tract is the second, large-scale private acreage that Grand Teton National Park has purchased in the past 18 months. Through the generosity of the landowners, the \$6.5 million purchase price was substantially below market value. The inholding was acquired with money from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is dedicated to the purchase of park lands, wildlife habitat, historical sites and other public land priorities. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is financed primarily through royalties from offshore oil and gas production.

In making today's announcement, Director of the National Park Service Fran P. Mainella said, "Acquisition of these 35 acres is another important step in Grand Teton National Park's land protection efforts. The National Park Service is deeply appreciative of both the assistance from The Conservation Fund and the generosity of the Resor, Hauge and Laughlin families."

The Wyoming congressional delegation was particularly instrumental in securing the land protection funds for the National Park Service. U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin (R-WY) commented, "Today we are witnessing another great victory in the ongoing efforts to protect Grand Teton National Park's rugged beauty and unparalleled character. Purchase of this additional 35 acres ensures that the foreground of the Teton Range is preserved and important wildlife habitat protected along the park's southwest boundary."

As spokesperson for the Snake River Ranch families, Bill Resor said, "From the time my grandfather bought this part of the ranch in 1953, our family has always hoped that it would remain as open land. We are very pleased that this acreage will now be a permanent part of Grand Teton National Park."

In addition to long-term preservation of Teton views and open space near Teton Village, the addition eliminates and restores an old gravel pit site within the park's boundary. The property will be available for public access and includes over one quarter mile of Granite Creek, a popular fishing stream that also provides critical habitat for Snake River cutthroat trout.

**MORE**

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



The Conservation Fund's involvement was made possible by using a portion of a \$2.14 million grant received from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation as part of the Foundation's Greater Yellowstone Land Conservation Initiative. "We are proud to help ensure continuing protection of wildlife habitat in a true icon of American conservation, Grand Teton National Park," said Peter Howell, Program Director for the Environment at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. "We salute the public and private partners for their leadership, which was critical to the success of this important project."

The Foundation's Greater Yellowstone Initiative seeks to conserve ecologically significant habitats and to improve land use planning in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. Other project partners include the Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Sonoran Institute, the Land Trust Alliance, and the Institute for Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming.

The Conservation Fund, a national non-profit organization, acts to protect America's legacy of land and water resources in partnership with other organizations, public agency foundations, corporations and individuals. With 95 percent of all contributions going directly into its conservation projects, The Conservation Fund is recognized as one of the nation's most efficient conservation organizations by prominent nonprofit watchdog groups.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 7, 2003 03-08

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### SPRING ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

To celebrate National Park Week and the arrival of spring in Grand Teton National Park, Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that several activities are scheduled to take place during upcoming weekends in April.

Park rangers will lead early-morning trips to observe strutting sage grouse as they perform their springtime mating dance on a lek (mating arena) located off the Antelope Flats Road near Mormon Row. Strutting grouse tours will be offered Saturdays and Sundays during the weekends of April 12 - 13, April 19 - 20, April 26 - 27 and May 3 - 4. Trips will begin from the Moose Visitor Center at 5:30 a.m. Reservations are required. To make reservations and obtain information about what to wear and bring along on these ranger-led excursions, call the Moose Visitor Center at 739-3399.

An open house is scheduled for April 26 and April 27 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Jenny Lake Visitor Center. The April open house is an annual event that gives park visitors a chance to walk, bike or inline skate along the Teton Park Road and to stop by the visitor center for a fireside chat with park staff, while enjoying complimentary cookies, hot cocoa, and lemonade.

The first National Park Week took place in 1991 to honor the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service. By presidential proclamation, an annual recognition has occurred since 1994. This year, America's 388 national park units will observe National Park Week from April 20 through 26 by providing opportunities for visitors and neighbors to acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate the many ways national parks enrich their lives.

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[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 8, 2003 03-09

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR JENNY LAKE LODGE VISITOR ACCOMMODATION AND EMPLOYEE HOUSING UPGRADE**

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment (EA) titled *Jenny Lake Lodge, Upgrading Visitor Accommodation and Employee Housing Facilities*. Jenny Lake Lodge is a concession-operated facility located along the Jenny Lake Loop Road in Grand Teton National Park. The lodge operates between June and October of each year, accommodating up to 114 guests per night and housing approximately 50 seasonal employees. Grand Teton Lodge Company (GTLC) owns, maintains and operates the facility through a contract with the NPS and will pay for all project costs. Intermountain Region Director Karen Wade signed the FONSI on March 14, 2003.

The NPS evaluated four alternatives and selected Alternative C, the preferred alternative, for implementation. Upgrading of visitor accommodation and employee housing facilities under Alternative C will result in the relocation of three existing guest cabins to the employee housing area to provide improved housing for managerial employees. Additionally, one existing employee cabin will be converted into an employee lounge. This employee lounge will replace a temporary employee lounge currently located in the housekeeping facility. Additional actions include construction of five new guest cabins to improve the overall quality of guest accommodations while maintaining a maximum guest capacity of 114 people, and construction of a 2,000-square foot guest lounge to accommodate indoor programs and other special events and activities. Groups will only be allowed to rent the lounge facility during the shoulder seasons of late May and October. In order to use the guest lounge for a group function, the entire Jenny Lake Lodge facility must be rented by the group sponsoring the event.

Copies of the FONSI may be requested by calling the Superintendent's Office at 307/739-3410 or by writing to Superintendent, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012. Copies may also be obtained from the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library or by visiting the park's website at: [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm)

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
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PO Box 170  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 14, 2003 03-10

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK HOSTS OPEN HOUSE ON FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that Grand Teton National Park is seeking public input as it prepares to update its Fire Management Plan. To learn more about the park's fire management plan and proposed revisions, the public is invited to attend an Open House scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2003 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Jackson Hole Middle School Commons.

The park's current Fire Management Plan was last revised in 1991 and is being reviewed to conform with current National Park Service (NPS) and other federal policies on fire management and resource protection. Under the National Environmental Policy Act, as a part of the Fire Management Plan update, Grand Teton National Park will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential impacts to the natural and cultural environment from fire management activities. Additionally, Grand Teton will complete a separate EA for proposed fuels reduction projects in seven park areas.

Public comments will be accepted during the scoping period and any interested individual, organization or agency is invited to provide relevant information or suggestions for consideration by park managers before draft EAs and the Fire Management Plan are written and made available for public review later this year. The NPS has identified preliminary alternatives and issues. Other alternatives or concerns that may be addressed in the EAs will be determined through public input gathered during the public scoping process.

A wide range of general fire management information can be found online at [www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov), [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov) or [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte) using the link to Nature and Science.

Park staff will be available at the Open House to provide information and answer questions. Interested individuals may wish to take the opportunity to make written and verbal comments while at the Open House. For further information, please contact Grand Teton National Park's planning office at 739-3467.

-NPS-  
[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 14, 2003 03-11

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

**MEDIA ADVISORY** - To provide as much advance notice as possible, we are co-issuing this Department of Agriculture press release to Grand Teton's media lists

Teresa Howes (970) 494-7410  
Jim Rogers (202) 690-4755

### **USDA, INTERIOR TO HOLD INFORMATION MEETING ON ELIMINATION OF BRUCELLOSIS IN GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA**

FORT COLLINS, Colo., April 14, 2003 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior will host an information-sharing meeting and open house with the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming and the public to discuss the process and science to eventually eliminate brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. local time at the Snow King Resort, 400 E. Snow King Ave., Jackson, Wyo.

The morning events, 9 a.m. to noon, will include perspectives from USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs William Hawks; DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks Paul Hoffman; and invited state governors of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Events also include: a presentation on the background and history of the disease in the Greater Yellowstone Area; future strategies to eliminate the disease by 2010; and time for federal and state officials to hear remarks from the public.

During the afternoon open house, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the public is invited to ask questions of technical experts, who will be hosting 10 stations: Habitat Enhancement; Research; Vaccine and Vaccine Delivery; Testing; Feedgrounds; Brucellosis, the disease, history and brucellosis-free states; Interagency Bison Management Plan; Information and Education; and the Jackson Bison/Elk Management Plan Environmental Impact Study.

For further information please contact Teresa Howes, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, at 970-494-7410; Joan Anzelmo, DOI National Park Service, at 307-739-3415; or Becky Russell, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, at 307-766-5616.

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NOTE: USDA new releases, program announcements and media advisories are available on the Internet. Access the APHIS Home Page by pointing your web browser to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and clicking on "APHIS Press Releases."

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
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PO Box 170  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 21, 2003 03-12

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### FACILITIES AND SERVICES OPENING DATES FOR GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK & JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR. MEMORIAL PARKWAY

Superintendent Steve Martin announced today the official opening dates for facilities and services within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway for summer season 2003.

#### ROADS

The following roads will open to motorized vehicles Thursday, May 1:

Teton Park Road  
Moose-Wilson Road

Both the Antelope Flats Road and the Deadman's Bar Road were previously reopened to vehicle traffic. The Grassy Lake Road, in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, is scheduled to open June 1. Please drive cautiously and be aware that springtime repair work may be underway on any park roads. For current road information contact the park at 307/739-3300.

#### ENTRANCE STATIONS

The Moose, Moran and Granite Canyon entrance stations are open. Fee options are as follows:

- \$10 7-day Pass for bicycle or pedestrian entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$20 7-day Pass for vehicle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$40 Annual Parks Pass valid for one-year entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone
- \$50 National Parks Pass valid for one-year entrance to all national park units
- \$ 5 Satellite Pass used in conjunction with either a National Parks or Annual Parks Pass to allow entry into **Grand Teton only** for family members traveling in a separate vehicle

Please be sure to bring personal identification to enter the park using a pass. A photo machine is now in operation at the Moose Entrance Station for processing photos - free of charge - to be placed onto the Annual Parks Pass. This "photo pass" eliminates the need for other personal identification when entering the park using the Annual Park Pass. Entrance station staff will take photos upon request.

#### VISITOR CENTERS

The Moose Visitor Center is open daily, year-round. The following visitor centers open:

Colter Bay Visitor Center	May 10
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	May 17
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	June 2
Flagg Ranch Information Station	June 2

Ranger-led activities begin Monday, June 2. An activity schedule can be found in the park's newspaper, the *Teewinot*.

-MORE-

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## CAMPGROUNDS

The following campgrounds will open:

Gros Ventre	May 1
Signal Mountain	May 9
Jenny Lake	May 17
Colter Bay	May 23
Lizard Creek	June 6

Camping fees are \$12 per night per site, and all National Park Service campgrounds in Grand Teton National Park operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Camping is also available outside the park in nearby forest areas and at other public and private facilities.

Backcountry campsite reservations may be made until May 15 with a \$15 non-refundable fee. Fax requests for reservations to 307/739-3438 or mail to Grand Teton National Park, Backcountry Permits, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012. After May 15 all backcountry site permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

## LODGING

The following concessioner-operated facilities will open:

Signal Mountain Lodge	May 10
Jackson Lake Lodge	May 18
Colter Bay Cabins	May 23
Flagg Ranch Resort	May 23
Jenny Lake Lodge	May 31

For additional information about activities and services within Grand Teton National Park or the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, please visit the park's website [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte), stop in at any visitor center and ranger station, or call 307/739-3300.

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[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 21, 2003 03-13

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### ESCAPED CAMPFIRE BURNS INTO GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Interagency firefighters responded to a report of a wildland fire along the east boundary of Grand Teton National Park on Sunday, April 20th. Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a call at 6:00 p.m. that campers were attempting to control an escaped campfire near the foot of Shadow Mountain.

The Boundary Fire began when gusty, late afternoon winds spread a primitive campfire at the base of Shadow Mountain into grass and sagebrush within Grand Teton National Park. The fire spread into a small stand of aspen on a nearby slope before it was contained at 7:45 p.m. Two fire engines and four firefighters were able to contain the fire at approximately 3/4-acre and it was declared controlled by 9:30 p.m.

Snow has recently melted from the ground throughout Jackson Hole and the surrounding hillsides; however, new growth and green vegetation will not occur for a few additional weeks. During this springtime transition, grasses and brush can be very dry. Warm sunny days and brisk afternoon winds can produce conditions favorable for high fire danger with the potential for rapid fire spread.

Area visitors are reminded to be cautious when making campfires. Within Grand Teton National Park, fires are allowed **only** on established fire grates. On the Bridger-Teton National Forest, fires should be built in an area clear of burnable vegetation and be completely extinguished before leaving the site. Visitors are also reminded to **never** leave a fire unattended and to always be prepared for the unexpected by having a water bucket and shovel available.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 24, 2003 03-15

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### SCOPING PERIOD INITIATED FOR EAST ANTELOPE FLATS ADAPTIVE REUSE OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES

**Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that the public scoping process has begun on a proposal to adaptively reuse historic structures located in the East Antelope Flats area of the park. The adaptive reuse of historic structures will provide employee housing for park staff. As part of this proposal, the Hunter Hereford barn would be moved from its current historic location to the Teton Science School (TSS) Kelly Campus to provide meeting/office space and housing for seasonal staff and graduate students. Concurrently, the TSS proposes to replace the water system and renovate buildings and trails at the school.**

The NPS seeks public comment from April 25 - May 24, 2003 on issues, alternatives, concerns and other considerations regarding this proposal; interested individuals, organizations or agencies are invited to provide relevant information or suggestions for consideration by park managers before a draft environmental assessment (EA)/assessment of effect (AEF) is written and made available for public review later this summer.

The proposal would affect three sites in East Antelope Flats: the McCollister Residential Complex, the Hunter Hereford Ranch Historic District, and the TSS. The NPS has developed a scoping brochure that provides information on the project background, describes the purpose and need for the project, identifies preliminary resource considerations, and presents a timeline for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The upcoming East Antelope Flats Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures EA/AEF will address all of the proposed management actions, along with their impacts on natural and cultural resources, in one NEPA and Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) document.

The NPS has identified preliminary alternatives and issues. Other alternatives or concerns that may be addressed in the EA/AEF will be determined through public input gathered during the public scoping process. The primary purpose for the action is to lessen the shortage of employee housing and meeting/office space for the NPS and the TSS through adaptive reuse of historic structures. The underlying purpose for the project is the preservation of cultural resources in the form of historic structures, which are currently not being used and are deteriorating.

Copies of the scoping brochure may be requested by calling Grand Teton National Park's planning office at 307/739-3465 or by writing to Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012. Copies may also be obtained from the Reference Desk at the Teton County Library or by visiting the park's website at: [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 1, 2003 03-16

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **DEAD WOLF FOUND IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

A mortality signal, a double-time beep emitted from a radio-collar, led U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) officials to the discovery of a dead female wolf in the northeast corner of Grand Teton National Park on April 30, 2003. Mike Jimenez, project leader for the wolf recovery program in Wyoming, found the lifeless adult wolf at approximately 6:30 on Wednesday evening.

Teton Pack wolf #200 was a six year old female, born on the southeast arm of Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park from the Thorofare Pack. She dispersed from her birth pack in 1998 and along with two other wolves became the basis for the Gros Ventre Pack in the greater Jackson Hole area. She was radio collared in 2000 and joined the Teton Pack that same year. In 2001 and 2002, as a member of the Teton Pack, she produced pups in a double litter along with another female, wolf #228.

Using established protocols for wildlife mortality examination, park rangers investigated the area where the dead wolf was found. The carcass was transferred to the USFWS office in Lander, Wyoming and will be sent on to the USFWS forensics lab in Ashland, Oregon. Cause of death is pending further analysis by the forensics lab.

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[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 5, 2003 03-17

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

International Migratory Bird Day 2003 will be celebrated in Grand Teton National Park on Saturday, May 10, with a bird-watching vehicle caravan. This free activity begins inside the Moose Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. and finishes at Christian Pond near Jackson Lake Lodge at 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in birds is welcome to participate. Reservations are **not** required.

Join Grand Teton National Park wildlife biologist, Sue Wolff, and ranger naturalist, Pat Best, along with local bird expert, Ken Wilson, as they visit birding hotspots within the park. Participants will take short walks at several locations throughout the day to enjoy and count birds as part of the North American Migration Count. Those attending should bring lunch, drinking water, warm clothing and rain gear. Bird field guides, binoculars and/or a spotting scope are also recommended.

The 2003 International Migratory Bird Day theme, "Birds - Catalyst for Conservation," focuses awareness on the need to protect habitats for neotropical birds. Grand Teton National Park provides critical summer habitat for neotropical migrants who spend the winter in western Mexico and Central America; neotropical migrants include familiar birds such as ospreys, peregrine falcons, several species of warblers and thrushes. This event is recognized as the keystone event for Partners in Flight, an international conservation program, whose goal is to reverse declining migratory bird populations.

For more information on International Migratory Bird Day and the North American Migration Count, call the Moose Visitor Center at 307/739-3399.

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[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



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U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 12, 2003 03-18

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING SCHEDULED FOR GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that Grand Teton National Park staff and park concessions employees plan to join together for the annual Park Clean Up Day on Thursday, May 15. During normal business hours, employees will be out in the park picking up litter and preparing roadways, turnouts and parking lots for summer visitors. Anyone driving through the park on Thursday should be alert for people walking along the roads. Slow moving and/or parked vehicles may also be encountered during clean up hours.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the park community to spruce up the roadsides and turnouts before the summer season is in full swing," remarked Superintendent Martin. "The staff of Grand Teton National Park appreciates and thanks all the park visitors and area residents who continually clean up litter throughout the year."

People who wish to participate in the park clean up should meet at either the Colter Bay or Moose maintenance areas at 8:00 a.m. on May 15. The Moose and Colter Bay visitor centers, the park communication center, and law enforcement patrols will continue normal operations while clean up efforts are under way.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 16, 2003 03-19

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### AMERICAN INDIAN GUEST ARTISTS PROGRAM BEGINS IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Each year Grand Teton National Park sponsors a summer-long program for visiting Native American artists at the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum. For the past 30 years, guest artists from diverse tribes have been invited to demonstrate their traditional and contemporary art forms, providing visitors an opportunity to gain an understanding of, and appreciation for, American Indian art and culture. The 2003 guest artist program begins Monday, May 19.

Artists who participate in the American Indian guest artist program represent several tribes from throughout the United States. Some of the art forms that are demonstrated include painting, weaving, beadwork, quillwork, decorative gourds and musical instruments, such as flutes and drums. Guest artists spend from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Monday through Sunday, at the demonstration area in the lower level of the Colter Bay Indian Arts Museum and their finished items are available for purchase.

A complete schedule of American Indian artists with dates and type of artwork demonstrated follows:

May 19 - 25	Debbie & Willie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flintknapping
May 26 - June 1	Debbie & Willie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flintknapping
June 2 - 8	Lila Jones	Shoshone	Beadwork
June 9 - 15	Guillermo Martinez	Tarascan - Apache	Drums and Flutes
June 16 - 22	D G House	Cherokee	Painting
June 23 - 29	Maynard & Marlene White Owl	Nez Perce - Cayuse	Beadwork & Jewelry
June 30 - July 6	Andrea Two Bulls	Ogallala Sioux	Painting
July 7 - 13	Shonto Begay	Navajo	Painting
July 14 - 20	Eddie Two Bulls	Ogallala Sioux	Painting
July 21 - 27	Dolly & Bonnie Woodie	Navajo	Weaving, Beadwork & Clothing
July 28 - Aug. 3	David Snooks	Washoe	Hand Painted/Beaded Gourds

**-MORE-**

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August 4 - 10	Aiona Anderson	Thompson	Painting & Pottery
August 11 - 17	Jola LaBeau	Shoshone	Arts & Crafts
August 18 - 24	Ted Moran	S'Klallan	Coastal Salish Carving
Aug. 25 - 31	Lela Teton	Shoshone-Bannock	Beadwork
September 1 - 7	Clyde Hall & Nancy Naki	Shoshone	Beadwork & Quillwork
September 8 - 14	Paul Hacker	Choctaw	Flutes & Knives

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PO Box 170  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 22, 2003 03-20

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **GRIZZLY BEAR FOUND DEAD IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

The carcass of a young male grizzly bear was located about 200 yards off the Teton Park Road in the Willow Flats area of Grand Teton National Park on Wednesday afternoon, May 21. Members of an interagency grizzly bear study team picked up a mortality signal from the bear's radio collar on Tuesday, May 20, during a routine wildlife survey flight. Using established protocols for wildlife mortality examination, park rangers conducted an initial investigation of the area where the dead bear was found. Park officials also notified the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) federal investigator in Lander, Wyoming. The USFWS has the primary responsibility for management of grizzly bears under the Endangered Species Act.

Bear #422 was a healthy 300-pound, five-year-old grizzly. In September of 2002, the male bear entered a trap set by the interagency grizzly bear study team and was subsequently fitted with a radio collar to monitor its travel patterns. The study team kept track of #422 through its radio collar to document its movements and collect data about the bear's home range and use of natural resources. This animal was never identified as a nuisance bear.

The bear's carcass is being stored at the park until it can be transferred to a USFWS forensics lab for further analysis and determination of the cause of death.

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[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 2, 2003 03-21

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **REWARD OFFERED FOR COYOTE POACHING IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

An adult male coyote was shot and killed in Grand Teton National Park, along the Kelly Road near Mormon Row, on April 29, 2003. Through the "Park Watch" program, a reward of \$500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in this wildlife poaching. To report any information regarding this incident, call the park's Law Enforcement Specialist Office at 307/739-3327.

The healthy, male coyote was radio-collared in 1998. As a primary study animal, it provided a wealth of valuable research information to biologists. In addition to its research benefits, park visitors regularly watched and photographed this coyote from the roadside, enjoying the opportunity to observe a wild canine in its natural setting.

Killing wildlife in a national park is a federal offense. Federal court prosecution for wildlife poaching carries significant penalties, which include imprisonment, fines, seizure of equipment and restitution for damage to, or loss of, property and resources.

Anyone, who may have been on the Kelly Road in the vicinity of Mormon Row on April 29th, is requested to call the park with information that might be helpful to this investigation.

-NPS-  
[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 9, 2003 03-22

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **TEMPORARY TRAIL CLOSURE SCHEDULED IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that the trail leading to Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point on the west side of Jenny Lake will be temporarily closed from dawn to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2003. The closure is necessary to allow work to be done on a trail improvement project in the area.

The park's trail crew will be removing a boulder to reroute a heavily used trail near the Hidden Falls climbing rocks. The current trail is located on steep terrain and has significant erosion problems. This project will relocate the trail to minimize erosion and allow for the removal of wooden cribs that were temporarily placed to prevent further trail deterioration. Environmental compliance was completed last fall in anticipation of the work being done this summer.

While the work is underway, the trail to Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point will be temporarily closed. The lakeshore trail around Jenny Lake and the horse trail leading to Cascade Canyon will not be affected by this closure.

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[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



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Grand Teton  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 10, 2003 03-23b

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **PARK RANGERS RESCUE TWO PARTIES OF STRANDED CLIMBERS ON MIDDLE TETON**

Three members of an outdoor club from Provo, Utah became stranded on Saturday afternoon, June 7th, while attempting to climb the Middle Teton in Grand Teton National Park. After receiving a cell phone call at 3:00 p.m. from one of the stranded parties, park rangers initiated a technical rescue to bring the young men safely back to the Lupine Meadows trailhead.

Two separate parties from the outdoor group were trying to beat each other to the summit of the Middle Teton when they got off route and became stranded on precipitous and icy cliffs. Jonathan Johnson and Paul Jordan, both 28 years old, ended up near the Ellingwood Couloir. Adam Dover, age 27, of the second party became exhausted and could not safely descend the Southwest Couloir where he and partner Steve Risenmay, age 26, were climbing. Risenmay left Dover, eventually locating park rangers who had begun a rescue of Johnson and Jordan. Unfortunately, Risenmay gave inaccurate details about Dover's physical condition and situation, causing rangers to redirect rescue efforts to reach Dover first.

The two rescues began Saturday afternoon and lasted well into Sunday, as rangers worked continually throughout the night. The lengthy time was necessary to set up difficult, consecutive belays over ice-covered rocks in darkness to lower the stranded climbers from the Ellingwood Couloir. Multiple lowerings over hard-packed snow were necessary to rescue Dover from the Southwest Couloir. Once Dover exited the couloir, he was unable to continue hiking past the Platforms area of Garnet Canyon. Consequently, rescue staff stayed with him overnight and monitored his medical condition while providing him with food, water, and shelter. Dover was assisted to the trailhead Sunday morning, while Johnson and Jordan continued to hike out on their own after being rescued from the Ellingwood Couloir.

Because the two parties failed to properly plan for their mountaineering trip, and did not know where they were on the mountain, they were not prepared for the terrain in which they wandered. Their predicament, coupled with erroneous information provided by Risenmay, prompted the need for a full-scale, highly technical procedure involving more than eight rangers in the two rescues. The decision to stage a race to the summit, combined with a lack of pre-planning, route knowledge and equipment, all contributed to actions that were totally inappropriate for the wildness of the Teton Range. Were it not for the highly advanced and technical mountain-rescue skills of dedicated park rangers, it is possible that the stranded climbers could have perished.

Superintendent Steve Martin praised the park rangers involved in the rescue for their dedication, their premier mountaineering skills, and their willingness to perform high-risk rescues. Martin also thanked Teton Interagency dispatchers and other support personnel for their assistance with this rescue.

Martin reminds climbers to be fully prepared and knowledgeable about planned routes before attempting highly technical climbs. Climbers should always be prepared with extra equipment and food in the event that an emergency forces them to spend more time in the backcountry than originally planned.

This marks the fourth major search and rescue operation in the park this year. [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 13, 2003 03-24

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### ROAD REPAIR PROJECT TO BEGIN ON PARK HIGHWAY

Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that a road repair project is scheduled to begin Monday, June 16, on Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park. Road repair work will be underway throughout the week and will be completed by Saturday, June 21.

The road repair area includes a section of highway from the park's south boundary near the Jackson Hole National Fish Hatchery to approximately 1 mile north of the Jackson Hole Airport Junction. Road crews will be milling old sections of asphalt at several locations and repaving those areas. In addition to the asphalt replacement work, a chip seal treatment will be applied to the entire highway from the south boundary turnout to the airport junction.

The scenic turnout at Grand Teton National Park's south boundary will be closed on Monday, June 16, to accommodate storage of road construction equipment. The scenic turnout near the Gros Ventre River, one-quarter mile south of Gros Ventre Junction, will be closed to public access from Monday through Saturday in order to serve as a staging area.

Roadwork hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday during the milling operation and 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the chip seal work. Motorists can expect 15 - 20 minutes traffic delays while roadwork is underway and the posted speed limit will be 35 miles per hour. **Local residents and area visitors are advised to allow extra time when traveling to reach the airport for a scheduled flight.**

Superintendent Martin asks motorists to use caution and please watch out for workers and equipment when traveling through the project zone. He requests that travelers be patient while waiting in any road repair delays. Every effort will be made to minimize the inconvenience of this project to those people traveling through the work zone.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 20, 2003 03-25

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

The chip seal project underway on Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park will continue today, Friday, June 20th. Road repair crews will be laying gravel from Gros Ventre Junction to 1 mile north of the Jackson Hole Airport Junction.

Both lanes of roadway are receiving the chip seal treatment. A pilot car will be leading traffic through the work area, and delays of approximately 20 minutes can be expected.

On Thursday, June 19, long road delays were experienced. The road contractor has adjusted the length of roadway being worked in order to reduce traffic delays to 20 minutes or less. This adjustment will require continuation of roadwork on Monday, June 23. If weather and equipment do not warrant further changes, work will be completed on Monday evening.

No roadwork is scheduled for this weekend, June 21 and June 22.

**Local residents and visitors using Highway 26/89/191 to reach the Jackson Hole Airport for a scheduled flight should allow extra driving time due to the traffic delays.**

-NPS-  
[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



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U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
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PO Box 170  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 22, 2003 03-26

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **MASSIVE SEARCH FINDS MISSING FEMALE CLIMBER DECEASED IN THE TETON MOUNTAIN RANGE - GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced that an interagency search team located the body of a missing 23 year old female climber, Nicole Bloom, of Stevensville, Michigan on Saturday afternoon, June 21, at approximately 5:00 p.m. in the South Fork of Garnet Canyon in the Teton Mountain Range.

A highly coordinated and massive search had been underway since late Friday night, involving two helicopters and more than 36 searchers from Grand Teton National Park, the Teton County Search & Rescue Team, and Exum Mountain Guides.

Bloom had been reported missing on Friday night, June 20, at approximately 9:30 p.m. by a friend who had been traveling with her, David Harrington, of Walled Lake, Michigan. Bloom was last seen by Harrington at approximately 11:00 a.m. in Garnet Canyon near Spalding Falls.

Harrington and Bloom had been camping and hiking together in Grand Teton National Park for 4 or 5 days, before they decided to travel separately on Friday morning from a point in Garnet Canyon. Harrington joined some other mountaineers heading to climb the Middle Teton. Bloom decided to take a different route and waved goodbye to Harrington from a point near Spalding Falls.

After completing his climb of the Middle Teton, Harrington waited for Bloom at the saddle between the South and Middle Tetons for approximately one hour. He continued down to the Platforms area as it was starting to rain heavily. He continued on to the Lupine Meadows Trailhead and waited for Bloom for another 2 – 3 hours in his car at the trailhead parking lot. When Bloom still had not returned by nightfall, Harrington went to the Jenny Lake Campground and reported Bloom missing at approximately 9:30 p.m. MDT.

Park rangers initiated a night search with two rangers, who headed up by foot in darkness at 11:00 p.m. to the Spalding Falls area of Garnet Canyon, equipped with rescue and emergency medical gear. By 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, Bloom had not been located. The two rangers rested until first light while a major search and rescue effort began to be coordinated overnight by the park.

(more)



Approximately 36 people were flown to different points in the mountains or hiked to certain locations to search for Bloom in a highly coordinated interagency search effort, including National Park Service rangers, interagency helitack crews, Teton County Search & Rescue Team members and Exum Mountain Guides. One of the interagency contract helicopters (Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest) flew the area throughout the day to search from the air as well as drop multiple search teams off in the mountains.

At approximately 5:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, one of the search teams located Bloom's body in the South Fork of Garnet Canyon. Searchers believe that Bloom fell approximately 800 feet from the crest of the east ridge of the Middle Teton and died of massive trauma from the fall.

With multiple search teams still in the mountain range, a second helicopter was used to bring the search teams out of the mountains as well as to fly Bloom's body out before nightfall.

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin praised the extraordinary search efforts of park rangers, Teton County Search & Rescue Team members, Bridger-Teton National Forest Helitack crew, and Exum Mountain Guides for their exhaustive, difficult and painstaking search spanning 20 hours and covering miles and miles of steep, rugged, snow-covered and icy mountain terrain. Martin also praised the two helicopter pilots, Lawrence Perry of Classic Helicopters (Salt Lake City, UT) and Rick Harmon of Hawkins & Powers Helicopters (Greybull, WY) for their extraordinary work. Collectively they made more than two dozen flights into the mountains during the course of the search operation in extremely windy conditions. Martin expressed gratitude that all of the searchers and pilots had returned safely after such a massive and at times dangerous search.

Martin and the search members extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of Nicole Bloom. "This is always the most difficult outcome of a search and something that hits us all very hard. Our thoughts are with her family," Martin said.

This marks the first mountain fatality in the park this year.

-NPS-  
[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 27, 2003 03-27

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **ROAD STRIPING PROJECTS SLATED FOR MONDAY AND TUESDAY IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

The road repair project underway on Highway 26/89/191 from Grand Teton National Park's south boundary near the Jackson Hole National Fish Hatchery to one-half mile north of the Jackson Hole Airport Junction will be completed Monday, June 30. Gravel will be swept from the roadway and a centerline and fog lines will be painted onto the newly chip-sealed road surface. Traffic will proceed at a slow pace with minimal delays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. while the sweeping and lane-striping work takes place. The posted speed limit will be 35 miles per hour and motorists should be alert for equipment and workers throughout the project area.

In addition to the striping on the southern portion of Highway 26/89/191 in the park, striping will also take place from Snake River Overlook to the Cunningham Cabin turnout on Monday, June 30. Striping is also scheduled to be done on Highway 89/287 from the south gate of Yellowstone National Park to Jackson Lake Lodge Junction and from Jackson Lake Junction to Signal Mountain Lodge on the Teton Park Road throughout Monday, June 30 and Tuesday, July 1.

These projects will be weather dependent. In the event of rain, the striping projects will be delayed.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 1, 2003 03-28

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### LAB REPORT RELEASED ON GRIZZLY BEAR MORTALITY

Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that forensics evidence gathered from the carcass of a dead grizzly bear, found in the Willow Flats area of Grand Teton National Park in May, indicates that the animal died of natural and possible accidental causes. According to a bear mortality report compiled by Wyoming Veterinary Services at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, bear #422 appears to have been mauled and seriously injured by a larger bear and may have been hit by a vehicle.

On September 23, 2002, an interagency grizzly bear study team captured the male grizzly bear. The five-year-old grizzly weighed 245 pounds at that time and was fitted with a radio collar to monitor its travel patterns. A routine wildlife survey flight on May 21 picked up a mortality signal from the bear's collar. Global Positioning System (GPS) data from the radio collar indicated that the bear died on either April 26th or 27th.

The bear's carcass weighed only 158 pounds and appeared to have been in poor body condition according to the Laramie laboratory report. The difference in weight between September 2002 and May 2003 can be attributed to both the significant weight loss that typically occurs during winter hibernation and the fact that the carcass had decomposed and become desiccated during its month-long exposure to the elements.

The cause of death was listed as the result of trauma associated with numerous puncture wounds to the head, neck, chest, and abdomen. Additionally, the bear had hemorrhaged and suffered several broken bones. According to the mortality report, there was no evidence of gunshot wounds.

Bears are solitary animals that usually avoid contact with one another except during the mating season, which runs from April through June. It is possible that a fight with another male bear over a mating opportunity with a female, or a territorial dispute over a food source, resulted in the multiple puncture wounds. However, the lab report could not rule out that an automobile might have also hit the bear.

After examination by the Wyoming Veterinary Services lab in Laramie, the carcass was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services forensics laboratory in Ashland, Oregon.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 2, 2003 03-29

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### A RASH OF INCIDENTS KEEPS RANGERS BUSY IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Four separate incidents in a single afternoon kept Grand Teton National Park rangers busy responding to calls from three distinct areas: Static Peak Divide, the String Lake Trail and the Snake River. The first rescue began at approximately 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 30, and all incidents were concluded by about 9 p.m.

Park rangers began the first rescue when they received a cell phone call from Gene Williams who was on the east side of Static Peak Divide. Williams had fallen 10 feet on loose rocks and sustained lacerations to his lower right leg while trying to avoid steep snowfields. Williams and hiking partner Bill Ritchie, from Omaha, Nebraska, began their backpacking trip from Teton Canyon, spent a night in Alaska Basin, and were crossing the divide at the time of the accident. Although they did have ice axes, the two hikers decided not to attempt to cross a subsequent section of steep snowfields due to Williams' injury; they waited for ranger assistance instead. Two Jenny Lake Rangers who were on a climbing patrol in Death Canyon responded, reaching the party around 3:30 p.m. A third ranger hiked up from the trailhead, arriving by 4:30 p.m. The rangers escorted Williams and Ritchie to a patrol cabin in Death Canyon where a trail crew wrangler and two horses, which were used to transport Williams to the trailhead, met them. The hikers drove themselves to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

A second hiking-related incident occurred later that afternoon, around 3:00 p.m., when three members of an Iowa youth group became severely dehydrated. The party of 24 teenagers, age 13-14, was unprepared for the high temperatures, low humidity and strenuous hike; they did not have adequate food or water with them. These conditions were exacerbated when the group took a wrong turn on the way back from the Inspiration Point area and began walking towards String Lake rather than the south end of Jenny Lake. Park personnel responded, along with a Teton County ambulance. When rangers arrived at the bridge by the String Lake parking lot, they found two girls who were extremely dehydrated and had just regained consciousness. A third hiker experienced similar symptoms but did not lose consciousness. Park rangers provided emergency medical assistance at the scene, and the three girls were transported by ambulance to St. John's Medical Center.

Meanwhile, along the Snake River, two separate boating accidents happened, requiring assistance from Grand Teton park rangers. At approximately 2:30 p.m., Steven Lamb and his two sons, from Middleburg, Virginia, ran their new drift boat into a gravel bar just above the Otter Bank area, 3-4 miles south of Deadman's Bar. The boat quickly became swamped when it slid into a

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log that was lying across a narrow channel. The party was not in the boat when it filled with water, and no one was injured. Lamb reported the situation to park dispatch via cell phone, and a Triangle X float trip picked up the boaters and transported them to Moose. The incident concluded by 4:00 p.m. Park rangers will continue attempts to retrieve the drift boat.

The second river accident involved a single canoeist, John Glensman, from Stuart, Florida, whose canoe became swamped in the “Many Moose” section of the Snake River, an area known for its braided channels, about 1.5 miles north of Moose. The canoe was sucked under a logjam, and Glensman was trapped briefly between the boat and the log. Glensman did not sustain any injuries and was able to free himself from the jam, but the canoe remained stuck. Grand Teton Lodge Company’s scenic float trip called in the report around 3:45 p.m., and Glensman opted to remain with his boat until park rangers could assist him. Rangers were able to free the canoe successfully, although some fishing gear and a life jacket were lost. This incident concluded around 6:30 p.m.

In both river incidents, none of the boaters were wearing life jackets, and all are fortunate to have escaped injury.

Collectively, these incidents serve as a reminder for visitors to be aware that conditions in the park can present certain challenges that necessitate having the proper knowledge, equipment and preparation to recreate safely:

All divides and passes in the Teton backcountry are still snow-covered, steep and sometimes icy. Ice axes and crampons are often essential for safe backcountry travel. Conditions are variable; hikers and backpackers should consult a ranger station or visitor center for the most current conditions.

Summer weather in the Tetons can be quite hot and dry. The high altitude also contributes to strenuous conditions for outdoor recreation, especially for those visiting from lower elevations. Hikers and backpackers should carry adequate water and high-energy foods and take frequent water breaks during vigorous activity in order to avoid dehydration and exhaustion.

Water temperatures on park lakes and the Snake River are extremely cold. Boaters on the river should obtain the most current flow conditions and be prepared to scout the river in order to determine the best channel to avoid logjams and other river obstructions. Life jackets are required, and rangers strongly recommend boaters wear them at all times when navigating park waters.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 3, 2003 03-30

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### BOATING SAFETY IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

With the onset of boating season comes a reminder that **park water temperatures are extremely cold**—currently about 55 degrees. In these conditions, exhaustion and unconsciousness can start to overtake swimmers soon after immersion. Hypothermia—the lowering of the core body temperature to life-threatening levels—sets in very quickly and can lead to death. The park requires that all vessels carry U.S. Coast Guard approved safety equipment, including personal flotation devices (PFD's) of the appropriate size for each person on board. PFD's must be accessible and in good working condition. Due to rapid changes in wind and water conditions, **PFD's should be worn at all times** while on park waters.

In addition to having the appropriate safety equipment, boaters should prepare for lake or river travel by obtaining the most current water conditions from park visitor centers or ranger stations. In order to ensure that the most updated information is transmitted to boaters, **permits are required for all boats**. Permits may be obtained at the Moose Visitor Center, Colter Bay Visitor Center, Buffalo Fork Ranger Station and Signal Mountain Ranger Station. Non-motorized watercraft are permitted on the Snake River and park lakes. Motorized boats are allowed only on Jackson and Jenny lakes, with a 10 horsepower limit on Jenny. Jet skis and personal watercraft are prohibited on all park waters.

Boaters are reminded that **boating under the influence is a crime**, and no person operating a watercraft should be impaired.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July, 4, 2003 03-31

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **PARK RANGERS RESCUE INJURED CLIMBER FROM THE GRAND TETON**

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a call for assistance on Thursday evening, July 3, from Exum Mountain Guides who were assisting one of their porters, Matt Hoskisson, age 30, down the East Ridge of the Grand Teton after he fell while solo climbing the East Ridge earlier that morning.

Hoskisson was struck by a falling rock on his upper left thigh and as a result fell about 30 feet before he was able to arrest his fall. The accident occurred just below the notch between the Molar Tooth and the Second Tower of the East Ridge of the Grand Teton. Hoskisson suffered multiple abrasions, lacerations and sustained an injury to his knee. He notified the Exum Office of his fall and injuries via his cell phone and then managed to climb down several hundred feet on the East Ridge where he waited for assistance from three Exum climbing guides who reached him several hours later. The Exum guides attempted to help Hoskisson get down, but decided they needed to call for additional help and contacted park rangers at approximately 6:00 on Thursday evening.

Two rangers equipped with emergency medical supplies and climbing equipment were flown by the park's contract helicopter to a helispot near the terminal moraine of the Teton Glacier. From there, they climbed to Hoskisson and provided emergency medical treatment. The rangers moved Hoskisson to a promontory so that he could be "short hauled" by helicopter to the nearby helispot.

Rangers placed Hoskisson in the short haul transport suit and secured him to the end of the short haul rope. He was flown to the nearby helispot at the base of the East Ridge and then transferred into the helicopter at that location by two other park rangers who had staged at the helispot to assist Hoskisson as the short haul transport concluded. Rangers accompanied Hoskisson in the helicopter to Lupine Meadows.

Hoskisson was transferred to St. John's Medical Center by private automobile and received further treatment there.

This marks the fifth major mountain search & rescue operation of the year and the first utilizing the helicopter short haul method to effect a rescue.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 7, 2003 03-32

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK ISSUES PROSPECTUS FOR CROSS COUNTRY SKI TOURING SERVICES**

Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that the National Park Service has released a prospectus for the issuance of four concession contracts to provide guided cross-country ski touring services in Grand Teton National Park. The concession contracts will be valid for ten years. Contract offers must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 5, 2003.

The National Park Service has determined that the existing concessioners are preferred offerors for these contracts, pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51 - Concession Contracts and Permits. The existing concessioners are Jackson Hole Ski Corp, Rendezvous Ski Tours, Spring Creek Ranch and the National Outdoor Leadership School.

To obtain a copy of the prospectus, contact Janet Campbell in the Concessions Management Office of Grand Teton National Park at 307/ 739-3417. The cost for a copy of the prospectus is \$35 per copy if mailed and \$30 if picked up in person at park headquarters in Moose. Checks or money orders (no cash accepted) must be payable to the National Park Service and a physical address must be provided to receive a Federal Express package.

Contract offers must be sent to Grand Teton National Park, Concessions Management Office, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012 (Federal Express address: Moose Warehouse, Teton Park Road, Moose, WY 83012).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 7, 2003 03-33

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### SEARCH IS UNDERWAY FOR OVERDUE HIKER

Grand Teton National Park rangers began searching today for a 22-year-old female, currently working seasonally in the area, who friends believe went for a hike in Hanging Canyon Sunday, July 6, around noon.

The hiker was reported overdue at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 7, when a friend called to alert park rangers that she had not returned from her hike. Her car was located at the south end of the String Lake parking lot. The hiker is a backcountry enthusiast who spends a lot of time in the mountains.

The park's contract helicopter and an estimated 40 people from Grand Teton National Park, Teton County Search and Rescue, and the Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue are currently participating in the search effort. Rangers are performing aerial reconnaissance flights over Hanging Canyon as well as both Symmetry Couloir and Laurel Canyon—the two hiking and climbing areas that border Hanging Canyon most closely to the south and north—which they believe are the hiker's most likely destinations. Searchers have also been covering ground in these areas on foot. So far there has been no sign of the hiker.

This afternoon, the search strategy will be to increase the number of people in Hanging Canyon and begin a more systematic search of smaller, less visible areas within the canyon. Rangers then plan to widen the search area and further increase the number of searchers, continuing to scout the flanks of Mt. St. John (the least technical peak typically accessed from Hanging Canyon) but expanding efforts to include surrounding peaks and the Laurel Lake drainage.

It is possible the hiker chose a different hiking location or decided to spend the night out without informing friends.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 8, 2003 03-34

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK ESCALATES SEARCH FOR MISSING HIKER

Grand Teton National Park significantly escalated its search this morning, underway since yesterday morning, for a 22-year-old female hiker, Lori Sievers, of Langley, Washington. Sievers was reported missing Monday morning, July 7, when she didn't return from a planned day hike the previous day. She is working this summer as a seasonal National Park Service employee at Grand Teton National Park.

The search effort has more than doubled its resources today, incorporating another 30 personnel and a second helicopter. Currently, air operations have been temporarily shut down due to strong, gusty winds, but will resume as soon as it is safe to fly. Approximately 70 personnel are involved in search efforts, including personnel from Grand Teton National Park, Teton County Search & Rescue, Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Exum Mountain Guides, and a 20-person fire crew from Island Park, Idaho.

Search efforts have been aided by new information which park rangers received at 9 o'clock Monday night from a local man, Dave Simpson, who had been hiking with his wife in Hanging Canyon on Sunday. He identified Sievers, accurately describing her clothes and physical appearance. Simpson was also able to give rangers details about her specific location in the canyon, when he saw her on several separate occasions, descending from Lake of the Crags. She was heading down from the Arrowhead Pool area when he last noticed her behind him, but when he got beyond the last snowfield and looked up, she was no longer in sight.

Simpson is revisiting that area of the canyon today along with two other search parties, including a dog team, to help rangers pinpoint the exact location. While search teams are still exploring the canyon's higher ground, the search is now focusing on the specific terrain where Sievers was last seen. The searchers are equipped with ropes and strong flashlights to enable them to look into holes in snowfields where a hiker could fall.

If anyone has seen a sole female hiker in the vicinity of Hanging Canyon or has other information that might be helpful to this search, please contact Grand Teton National Park immediately at (307) 739-3301. Sievers is 5'3" tall, approximately 125 pounds, with light brown hair. She was last seen wearing a tank top, orange pants and Asolo boots, and carrying a red CamelBak and a Grivel ice axe.

This marks the sixth major search effort in Grand Teton National Park this year.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 8, 2003 03-35

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### INJURED HIKER RESCUED FROM GARNET CANYON

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a cell phone call received at 6:35 p.m., on Monday, July 7, requesting assistance for an injured hiker who had fallen near Spalding Falls in Garnet Canyon. A fifteen-year-old female hiker slipped on a steep snow patch near the falls, slid into rocks and a watery moat at the bottom of the snowfield, and sustained serious injuries.

The accident occurred as a group of about 30 high school students from Indianapolis, Indiana was hiking in Garnet Canyon with the intention of reaching the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton. The youth group, on an earth science field trip to Grand Teton National Park, was contacted by a park ranger earlier in the day and strongly advised not to continue to the Lower Saddle due to multiple hard-packed snowfields and the inexperience of the group for hiking over such conditions. A Jackson Hole Mountain guide, who was in the area at the time of the accident, helped removed the injured girl from the icy water of the rocky moat. He also assisted other members of the group with a safe descent from the steep section of trail where they were stranded.

Park rangers, who were assisting with an ongoing, large-scale search for a missing hiker in Hanging Canyon, were diverted from that search and flown by one of the park's contract helicopters to Lupine Meadows to pick up emergency medical supplies. They were then flown to the Garnet Canyon Meadows where they could continue by foot to reach the injured girl. After assessing her injuries and determining that they were life threatening, park rangers initiated a short-haul rescue. They placed the injured girl onto a stretcher, which they suspended by a double rope system from the helicopter. She was short-hauled by the helicopter to a landing spot in the Garnet Canyon Meadows and then transferred into the helicopter for a quick flight to Lupine Meadows, where an ambulance transported her to St. John's Medical Center for treatment.

At 10:43 p.m. five other members of the Indiana group, which included two adult leaders, made a cell phone call from the upper saddle of the Grand Teton requesting help. They had reached the summit at 8:30 p.m. and run out of daylight during their late-day descent. Although the five were not injured or in trouble, they requested assistance from park rangers because they were unsure of the proper route to follow to continue climbing down. They were informed of the accident that had occurred to one of their group and, since the other rescues were underway and good weather was forecasted for the night, they were advised to stay where they were and continue their descent with morning light. They safely hiked out this morning.

This marks the seventh major search and rescue in the park this year, and the second incident where the short-haul method was used to conduct a rescue.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 8, 2003 03-36a

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **GRAND TETON EMPLOYEE, LORI SIEVERS, FOUND DECEASED NEAR BAXTER'S PINNACLE IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

**11:50 P.M. MDT**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent, Steve Martin, is extremely saddened to announce that the body of missing Grand Teton National Park seasonal employee, Lori Sievers, of Langley, Washington, was found by park rangers on the lower slopes of Symmetry Spire, slightly south and west of Baxter's Pinnacle, late Tuesday night, July 8. Initial findings indicate that Sievers apparently took a significant fall and died of massive traumatic injuries on Sunday, July 6.

Late this evening, the aerial search for Sievers resumed after high winds had kept park contract helicopters grounded most of the day. As one of the helicopters flew near Baxter's Pinnacle, rangers on board spotted something from the air and directed other rangers who were on the ground to head to the location on foot. Rangers reached the body of Sievers at approximately 9:00 p.m. and evacuated her by helicopter to Lupine Meadows. Teton County Coroner, Bob Campbell, made the official identification of Sievers and estimated the time of death to have been sometime Sunday afternoon. Her body has been transferred to the Valley Mortuary in Jackson, Wyoming, and family members have arrived from the state of Washington.

A massive, highly coordinated interagency search for Sievers had been underway since early Monday morning, July 7, when friends reported her missing. The search included two helicopters and more than 100 searchers from Grand Teton National Park, Teton County Search and Rescue, Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Exum Mountain Guides, and U.S.D.A. Forest Service fire crews from Idaho. Due to strong, gusty winds on Tuesday, air reconnaissance flights were grounded much of the day and could not resume until approximately 6:00 p.m.; however, large numbers of searchers continued to scour the Hanging Canyon area and adjacent terrain on foot. The search took over 40 hours and covered rugged, steep, and snowy terrain.

Lori Sievers graduated from Colorado State University in December 2002 with a B.S. in Wildlife Biology. She achieved a 4.0 GPA and graduated cum laude from CSU. Sievers was the recipient of many scholarly and work-related awards as well as a member of various honor societies, including: the Distinguished Scholar Award at CSU (1998-2002); University Honors Scholar at CSU (1998-2002); National Society for Collegiate Scholars (1999-2002); Dean's List, College of Natural Resources, CSU; Xi Sigma Pi, National Natural Resource Honor Society (1999-2002); Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society (1999-2002); and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society (1999-2002).

(more)

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In the past, Sievers worked in Arizona at both the Tonto National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park. She also dedicated her time to volunteering at several organizations, including the Ecuadorian Agency for the Conservation and Investigation of Birds, Village Earth: The Consortium for Sustainable Village-Based Development, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado Public Interest Group, Wolf Oppression Liberation Fund, Habitat for Humanity, a church youth group, a soup kitchen and a dance company.

Sievers was working as a Biological Science Technician in the Science and Resource Management Division of Grand Teton National Park. This was Sievers' first summer working in Grand Teton.

Superintendent Martin expressed the heartfelt condolences of all the park staff and the interagency search team members to the Sievers family. "Our hearts are breaking with Lori's family. This tragedy has hit the park staff and the search team members really hard. We remained very hopeful that we would find her, and now everyone needs some time to come to grips with this great loss. Lori was an outstanding employee and a wonderful asset to our park community. She will be greatly missed," Martin said.

This marks the second mountain fatality in the park this year. Both fatalities involved young women who loved hiking and climbing in the mountains.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 21, 2003 03-37

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC MEETING

Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Natural History Association will host a special event on Saturday, July 26, to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a notable, early conservation meeting that took place at Maud Noble's cabin along the banks of the Snake River in 1923. Park visitors and local residents are invited to attend a ranger-led interpretive presentation at 3:00 p.m. at the Noble cabin near the Moose Visitor Center in the park's Menor's Ferry Historic District. A 45-minute program will commemorate the historic meeting and explore the past eighty years of community cooperation in preservation of the Teton Range and Jackson Hole. Following the program, refreshments, ferry rides and friendly conversation will continue until 5:00 p.m.

On July 26, 1923, a cross-section of community members gathered at Maud Noble's cabin, near Menor's Ferry, to discuss the threat of increasing development in the Jackson Hole valley. These concerned citizens talked about what they could do to save the "Old West" character of Jackson Hole. The group considered creating a reserve or recreation area that would essentially become a "museum on the hoof" to protect the valley from haphazard growth and commercial exploitation. They devised the so-called "Jackson Hole Plan" to achieve this preservation goal. This plan set the course for the involvement of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., as a significant benefactor in the cause for protecting Jackson Hole from commercialization.

Among those attending the 1923 meeting were: homesteader and store owner, Joe Jones; co-owners and operators of the Bar BC dude ranch, Struthers Burt and Dr. Horace Carncross; rancher and hunting guide, Jack Eynon; newspaperman, Dick Winger; and Yellowstone National Park Superintendent, Horace Albright, who later became Director of the National Park Service. Miss Maud Noble, owner and operator of the Ferry Ranch, hosted this landmark meeting.

For more information about the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration and program, please contact the Moose Visitor Center at 307/ 739-3399.

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**Grand Teton National Park**

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National Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Bridger-Teton National Forest**



Jay Anderson/Mary Lendman  
307/739-5542 - fax 307/739-5010

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## Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

July 22, 2003 03-38

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK AND BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST IMPLEMENT PARTIAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Based upon a current fire danger rating of **Very High** and regional fire conditions, interagency fire management partners will implement partial fire restrictions in both Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest beginning Monday, July 28. Interagency fire managers study the moisture content of various fuel types, track current and expected weather conditions, and monitor available fire-fighting resources, as well as the occurrence of human-caused fires, to determine when fire restrictions need to be applied to public lands.

#### Fire restrictions include the following:

- Lighting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, barbecue or grill is allowed **only** in designated recreation sites such as established campgrounds or picnic areas. Use of portable stoves and lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel, or use of a fully enclosed shepherd type stove with a spark arrester screen is permitted.
- Smoking is allowed **only** in an enclosed vehicle, building (unless otherwise prohibited), developed recreation site, or while in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials (i.e. parking lots, developed campsites, or location surrounded by water).
- Operating a chainsaw in national parks is prohibited. Operating a chainsaw on national forests is permitted only when equipped with an USDA or SAE approved spark arrester that is properly installed and in effective working order. Operators must also carry a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of 2A and one round point shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.
- Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame is prohibited, except in cleared areas of at least 10 feet in diameter. A chemical pressurized fire extinguisher with a minimum rating of at least 2A must be at the location.
- Discharge of fireworks and use of explosives requiring blasting caps are prohibited.

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, and/or by imprisonment for more than six months.

Local residents and visitors should recognize that **very high fire danger** exists in this area and consequently practice heightened fire safety at all times. For more information, please contact Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3300 or Bridger-Teton National Forest at (307) 739-5500.

**XXX**  
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PO Box 170  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 25, 2003 03-39

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **MOUNTAIN AND LAKE SEARCHES CONTINUE TO KEEP RANGERS BUSY IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

Grand Teton National Park rangers conducted three major search and rescue efforts this week, providing assistance on the Grand Teton, Teewinot and Jenny Lake for overdue, injured and missing visitors.

The first incident began Monday morning, July 21, around 9:30 a.m., when rangers received notification of an overdue party on the Grand Teton. Jason Cronk, age 34, Mike Leathem, age 26, and Mike Johnston, age 24, all from Boise, Idaho, had spent a night in Valhalla Canyon and were attempting to climb the north ridge of the Grand. However, the climbers got off-route, ended up on the west face, and took two days to reach the summit. Since the party had been overdue for a full day, rangers conducted aerial reconnaissance to look for the group. The helicopter located the party beneath the summit around 6:45 p.m., descending towards the Lower Saddle. The three men signaled that they were all right and hiked out without assistance.

The second rescue began on Wednesday afternoon, July 23, at 4:30 p.m., when Ewart Tempest, a 40-year-old male from Ottawa, Ontario, slid roughly 150-200 feet on snow then tumbled 50-80 feet through rocks while descending from the summit of Teewinot, which he had reached earlier that day along with several friends. Tempest slipped on the steep snowfield near the Worshipper and the Idol and landed in the rocks below, incurring injuries to his hip. Although he did have an ice axe, he was unable to self-arrest. An off-duty ranger witnessed the accident and was the first to make contact with the injured hiker. Two Jenny Lake climbing rangers hiked up to assist Tempest, spent the night on the mountain with him, and helped him hike out Thursday morning.

Later that same evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m., another major search took place at Jenny Lake, when 23-year-old Brendan Kinsley, from Cincinnati, Ohio, disappeared while swimming offshore. Kinsley was swimming in the lake while his sister, 35-year-old Michele Onorato, relaxed on the east shore. Onorato had last spotted Kinsley about 200 yards from shore, when he had waved his arms at her. A short time later, however, Kinsley was nowhere in sight, and Onorato called park rangers for assistance. Taking into consideration Kinsley's possible dehydration and limited swimming experience combined with cold lake temperatures, rangers made the decision to begin an immediate large-scale search, including a helicopter, divers, several rescue boats, and Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue. Kinsley had decided to swim across the lake, and he arrived safely on the west shore shortly after 7:30 p.m., several minutes before the search boats completed their sweep of the lake.

These incidents mark the eighth, ninth and tenth major search and rescue operations in the park this year.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 26, 2003 03-40

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### LIGHTNING STRIKE ON GRAND TETON RESULTS IN ONE FATALITY AND FIVE INJURIES

Two private, recreational climbing parties were reported to have been hit by lightning around 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, July 26, while climbing the upper Exum Ridge of the Grand Teton in Grand Teton National Park. A total of six climbers were injured, including one 25-year-old female who died at the scene. A cell phone call from one of the climbers alerted park staff that the group had been struck by lightning and five people were down with various injuries.

The two groups of climbers were both ascending the upper Exum Ridge, separated by about 150 feet, when an active lightning storm moved over the Tetons. One group was climbing the Grand's Friction Pitch - a 5.5 pitch named for its smooth, relatively unbroken rock - at the time of the accident. A 25-year-old female in that group might have been directly hit by a bolt of lightning and was not breathing at the time the caller phoned in.

Park rangers immediately executed a highly technical rescue operation, which involved the use of two interagency contract helicopters, one air ambulance, three ground ambulances, an interagency helitak crew and more than twenty park personnel, including an elite corps of park rangers with specialized emergency medical and technical rescue skills. These rangers utilize a helicopter rescue technique known as the short-haul method, wherein the rangers fly, individually or in pairs, suspended from the helicopter on a double rope system. This method allows rangers to be quickly inserted to a location near the patient and thereby minimize response time for medical attention. A total of six rangers were inserted to the accident scene on the Grand Teton using this short haul technique.

Four of the five injured climbers were given emergency medical care by park rangers and individually removed from the mountain by the short haul method to the Lower Saddle, where a second helicopter then flew each climber to the Lupine Meadows rescue cache on the valley floor. Three patients were subsequently transported by ground ambulance to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming.

In order to assist the fifth injured climber, who was the most difficult to reach, rangers were inserted above him by short haul so they could rappel to him. Rangers provided emergency medical care and placed the climber into a litter. They used ropes to raise the litter to a point where they could rig it to fly by the short haul method directly to Lupine Meadows with a ranger attending the climber during the short haul transport. He and another injured climber were then flown by an Air Idaho ambulance to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

**-MORE-**

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Four other climbers were able to traverse from the Friction Pitch to a rappel station above the upper saddle of the Grand Teton and descend to the Lower Saddle. They continued to hike down to their backcountry campsite in the Moraines area of Garnet Canyon, where they plan to spend the night.

The deceased female was flown by helicopter from the mountain and transported to the Teton County coroner in Jackson, Wyoming, who will determine the cause of death.

Names of the climbers and other details were not available at the time of this press release. News media may contact the public affairs office, after 2:00 p.m. MDT on Sunday, July 27, for further information.

This marks the eleventh major search and rescue in the park this year, and the third fatality.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 27, 2003 03-41

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
307 739-3393 (fax 739-3419)

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### UPDATE ON CLIMBERS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING ON GRAND TETON

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced that the female climber, who died yesterday after being struck by lightning on the Grand Teton, was Erica Summers, a 25-year-old resident of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Clinton Summers, Erica's husband, was climbing with her and other friends and co-workers from eastern Idaho when an active lightning storm hit the Teton Range in the afternoon. Clinton Summers was seriously injured and evacuated along with four other injured climbing partners.

The mountaineers were climbing the Grand Teton in two separate groups when the accident occurred at approximately 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, July 26. Park rangers executed a highly technical rescue operation with the assistance of two interagency helicopters to evacuate the five injured climbers from the mountain and transport them to three different medical centers for treatment.

Following is a list of the names and current conditions of the injured climbers:

Reagan Lembke, age 25, from Idaho Falls, Idaho, is reported to be in good condition at St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming, and is expected to be released later today. Clinton Summers, age 27, and Justin Thomas, age 29, also from Idaho Falls, are both listed in fair condition at St. John's Medical Center. Jacob Bancroft, age 27, from Rigby, Idaho is currently listed in serious condition at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC) in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Rodrigo Liberal, age 27, from Idaho Falls is listed in serious condition at the University of Utah Medical Center's Burn Unit in Salt Lake City, Utah.

This marks the eleventh major search and rescue in Grand Teton National Park this year, and the third fatality.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 4, 2003 03-42

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRIZZLY BEAR STUDIES UNDERWAY IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Scientists with the Grizzly Bear Study Team, U.S. Geological Survey, and Grand Teton National Park are studying how grizzly bears and black bears share their environment with each other, and humans, within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). The study, centered in Grand Teton National Park and partially funded by the National Park Foundation, uses state-of-the-art global positioning system technology built into radio collars to monitor and track individual animals. Scientists are gathering information about how bears use specific habitats in space and time, how competition for potentially dwindling food resources affects them, and how this might influence bear-human interactions.

The NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS), used in the radio collars, was initiated in 1973. The first satellite was launched in 1978 and currently, 24 such satellites orbit the earth about every 12 hours. The GPS system, imbedded into each radio collar, calculates and stores information about an animal's location on the earth's surface using data transmitted from these satellites. Typically, GPS technology offers positional accuracy to about a 50-foot radius, 95% of the time.

GPS radio collars were first used in 1993 to track moose in Canada. Two years later, the first GPS collars were fitted onto brown bears in Alaska. Today, GPS technology is widely employed on a variety of wildlife species to gather data about migration patterns, birthing locations, mortality causes, and the use of food and other resources within various habitats.

Throughout the GYE, an introduced fungus currently threatens whitebark pine, a prime grizzly and black bear food source. The fungus, known as blister rust, was introduced to North America in the 1920s on nursery stock shipped from Europe to Vancouver Island in Canada. The rust quickly spread throughout much of the whitebark pine's range. In the maritime climates of the Pacific Northwest, rust infections devastated this pine species. In Glacier National Park, whitebark pine is nearly extinct and remaining trees are so severely infected that they no longer produce seeds. At present, because the GYE has a dryer climate, rust has been slower to spread and tree mortality has been low. However, recent surveys in the wetter regions of the GYE, such as the Teton Range, suggest that rust is increasing in prevalence and spreading. Through GPS data, scientists hope to learn how declining whitebark pine production impacts both black and grizzly bears in the GYE.

GPS telemetry will provide insight into how bears use habitats in relation to food choices, how bear behaviors change in good and bad whitebark seed production years, and how the presence of human activities affects bears. By understanding the dynamics between the two bear species and humans, scientist hope to gain a better understanding of how the potential loss of whitebark pine might alter the way bears use the environment, and what implications this might have on bear-human interactions and long-term bear conservation.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 4 , 2003 03-43

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT BEGINS ON THE NORTH PARK ROAD

Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that highway improvement work has begun along the North Park Road within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Roadwork at various project locations will be underway during the remainder of 2003 and will continue for one year, with a target completion of fall 2004.

Improvements on the North Park Road will occur in phases and include:

- ◆ Reconstruction of the highway from the South Gate of Yellowstone National Park to one mile south of Flagg Ranch Resort, to widen the roadway.
- ◆ Application of an asphalt overlay on the highway from Lizard Creek Campground to one mile north of Leeks Marina.
- ◆ Re-milling and new asphalt overlay on highway 89/287 from Jackson Lake Lodge to Moran Junction and highway 26/89/191 from Spread Creek access road to the park's east boundary, to provide needed improvements to the road surface.

Throughout the first two weeks of August, during Phase 1 of the North Park Road improvement, removal of curbs and the installation of silt fences will occur along the highway from the South Entrance of Yellowstone to the Snake River Bridge near Flagg Ranch Resort. Flaggers will control traffic through this project area and **minor delays of 5-10 minutes** can be expected.

Superintendent Martin asks local residents and park visitors to use caution, drive slowly and watch out for surveyors, workers and equipment when traveling through the project zones. Every effort will be made to minimize the inconvenience of these projects to those people traveling through the work zones. Superintendent Martin reminds everyone that roadwork is necessary for the park to maintain safe and good quality roads for the high volume of traffic passing over them each year.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 7 , 2003 03-44

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### LIGHTNING-CAUSED FIRE BEGINS IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Interagency fire crews responded to a report of smoke near Emma Matilda Lake in Grand Teton National Park at 4:30 on Wednesday afternoon, August 6. The Matilda Fire apparently began from a lightning strike that hit the area on Tuesday evening. The fire was contained at approximately one acre by 10:00 p.m. Wednesday evening.

When located, the Matilda Fire was burning in heavy timber between Two Ocean and Emma Matilda lakes and due to very dry conditions had potential to quickly spread. Two wildland fire engines, a Teton Interagency contract helicopter, and one work crew were immediately dispatched to the area to begin suppression actions on the 1/2-acre fire.

Four firefighters remained on site overnight, and will continue to conduct control and mop up work throughout today. Two Ocean Lake Road was temporarily closed during suppression activities on Wednesday evening, but was reopened this morning.

The Matilda Fire marks the fifth -- and the first naturally caused -- fire in Grand Teton National Park this year. Four other fires resulted from human activities, such as illegal campfires and an improperly discarded cigarette.

Area residents and visitors are reminded that partial fire restrictions are in effect, and the fire danger for both Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest is listed as Very High. Hot, dry weather conditions continue to persist throughout the greater Jackson Hole area, increasing the potential for wildland fire starts. For more information regarding fire activity in the park or Jackson Hole area, visit [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 8, 2003 03-45

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### INJURED CLIMBER FLOWN FROM LOWER SADDLE

Grand Teton National Park rangers and the park's contract helicopter evacuated an injured climber from the Lower Saddle Thursday afternoon, August 7, at approximately 4:15 p.m. Darian McGavin, a 31-year-old from Victor, Idaho, suffered injuries to his left ankle when he fell more than ten feet while leading a pitch on the lower Exum Ridge of the Grand Teton.

McGavin fell at approximately 1:00 p.m., and he hobbled down from the technical climbing route to the Lower Saddle with the assistance of climbing ranger George Montopoli, who was on backcountry patrol in the area. Montopoli assessed McGavin's injuries and requested the helicopter transport. The park's contract helicopter arrived at the Lower Saddle around 4:00 p.m., and pilot Rick Harmon helped rangers bring McGavin safely to Lupine Meadows.

McGavin proceeded to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson by private vehicle. The rescue effort was concluded by 5:30 p.m.

This marks the twelfth major search and rescue in Grand Teton National Park this year.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 10, 2003 03-46  
**9:30 p.m. MDT**

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### LIGHTNING STRIKES START MULTIPLE FIRES IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Several fires were ignited by a late afternoon lightning storm that passed through Grand Teton National Park on Sunday, August 10. At 5:30 p.m., Highway 26/89/191 was temporarily closed for public safety between Moose Junction and the park's south boundary due to the Blacktail Fire and was reopened to through traffic at 8:35 p.m. The Blacktail Fire also temporarily closed the Gros Ventre Road from Highway 26/89/191 to the town of Kelly and required the evacuation of campers from the Gros Ventre Campground. The Gros Ventre Road will remain closed overnight and the Gros Ventre Campground will also remain closed until further notice.

The fast moving, lightning-caused Blacktail Fire began about 4:00 p.m. in the sagebrush flats east of the Jackson Hole Airport as the active thunderstorm passed through the area. Approximately 50 interagency firefighters immediately responded to the fire. Multiple Teton County and other interagency fire engines and water tender trucks also responded in an attempt to keep the fire on the eastside of the highway. An air tanker made two fire retardant drops onto the fire at 7:30 p.m. The Blacktail Fire is currently listed as 500 acres.

In addition to the Blacktail Fire, seven other lightning-caused fires began with passage of the storm cell. At present, two of these fires were contained at .1 of an acre, two fires are burning in remote locations and currently not staffed, one spot fire was extinguished, one fire in the Potholes area south of Signal Mountain was controlled, and the Lozier Fire - just north of the Pacific Creek Road junction off Highway 89/287 - is contained at one-half acre. The Lozier Fire will be staffed overnight by five fire crew members and a fire engine.

With multiple lightning strikes occurring throughout the afternoon and evening, it is likely that additional new fires will be discovered on Monday. For more information about fires in Grand Teton National Park and the greater Jackson Hole area, visit the web at [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com)

**All primary roads and visitor services are open in Grand Teton National Park, except the Gros Ventre Campground. The Town of Jackson, Wyoming is not threatened by this fire and all businesses remain open.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 11, 2003 03-47

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for fuels reduction projects in the park are now available for public review and comment. Comments will be accepted through September 12, 2003.

The fuels reduction projects consist of a combination of seven fuels-treatment areas involving a total of 89 acres of mixed conifer and sage/grass fuels between Moran and Moose. The purpose of these projects is to provide protection to structures from fire in the wildland urban interface - an area where structures and other human developments meet undeveloped wildland with potentially flammable fuels. The EA evaluates two alternatives: Alternative 1 – No Prior Treatment (a No Action Alternative) and Alternative 2 – Mechanical Fuels Treatment with Pile Burning (the Proposed Action). Two other alternatives were considered but rejected during internal scoping due to their ineffectiveness.

Currently, the project areas contain large amounts of dead and down fuels (shrubs, trees, and other plant materials that feed a fire), closely spaced trees with interlocking crowns, dead standing snags, and numerous small trees in the forest understory. These conditions require a reduction of fuels in order to modify fire behavior by reducing flame lengths and fire intensity to create conditions more favorable for fire suppression operations. Implementation of Alternative 2, the preferred alternative, will provide for firefighter safety and reduce the risk to human life, decrease the risk of wildland fire to structures and the environment, and offer protection to public and private property. This alternative poses minor and relatively short-term effects to air quality, wildlife habitat and vegetation while providing benefits to employee and public safety.

The draft FONSI outlines the National Park Service's determination (in draft), based upon the EA and other factors in the public planning record. If implemented, the proposal would have no significant impact on the human environment.

Copies of the Fuels Reduction Projects EA and draft FONSI are available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library. The documents will also be posted online at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm) beginning Tuesday, August 12. For further information, please contact Park Planner Suzy Schulman at (307) 739-3467.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 11, 2003 03-48

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### BLACKTAIL FIRE INCREASES

The Blacktail Fire, a lightning-caused fire that began Sunday afternoon, August 10, continued to increase in size as it advanced during afternoon hours to the east and northeast across sagebrush flats in Grand Teton National Park between Blacktail Butte and the Gros Ventre Road. As a result of a wind shift and poor visibility from smoke, Highway 26/89/191 was temporarily closed from Moose Junction to the Gros Ventre Junction at 5:30 p.m. The highway reopened for through traffic at 6:15 p.m. with a requirement that drivers not stop along the roadside.

For public safety, and to facilitate helicopters making water drops on the front line of the Blacktail Fire, the Gros Ventre Road was closed from the junction with Highway 26/89/191 to the town of Kelly at 3:30 p.m. The Mormon Row Road - a dirt road in the Antelope Flats area of the park - was also closed at 3:30 p.m. Both of these roads will remain closed overnight. As an additional precaution, all campers who had returned to retrieve camping gear and park employees working at the Gros Ventre Campground were evacuated.

Early Monday morning, this fire was estimated to be 700 acres in size and 50% contained - mostly by Highway 26/89/191 on the west side and the Gros Ventre Road on the south. The fire grew during the afternoon hours to 2,720 acres because of higher temperatures, low relative humidity and dry, erratic winds; it is currently 30% contained.

Approximately 50 interagency fire personnel continued to work on the Blacktail Fire throughout the day assisted by two water tender trucks, six fire engines, one interagency contract helicopter with water bucket, and a Sky Crane helicopter with a 2,000 gallon per water drop capacity. In addition, an air tanker made a fire retardant drop on the Blacktail Fire at 7:30 p.m.

Several other fires that began in the park during yesterday's thunderstorm were either declared out or contained today. Two new fires were detected in the Spalding Bay area on the southeast shore of Jackson Lake. Firefighters responded with assistance from an interagency contract helicopter making water drops and the installation of water pumps. The South Spalding Fire is .1 acre and the Brown's Point Fire was held at 2 acres in size.

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August 12, 2003 03-49

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### BLACKTAIL FIRE 50% CONTAINED

The Blacktail Fire, a lightning-caused fire in Grand Teton National Park, continued to burn today along the southern slopes of Blacktail Butte, and within the previously burned fire perimeter. Hand crews established fire lines along the Gros Ventre Road, near the Gros Ventre Campground, and along the Mormon Row Road last night, August 11. The fire lines contained the fire along these boundaries today, allowing only minimal growth—approximately ten acres. The fire is now listed at 2,730 acres in size and is 50% contained. Fire management staff expect to have the fire completely contained by 8:00 p.m. on August 13.

All major roads in the park remained open today. The Gros Ventre Road was closed temporarily from the highway junction to the town of Kelly due to heavy smoke and poor visibility, beginning at 3:10 p.m. However, the road reopened shortly afterward, at 3:50 p.m., as visibility improved. The Gros Ventre Campground remains closed until further notice to ensure public safety and provide a staging area for firefighting equipment.

Firefighting resources for the Blacktail Fire today included ten fire engines, three water tenders, a medium fire helicopter, and an interagency contract helicopter. Helicopters made numerous water bucket drops on the north flank of the fire, along the lower slopes of Blacktail Butte. Additionally, a 27-member Teton crew joined the firefighting efforts this afternoon. Although winds were erratic during afternoon hours, the fire burned mostly within yesterday's perimeter.

This afternoon, an initial attack crew responded to a new fire, the Berry Point Fire, located near Dave Adams Hill on the northwest side of Jackson Lake. The fire is currently .25 acres in size. All other fires in Grand Teton National Park, except the Blacktail Fire, have either been declared out or are in a patrol status.

For further information on fires in the greater Jackson Hole area, visit the web at [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 14, 2003 03-50

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **BLACKTAIL FIRE 100% CONTAINED**

The lightning-caused Blacktail Fire in Grand Teton National Park was declared 100% contained at 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 13. Throughout Wednesday afternoon and evening, fire crews, with assistance from a medium helicopter delivering water bucket drops, were able to establish a complete fire break around the fire and make progress in suppressing active fire areas along the southern slopes of Blacktail Butte. Fire crews also continued to patrol the perimeter of the fire and suppress smoldering vegetation and other hot spots. After Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping of the Blacktail Fire was completed, the size was listed at 2,650 acres.

The Gros Ventre Campground reopened at 10:00 a.m. this morning, Thursday, August 14. **All major roads and all visitor services in the park are open.**

Today, fire crews will continue to work toward control of the Blacktail Fire. Seven fire engines, three water tender trucks, one medium helicopter, and a total of sixty-five fire personnel - including the Teton crew - will reinforce fire lines and do mop-up on hot spots.

The Berry Point Fire, located Tuesday afternoon near Dave Adams Hill on the northwest side of Jackson Lake, was declared out at .25 acre on Wednesday afternoon. All other fires in the park have been declared out, or are in patrol status.

To date, there have been a total of fifteen fires in Grand Teton National Park during the 2003 fire season; four of these fires were human-caused, and eleven have been lightning-caused.

The fire danger rating is **Very High** for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest, and partial fire restrictions are in place. For further information about fire restrictions and fire activity in the greater Jackson Hole area, please visit the following website: [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 17, 2003 03-51

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### BLACKTAIL FIRE CONTROLLED

The Blacktail Fire in Grand Teton National Park was declared controlled at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2003. Today, August 17, four engines will continue to do mop-up work and patrol for any remaining hot spots. All park roads and visitor services are open in Grand Teton.

Two new lightning-caused fires were spotted on Saturday, August 16, in Grand Teton. The Two Ocean Lake Fire, located in the northeast corner of the park, was controlled at a tenth of an acre by midnight, Saturday. Four fire fighters will patrol and do mop-up work on this fire throughout the day; fire management officers expect to declare the fire out later today.

The second fire discovered on Saturday was spotted in the old Waterfalls Canyon Fire area, which burned in 1974. Located above the west shore of Jackson Lake, in the northern section of the Teton Range, the Falcon Fire poses no threat to public safety or structures. The Falcon Fire is being assessed for management as a fire use fire for resource benefit because of the potential for habitat improvement, the limited availability of fire suppression resources, and its remote location. It is presently .25 acre in size.

A third fire was discovered this afternoon on the northwest shore of Jackson Lake. The Elk Ridge Fire, located near the Berry Creek Trail, is currently .25 acre in size. This fire is also being assessed for management as a fire use fire for resource benefit.

The smoky haze occurring in the Jackson Hole area is likely the result of large and numerous fires burning in Idaho, Montana and Yellowstone National Park. There are no large fires active in the immediate vicinity that would produce the volume of smoke taking place.

For further information about fires in the greater Jackson Hole area, please visit the website [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 18, 2003 03-52

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK OBSERVES FOUNDERS' DAY

Each summer, Grand Teton National Park celebrates the creation of the National Park Service by observing Founders' Day on August 25. This date marks the anniversary for establishment, by Congress, of the National Park Service (NPS) within the Department of the Interior. As defined in the Organic Act of 1916, the mission of the NPS is to conserve - unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations - the scenery, wildlife, and the natural, cultural and historic objects of the United States. The 87-year-old National Park Service legacy embodies the spirit of protecting and preserving America's treasures for all generations. As a part of the Founders' Day celebration, visitors to Grand Teton National Park may enter free of charge on August 25.

In addition to the free park entry on Monday, traditional anniversary cake will be served at all park visitor centers; this will take place mid-morning at the Moose, Colter Bay and Jenny Lake visitor centers, and the Flagg Ranch Information Station.

Other activities planned for the 2003 anniversary celebration include a book signing hosted by the Grand Teton Natural History Association (GTNHA). Approximately 15 resident authors will be on hand to autograph books at the Moose Visitor Center on Monday, August 25, from 2 to 5 p.m.

In recognition of Founder's Day, the GTNHA will offer a 10% discount on all books and bookstore items; additional discounts apply to GTNHA members. To enjoy this discount offer, visit any GTNHA bookstore located in the park's visitor centers, or visit the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center located on North Cache Street in Jackson, Wyoming.

"I wish to extend a special invitation to the public on behalf of all park employees and myself. Please join us in celebration of the National Park System by visiting Grand Teton National Park on August 25th," announced Superintendent Steve Martin.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 25, 2003 03-53

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK TO HOST ATLANTIS SPACE SHUTTLE ASTRONAUT JERRY ROSS

Astronaut Jerry Ross carried commemorative items from Grand Teton National Park in his official flight kit aboard NASA's space shuttle *Atlantis* during an eleven-day mission to the International Space Station in April 2002. Astronaut Ross will present Grand Teton's "official mementos" to park officials and give a special presentation about the NASA Space Program at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 11, in the Explorers Room at Jackson Lake Lodge; this event is **free and open to the public**. After Astronaut Ross returns the items he carried on behalf of the park, they will be permanently displayed at the Moose and Colter Bay visitor centers.



Astronaut Ross contacted Grand Teton National Park during the summer of 2001, with an invitation to submit representative items, which he might carry in his personal flight kit aboard the April 2002 shuttle mission. During his phone conversation with park staff, Ross related how he and his family had experienced many enjoyable trips to Grand Teton. He explained that the Ross family feels a special, personal attachment to the Tetons and Jackson Hole; he further stated that his fondness for the park convinced him to make the request. In response to Ross' inquiry, Grand Teton submitted commemorative items to be flown aboard the space shuttle that were created as signature mementos during the park's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the year 2000.

"We are pleased and honored that Astronaut Ross chose to highlight Grand Teton National Park, during the April 2002 shuttle flight," stated Superintendent Steve Martin. "Grand Teton is proud to have been given this opportunity to celebrate not only the significance of the park, but also the historic importance of the NASA space program. We are equally pleased to have the chance to host Astronaut Ross and his wife, Karen, in the park and provide an opportunity for the Jackson Hole community to hear about NASA's space program," remarked Superintendent Martin.

At liftoff on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Astronaut Jerry Ross made history by becoming the first person to serve aboard seven space missions, a feat accomplished during his 22 years as a NASA astronaut. He completed his ninth space walk during the mission, also a milestone event in NASA's history.

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August 27, 2003 03-54

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK RANGERS ASSIST IN CARBON COUNTY, MONTANA SEARCH AND RESCUE

Four Grand Teton National Park rangers traveled to Carbon County, Montana early Monday, August 25, to assist with the rescue of an injured climber on Silver Run Mountain, near the town of Red Lodge. The park's search and rescue (SAR) team was contacted Sunday evening, August 24, after searchers from Yellowstone National Park were unable to locate the injured party by helicopter late that afternoon. Because Grand Teton's contract helicopter could not fly before darkness on Sunday, rangers Dan Burgette, Dave Bywater, and Scott Guenther flew to the scene of the accident at 7:30 a.m. Monday morning, while ranger Ron Johnson drove from Bozeman, Montana to join them.

On Sunday, 34-year-old Erin Taylor of Bozeman, Montana and climbing partner Rebecca Hodkins, 32, were climbing a route on Silver Run Mountain when a 60-pound rock broke free and fell onto Taylor's back. Hodkins helped Taylor relocate to a more substantial ledge, then rappelled from the climbing route and ran five miles to request help from local search and rescuers. The Carbon County rescue team subsequently hiked and climbed to the scene of the accident, arriving around 3:00 a.m. Monday morning. They determined that Taylor could not easily be moved from his location, and requested help from the park's rangers who were on standby to assist.

Grand Teton's SAR team arrived on the scene and used the short haul rescue method to insert two rangers onto the small ledge where Taylor was waiting. After placing Taylor onto a rescue litter suspended by a double rope system below the helicopter, Ranger Bywater attended him during a short flight to a temporary landing spot. Taylor was then transferred into the helicopter and flown to the airport at Red Lodge. Upon arrival at the airport, an air ambulance from Billings transported Taylor to St. Vincent Healthcare for treatment of his injuries. Ranger Guenther accompanied Hodkins from the accident site on a separate helicopter flight.

Because of their extensive training, unique skills, and broad experience conducting search and rescues on difficult terrain, Grand Teton's SAR team periodically assists other agencies. In 2001, they helped conduct five rescues in Wyoming's Wind River Range and the Teton Wilderness, and in 2002, they assisted with a rescue on Granite Peak in the Beartooth Range.

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September 2, 2003 03-55

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **RANGERS RESCUE CLIMBERS CAUGHT IN SNOW STORM ON THE GRAND TETON**

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued a seriously injured climber, 47-year-old Joe Hestick of Bridgeport, West Virginia, on Sunday night, August 31. Utilizing the helicopter short-haul rescue method, Hestick was flown from an elevation of 12,100 feet near the Eye of the Needle on the Grand Teton with only minutes to spare before the helicopter was grounded for the night. Exum Mountain Guide Jim Williams called park dispatch at 6:55 p.m. from the Lower Saddle via cell phone, notifying rangers that he was hearing cries for help from climbers somewhere on the Grand Teton. With daylight fading, rangers immediately requested that the park's contract helicopter fly to Lupine Meadows to pick up park rangers and rescue gear, and on to the Lower Saddle to expedite the rescue.

Hestick and his wife Beth, 48 years old, began a climbing trip on Monday, August 25, and planned to summit the Grand Teton via the Upper Exum Ridge on Friday, August 29. A moisture-laden storm settled in on the Tetons on Friday leaving two feet of snow on the summit of the Grand Teton. The Hesticks were high on the route when the storm intensified and due to limited visibility, they were not able to find a descent route. They found a dry cave near the summit of the Grand Teton where they stayed for two nights in cold, snowy weather. As clouds lifted and conditions improved on Sunday, August 31, the Hesticks were attempting to make their way down the mountain when Joe fell approximately 50 feet and sustained serious injuries.

After making the initial cell phone call on Sunday, Williams climbed to reach the Hesticks. Williams conducted a patient assessment, provided emergency medical care and kept rangers informed of Hesticks' condition until the helicopter rescue team arrived. With the aid of the park's contract helicopter, ranger Marty Vidak was inserted by the short-haul method to the accident scene at approximately 8:00 p.m. and assisted Williams with placing Hestick into a short-haul evacuation suit. With Vidak attending the patient, the two were flown from the 12,100-foot elevation to the Lupine Meadows' rescue cache, landing at 8:30 p.m. Hestick was then transported by park ambulance to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

Exum Guide Williams assisted Beth to the Lower Saddle and provided her with warm fluids; she then spent the night in her tent. Because Beth was dehydrated and experiencing swollen feet after the two days of inclement weather, rangers decided to fly her out by helicopter on Monday morning, September 1. Park ranger Brandon Torres, who served as the incident commander, remarked, "The Hesticks did a remarkably good job of surviving the extended stormy weather on the mountain."

In addition to the Hesticks, another climbing party of six was caught in Friday's storm on the Grand. Park rangers staying at the Lower Saddle hut heard shouts from a descending party at 9:00 p.m. After being on the move for 15 hours on the Owen-Spalding route, several members of the group were wet and cold. When asked if they needed help, the group leader replied that they needed warm fluids. The climbers were brought into the hut, given soup and provided warm, dry clothing. A 16-year-old male, who was

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wearing cut-off jeans under his soaked rain pants, felt he could not continue to their camp in the Moraines. He stayed overnight with the rangers in the hut, while the other members of the party were escorted by rangers to their camp below.

Furthermore, two climbers on the Buckingham Ridge of the Middle Teton spent an unexpected overnight in Friday's storm. They contacted park rangers on Saturday, requesting examination of frost bitten toes.

Park rangers remind backcountry users that weather conditions during late summer and early fall can turn winter-like in the higher elevations. Users should always check weather forecasts and be prepared for the unexpected by carrying essential survival equipment - including extra warm clothing, water and food - in the event that an emergency requires spending more time than originally planned in the outdoors. Cell phones may also be useful in the event of an emergency situation that the party cannot otherwise handle on their own.

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September 3, 2003 03-56

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **RANGERS ASSIST INJURED JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN GUIDE ON THE GRAND TETON**

Grand Teton National Park rangers flew injured Jackson Hole Mountain Guide, Patrick Petersen, age 40, off the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton via helicopter at approximately 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2. While he was leading two clients on a climb near the top of the Friction Pitch on the Grand Teton, Petersen sustained injuries to his head, hip and thigh when a handhold he was pulling on gave way, causing him to take a short fall around 9:30 Tuesday morning. He was wearing his helmet at the time of the accident.

After his fall, Petersen treated his injuries and continued to safely lead his clients up the "V" Pitch. The climbing party then traversed to a standard descent rappel above the Upper Saddle, where they met Exum Mountain Guide Mark Newcomb leading clients. Newcomb gave additional care to Petersen and made a call for assistance to other climbing guides stationed at the Lower Saddle.

Bill Dyer of Exum Guides notified two park rangers who were on routine patrol at the Lower Saddle and the three then climbed up to meet the mountain guides and their clients waiting at the Upper Saddle. While Newcomb and Dyer continued climbing with the clients, park rangers assisted Petersen on the descent from the Upper Saddle to the Lower Saddle. As weather permitted between storm squalls, the park's contract helicopter met the party and flew Petersen from the Lower Saddle to Lupine Meadows. Petersen was transported by private vehicle to St. John's Medical Center for treatment.

This marks the 16th major search and rescue in Grand Teton National Park this year.

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September 3, 2003 03-57

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### FALL PROGRAMS BEGIN IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Superintendent Steve Martin announced that several ranger-naturalist programs are planned for the fall season at various park locations, including the Moose and Colter Bay visitor centers. Area residents and visitors are invited to experience the park during autumn when colorful foliage and seasonal wildlife behavior reach their peak. Beginning September 2, the fall schedule includes:

- **Inspiration Point Hike**, a 2.5-hour hike to Hidden Falls and viewpoint above Jenny Lake, 8:30 a.m. daily. Obtain tokens at Jenny Lake Visitor Center and meet at the flagpole.
- **Lakeshore Stroll**, a 1-hour walk along the shore of Jackson Lake, 9:00 a.m. daily from Colter Bay Visitor Center.
- **Menor's Ferry Ride**, a float across the Snake River on a replica ferry to glimpse Bill Menor's life in early Jackson Hole. Frequent daily trips between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- **Patio Talk**, a 45-minute talk with a ranger, 10:30 a.m. daily, on the back deck of Jackson Lake Lodge.
- **Teton Profiles**, a 20-minute Teton landscape orientation, 11 a.m. daily at the Moose Visitor Center.
- **Teton Highlights**, a 30-minute travel planner, 11 a.m. daily in Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Jenny Lake Overlook**, enjoy casual conversation with a ranger, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. daily, south of Jenny Lake Lodge along the shoreline of Jenny Lake.
- **Indian Art and Culture**, a 45-minute program on Native American cultures in the Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium. 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Museum Grand Tour**, a 45-minute tour of the David T. Vernon Indian Arts Exhibit, 3 p.m. daily in the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum.
- **Swan Lake Hike**, a 3-hour autumn hike, 3:30 p.m. daily from Colter Bay Visitor Center.
- **Wildlife Caravan**, a 3-hour wildlife auto-tour each evening at 5 p.m. from the Moose Visitor Center. Limited to 10 vehicles, **reservations are required**. Reserve a space at the Moose Visitor Center or call 739-3399. Ride sharing encouraged. Dress warmly and bring binoculars or spotting scopes.
- **Oxbow Bend Wildlife Watch**, a 90-minute wildlife watch offered each evening at 6 p.m. at Oxbow Bend Scenic Turnout. Bring binoculars, cameras and questions. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Featured Creature**, a 45-minute close-up look into the habits of park wildlife, 6 p.m. daily at the Colter Bay amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Evening Slide-Illustrated Programs**, presented 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at the Signal Mountain campground amphitheater and 8:00 p.m. daily at the Colter Bay amphitheater. Dress warmly. Wheelchair accessible.

**The fall schedule is subject to change.** For weekly updates on program changes or further information on any of the listed activities, call the Moose Visitor Center at 307/739-3399 or Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307/739-3594. Fall programs will be offered through September 28. The Jenny Lake Visitor Center will close for the season on Sunday, September 28 and the Colter Bay Visitor Center closes Sunday, October 5. Park visitor centers will be open from 8 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. daily throughout September.

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September 5, 2003 03-58

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **RALPH TINGEY NAMED ACTING SUPERINTENDENT FOR GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced that Ralph Tingey, Associate Regional Director of Resources, Stewardship and Education in the Alaska Region of the National Park Service, will serve as acting superintendent in Grand Teton National Park for a three-month detail beginning September 29.

“I am thrilled to have someone with the well-rounded expertise of Ralph Tingey to serve in this extraordinary and complex park,” said Superintendent Martin. “Ralph’s credentials are outstanding, and his previous experience working in Grand Teton will be a huge asset.”

Tingey began his National Park Service career in Grand Teton National Park in 1965 as a fire control aid. He then worked as a seasonal climbing ranger and member of the search and rescue team, based out of Jenny Lake, from 1966 to 1974, at which point he became sub-district ranger in the Gros Ventre Sub-district. After four years at that position, Tingey returned to the Jenny Lake Sub-district, where he served as sub-district ranger for several more years.



Tingey remarked that his time spent in Grand Teton will be helpful: “I’ll have the advantage of knowing the park and its resources, although many of the issues will be new to me.” Since his will be an interim position, Tingey does not expect to make too many changes, but rather continue and expand projects begun by Superintendent Martin. “It’s more like taking the helm of the ship and keeping it on course,” said Tingey.

After his fifteen years in Grand Teton, Tingey transferred to Denali National Park in 1981. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act had recently tripled the size of Denali to over six million acres, and Tingey’s first job was to help handle the resulting issues, including concessions, planning, mining, shuttle busses, and subsistence hunting.

Since 1984, Tingey has worked in the Alaska Regional Office in a variety of positions, including associate regional director of operations and associate regional director of resources, stewardship and education. Tingey also served as superintendent of the eleven million acre Northwest Alaska Areas for two years and superintendent of Lake Clark National Park for two more, before beginning his current job.

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Tingey received a B.A. in Classical Greek from the University of Utah, studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, and earned an M.A. in Near Eastern Languages from The Johns Hopkins University. In 1968, Tingey was awarded the Department of Interior Valor Award for a difficult rescue on the North Face of the Grand Teton. He was also elected to the Teton County School Board in 1980.

Ralph and his wife, Sheri, were married in Jackson Hole in 1975. Sheri started a ski clothing manufacturing business in Jackson, “Design by Sheri,” which made boutique powder suits, women’s down coats, and other outdoor clothing. She also started a business in Alaska, “Alpacka Raft,” which manufactures and sells one-person pack rafts. In addition to her design talents, Sheri has taught children’s gymnastics and swimming for many years.

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National Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Bridger-Teton National Forest**  
**Caribou-Targhee National Forest**



Jay Anderson / Lynn Ballard  
307/739-5542 - 208/557-5765

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## Interagency News Release

**For Immediate Release**

September 9, 2003

### **FIRE RESTRICTIONS LIFTED ON PUBLIC LANDS**

Superintendent Steve Martin and Forest Supervisors Kniffy Hamilton and Jerry Reese jointly announced today that partial fire and smoking restrictions will be lifted effective midnight Wednesday, September 10, in Grand Teton National Park, the Bridger-Teton National Forest, the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and on public lands in Teton County. These restrictions were implemented in late July due to extremely dry conditions and a "Very High" fire danger rating. With cooler temperatures, recent precipitation, and higher humidity, the fire danger has been reduced to a "Moderate" rating. Lincoln and Sublette counties will maintain current fire restrictions until further notice.

In Grand Teton National Park, wood and/or charcoal fires will be allowed at picnic areas and campgrounds as long as they are limited to established fire pits or fire grates. Fires in the backcountry are allowed only in established fire rings at lakeshore campsites and must be attended at all times. Permits are required to camp in any of the park's backcountry sites.

The Bridger-Teton and Caribou-Targhee national forests also allow wood and/or charcoal campfires in the backcountry in established fire rings only. Camping permits are not required for private parties using the backcountry in national forest areas.

**All park visitors and forest users are required to attend their campfires at all times.** Additionally, only dead and down wood may be used as firewood in both the forests and park. The purpose of these restrictions is to provide for human safety, to protect personal property and to preserve the area's natural resources.

Although fire restrictions have been lifted, park visitors and forest users are asked to be extremely cautious when using fire and are reminded that fire restrictions could be reinstated if conditions change.

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September 15, 2003 03-60

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **PARK ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Steve Martin announced today that road improvement work will be underway on Highway 26/89/191 and Highway 89/287, during the week of September 22 - 26. This highway project will provide necessary improvements to the road surface.

Milling and paving will take place on Highway 26/89/191 from Cunningham Cabin to Moran Junction, and on Highway 89/287 from the park's east entrance to Jackson Lake Lodge. Milling of the pavement will begin September 24 and paving will take place by the end of the week, if favorable weather conditions allow. Vehicles will travel on one lane at a time with a pilot car leading traffic through the work zone. Delays of 20 - 30 minutes can be expected.

Roadwork continues along the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway from the South Entrance of Yellowstone National Park to one mile south of the Snake River bridge near Flagg Ranch. Installations and alterations of culverts, and headwall work are scheduled to conclude during the week of September 22. Flaggers will control traffic through this area with 10 - 15 minute delays possible.

Superintendent Steve Martin asks local residents and park visitors to please use caution, drive slowly, and watch out for workers and equipment when traveling through these project zones. Martin also reminds everyone that roadwork is necessary for the park to maintain safe and high quality roads to accommodate the high volume of traffic passing over them each year.

Favorable weather during September and October provides an opportunity to complete this roadwork before winter conditions arrive. The park will continue to make every effort to minimize the inconvenience of these projects for those people traveling through the work areas. The target completion date for the current work is fall of 2004.

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September 15, 2003 03-61

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN FACILITY OPERATIONS

Grand Teton National Park's facilities and operations will make the annual transition from summer season to fall season during the next few weeks. Park facilities will be closing in late September and throughout October.

#### SEPTEMBER CLOSURES

##### **Campgrounds**

Lizard Creek	September 8	(closed)
Jenny Lake	September 22	(12 noon)
Colter Bay	September 27	(12 noon)

##### **Ranger Stations & Visitor Centers**

Flagg Ranch Information Station	September 1	(closed)
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	September 21	(5:00 pm)
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	September 28	(5:00 pm)

#### OCTOBER CLOSURES

##### **Ranger Stations & Visitor Centers**

Colter Bay Visitor Center	October 5	(5:00 pm)
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##### **Campgrounds**

Gros Ventre	October 16	(12 noon)
Signal Mountain	October 19	(12 noon)

##### **Entrance Stations**

Granite Canyon	October 31	(5:00 pm)
Moose	October 31	(5:00 pm)
Moran	October 31	(5:00 pm)

##### **Road Closures For Motorized Use**

River Road	October 24	(morning)
Moose-Wilson Road	October 31	(evening)
Teton Park Road	October 31	(evening)
Antelope Flats Road	December 8	(morning)

##### **Lodging Closures**

Flagg Ranch	September 29
Colter Bay	September 28
Jenny Lake Lodge	October 5
Jackson Lake Lodge	October 5
Signal Mountain Lodge	October 19
Triangle X	October 31

The public is welcome to contact the park for more detailed closure information at 307/739-3300. A winter opening schedule will be announced in December.

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September 17, 2003 03-62

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### SURVEYS CONDUCTED ON ELK IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Biologists with the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park recently conducted aerial surveys on a portion of the elk population that summers in Grand Teton National Park. The elk classification counts occurred on August 4th and 5th; since the summer of 1990, similar surveys have been completed each year in an effort to track population dynamics in the Jackson Hole elk herd.

Results from the 2003 survey show that the ratio of elk calves to cows is currently 37:100. The calf:cow ratio provides a measure of the yearly calf production and their survival through mid-summer. This ratio is in the mid-range of those documented from 1990 to the present, and represents a significant recovery from the lowest ratio of 26:100 recorded in 2002.

The ratio of mature bulls to cow elk is currently 10:100. This is the lowest bull:cow ratio recorded during the 1990 - 2002 counts. However, the yearling (spike) bull to cow ratio is among the highest recorded since 1990, suggesting very good survival of the previous year's male calves.

The elk surveys are systematically flown each year during the first week of August, using a helicopter over the same locations in Grand Teton National Park. Surveyed areas include the Snake River riparian corridor from Moose to Willow Flats near Jackson Lake Lodge, and the Elk Ranch Flats in the northeast section of the park.

These summer elk classifications supply valuable information about birth rates and short-term survival of calves, and the sex ratios of adult animals specific to park's segment of the Jackson Hole elk herd.

Survey results provide wildlife managers information that helps in designing hunting seasons. In recent years the counts have provided the basis for reducing the harvest of mature bulls in Grand Teton National Park.

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Grand Teton  
National Park

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Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 18, 2003 03-63

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **LAKE CREEK BRIDGE ON THE MOOSE-WILSON ROAD TEMPORARILY CLOSED**

A routine bridge inspection by Federal Highway Administration engineers revealed that the north abutment of the Lake Creek Bridge on the Moose-Wilson Road in Grand Teton National Park requires reinforcement. Park maintenance staff will begin making the recommended corrections on Thursday morning, September 18. In order to ensure public and employee safety while work is underway, the bridge is temporarily closed to all traffic. Park officials anticipate that the bridgework will be completed by Saturday evening, September 20.

Although through traffic will not be possible during the temporary bridge closure, local residents and park visitors may continue to access the Granite Canyon trailhead from the south by using Highway 390 beyond the Teton Village area. Access to the Death Canyon trailhead is possible from the north by using the Moose-Wilson Road junction near the Moose Visitor Center. Entry fees will be waived at the Granite Canyon Entrance Station while the temporary road closure is in effect.

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September 22, 2003 03-64

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES CHRIS FINLAY AND SUE CONSOLO MURPHY

Superintendent Steve Martin is pleased to announce that two new division chiefs are joining Grand Teton National Park's staff. Chris Finlay arrived from Assateague Island National Seashore on August 10th to become Grand Teton's new chief of facility management and Sue Consolo Murphy will transfer in late October from Yellowstone National Park to serve as Grand Teton's new chief of science and resource management.

Chris Finlay brings to Grand Teton National Park ten years of experience with the National Park Service (NPS), working as an architect and facilities chief. Finlay served as an architect for the NPS Denver Service Center from 1993-1998, and for Assateague Island National Seashore from 1998-2002. Most recently, Finlay was chief of facility management at Assateague Island. Before his NPS career, Finlay spent several years as a landscape architect in the private sector.



Finlay holds two Master's degrees—one in architecture and a second in landscape architecture—from the University of Colorado at Denver. In 1989, he earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental design from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. During his NPS career, Finlay has received various honors and awards, including the National Park Service's STAR Award for Sustainable Design Initiatives, Honorable Mention for the White House Closing the Circle Award, a Certificate of Excellence Award from the Denver Service Center, and an NPS scholarship.

Finlay is joined by his wife, Cate, a schoolteacher in elementary special education, and their two sons, eight-year-old Myles, and five-year-old Colin.

Sue Consolo Murphy is currently chief of cultural resources in Yellowstone National Park, where she has worked for a number of years. Consolo Murphy began her NPS career in 1975 as a seasonal park technician in Rocky Mountain National Park. Since then, she has worked at Muir Woods National Monument and Badlands National Park. She also worked at the Appalachian Trail Land Acquisition Office in Washington D.C., and with the National Forest Service in Utah.

Consolo Murphy graduated with highest honors, earning a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Park Administration from the University of Wyoming and a Master of Science in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana. She is also a graduate of the NPS Natural Resource Management Specialists training program. In addition to her work in cultural resources, Consolo Murphy's professional experience is diverse; past jobs include management biologist, resource management specialist, writer-editor, park ranger, land appraiser and other related positions.

Consolo Murphy arrives October 20, accompanied by husband Dr. Kerry Murphy, a wildlife biologist in Yellowstone, and their two daughters, eight-year-old Stephanie and five-year-old Bridget.



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September 29, 2003 03-65

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **SCOPING PERIOD BEGINS ON ADAPTIVE REUSE OF LUCAS/FABIAN PROPERTY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Grand Teton National Park initiated today the public scoping process on a proposal to adaptively reuse the Geraldine Lucas Homestead/Fabian Place Historic District (Lucas/Fabian Property) as a center for an Artist-In-Residence (AIR) program in the park. The Lucas/Fabian Property is located along Cottonwood Creek, 4½ miles north of the Moose Visitor Center between the Taggart Lake Trailhead and Lupine Meadows Junction. Public comments on issues, alternatives, concerns and other considerations regarding this proposal must be received by October 31, 2003.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, the Lucas/Fabian Property consists of four cabins, a storage shed, garage, pump house, outhouse and powerhouse. In recent years, volunteers have completed work to preserved portions of these buildings such as roofs, porches, chinking and masonry.

The adaptive reuse plan proposes to utilize the Lucas/Fabian buildings, seasonally, for artists who participate in the park's AIR program. Currently, 27 parks throughout the National Park System offer AIR programs, providing opportunities for visual artists, photographers, sculptors, craft artists, writers, composers, and performers to live and work in national parks while they pursue artistic expression through a range of creative mediums.

A scoping brochure is available with information about the project background, purpose and need, preliminary alternatives, preliminary resource considerations, and proposed timeline for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Interested individuals, organizations or agencies are invited to provide relevant information or suggestions for consideration by park managers before a draft environmental assessment is written and made available for public review in the spring of 2004.

Copies of the scoping brochure are available at the Moose Visitor Center and at the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library. Documents are also posted online at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm) For further information, please contact resource planner Sheri Fedorchak at (307) 739-3465.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 27, 2003 03-66

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### SEASONAL CLOSURES SCHEDULED FOR PARK ROADS

Jackson Hole residents and park visitors are reminded that interior roads within Grand Teton National Park will close to vehicular traffic for the winter season on October 31. Seasonal road closures begin Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. on the Teton Park Road between the Taggart Lake parking area and Signal Mountain Lodge parking lot, and the Moose-Wilson Road between the Granite Canyon trailhead and the entrance to the JY Ranch. The Moose, Moran and Granite Canyon entrance stations are also scheduled to temporarily close on Friday, October 31; they will reopen for the winter season on Wednesday, December 17.

After November 1, the Teton Park Road will not be plowed to allow for snow to accumulate on the roadbed for non-motorized, winter season activities such as cross-country skiing, skate skiing and snow-shoeing. While the Teton Park Road remains free of snow, visitors are welcome to use the roadway for non-motorized recreation such as hiking, bicycling and in-line skating.

Pets are permitted on the roadway; however, pet owners are reminded that **dogs must be leashed** and under physical restraint at all times. Dog owners are requested to clean-up pet waste by using the “mutt-mitt” stations provided near the closure gates.

In addition to road closures in the park, the Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway will close for the winter season with the first major snowstorm.

Antelope Flats Road is scheduled to close Monday, December 8, after the elk reduction program ends.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 28, 2003 03-67b  
Revised from 10/27/03 03-67

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **PARK RANGERS CONDUCT SEARCH FOR INJURED OUTFITTER**

Grand Teton National Park rangers coordinated a full-scale search for an injured outfitter late Sunday evening, October 26, east of Jackson Lake Lodge in the vicinity of Grandview Point, Two-Ocean and Emma Matilda lakes. Raymond Bouissey, age 44, from Glenrock, Wyoming, sustained injuries to his ribs, back and shoulder after being thrown from his horse while searching for an elk carcass he intended to “tag and drag” for a client from a location in the park’s northeast corner. The accident occurred about 5:45 p.m.

By coincidence, a friend from Rock Springs, Brad Jones, called Bouissey by cell phone to inquire about hunting activities in the area. Jones learned instead that Bouissey had been injured after falling from his horse and was confused and disoriented about his whereabouts. Jones made a call to the Teton County Sheriff’s Office requesting assistance for Bouissey and park dispatch in turn received notification about the situation at 8:50 p.m. Since Bouissey could not confirm his exact location, several teams were assembled to begin searching for the injured man.

Another friend of Bouissey, Marvin Pahl of Wright, Wyoming, was waiting for him to haul the elk carcass out to the Grandview Point trailhead, unaware that his friend was injured and lost. Fifteen park rangers and other park staff, including a trained search and rescue dog, conducted an extensive search effort for approximately three hours, locating Bouissey at 12:37 a.m. in an area between Emma Matilda and Two-Ocean lakes. Rangers evacuated Bouissey by horseback to the Grandview Point trailhead where a park ambulance was waiting to transport him to St. John’s Medical Center in Jackson for treatment of his injuries.

Hunters and fall recreationalists are reminded to be prepared whenever entering the park’s backcountry. It is advisable to carry essential supplies and equipment, and not to hike or travel alone. Items such as extra clothing, food, water, a first-aid kit and map/compass serve backcountry users well in the event that an unexpected emergency necessitates spending more time in the outdoors than originally planned.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 28, 2003 03-68

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(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **REWARD OFFERED ON ELK POACHING IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

The Park Watch Program and Teton County Crimestoppers are offering a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved with the poaching of an elk on Wednesday, October 15, along Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park.

During the early morning hours of October 15, an elk was illegally shot one mile south of Moran Junction at Elk Ranch Flats. It appeared that the poacher/s shot the animal from the highway and initially drove away to conceal their involvement. Shortly afterwards, the poacher/s returned to claim the carcass, taking only the prime cuts of meat and leaving the remainder of the elk to waste along the roadside.

The killing of wildlife in a national park is a federal offense. Prosecution in federal court carries significant penalties, including imprisonment, seizure of equipment, fines, and restitution for damage to, or loss of, property and resources.

Anyone who may have been in the vicinity of the Elk Ranch Flats on Highway 26/89/191 during the morning of October 15th, or anyone who may have information that might be helpful to this poaching investigation, is asked to call the Law Enforcement Specialist Office in Grand Teton National Park at 307/ 739-3327.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 30, 2003 03-69

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **SUICIDE VICTIM FOUND IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

**Grand Teton National Park rangers discovered the body of John Curtis Pattison, age 52, of Lake Hughes, California, at 2:45 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, near the old Luther Taylor Homestead cabin at the park's east boundary. A search for Pattison began after a 1:50 p.m. phone call from the Teton County Sheriff's Office alerted rangers that Pattison's wife, Pamela, had just received a letter in the mail regarding her husband's intention to commit suicide in the park.**

**Mid-day Wednesday, Pamela Pattison received a two-day air package containing a letter with information about her husband's suicide plan and directions for where his body might be found. She called 911 and spoke with Teton County officials who alerted park dispatch. Rangers immediately began to search areas in the park mentioned in the letter to locate Pattison's vehicle. His 2002 Dodge Ram pickup was found parked alongside the road just east of Kelly Warm Springs with the keys left in the ignition. Footprints in the newly fallen snow led rangers to Pattison, who had taken his life with a Colt revolver.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 4, 2003 03-70

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **SNOWMOBILE SHUTTLE SERVICE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED**

Grand Teton National Park Acting Superintendent Ralph H. Tingey announced today that the National Park Service is accepting applications for providers of snowmobile shuttle services to and from Flagg Ranch in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Shuttle services are necessary for those times when Yellowstone National Park is open to snowmobiles, but the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) through Grand Teton National Park is closed due to insufficient snow or poor trail conditions.

Shuttle service providers will transport snowmobiles by trailer along Highway 26/287, which parallels the CDST from the Moran Entrance in Grand Teton National Park to Flagg Ranch near the south entrance of Yellowstone National Park. The need for shuttle services generally occurs early and late in the snowmobile season when inadequate snow prevents grooming of the CDST for the safe operation of oversnow vehicles.

A number of snowmobile shuttle service permits are available. Interested parties must apply for an Incidental Business Permit, submit proof of insurance and pay a \$200 permit fee, annually. For more information, or to request an application, contact Laura Nelson in the Business Resource Office of Grand Teton National Park at 307/ 739-3416.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 10, 2003 03-71

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK ISSUES PROSPECTUS FOR GUIDED CLIMBING / SCHOOLS**

Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey announced today that the National Park Service (NPS) has issued a prospectus for a concession contract, valid for ten years, to provide for guided climbing and climbing schools within Grand Teton National Park. The NPS has determined that Exum Mountain Guides, the existing concessioner, is a preferred offeror for this contract, pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51 – Concession Contracts and Permits.

Mountaineering services are available year-round in the park, with the peak climbing season occurring from early June through late September. This business opportunity includes an office area near Jenny Lake, an employee housing area at Lupine Meadows and a base camp on the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton. A new concessioner would be required to purchase the personal property used by the existing concessioner in its business operation.

Prospectus packages are available by contacting Judy Jennings, Chief, Business Resources Division, NPS, Intermountain Region, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287. The cost for a copy of the prospectus is \$35, if delivered by Federal Express, or \$30 per copy, if picked up in person. Checks and money orders (no cash accepted) must be payable to the National Park Service and a business address must be provided to receive a Federal Express package.

Contract offers must be received at Intermountain Regional Office, Business Resources Division, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287 (Federal Express address: 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228) no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 9, 2004. Telephone inquiries may be directed to 303/969-2661 or 303/969-2205.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 18, 2003

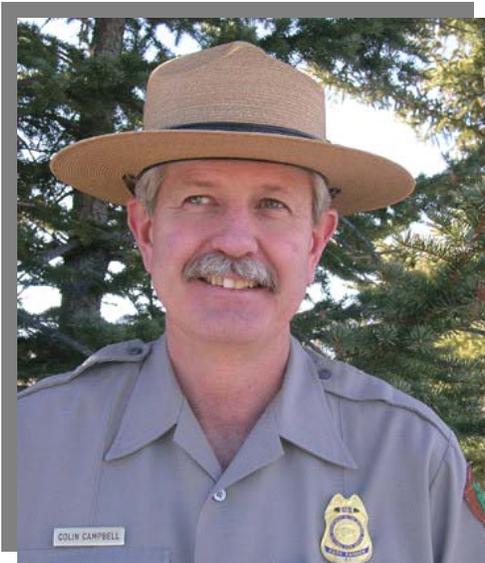
Patricia Turley  
505-988-6745

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## Intermountain Region News Release

### COLIN CAMPBELL NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE (Corpus Christi, Texas)

**DENVER** – Intermountain Regional Director Steve Martin announced today that Colin Campbell, acting assistant superintendent at Grand Teton National Park, has been named superintendent at Padre Island National Seashore near Corpus Christi, Texas. He will assume his new responsibilities in early January 2004. Campbell replaces Jock Whitworth who was recently appointed as superintendent at Zion National Park in Utah.



**Colin Campbell**

“Colin has demonstrated outstanding skills in managing the complex daily operations at Grand Teton,” stated Regional Director Martin. “His experience and expertise will serve him well in this new post as superintendent at Padre Island.”

“I am very excited about being appointed superintendent of Padre Island National Seashore,” said Campbell. “The change from a mountain to a marine environment will bring many interesting challenges. I look forward to, and welcome, the opportunity to work with local community leaders and the park’s partners on the important issues that affect protection of this unique barrier island ecosystem.”

A 24-year veteran with the National Park Service, Campbell began his career in 1979 as a seasonal park ranger at Yosemite National Park in California. He worked at Yosemite for twelve years in several ranger positions before transferring to Buffalo National River in Arkansas as a law enforcement specialist in 1991. Campbell became Grand Teton National Park’s law enforcement specialist in 1992 - a position he held for two years. In 1994, Campbell was promoted to chief park ranger at Grand Teton; he served in this position until June 2002 when he

accepted a temporary assignment as the acting assistant superintendent. For the past 16 months, Campbell has had direct oversight of the park’s daily operations and budget management.

Prior to joining the National Park Service, Campbell worked as a wildland firefighter for the California Department of Forestry in Cambria, California. He is a 1980 graduate from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management.

Campbell has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career with the National Park Service, including the Superior Service Award. In addition to his work duties, Campbell participated as a volunteer for several community organizations such as Crimestoppers and youth athletic programs.

His wife, Janet Campbell, is a business resources specialist at Grand Teton National Park. The Campbells’ have two daughters; Sarah is a junior at the University of Wyoming in Laramie and Carolyn is a senior at Jackson Hole High School.

-- NPS --

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 26, 2003 03-75

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(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### RETIRED DISTRICT PARK RANGER RICH SPOMER PASSES AWAY

Richard "Rich" Spomer, retired district ranger at Grand Teton National Park, passed away Monday evening, November 24, at his home in Grand Junction, Colorado. Rich was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, shortly before his retirement in August 2002 after a 34-year career with the National Park Service; the disease had rapidly progressed over the past few months.

A memorial service for Spomer will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 2, at the Callahan Edfast Mortuary, 2515 Patterson Road in Grand Junction, Colorado. Burial will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the Military Cemetery in Grand Junction.

In lieu of flowers, the Spomer Family requests that donations be made to one of the following organizations: the ALS Association, P.O. Box 7964, Boulder, CO 80306; the Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado, 2754 Compass Drive, Suite 377, Grand Junction, CO 81506; or the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Educational Loan Program, c/o Bonnie Stetson, E&AA Membership, 470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1, Fort Washington, PA 19034. The latter is a fund that provides educational loans to National Park Service employees through an NPS Employees and Alumni Association.

Spomer was locally known and respected by many residents for his invaluable work with Interagency fire, law enforcement and emergency services programs. He was beloved by all those who worked with him, and for him, within Grand Teton National Park, and throughout the Jackson Hole community and numerous other national park areas.

Spomer passed away peacefully in his sleep with his wife Leslie and daughters, Lissa and Ketti, by his bedside. Condolences can be forwarded to the family by writing to Grand Teton National Park, c/o Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012 or by calling the public affairs office at 307/ 739-3393.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 1, 2003 03-75

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Grand Teton National Park Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey announced today that an Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AEF) for the McCollister Residential Complex Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures project is available for public review and comment. Comments will be accepted through January 5, 2004.

The McCollister Residential Complex is located in the East Antelope Flats area of Grand Teton National Park. The primary purpose for this action is to provide for park employee housing by adaptively reusing historic structures currently located on site. The underlying purpose for the project is the preservation of historic structures, which are deteriorating and not currently in use. A decision will be reached following review and incorporation of public comments.

The EA/AEF examines impacts on cultural, natural and social resources relative to the preferred alternative (Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures) and a no action alternative (No Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures). The preferred alternative proposes to adaptively reuse the McCollister Residential Complex to house approximately 20 NPS employees. Three of the six existing structures would be used to meet a portion of this need, while several pre-constructed buildings would also be moved to the site for further housing. In addition, utilities would be upgraded, parking would be provided, and hazardous fuels treatment and fence maintenance would occur. Following construction, all disturbed ground would be rehabilitated by seeding with native plant species.

The 40-day review period allows the NPS to obtain a signed decision document on the McCollister Residential Complex project by early 2004. The NPS will release a separate EA/AEF on adaptive reuse of historic structures at the Teton Science School – which includes a proposed relocation of the Hunter Hereford Barn. By separately addressing the two projects, the NPS can adequately address public concern regarding the relocation of the Hunter Hereford Barn and work with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office on a Memorandum of Agreement without delaying a decision on the McCollister project.

Copies of the McCollister Residential Complex Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures EA/AEF are available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library. The documents are posted online at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm). For further information, call Park Planner Suzy Schulman at 307/ 739-3467.

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December 15, 2003 03-78

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### WINTER SEASON ACTIVITIES BEGIN IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Activities for the 2003–2004 winter season will soon begin in Grand Teton National Park. The Moose, Moran, and Granite Canyon entrance stations and Flagg Ranch Information Station in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway will reopen for winter operations on Wednesday, December 17. Throughout the winter, daily hours of operation for both the Moose Visitor Center and Flagg Ranch Information Station will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. These visitor centers will be closed Christmas Day in observance of the holiday.

A **Single Day Pass** is available to winter visitors at Grand Teton's entrance stations. This winter-season permit allows entry into Grand Teton National Park for one day at a cost of \$5 per vehicle. The single day pass is valid **only** in Grand Teton and cannot be used for entry into Yellowstone National Park. Winter visitors may choose to purchase one of the following entry pass options:

- \$50 National Parks Pass valid for one year entry to all national park units
- \$40 Parks Specific Pass valid for one year entry to Grand Teton and Yellowstone
- \$20 Seven-day Pass valid for **snowmobile** entry to both Grand Teton and Yellowstone
- \$15 One-day Pass valid for **snowmobile** entry to both Grand Teton and Yellowstone
- \$5 Single Day Pass valid only for Grand Teton National Park

**Ranger-led snowshoe hikes** will begin December 26 at the Moose Visitor Center. This free, 2-hour activity is offered at 2:00 p.m. everyday except Wednesday. Previous experience is not necessary and snowshoes are provided for participants. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 307/ 739-3399.

**Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing** are popular winter activities in the park. Trails are marked with orange flagging, but are not groomed. The Teton Park Road (TPR) is designated as a winter trail, open to non-motorized use only. The unplowed roadway will be groomed approximately once a week for skate skiing and cross-country touring from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain after sufficient snow accumulates on the roadbed to accommodate grooming equipment. The TPR winter use trail consists of two 8-foot-wide sections; one section is designated only for diagonal track skiers and skate skiers, and the other section is designated as a multi-use trail for skiers, snowshoers, hikers and leashed dog use.

Skiers and snowshoers, though not restricted to marked trails, are required to observe winter closure areas for protection of wildlife. To obtain trail maps and exact area-closure locations, visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte/ppmaps/wintermap](http://www.nps.gov/grte/ppmaps/wintermap) or the Moose Visitor Center. Winter closure locations are:

- Snake River floodplain from Moran to Menors Ferry near Moose**
- Buffalo Fork River floodplain within the park**
- Kelly Hill, Uhl Hill and Wolff Ridge**
- Willow Flats**
- Static Peak**
- Prospectors Mountain**
- Mount Hunt areas (see the park's cross-country ski brochure for descriptions)**

-MORE-

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**Leashed pets** are allowed on the park's plowed roads and turnouts, the frozen surface of Jackson Lake, the unplowed Moose-Wilson Road, and the Grassy Lake Road. Pets are **not allowed** in the backcountry, which includes all other park areas beyond the defined roadways and Jackson Lake.

The Teton Park Road will again be open to visitors who wish to walk, snowshoe or ski with their leashed pet. Dogs are restricted to the multi-use trail area of the TPR and are required to be **restrained at all times** on a leash, no longer than 6-feet in length, while on the TPR trail or in the parking areas at Taggart Lake and Signal Mountain. *Mutt Mitt* stations are in place at the TPR trailheads to dispense plastic bags for pet waste; trash receptacles are also available for disposal of used bags. Pet owners **are required** to clean up their pet's waste and properly dispose of the bags in the receptacles provided. If pet owners do not comply with these rules and regulations, it is possible that pets will be prohibited from the TPR in the future.

Dog sleds are not allowed on the Teton Park Road, however, they are allowed on the Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.

**Backcountry users and mountaineers** planning to stay overnight in the backcountry must get a non-fee permit at the Moose Visitor Center before their trip. Permits are not required for day users. To obtain weather forecasts and avalanche hazard information, stop at the Moose Visitor Center, visit the backcountry website [www.jhavalanche.org](http://www.jhavalanche.org), or phone the avalanche hotline at 307/ 733-2664.

**Winter car camping** is available only in the parking area at Colter Bay Visitor Center from December 1 through April 15. A \$5 nightly fee is charged and payable at a self-registration box located near the restrooms adjacent to the visitor center.

**Snowmobilers** may use the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) which runs through the park and parkway, and Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, when conditions permit. Snowmobile operation hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The CDST will not open until enough snow has accumulated to allow grooming and safe passage along the trail route; in addition, it opens in coordination with the State of Wyoming's portion of the CDST which provides access into the park from the east boundary, through the Moran Entrance Station. Trail information is available through a recorded message by calling 307/ 739-3614.

To reduce environmental impacts, snowmobilers are encouraged to use improved snowmobile technology such as 4-stroke engines, biodegradable motor oil, and approved auxiliary tanks for transporting gasoline.

**Please Note:** Check for updates on snowmobile regulations at the Moose Visitor Center or on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte) before operating a snowmobile in the park or parkway, as details of winter use in Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway are the subject of pending legal actions.

For further information about any winter activity in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, please call 307/ 739-3300.

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[www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)