



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 4, 2004 04-114

National Park Service  
David Barna, (202) 208-6843

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## Yellowstone/Grand Teton News Release

### Park Service Announces Temporary Winter Use Plans *Finding of No Significant Impact Approved*

The National Park Service today approved winter use plans for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway that provides visitors with a range of winter recreational opportunities for a three-year period while protecting park resources. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Temporary Winter Use Plans Environment Assessment ensures that park resources are protected and allows for the use of snowmobiles and snowcoaches in the parks on roads that automobiles use in the summer.

The FONSI, which ensures access and protection of resources, was approved by National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director Steve Martin on November 4, 2004. The plan will be in effect for the next three winter seasons, allowing snowmobile and snowcoach use through the winter of 2006-2007. A final rule implementing the decision will soon be published in the *Federal Register*.

Under the decision and the implementing rule, 720 snowmobiles per day will be allowed to enter Yellowstone, all led by commercial guides. This is substantially below the historic peak day use levels in the park and is lower than the level of access allowed during the last half of the 2003-2004 winter seasons. Commercial guides will not be required for the 140 snowmobiles per day allowed in Grand Teton National Park.

“In 2000, the Clinton administration had developed a plan to eliminate snowmobile use in these parks,” said Fran Mainella, Director of the National Park Service. “I commend the Park Service employees for coming up with an environmentally friendly, common-sense approach to winter use management that incorporates the use of cleaner and quieter snowmobile technology that reduces hydrocarbon emissions by at least 90 percent. For 40 years families have had the opportunity to access the parks by snowmobiles and we want to continue to make a variety of winter activities available to American families.”

Snowmobiles in Yellowstone will continue to operate on roads used by automobiles during the summer months. Snowmobiles will continue to be prohibited on specific side roads in Yellowstone including the Fountain Flat Road, Virginia Cascades Drive, North Canyon Rim Drive, Riverside Drive and the road from Canyon Junction to Washburn Hot Springs Overlook. Snowmobiles will be allowed on the Lake Butte Road; and the Firehole Canyon Drive will be open to snowcoaches only from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. and to snowmobiles and snowcoaches from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

- more -

A total of 40 snowmobiles daily will be allowed on the frozen surface of Jackson Lake for purposes of ice fishing only; a valid Wyoming state fishing license and the proper fishing gear will be required. Snowplane use will continue to be prohibited on the lake.

All recreational snowmobiles entering Yellowstone National Park will be required to be four-stroke machines that meet the cleaner, quieter National Park Service (NPS) “Best Available Technology” (BAT) standards. A list of NPS-approved BAT snowmobiles is available on the park’s web site at [www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/winteruse](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/winteruse).

BAT snowmobiles will be required in Grand Teton National Park, with the exception of a short segment of the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (between Moran Junction and the east park boundary) and those originating in the Targhee National Forest and traveling on the Grassy Lake Road as far as Flagg Ranch.

The temporary winter use management plan is a balanced approach that ensures that resources are protected, provides access and gives visitors, employees and residents of the park’s gateway communities the information they want and need to plan for the near term, and will help minimize economic impacts.

Monitoring data gathered during the interim plan will be invaluable in accurately assessing the impact of winter use in the long-term analysis and developing a permanent regulation for winter use in the parks.

The FONSI and EA are available online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/winteruse/winteruse-ea.htm>. A limited number of printed copies may be requested by calling Yellowstone National Park at (307) 344-2013.

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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**  
January 6, 2004 04-01

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Injured Backcountry Skier Rescued From Granite Canyon**

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued an injured backcountry skier on Tuesday afternoon, January 6, 2004. Jackie Susil, age 28, a resident of Jackson, Wyoming, sustained a knee injury at approximately 1:00 p.m. while skiing with some companions in the Mile Long Couloir of Granite Canyon, just north of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.

After the ski accident, one of Susil's companions skied out of Granite Canyon to alert ski patrol staff at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Ski patrol notified park rangers of the situation at 1:45 p.m. and three patrollers responded to the scene to assess Susil's injuries before rangers could arrive. Due to cold temperatures, the remote location of the injured skier, and few daylight hours remaining, park rangers initiated a helicopter rescue.

Ski patrollers put Susil on a sled and relocated her uphill approximately 200 yards to a spot where the helicopter could safely land. Rangers, with the help of park's contract helicopter, evacuated Susil at 3:30 p.m. Susil was taken to base of the ski resort, where she was then transported to the Teton Village medical clinic for treatment.

This marks the first major search and rescue for 2004 in Grand Teton National Park.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 8, 2004 04-02

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail Within Grand Teton National Park Opens

Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey announced today that the portion of the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) that runs through Grand Teton National Park will open for the 2004 winter season on Friday, January 9, at 12 noon. The trail is groomed and bridges are in place over waterways. Visitors using the CDST in Grand Teton must stop at the Moran entrance station to show a valid park pass or purchase a snowmobile entry permit of \$15.00 for one day or \$20.00 for a week.

The CDST through the park runs adjacent to the plowed road surface of Highway 89/287 for a total of 34 miles; it begins at the park's east boundary, six miles from Moran Junction, and ends at Flagg Ranch Resort. The snowmobile trail is built along the shoulder of the roadway used by other vehicles; for safety reasons, the speed limit on the trail is set at a maximum of 35 mph and is strictly enforced. Users are reminded to travel with caution and pay heed to all informational and regulatory signage.

A recent court ruling regarding winter use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks for the 2003-2004 winter season specifies that 25 snowmobiles per day may travel on the CDST in Grand Teton. Snowmobile use within Grand Teton National Park is prohibited **except** on the CDST and for access routes leading to either adjacent national forest lands or private lands. In addition to the CDST daily quota, 25 snowmobiles may also travel on the Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.

Daily hours of operation for snowmobiles on the CDST are from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Temporary trail closures can occur for safety or resource concerns, for snow grooming and snow removal operations, or as a result of deteriorating snow conditions. Trail conditions are available by calling a recorded information line at (307) 739-3614.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 2, 2004 04-03

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Tom Kimbrough Receives Department of the Interior Award**

Grand Teton National Park Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey presented a Department of the Interior Superior Service Award to Tom Kimbrough, long-time seasonal backcountry ranger, during an award ceremony at park headquarters in Moose, Wyoming on Friday, January 30, 2004. The Superior Service Award is a departmental honor award given to career employees who have made significant contributions to the Department of the Interior through outstanding service to one of its bureaus.

Tom Kimbrough has spent the past twenty-nine summers serving the public as a park ranger in the Jenny Lake Subdistrict of Grand Teton National Park. During his tenure with the National Park Service, Tom was a valued leader of the Jenny Lake Mountain Rescue Team. Over the years, he participated in countless technical rescues, serving as both a rescuer and an incident commander in charge of the rescue operation. Tom has personally come to the aid of hundreds of lost and injured hikers, helped save the lives of over 100 injured climbers, and assisted in the recovery of the bodies of over 25 deceased climbers.

In recent years, Tom has directed and managed the daily activities at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station. His encyclopedic knowledge of the park's peaks, canyons and trails, combined with his professional manner and personable skills have resulted in overall accident prevention, saving the park on costly search and rescue incidents. Tom has contributed immensely to park operations by ensuring that thousands of backcountry visitors had a safe, memorable and enjoyable experience.

Tom had simultaneous careers during his park service time. After his summer seasonal job at Grand Teton, he spent the remainder of each year working as an avalanche forecaster for the National Forest Service at the Wasatch Cache District in Salt Lake City, Utah. He retired from this position in 2003.

Through his years of service, Tom has mentored younger rangers and set an outstanding example for quality visitor interactions. This award recognizes the cumulative value that Tom Kimbrough has added as an employee of the National Park Service and Grand Teton National Park over the last three decades.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 3, 2004 04-04

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Finding of No Significant Impact Determined for McCollister Residential Complex**

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment/assessment of effect titled *McCollister Residential Complex Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures*. Acting on behalf of Intermountain Regional Director Steve Martin, Deputy Regional Director Michael Snyder signed the FONSI on February 2, 2004.

The seven-acre McCollister Residential Complex is located in the east Antelope Flats portion of Grand Teton National Park and is the former home of Paul W. McCollister who designed and planned the construction of Teton Village and the Jackson Hole ski area. The primary purpose of this project is to preserve historic structures at the McCollister property by adaptively using the buildings. A secondary purpose is to provide employee housing for up to 20 seasonal employees.

After careful examination of potential impacts to affected resources, and a thorough review of the public comments, the NPS has selected the preferred alternative – Alternative 2, Adaptive Reuse of Historic Structures – for implementation. The project will rehabilitate and use four of the six existing structures at the McCollister location to meet a portion of the housing needs for park employees. The NPS may also place additional residential buildings on the property in a manner that complements the cultural landscape. All new structures will have a character consistent with the existing structures. Utilities will be upgraded and parking will be provided. Landscaping will help to restore and maintain native species of vegetation.

Other details of the plan, including mitigation measures designed to minimize potential disturbance to sage grouse and other wildlife, are described in the FONSI. Rehabilitation is expected to begin in the spring of 2004.

Copies of the FONSI are available on the park's website: [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm) or at the Moose Visitor Center, open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Copies are also available for review at the reference desk of the Teton County Library.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 9, 2004 04-05

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

### **Rich Fedorchak Named Chief of Interpretation for Grand Teton National Park**

Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey is pleased to announce that Rich Fedorchak has been selected as the new Chief of the Division of Interpretation at Grand Teton National Park. Fedorchak has served as acting chief of interpretation for the past eight months after the previous division chief, Bill Swift, retired in June of 2003.

Fedorchak brings an extensive background in interpretation and park operations to this new position. He began his career with the National Park Service (NPS) in 1984 as a seasonal park ranger at Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. In 1986, Fedorchak worked as a park ranger historian at San Antonio Missions National Historic Park in Texas. He transferred to Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico in 1987, where he worked for three years as a supervisory park ranger in interpretation. After becoming an honor graduate of the federal law enforcement training center at Glynco, Georgia, Fedorchak worked as both a backcountry and road patrol ranger at California's Lassen Volcanic National Park. In 1991, he became the Assistant Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services at Zion National Park, a position he held for six years. Fedorchak came to Grand Teton National Park in 1997 as a district naturalist in the division of interpretation.



Fedorchak graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Interpretation from the University of Idaho at Moscow in 1983. He also earned an A.S. degree in Arboriculture and Park Management from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1978.

Fedorchak has been an NPS interpretive skills instructor since 1988 and a Wyoming Representative of the National Association of Interpretation. He belongs to both the National Association of Interpretation and the Association of National Park Rangers. He also currently serves as an NPS critical incident stress management counselor.

Fedorchak enjoys kayaking, hiking, photography, and developing interpretive presentations using creative and advanced techniques. He and his wife Sheri, a natural resource specialist at Grand Teton, have a seven year old daughter, Sarah.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 17, 2004 04-06

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Scoping Period Initiated For White Grass Ranch Rehabilitation and Adaptive Use

Grand Teton National Park Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey announced today that the public scoping process has begun on a proposal to rehabilitate and adaptively use the White Grass Ranch as a western historic preservation training and technology center. Development and operation of the center would be accomplished through a partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The center would offer opportunities for Grand Teton and other National Park Service (NPS) employees, volunteers, visiting students, contractors and other federal agency personnel to learn how to preserve and rehabilitate historic structures in the Intermountain Region.

White Grass Ranch is located in Grand Teton National Park, three miles west of Moose, Wyoming; it consists of 11 cabins, a main lodge, and bath house. The White Grass Ranch Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in April 1990. Constructed as early as 1913, White Grass is the third oldest dude ranch in Jackson Hole. After a dude ranching heyday that ran from the 1930s to the 1950s, it permanently closed in 1985. Since that time, the buildings have deteriorated and are structurally unsafe. The NPS believes that adaptive use of White Grass Ranch as a western preservation training center will provide not only the most effective way to preserve the historic district, but also increase the ability to preserve other historic structures in the park and the region.

The NPS has developed a scoping notice that presents a timeline for the National Environmental Policy Act process, describes the project background, and identifies preliminary alternatives and resource considerations. A White Grass Ranch Rehabilitation and Adaptive Use environmental assessment (EA) will address all proposed management actions, along with their impacts on the cultural, natural, and social resources. Interested individuals, organizations or agencies are invited to provide relevant information and/or suggestions for consideration by park managers before a draft EA is written and made available for public review this summer.

Public comment on issues, alternatives, concerns and other considerations regarding this proposal will be accepted from February 18 – March 21, 2004. Copies of the scoping notice are available at the Moose Visitor Center or on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm) . Copies are also available for review at the reference desk of the Teton County Library.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 24, 2004 04-07

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Grand Teton National Park Turns 75 Years Old

Grand Teton National Park celebrates its 75th anniversary on Thursday, February 26, 2004. To mark this special occasion, Grand Teton will soon be highlighted as the *Park of the Week* on the National Park Service website. To visit the NPS ParkNet site and learn about parks, go to [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and click on the *Park of the Week* graphic at the bottom of the webpage.

Grand Teton National Park observes three significant anniversary dates; each of these dates contributed to the establishment of the present-day park. Grand Teton was first established as a unit in the National Park System on February 26, 1929. The new 96,000-acre park only protected the Teton Range and six glacial lakes at the foot of the mountains; Grand Teton's original boundary was a mere third of its current size.

On March 15, 1943, Franklin Delano Roosevelt used presidential proclamation to establish the Jackson Hole National Monument. This bold step was taken by President Roosevelt to set aside valley acres that were rapidly being developed and to ensure that wildlife habitat and scenic vistas would be preserved adjacent to the 1929 park.

Through a complicated and controversial series of events, Grand Teton was enlarged to its present-day size of 310,000-acres. On September 14, 1950, Congress passed legislation that united the original 1929 park with lands from the Jackson Hole National Monument, plus a generous gift of acreage donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

The story of how Grand Teton National Park was created and later enlarged to its present size is a study in conservation through compromise. Throughout the year 2000, park staff celebrated the 50th anniversary of the final legislation which created today's park. To acknowledge the original establishment date, celebrations for Grand Teton's Diamond Anniversary will take place during the upcoming summer months.

To learn more about park establishment and the historical events that led to the creation of present-day Grand Teton National Park, please visit the web at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte) and click on the history and culture link.



Grand Teton N.P. 1929 Dedication Ceremony

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 24, 2004 04-08

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### SCOPING PERIOD INITIATED FOR SPRING GULCH ROAD EMPLOYEE HOUSING PROJECT

Grand Teton National Park Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey announced today that the public scoping process has begun on a proposal to construct housing for park employees on the north end of Spring Gulch Road in the vicinity of the Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Resort. A related action involves extending Spring Gulch Road, approximately 500 feet, about one-half mile south of the junction with Sagebrush Drive. This road extension will accommodate safe access into the proposed park employee housing area and the Teton County affordable housing site currently being planned adjacent to the Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Resort.

Grand Teton faces a critical shortage of housing for park employees and is using several strategies to address this shortage; these include construction of new housing, the adaptive use of historic structures, and leasing of apartments in Jackson. The proposed action for the *Spring Gulch Road Employee Housing Project* would construct approximately 40 living quarters on about five acres of park land off Spring Gulch Road at a density similar to the Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis Resort. This project would take advantage of existing infrastructure serving the Resort, and cluster the proposed units with a planned Teton County affordable housing project.

As part of the scoping process, a public open house is scheduled for March 2, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jackson Hole Middle School on South Park Loop Road. The open house will offer project information through exhibits and provide opportunities for the public to make written and verbal comments. No formal presentations are scheduled, however, park staff will be available to provide information and answer questions. The NPS expects to release an environmental assessment (EA) for the *Spring Gulch Road Employee Housing Project* in the summer of 2004.

A scoping notice has been developed which describes the project background, identifies preliminary alternatives and resource considerations, and presents a timeline for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The comment period on the *Spring Gulch Road Employee Housing Project Scoping Notice* runs from February 18 – March 26, 2004.

Copies of the scoping notice are available at the Moose Visitor Center or on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm). Copies are also available for review at the reference desk of the Teton County Library.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 1, 2004 04-09

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

### Snow Plowing On Teton Park Road Begins March 15

Grand Teton National Park Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey announced that cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter hiking and dog walking along the Teton Park Road will end for the winter season on Monday morning, March 15, as annual road plowing begins. The Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail in Grand Teton National Park will also close for the 2004 winter season at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, in conjunction with Yellowstone National Park winter season road closures.

Plowing operations on the Teton Park Road will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning. Although access to the roadway will no longer be available for winter recreation, park visitors may continue to use areas adjacent to the roadbed for skiing and snowshoeing. Depending on snow conditions and plowing progress, portions of the roadway may become accessible to non-motorized activities, such as hiking, biking and inline skating, before April 1st. For safety reasons, visitors are requested **not** to access the Teton Park Road while snowplows are operating. Pet owners are reminded that leashed dogs are not permitted in areas off the roadbed.

The Flagg Ranch Visitor Information Station will close for the winter season on Sunday, March 14, at 5:00 p.m. and Flagg Ranch Resort services will also close for the season on Monday, March 15. Winter car camping at the Colter Bay Visitor Center parking area will end on Thursday, April 15.

The Grassy Lake Road within the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway closes to snowmobile use for the winter season in conjunction with the other winter trail closures. It will remain closed to all motorized vehicles from April 1 to May 31, due to springtime grizzly bear activity.

Ranger-led snowshoe hikes originating from the Moose Visitor Center will end on Sunday, March 7. Throughout late winter and early spring, the Moose Visitor Center remains open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 12, 2004 04-10

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

### **Park Rangers Conduct Winter Rescue on Grand Teton**

Grand Teton National Park rangers conducted a technical mountain rescue of an injured backcountry mountaineer near the Black Dike above the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton on Friday afternoon, March 12. Beth Dyer, age 27, and a companion, Matt Neuner, age 25, both residents of Jackson, Wyoming, planned to complete a one day climb of the Grand Teton on Thursday, March 11. On Friday morning while descending the route, Dyer was injured after taking a tumbling fall approximately 1,000 feet down a gully.

Teton Interagency Dispatch received a phone call on Friday morning that two climbers who had taken a backcountry trip into the Tetons on Thursday were overdue. As a result of the call, park rangers initiated a search for the overdue party. Two rangers skied into Garnet Canyon to retrace the probable route taken by the overdue party. While in Garnet Canyon, rangers came upon a group of skiers below the Platforms area about 11:50 a.m. who provided further information about the overdue party. The group verified that the two people were in need of assistance after one had taken a fall and sustained injuries somewhere near the Black Dike above the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton.

With this additional information, rangers contacted Teton County's contract helicopter, Hawkins and Powers, to assist with a mountain rescue. The helicopter transported rangers and rescue gear to the Lower Saddle of the Grand about 2:50 p.m. After landing at the Lower Saddle, two rangers and three private climbers in the vicinity climbed to the accident site to provide emergency medical care to Dyer and prepare her for evacuation from the mountain. About 5:00 p.m., Dyer was placed in an evacuation litter, clipped to a short-haul line attached beneath the helicopter, and airlifted in tandem with a park ranger who attended her during the flight from the Lower Saddle to the valley floor.

An Air Idaho ambulance flew to Grand Teton National Park and staged near the Moose Entrance Station to receive the patient once she was flown from the Grand Teton. This helicopter transported Dyer to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho for evaluation and treatment.

The Hawkins and Powers helicopter returned to the Lower Saddle to shuttle rangers and rescue equipment from the Grand Teton before nightfall.

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 16, 2004 04-11

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

### Reminder of Spring Bear Activity in Grand Teton National Park

Acting Superintendent Ralph Tingey 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 begin to emerge from their winter dens and appropriate precautions for traveling in bear country should be taken accordingly. Historically, adult male bears emerge from hibernation by mid March. Recently, bear tracks have been sighted in the vicinity of Berry Creek, in the northern portion of Grand Teton.

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-weakened animals and winter-killed wildlife carcasses provide an immediate source of protein and are vigorously defended by hungry bears. As snow banks recede, bears also dig up and eat burrowing rodents and spring wildflowers. Female bears, accompanied by their cubs, emerge later in the spring and 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 judgment and safety practices, such as making noise and traveling in a group - not alone - while in the park's backcountry.

Visitors should report any bear sightings or signs to the nearest visitor center or ranger station as soon as possible. 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. Park visitors are reminded to keep food, garbage and other odorous items unavailable to bears by either storing attractants inside vehicles or disposing of garbage in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster.

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

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Intermountain Region

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 16, 2004

Patricia Turley  
505-988-6745

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## Intermountain Region News Release

### MARY GIBSON SCOTT TO MANAGE GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK IN WYOMING



**Mary Gibson-Scott**

DENVER – Mary Gibson Scott, a 23-year veteran of the National Park Service, has been named superintendent of Grand Teton National Park. The selection was announced on March 16, by Steve Martin, director of the National Park Service's Intermountain Region.

Scott is expected to be on duty at Grand Teton National Park on May 2. She assumes the position formerly held by Steve Martin, who in August 2003, was appointed as the director for the National Park Service's Intermountain Region.

“I am excited and honored to have been selected as superintendent of Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller Jr., Memorial Parkway,” Scott said. “I look forward to working with the community and the

dedicated park staff to continue their great work in caring for this tremendous resource.”

Scott is currently serving as the superintendent at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico. In her capacity, Scott manages 104 permanent and seasonal employees and a budget of \$5.3 million. Scott also provides administrative support for national park units throughout New Mexico and Texas. She is the co-chair of the National Park Foundation Superintendent's Council and Chairperson of the Chihuahuan Desert Inventory and Monitoring Network, which supports eleven national park areas.

“I am exceptionally pleased that Mary has accepted this challenging position,” said regional director Martin. “Mary will bring enormous institutional knowledge as well as extensive experience in bringing all voices together to turn environmental and energy conflicts into sound solutions.”

Prior to assuming her position as superintendent at Carlsbad Caverns, Scott was deputy superintendent at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California. There, Scott was responsible for the day-to-day management of the park, a staff of 330, and a budget of more than \$17 million. Scott has also served as acting general superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area (NY, NJ) and superintendent of the Staten Island Unit of Gateway National

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Recreation Area. While at Gateway, Scott brought a new national park unit into the system -- Fort Wadsworth, for which she received Congressional recognition. She also completed a special assignment regarding security measures at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Prior to moving to Gateway, Scott held the position of deputy assistant regional director for the former Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe, where she was responsible for numerous planning and development projects in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. She was also project manager at the Denver Service Center, with assignments including the Blue Ridge Parkway (VA). Scott has also served as chief of interpretation at Channel Islands National Park (CA).

Scott began her career with the National Park Service in 1980 as a planner at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in southern California. During her time at Santa Monica Mountains, Scott performed land use management planning throughout the 150,000-acre park, managed the NPS involvement in the 1984 summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, assisted in planning and developing the park's trail system, and participated in a major trail design project at Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas.

Scott holds a bachelor's degree in design and a master's degree in architecture and urban planning from the University of California at Los Angeles. In 2000, Scott successfully competed for placement in the federal government's Senior Executive Service candidate program, and graduated in April 2001. Scott has also held positions with the Department of Justice's U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California, and Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department. Her husband, Roger, also works for the National Park Service. The Scotts enjoy life with their yellow Labrador, Smokey, and share interest in hiking, art, music, and cooking.

-- NPS --

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 22, 2004 04-13

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

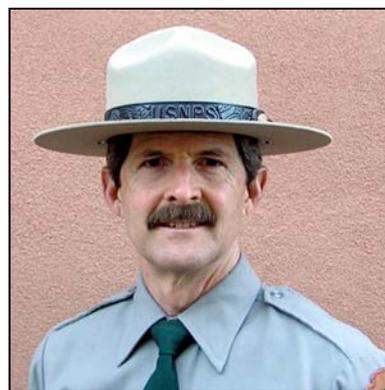
### **Jim Bellamy Named Deputy Superintendent For Grand Teton National Park**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Jim Bellamy, a 30-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), will become the new deputy superintendent at Grand Teton National Park. Bellamy will arrive early May to begin his new assignment.

Since 2002, Bellamy has served as the chief of Cultural Resources Management for the Intermountain Region, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His staff, stationed in the Santa Fe and Denver offices, provides technical assistance to parks and partners in the disciplines of archeology, curation, cultural landscapes, historical architecture, and history. Bellamy also currently oversees operation of the Western Archeological and Conservation Center in Tucson.

Prior to assuming his position in Santa Fe, Bellamy served as acting superintendent at Saguaro National Park for one year, and as superintendent at Coronado National Memorial for four years. Bellamy began his NPS career as a seasonal laborer at Grand Teton National Park in the 1960's. He later worked as both a seasonal climbing ranger (1975-76) and permanent park ranger (1977-79) at Grand Teton. In addition to his early park assignments, Bellamy spent five winters with the ski patrol at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Teton Village.

Bellamy also worked as a seasonal ranger at Crater Lake, Mt. Rainier, and Zion national parks. His other permanent NPS assignments include: one year (1977) as a dispatcher in Zion; two years (1979-81) as a park ranger at Channel Islands; six years (1981-87) as a district ranger in Big Bend; four years (1987-91) as district ranger and one year (1992) as an assistant chief ranger at Glacier; two years (1992-94) at Great Basin as chief of Resource Management, Protection and Interpretation, and as acting superintendent of Great Basin (1995); and three years (1995-98) as the Servicewide training manager for Supervision, Management, and Leadership at Albright Training Center in Grand Canyon National Park.



Bellamy earned a B.A. in physics from Park College in Missouri and pursued graduate studies in atmospheric sciences at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins. He speaks Spanish, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chile, and has traveled to several Latin American countries and Spain to provide technical assistance in park management. While at Big Bend National Park, Bellamy worked closely with Mexican officials in preparing for the establishment of protected areas in northern Mexico. He was co-chair of the NPS-Mexico Affairs Steering Committee while at Coronado National Memorial and Saguaro National Park.

Bellamy's other interests include travel, photography, hiking, skiing, kayaking and rafting.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 23, 2004 04-14

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

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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 rapid 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 Scenic 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. **For the next six weeks, non-motorized users need to be alert for administrative vehicles occasionally traveling the roadway.** Both the Teton Park Road and the Moose-Wilson Road will open to vehicle traffic on May 1.

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 for the coming summer season.

**Leashed dogs** are permitted on the Teton Park Road, Antelope Flats Road, Moose-Wilson Road and other park roads and byways. Dogs are restricted to roadways and turnouts – they are not permitted to travel beyond fifty feet from roadbeds or into the park's backcountry. Rangers will closely monitor park roadways and violators may receive citations. Owners failing to keep pets on a leash (six foot maximum length) may force the prohibition of dogs on the Teton Park Road during this popular time. *Mutt Mitt* stations are in place at the Taggart Lake parking area; pet owners are reminded to use waste disposal bags to pick up after their dogs.

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.**

The Grassy Lake Road within the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway is closed to all motorized vehicles from April 1 to May 31, due to springtime grizzly bear activity.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 26, 2004 04-15

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Temporary Wildlife Closure Established To Protect Sage Grouse in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park has implemented a temporary public closure to protect breeding sage grouse at the Moulton Ranch lek (a seasonal mating arena) off the Antelope Flats Road. From March 26 – May 15, 2004, a quarter-mile radius around the lek site will be posted as **closed to all public entry** to reduce human disturbance on sage grouse hens and males who traditionally use the area during their annual mating time. Observance of this seasonal wildlife closure will reduce unnecessary stress on the grouse. Any violations of the closure may result in a citation.

To allow for sage grouse watching while minimizing disturbance to the birds, a viewing area has been established at the southwest side of the wildlife closure. Visitors can reach this viewing area by parking at the small pullout near the Moulton Cabins and walking along a gated, dirt road that heads north from the junction with Antelope Flats Road; the signed viewing area is located east of this road. Visitors must observe the closure, stay within the established viewing area, and **not** approach sage grouse at any time.

Sage grouse are highly sensitive to human disturbance such as car doors slamming, loud noises, radios, human voices, and people approaching too closely. These disturbances can cause birds to flush, and continual disturbances can result in birds permanently abandoning or re-locating their lek sites. To reduce negative impacts on the strutting grouse, visitors should arrive at the viewing area well before sunrise and not leave until after the birds have completed their morning display. Visitors should remain as quiet as possible and refrain from talking until well away from the viewing area.

Grand Teton National Park rangers will use the established public viewing area near the Moulton Ranch lek as they lead early-morning trips to observe strutting sage grouse as they perform their springtime mating dance. Strutting grouse tours will be offered Saturdays and Sundays during every weekend in April. Trips begin from the Moose Visitor Center at 5:30 a.m. and reservations are required.

Sage grouse are declining throughout the West. The April weekend ranger-led tours offer local residents and visitors an opportunity to see grouse and their unique mating ritual, while protecting the birds from undue disturbance. To make reservations and obtain information about what to wear and bring along on the ranger-led strutting grouse excursions, call the Moose Visitor Center at 739-3399.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 16, 2004 04-16

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

### Road Construction Projects Scheduled for 2004

Grand Teton National Park will begin highway improvement work in May and continue several road construction projects throughout the remainder of 2004. Recorded road construction information is available by dialing (307) 739-3614. Recorded information will be updated frequently during May, and updated daily during the summer months as work progresses. The park's website will also provide current information at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte). Roadwork is necessary for the park to maintain safe and good quality roads for the millions who travel them each year. Every effort will be made to minimize the inconvenience of these projects to those people traveling through the work zones.

Road construction work on the North Park Road in Grand Teton will be ongoing from May through October. Construction activities will occur on segments of Highway 89/287 from one mile north of Colter Bay Village at the Leeks Marina turnoff to Lizard Creek Campground, and from the Snake River Bridge near Flagg Ranch to the southern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. Daytime traffic delays can be expected, but will not exceed 30 minutes throughout this entire project area. Within the North Park Road construction area, work will not take place on holidays or weekends during July and August.

#### Temporary Road Closure mid May through mid June

A nighttime road closure on Highway 89/287 is scheduled to take place in either the road segment from Leeks Marina to Flagg Ranch Resort or from Flagg Ranch to Yellowstone's boundary on each Monday through Thursday from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. for one month during May 17 through June 15.

#### Chip Seal Project

In addition to the North Park Road construction, a chip sealing project is scheduled to occur in June on Highway 26/89/191 from north of the Jackson Hole Airport turnoff to Cunningham Cabin six miles south of Moran Junction. Minimal delays of 15 minutes may be experienced while work is underway. This project should be completed by July 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Bridge Closures in Fall

During the Fall of 2004, three bridges on secondary park roads will be replaced. The bridges include Lake Creek Bridge near the JY Ranch on the Moose-Wilson Road, Climber's Ranch Bridge over Cottonwood Creek near the Highlands housing area, and Lupine Meadows Bridge over Cottonwood Creek which provides access to Lupine Meadows trailhead south of Jenny Lake.

Work will begin at the Climber's Ranch Bridge on September 15 and at the Lupine Meadows Bridge on October 1; both bridges will be closed through April 30, 2005. Work on the Lake Creek Bridge near the JY Ranch will also begin October 1, and this bridge will be closed through November 30, 2004.

Various road construction projects will also be underway in Yellowstone National Park throughout the 2004 season. For Yellowstone road information, check online at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell) or phone (307) 344-2117.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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April 20, 2004 04-17

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
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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 Mary Gibson Scott 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 2004.

#### **Roads**

The following roads will open to motorized vehicles Saturday, 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 307/739-3614.

#### **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 other visitor centers open:

Colter Bay Visitor Center	May 8
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	May 15
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	June 7
Flagg Ranch Information Station	June 7

Ranger-led activities begin Monday, June 7. 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 7
Jenny Lake	May 14
Colter Bay	May 28
Lizard Creek	June 4

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 8
Jackson Lake Lodge	May 21
Flagg Ranch Resort	May 21
Colter Bay Cabins	May 28
Jenny Lake Lodge	May 28

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.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 26, 2004 04-18

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Grand Teton National Park Celebrates International Migratory Bird Day

Grand Teton National Park plans to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) on Saturday, May 8, 2004 with a bird-watching vehicle caravan. This free activity begins in 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 ranger naturalists, Andrew Langford and Pat Best, as they visit birding hotspots within the park to locate, enjoy and count birds as part of the North American Migration Count. Throughout the day, participants will take short walks at several locations. Those attending should wear comfortable shoes and bring a lunch, drinking water, warm clothing and rain gear. Bird field guides, binoculars and/or a spotting scope are also recommended.

International Migratory Bird Day is observed on the second Saturday in May each year to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation. IMBD is the hallmark outreach event for *Partners in Flight*, an international conservation program, whose goal is to reverse declining populations of migratory birds by bringing attention to the factors that may contribute to worldwide declines.

The 2004 IMBD theme, "Birds of a feather...nesting together," focuses awareness on the need to protect colonial-nesting sites. Many colonial-nesting species are aquatic birds such as herons, egrets, gulls, terns, and puffins, but several land birds such as swallows and blackbirds are also colonial.

Nearly 350 North American migratory bird species – which include such familiar birds as ospreys, peregrine falcons, warblers and thrushes – travel between their nesting grounds in North America and non-breeding habitats in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and southern United States. Each spring, many of these same migratory birds return to northwestern Wyoming and Grand Teton National Park where they find critical food resources and nesting sites during the summer season.

In addition to providing enjoyment for bird watchers around the world, migratory birds contribute to local, regional and world economies by controlling insect pests and generating billions in recreational dollars. Unfortunately, research indicates that many migratory bird species are in decline and face increasing threats along on their migration routes and within their summer and winter habitats.

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

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 3, 2004 04-19

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

### **Long-time Grand Teton National Park Ranger Doug McLaren Passed Away**

Doug McLaren passed away Sunday evening, May 2, 2004, at the St. John's Living Center in Jackson, Wyoming after struggling with failing health. McLaren dedicated 40 years of his professional life to the National Park Service – 35 of those years were spent as a Grand Teton National Park ranger. In 1952, McLaren began working as a mountaineering ranger at Grand Teton and retired in 1987 after serving as the park's north district ranger based out of Colter Bay.

After officially retiring from federal service, McLaren took only one weekend off before returning the following Monday morning to begin work as a volunteer at Grand Teton's vehicle maintenance shop in Moose. For the past 16 years, he generously donated his time each day at the auto shop.

McLaren began his National Park Service (NPS) career in 1942 as a seasonal fire guard at Rocky Mountain National Park. He also worked as a winter snowplow operator and a member of the trail crew before joining the army in 1943. McLaren spent two and a half years during World War II with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division stationed in Italy and later worked as an instructor of civilian survival for the Strategic Air Command, where he taught climbing and ground survival skills to air crews.

McLaren took his first permanent NPS assignment in 1952 as a climbing ranger at Grand Teton and worked in several ranger positions until his final post as north district ranger. For 15 years, McLaren was in charge of rescue operations for the Jenny Lake Subdistrict at Grand Teton. He established a mountaineering register system and co-authored "Mountain Search and Rescue Operations," a guide for search and rescue techniques that was implemented servicewide in many national parks. Over the years, he was involved in hundreds of mountain rescues, including the largest rescue mission in the annals of American mountaineering. This historic three-day rescue occurred in July 1962 and involved ten climbers from the Appalachian Mountain Club who were caught in a vigorous winter-like storm on the Grand Teton.

McLaren's expertise, training and experience in the field of mountain search and rescue earned him numerous NPS special achievement awards. He received six departmental Unit Awards for Excellence of Service and both the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award and Superior Service Award.

In 1953, McLaren began working as a National Ski Patrol volunteer at Snow King Mountain. He became an integral member of the volunteer team, donating his time and expertise toward avalanche control and rescue operations on the ski slopes. In 1987, he was voted the National Ski Patroller of the Year for the United States, which includes approximately 20,000 patrollers.

McLaren came from a family tradition of service in the national parks. His father, Fred Douglas McLaren, Sr., served for 37 years as a ranger in Rocky Mountain National Park. Both of his brothers also enjoyed lengthy careers with the NPS; Richard (Dick) over 30 years at Olympic, Yosemite and Grand Canyon, and Elbert (Bert) over 30 years at Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain. Collectively, the McLarens have contributed approximately 150 years of time and dedication to the National Park Service.

**-MORE-**

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Memorial donations in Doug McLaren's name may be sent to the Snow King Volunteer Ski Patrol at P.O. Box 1114, Jackson, Wyoming 83001, or donations may be made to the Senior Center of Jackson Hole at P.O. Box 4677, Jackson, Wyoming 83001. Cards and condolences may be mailed to Doug's daughter Sharon Wiley at P.O. Box 422, Wilson, Wyoming 83014.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 6, 2004 04-20

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

### **Annual Spring Cleaning Scheduled for Grand Teton National Park**

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Grand Teton National Park staff and park concessions employees will join together on Wednesday, May 12, for the annual Park Clean Up Day. 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 Grand Teton on Wednesday 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 and timely opportunity for the park community to come together and remove litter and debris from park roadsides and turnouts before the summer season is in full swing," remarked Superintendent Gibson Scott. "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."

Anyone wishing to participate in the Park Clean Up Day should meet at either the Colter Bay or Moose maintenance areas at 8:00 a.m. on May 12. The Moose and Colter Bay visitor centers, park communication center, and law enforcement patrols will continue normal operations while clean up efforts are under way.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 17, 2004 04-21

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 2004 guest artist program begins Monday, May 17.

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 17 – 23	Debbie & Willie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flintknapping
May 24 – 30	Debbie & Willie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flintknapping
May 31 – June 6	Charlie Rising Sun	Northern Cheyenne	Flutes & Indian Arts
June 7 – 13	Andrea Two Bulls	Ogallala Sioux	Painting & Beadwork
June 14 – 20	Guillermo Martinez	Tarascan-Apache	Drums & Flutes
June 21 – 27	Lila Jones	Shoshone	Beadwork
June 28 – July 4	Maynard & Marlene White Owl	Nez Perce - Cayuse	Beadwork & Jewelry
July 5 – 11	Ted Moran	S'Klallan	Northwest Coastal Carving
July 12 – 18	Eddie Two Bulls	Ogallala Sioux	Painting
July 19 – 25	Jola LaBeau	Shoshone	Beadwork
July 26 – Aug. 1	Dolly & Bonnie Woodie	Navajo	Weaving, Beadwork & Clothing

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August 2 – 8	David Snooks	Washoe	Hand Painted/Beaded Gourds
August 9 – 15	Aiona Anderson	Thompson	Painting & Pottery
August 16 – 22	DG House	Cherokee	Painting
August 23 – 29	Debbie & Willie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flintknapping
Aug. 30 – Sept. 5	Lela Teton	Shoshone-Bannock	Beadwork
Sept. 6 – 12	Clyde Hall & Nancy Naki	Shoshone	Beadwork & Quillwork
Sept. 13 – 14	Paul Hacker	Choctaw	Flutes, Knives & Pottery

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 2, 2004 04-22

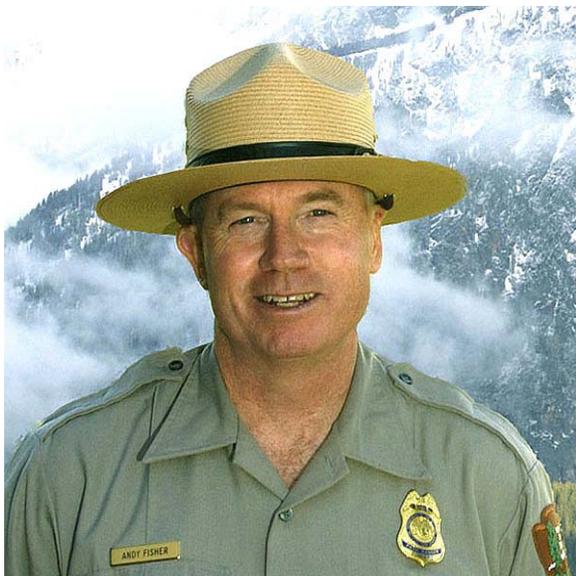
Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs  
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Andy Fisher Named Chief Ranger at Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that Andy Fisher was selected as the new Chief Ranger for Grand Teton National Park. Fisher has served as the park's South District Ranger for the past 12 months, a post he filled after the retirement of Rich Spomer in 2002.

Fisher, a 26-year veteran with the National Park Service (NPS), brings an extensive background in visitor and resource protection, emergency services, search and rescue operations, fire management and fee collection oversight to this new position. He began his NPS career in 1978 as a seasonal heavy truck and equipment operator for Yellowstone National Park's maintenance division. From 1982-86, he worked as a seasonal park ranger in the Old Faithful and Mammoth districts, where he supervised backcountry operations and Student Conservation Association volunteers. Fisher took his first permanent NPS position in 1986 as a dispatcher in Yellowstone's communications center. After a few short months, he became an area park ranger, working in both the Mammoth and Norris districts and supervising backcountry operations and the YCC program. Fisher transferred to Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks as a subdistrict ranger in 1990 and subsequently served as the acting district ranger for the Kings River District. In 1993, he was selected as the assistant chief ranger at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, a post he held for five and a half years. Fisher served as the north district ranger at Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts from 1998 until his move to Grand Teton as the south district ranger in May of 2003.



Fisher frequently serves as an integral member of the Incident Command System to coordinate and manage emergency situations such as search and rescues, fires, or large-scale special events. Additionally, Fisher is trained in critical incident debriefing and has served as an incident team member on numerous occasions in several national park units.

Fisher was born in Akron and raised in Kent, Ohio. He graduated in 1976 with a bachelor's degree from Kent State University. He and his wife Denise have two children, 15-year-old Megan, and 12-year-old Kyle. In his spare time, Fisher enjoys climbing, hiking, backpacking, canoeing, telemark and cross-country skiing.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 3, 2004 04-23

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Young Bison Discovered Fallen into Abandoned Pit**

On Wednesday afternoon, June 2, a park employee performing work at the McCollister home site in the eastern section of Grand Teton National Park discovered that a yearling bull bison had fallen into an abandoned, dry, seepage pit on the north section of the property. The staff person notified park dispatch at 12 noon and park resource management personnel, rangers and maintenance staff all responded to the area to effect a rescue of the young bison.

It is unknown when the young bison fell into the abandoned, wood-covered pit. Apparently, the plywood cover gave way when the bison walked across it and he fell into a cone-shaped, concrete-lined area that was approximately 4 feet in diameter at the top, 6 feet in diameter at the bottom, and 7 feet deep.

Park biologists, rangers and maintenance personnel worked together to free the bison. Using a backhoe, a trench was dug adjacent to the seepage pit to create a ramp and provide an escape route. Under the direction of the park's senior biologist, Steve Cain, the bison was carefully pulled from the pit by a rope attached around its horns.

The bison was alive, but very weak. No serious injuries were obvious; however, he may have sustained internal injuries. External abrasions indicated that the yearling had struggled in attempts to free himself before being discovered. The young bison was moved a few yards away from the pit and left overnight to allow him time to recover without the presence of humans. The pit was covered by heavy equipment as a temporary measure to prevent the animal from potentially falling into it a second time.

Park biologists checked on the bison this morning, June 3. He had moved approximately 10 yards overnight, but still appears to be weak. His condition will be monitored throughout the day. If it becomes apparent that he has sustained mortal injuries, he will be humanely put down.

American bison are hearty animals and park personnel have often witnessed their survival after significant accidents or injuries.

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June 10, 2004 04-24

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Lightning Strike Ignites First Fire in Grand Teton National Park**

Interagency fire crews responded to a report of smoke two miles west of Moran Junction near the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River at about 2:20 p.m. Wednesday, June 9. Active thunderstorms with numerous lightning strikes moving through Grand Teton National Park on Tuesday night and early Wednesday apparently ignited a fire. The Signal Fire was contained at one quarter acre by 5:25 Wednesday afternoon.

An initial attack crew responded to the Signal Fire with the assistance of park river rangers who shuttled fire personnel and gear across the Snake River to reach the site on the north side of Signal Mountain where the fire was located. Firefighters used a small portable pump, hose, and hand tools to contain the fire. Steady rainfall today has dampened the Signal Fire, but crews will continue to monitor the site as additional thunderstorms, winds, and lightning are expected to move through the area this afternoon and evening.

Despite the recent precipitation, the greater Jackson Hole area continues to experience effects from an extended drought. Area visitors and residents are reminded that warm, dry days with gusty winds could quickly increase the risk of a wildland fire. To report a fire in Grand Teton National Park or on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, please call (307) 739-3630.

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June 11, 2004 04-25

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Yearling Bull Bison Euthanized

Grand Teton National Park biologists today euthanized a yearling bull bison that recently fell into an abandoned pit at the McCollister home site in the eastern portion of the park. Although his general physical condition improved over the past 7 days, the young bison was not able to stand on his hind feet and walk, indicating that he had possibly sustained internal injuries or nerve damage. Park biologists conferred with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service veterinarian and the decision was made to humanely put the animal down.

Park employees discovered the yearling bison in a 4-foot wide by 7-foot deep old, dry seepage pit at the McCollister property on June 3. It is unknown how long he had been in the concrete-lined hole. After being freed from the pit by park rangers and maintenance staff, the yearling bison showed signs of improvement each day and gradually began to eat hay and drink water. However, the bison was unable to rise on all four legs to walk and therefore would ultimately perish because he could not properly function in the wild.

The bison's carcass has been moved from the site to a more remote location in the vicinity so that scavengers and other predators can utilize the carcass without being in close proximity to developed areas and human activities.

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June 18, 2004 04-26

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Vehicle Rollover Causes One Fatality in Grand Teton National Park

A single vehicle rollover on Highway 26/89/191 near Glacier View Turnout in Grand Teton National Park resulted in a driver fatality and injury to the passenger. The traffic accident occurred at 2:40 p.m. on Thursday, June 17.

Martin Price, age 48, of Jackson, Wyoming, lost control of the 1994 black Chevy truck he was driving while heading southbound on Highway 26/89/191. The tires on the passenger side of the vehicle drifted off the edge of the pavement and when Price tried to turn back onto the highway, it appears that he over corrected causing the truck to flip over once and come to rest on its side. At the time of the accident, Price and coworker Stanley Wood, age 46, of Wilson, Wyoming, were returning to Jackson in a company truck from a job site in the northern end of the valley. The two men work for Chimney Sweeps of Jackson Hole. Neither Price nor Wood was wearing seatbelts and both men were thrown from the vehicle. The rollover left Price and the truck lying in the middle of the southbound lane.

A witness notified Teton Interagency Dispatch of the accident shortly after it had taken place. Park rangers immediately responded to the scene where bystanders were providing initial emergency assistance. Park ranger EMTs ascertained that Price was dead at the scene of the accident. The cause of death will be determined by Teton County Coroner Bob Campbell.

The surviving passenger, Wood, was alert and sitting on the side of the road when rangers arrived on scene. He was taken to St. Johns Medical Center in Jackson for treatment of his injuries and later flown to Eastern Idaho Medical Center in Idaho Falls for additional treatment.

Park rangers closed Highway 89 to all traffic between Moose junction and Moran junction at 2:55 p.m. to provide safe access for emergency vehicles and emergency medical personnel responding to the accident. The road remained closed until 6:25 p.m. so that rangers could conduct an investigation of the accident scene and remove the Chevy truck. Traffic was diverted to the Teton Park Road during the highway closure.

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June 20, 2004 04-27

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Park Rangers Rescue Injured Climber from Garnet Canyon**

Grand Teton National Park rangers and the park's contract helicopter rescued an injured climber from Garnet Canyon on Saturday afternoon, June 19. Bill Mulligan, a 35-year-old from New York City, sustained multiple injuries when he lost control while glissading on a snowfield and tumbled approximately 150 to 200 feet over snow and rock. Mulligan was a member of a guided party led by the Jackson Hole Mountain Guides; the group was descending from the guide service's high camp and was west of Spalding Falls, near the level of the Petzoldt Caves (10,100 feet), when Mulligan fell, at approximately 11:00 a.m. Mulligan was carrying an ice axe, but he was not wearing a helmet at the time.

Jackson Hole Mountain Guide Eddie Horney descended to a place where cell phone service was available and notified his office of the accident. Jackson Hole Mountain Guide staff relayed the message to Teton Interagency Dispatch at 11:45 a.m. Park rangers assessed the situation and decided to coordinate a rescue with the assistance of the park's contract helicopter. Five rangers were flown to the helicopter landing zone in the Garnet Canyon Meadows. The rangers ascended about 600 feet to Mulligan, assessed his condition, stabilized him for transport, and manually lowered him to the Garnet Meadows in an evacuation litter, using a series of snow anchors and belayed lowerings.

Mulligan incurred lacerations to his head and was experiencing right shoulder and left ankle pain as well as abdominal and rib pain. After rangers administered emergency medical assistance, Mulligan was flown by helicopter to Lupine Meadows at 3:15 p.m., then transported by ambulance to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment.

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

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July 1, 2004 04-28

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Teton Science School Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Teton Science School **Rehabilitation and Improvement of Infrastructure** is available for public review and comment. Comments will be accepted through August 2, 2004.

Established in 1967, Teton Science School (TSS) is a nonprofit organization based in Grand Teton National Park that provides an environmental education center within the southern portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Located along Ditch Creek in the East Antelope Flats portion of Grand Teton, the school helps the National Park Service (NPS) carry out its mission by connecting people of all ages to nature through hands-on education.

Currently, the TSS campus lacks an adequate water system. The school also lacks adequate housing, office space and storage for its employees and students. In addition, none of the walkways around the campus grounds are handicap accessible.

The environmental assessment, prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), examines the following four alternatives: Alternative 1 – No Action; Alternative 2 – Water System Improvements Only; Alternative 3 – Relocation of the Hunter Hereford Barn; and Alternative 4 – Build a new Facility on the Kelly Campus. The NPS has not identified a preferred alternative for this project. A decision will be reached on the TSS project following review and incorporation of public comments.

Alternative 3 and 4 propose different methods for improving infrastructure at the Kelly Campus. Alternative 3 would create additional housing, office space, and storage by relocating and adaptively using the Hunter Hereford Barn. Alternative 4 would create additional space on the Kelly Campus by allowing TSS to build a new facility for these purposes. Following construction, all disturbed ground would be rehabilitated through replanting with native species.

The Teton Science School Rehabilitation and Improvement of Infrastructure EA is posted online at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm). Copies of the document are available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the reference desk in the Teton County Library. For further information, call 307/ 739-3390.

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Injured Backpackers Rescued from Cascade Canyon**

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued two injured backpackers from the south fork of Cascade Canyon yesterday evening, July 4. Will Behrens, age 78, from Windson, California, had been hiking the Teton Crest Trail with his son, 50-year-old David Behrens, from Idaho Falls, Idaho, and David's 16-year-old son. The party was descending in the south fork of Cascade Canyon, approximately 1.5 miles below Hurricane Pass, when all three hikers slipped and fell through an opening in a snowfield around 2:30 p.m.

First, David's son fell through the opening, landing in running water underneath the snow. He sustained injuries to his face and knocked out several teeth. Then, while attempting to help his son, David fell through the same opening, injuring his left knee. Will tried to remove himself to a safer area, but he too slipped on the icy slope, falling into the same hole and hitting his head. Will had the party's two ice axes strapped to his backpack, as they had decided not to use the ice axes in this area. The Behrens managed to extricate themselves and their gear from the hole and remove themselves to a safe place where they could set up their tent and put on dry clothes. David's son then hiked out of Cascade Canyon, reached a visitor with a cell phone near the west shore of Jenny Lake, and contacted Teton Interagency Dispatch.

Due to the late hour, the party's location and the potential for serious injury, rangers decided to coordinate a rescue with the park's contract helicopter. The rescue staff monitored local thunderstorms closely, and were able to fly six rangers to the scene at 7:45 p.m. Rangers assessed the two patients, provided emergency medical assistance and transported the two patients about 500 feet to a helicopter landing zone in the south fork of Cascade Canyon. The helicopter then flew David and Will to Lupine Meadows at 8:55 p.m., and a waiting ambulance transported David and his son to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for treatment. A ranger accompanied Will to St. John's Medical Center in Will's vehicle.

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

As snow continues to melt in the backcountry, hikers and climbers are reminded to be cautious in areas where snow is poorly consolidated, where water flows underneath the snow, or where rocks and fallen trees cause snow to melt unevenly.

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Motorcycle Accident Results in Fatality

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a vehicle accident one mile south of Triangle X Dude Ranch on Highway 26/89/191 at approximately 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 8. Chester "Chet" Firestone, age 51, of Lowell, Oregon was driving his motorcycle northbound when he lost control and laid the bike down onto the roadway. Firestone sustained serious internal injuries and was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming.

Teton Interagency Dispatch received a cell phone call from a passing motorist who came upon the accident scene shortly after it happened and park rangers immediately responded to provide emergency medical assistance to the single injured patient. Although Firestone was alert when rangers first arrived, his condition deteriorated while he was being transported to St. John's Medical Center and park emergency medical technicians began CPR while enroute to the hospital. Medical personnel continued CPR at the hospital until Firestone was pronounced dead.

At the time of the accident, Firestone and two male companions Ken Petersen, age 61, of Eugene, Oregon and Riley Lott, age 59, of Springfield, Oregon were traveling together by separate motorcycles on their way to tour Yellowstone National Park. For reasons not yet known, Firestone tipped his bike sideways while trying to avoid a stationary car which was parked along the roadway. His motorcycle skidded toward the car while he was thrown from his bike and tumbled on the asphalt.

Park rangers closed Highway 89 for approximately 15 minutes and resumed one-way traffic for three hours until an investigation could be completed and wreckage removed.

This marks the second highway-related fatality in the park this year.

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Suspicious Object Found Near Moose Visitor Center**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced that a suspicious object - an 8 inch galvanized pipe with caps on both ends - was discovered by a park employee near the Moose Visitor Center this morning, Friday, July 9, around 7:50.

The park employee reported discovery of this object to park rangers who then examined the object, confirmed that it could potentially be an explosive device and immediately activated emergency response protocols for the protection of staff, residents and visitors in the area.

Park rangers created a 300-foot closure around the capped pipe and directed traffic away from the immediate area. Concurrently, park officials contacted the Teton County Sheriff's Office and requested that county deputies and the Sweetwater County Bomb Squad respond to the park. Other law enforcement agencies, as well as Yellowstone National Park, were also notified.

As a precautionary measure, park law enforcement and fire personnel were dispatched throughout Grand Teton to look for similar or other suspicious objects. None were found.

Once on scene in Moose, explosives experts analyzed and photographed the suspicious device, and determined that it should be disabled. The entire area in the vicinity of the Moose Visitor Center, the Moose Post Office and Store, and the adjacent roadways were cleared of people and vehicles. Incoming traffic was held at the Moose Junction and outbound vehicles were held at the Moose Entrance Station so that the bomb squad could safely disable the device. This action took place at 1:00 p.m. and no explosives were discovered in the pipe.

Further investigation is currently underway. If anyone has information which could be helpful to this investigation, please contact the park's law enforcement office at 739-3344.

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Injured Climber Rescued from Middle Teton**

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued an injured climber from the Southwest Couloir on the Middle Teton on Friday, July 9. Twenty-year-old Luis Lopez DeObeso, visiting from Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, was climbing with eleven other companions when he slipped on hard-packed snow and could not successfully use an ice axe to arrest his slide on the icy conditions. DeObeso injured an ankle when he hit some rocks. Since he could not walk out of the backcountry on his own, rangers evacuated him by helicopter.

Park rangers climbing in the vicinity of the Southwest Couloir responded and provided basic medical assistance to the injured DeObeso at approximately 10:50 a.m. Due to the nature of his injured ankle and deteriorating weather conditions, a decision was made to evacuate DeObeso by air. He was placed in a Teton Interagency contract helicopter and flown to the park's Lupine Meadows rescue facility at 12:30 p.m.

DeObeso and his climbing companions are part of an alpine club of Mexico. Fifty members of the group are visiting Grand Teton National Park and were hiking in and around Garnet Canyon at the time of the accident.

This marks the fifth major search and rescue operation in the park this year.

Snow conditions in the backcountry are variable and icy areas can be encountered on many snowfields and couloirs, especially in shaded areas. Hikers and climbers are urged to use caution when crossing any snowy areas and to carry an ice axe and know how to use it.

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July 19, 2004 04-33

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Grand Teton National Park Issues Prospectus For Guided Backpacking For Youths**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the National Park Service (NPS) has issued a prospectus for the renewal of two concession contracts to provide guided backpacking for youths on designated trails within the park. The new contracts will be valid for ten years. Contract offers must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 18, 2004.

The current concession permits between the NPS and the existing concessioners expire December 31, 2004. Both of the concession contracts in the prospectus authorize guided day hikes; one contract will also authorize frontcountry camping. Hiking trips may be part of a multi-week program with a portion taking place outside the park, or the hikes may occur exclusively within the park. 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 will not be required to purchase any personal property utilized by the existing concessioners.

Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51, the NPS has determined that the existing concessioners are preferred offerors for these contracts. The two existing concessioners are Wilderness Ventures and Teton Valley Ranch Camps.

To obtain a copy of the prospectus, contact Rebecca Rhea in the Business Resources Office of Grand Teton National Park at 307/739-3434. There is a charge of \$35 per copy if mailed, or \$30 if picked up at the Moose Visitor Center and park headquarters. 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.

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Search is Underway for Overdue Climber

Grand Teton National Park rangers began searching Monday, July 19, for Dwight Bishop, a 49-year-old climber from Butte, Montana, who was reported overdue Monday morning. Bishop headed into the mountains early Friday morning, July 16, to attempt a solo climb of the Grand Traverse—a technical climbing route that begins with Teewinot Mountain, winds around the ridge line to Nez Perce, and summits eleven of the major peaks in the range, including Mt. Owen and the Grand Teton.

Fred Donich, Bishop's friend and climbing partner, called Grand Teton National Park Monday morning to notify park officials that Bishop was overdue; Donich relayed information to rangers around 10:30 a.m. Rangers learned that Bishop spoke with his mother on Thursday morning, July 15, around 10:30 a.m., when he called her on his cell phone. Bishop's car was located in the Lupine Meadows parking lot; his cell phone and a pair of crampons were in the car. Bishop is an experienced and skilled mountaineer who has climbed in the Teton Range extensively. He intended to complete the Grand Traverse in a single day.

Twenty searchers from Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger Teton National Forest were involved in the search on Monday. The park's contract helicopter began flying aerial reconnaissance flights over the search area Monday afternoon, once weather permitted. Initial search strategies included looking for recent tracks in snow and concentrating on areas of identified high probability. Three ground search teams assisted in these efforts.

Monday's search efforts continued until dark and resumed Tuesday morning, July 20, at 6 a.m. The search has more than doubled its resources today, incorporating another 50 personnel and a second helicopter from Yellowstone National Park. Currently, approximately 70 personnel are involved in search efforts, including personnel from Grand Teton National Park, Teton County Search and Rescue, an Interagency Helitack crew, and five teams of search dogs from Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue. Today's search efforts are being concentrated on the Grand Traverse itself as well as areas into which Bishop may have descended due to unexpected factors such as injury or weather.

If anyone has seen a sole male climber in the vicinity of the Grand Traverse or has information that might be helpful to this search, please contact Grand Teton National Park immediately at (307) 739-3301. Bishop is 5'7" tall and approximately 145 pounds, with brown hair. He may have been wearing a gray GoreTex jacket, black or khaki climbing pants, a blue fleece jacket, and a gray and silver climbing helmet.

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Spot Fire Ignites Near Pilgrim Creek In Grand Teton National Park**

An active thunderstorm moving through the Jackson Hole valley on Sunday, July 18, ignited a small fire along the Colter Bay wagon road near Pilgrim Creek in Grand Teton National Park. Responding to a report of smoke, park rangers located the spot fire smoldering at the base of a single spruce tree at 7:45 Sunday evening.

A Teton Interagency fire engine crew responded to the Wagon Fire at 8:50 Monday morning, July 19, and contained the fire at .10 acre by 9:50 a.m. No additional resources were required and fire personnel will continue to monitor this area for additional fire activity for the next several days. The Wagon Fire is located in a fire suppression zone identified in the park's fire management plan. All fires found within established suppression zones will be contained and controlled to reduce the threat to public safety and developed areas.

During Sunday's storm, multiple lightning strikes were recorded on the lightning detection map. A total of 1,572 lightning strikes were recorded with 1,358 showing as cloud to cloud lightning (negative strikes) and 214 showing as cloud to ground lightning (positive strikes). As weather conditions become warmer and drier over the next few days, additional spot fires may become apparent.

Last week, Teton Interagency fire managers raised the area fire danger from low to moderate. Recent warm weather and expected lightning activity may increase the risk of a wildland fire. To report a fire in Grand Teton National Park or on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, please call (307) 739-3630.

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Missing Climber Found Deceased

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is extremely saddened to announce that the body of Dwight Bishop, of Butte, Montana, was found by park rangers on the west side of the Grandstand in upper Valhalla Canyon Tuesday evening, July 20. Initial findings indicate that Bishop took a significant fall—perhaps falling as much as 1,000 feet—and died of massive traumatic injuries. He most likely slipped while free soloing the North Ridge of the Grand Teton, along the Grand Traverse.

After extensive search efforts that began Monday afternoon, July 19, a climbing party located a backpack in upper Valhalla Canyon and alerted two members of the search party to the pack at 5:50 p.m. Tuesday. As the two rangers proceeded to the location to investigate, the park's contract helicopter flew to the scene to perform aerial reconnaissance. A ranger in the helicopter spotted Bishop's body about 50 feet below the pack—approximately 11,000 feet in elevation—at 6:22 p.m. The two rangers on the ground descended to Bishop and prepared his body for helicopter transport to Lupine Meadows. The Teton County Coroner arrived at Lupine Meadows to transport Bishop's body to Valley Mortuary in Jackson, Wyoming.

Bishop was passionate about climbing and had been doing it for many years. He climbed extensively all over the world, in addition to Grand Teton.

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 25, 2004 04-37

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Food-Conditioned Bear Euthanized In Grand Teton National Park**

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that park biologists euthanized a male black bear, approximately eight years old, on Friday evening, July 23, out of concern for public safety. First trapped in June of 2002 for research purposes by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, bear number 65 had obtained at least a half dozen food rewards from unattended coolers and backpacks over the past few weeks. The repeated food rewards, habituation to people and increasingly bold behavior prompted park officials to make the decision to remove this bear from the population, eliminating potential threats to visitors.

The 229-pound bear began frequenting Jenny, String and Leigh lakes—areas of concentrated visitor use—after it obtained food from a cooler on the east side of Jenny Lake in early July. The bear exhibited no fear of people, approached hikers and picnickers repeatedly, and obtained food on several occasions. Last Saturday, July 17, park rangers trapped, collared and relocated the bear to the Grassy Lake Road area, near the park's northern border. By Thursday, July 22, the bear had made its way back to Leigh Lake—a distance of about thirty miles. That evening, a swimmer left their backpack unattended along the lakeshore, and the bear obtained another food reward from the pack. Given its history of repeated food rewards, its prompt return to Leigh Lake, and its ability to obtain food immediately upon return, the decision was made to euthanize this bear.

Superintendent Scott said, "It is very unfortunate that we were forced to destroy this bear, or any bear, because of human negligence. Bears like number 65 become problems only after obtaining successive food rewards associated with human activities."

Park officials remind visitors that bears are active this summer in Grand Teton, not only in the backcountry but also in areas of high visitor use. It is extremely important to dispose of garbage and store food properly—for the health and safety of bears, as well as for that of park visitors. Do not leave food or backpacks unattended, even for a minute. Use available storage facilities or hang food and scented items using the counter balance method when camping in the backcountry. Avoid surprising bears by making noise while hiking. Never run from bears, and do not drop backpacks if a bear charges you. Once a bear acquires human food, it often loses its fear of people and can become habituated and sometimes dangerous.

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July 25, 2004 04-38

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Rangers Assist Stranded Hikers

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a cell phone call from a hiker in Avalanche Canyon Saturday, July 24, requesting assistance for her friend, who had become stranded on a steep, 200-foot rock wall with a 40-foot overhang below. 19-year-old Oren Lambert, from Shorewood, Wisconsin and 20-year-old Chelsea Caldwell from Liberty, Missouri—two employees of the Grand Teton Lodge Company—were hiking off trail in lower Avalanche Canyon and decided to climb up out of the canyon to attempt to reach the top of a steep, rocky ridge on the north side. Lambert became stuck on the steep rock face and was unable to either ascend or descend safely.

Chelsea placed a cell phone call to rangers at 3:30 p.m. requesting assistance; she was unsure whether Lambert had fallen and was not in verbal contact with him. Due to the complex terrain in lower Avalanche Canyon, the inability to pinpoint Lambert's exact location, and the fact that he might have fallen and been injured, rangers requested the assistance of the park's contract helicopter. The helicopter flew aerial reconnaissance and was able to quickly locate the party at 4:25 p.m. The helicopter dropped four rangers off at Lake Taminah, the nearest possible landing zone, and they hiked down the canyon, then ascended to just above where Lambert was stuck and rappelled approximately 200 feet down to him. Rangers then lowered Lambert 100 feet into a nearby gully, where he could walk out safely. Rangers escorted Lambert and Caldwell by headlamp out of the canyon; they reached the trailhead at 10:30 p.m.

Backcountry users should be aware that hiking and climbing have inherent risks. Your safety is your responsibility, and depends on your good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant awareness. Hikers and climbers should be in good physical condition and stick to hikes and routes that are within your ability and comfort levels. Appropriate equipment and the knowledge of how to use it are essential for a safe trip. Visitors should consult climbing guidebooks or visit the Jenny Lake Ranger Station before attempting to scramble up unfamiliar rock. It is often easier to climb up than it is to descend the same terrain, and rocky terrain is often more difficult than it looks at first glance.

This marks the seventh major search and rescue effort in the park this year.

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Gerald Halpin 703-356-2400  
Leslie Mattson-Emerson 307-690-8603

### **Leslie Mattson-Emerson Selected As Executive Director For The Grand Teton National Park Foundation**

G.T. Halpin, Chair of the Board of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation announced today that Leslie Mattson-Emerson will lead the organization. Mattson-Emerson previously served as Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. During her twelve-year tenure at the Land Trust, Mattson-Emerson oversaw the successful Campaign for Our Valley, which raised over \$26.5 million for private land protection in Jackson Hole. In addition to fundraising Mattson-Emerson oversaw the protection of nearly 10,000 acres of private land including several public access projects.

Mr. Halpin said, "Leslie brings a wealth of experience, a proven track record and a profound commitment to the natural resources of the area. We are all delighted to have her on board."

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent, Mary Gibson Scott commented that she is very pleased about Mattson-Emerson's selection. "The park staff and I are so excited to have such an outstanding person stepping into this position. Having Leslie as the executive director of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation is a dream come true."



The Grand Teton National Park Foundation was founded in 1997 to raise funds to support resource protection and visitor services in Grand Teton National Park. A private, nonprofit organization directed by a 29 member Board, the foundation has 600 members and a variety of business partners. Past projects include raising funds to preserve historic sites such as Mormon Row and Menors Ferry. The Foundation has also funded studies of wolverines, lynx and black bears and their activity in the Park.

-MORE-

The Foundation is currently working on an innovative public-private partnership with the National Park Service to design, build and finance a modern and more adequately sized visitor center at Moose, Wyoming. This new facility will replace the very small outdated visitor center and will serve as the southern gateway to the Grand Teton – Yellowstone National Park area. It will provide an extraordinary educational and interpretive experience to the millions of people who visit every year. It will be the only visitor center in the region that will offer dramatic visual information on the natural resources in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and will provide travel information and orientation to areas and communities outside the park.

To learn more about the Grand Teton National Park Foundation contact Mattson-Emerson at 307-732-0629.



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July 28, 2004 04-40

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Injured Climber Evacuated from Middle Teton**

Grand Teton National Park rangers evacuated an injured climber by helicopter from near the South and Middle Teton saddle this morning, Wednesday, July 28, at approximately 8:35 a.m. Mysha Miskin, age 30, from Rexburg, Idaho was struck by rockfall at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, while climbing the Chouinard Ridge on the Middle Teton with her husband, Garon Miskin.

Although Mysha was injured by a rock that struck her just below the back of her climbing helmet, she and Garon continued to climb and summit the Middle Teton so that they could safely descend an easier route via the S.W. Couloir on the Middle Teton. By the time the climbers reached a point just below the saddle between Middle Teton and South Teton, Mysha was not able to continue further. Garon hiked back up to the saddle and made a 911 call for assistance at 10:23 Tuesday night.

Two park rangers with emergency medical gear began hiking from Lupine Meadows trailhead into the South Fork of Garnet Canyon within an hour of the emergency call and reached Mysha at about 2:45 on Wednesday morning. Four additional rangers also packed in extra medical equipment and camping gear to care for the injured Mysha until the park's contract helicopter could fly with early morning light.

This morning, park rangers carried Mysha by hand litter to a helicopter landing spot just east of the Middle and South Teton saddle, where she was then placed inside the ship for transport to the Lupine Meadows rescue facility. At 8:40 a.m., she was transferred to a park ambulance for transport to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for treatment of her injuries.

Garon applied emergency first aid to his wife and the two climbers practiced good self rescue procedures until park rangers could reach them. They were well prepared for their climbing excursion and had extra clothing and raingear with them.

This marks the eighth major search and rescue operation in Grand Teton this year.

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Hiker Rescued from Disappointment Peak Couloir

Grand Teton National Park rangers completed a second helicopter-assisted rescue and evacuation of an injured person today, Wednesday, July 28, at approximately 4:30 p.m. Elizabeth Messaros, age 22, of Moose, Wyoming dislocated her shoulder while attempting to stop herself from sliding after she slipped on hard-packed snow in the Spoon Couloir on Disappointment Peak. Messaros slid about 150 feet before running into rocks and sustaining additional injuries.

Teton Interagency dispatch received a cell phone call from Messaros' hiking partner Steve, also of Moose, Wyoming, about 11:40 a.m. Rangers were just completing the transfer of equipment and rescue personnel from the South Fork of Garnet Canyon after a morning evacuation of an injured climber near the Middle Teton.

The park's contract helicopter shuttled six rangers to a landing spot on the flanks of Disappointment Peak near the Grand Teton. Rangers descended the Spoon Couloir, provided emergency medical care to Messaros, and lowered her to the bottom of the couloir after placing her in a climbing harness affixed to ropes. Rangers helped Messaros walk to a spot just above Amphitheater Lake where the helicopter landed and picked her up for a flight to the Lupine Meadows rescue facility. Messaros was then transferred to a park ambulance and transported to St. John's Medical Center for treatment of her injuries.

Messaros was wearing tennis shoes and using ski poles, rather than an ice axe, at the time of the accident. Backcountry hikers and climbers are cautioned to carry ice axes and know how to use them whenever they cross snowfields in the Teton Range.

This marks the ninth major search and rescue operation in the park this year.

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August 2, 2004 04-42

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Roadwork Project Begins on Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park**

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a chip seal road project is scheduled to begin Monday, August 9, on Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park. Work will begin at the Cunningham Cabin turnoff near Triangle X Dude Ranch and proceed south to approximately the Jackson Hole Airport junction. Roadwork will also include seven wayside turnouts along this route. Recorded road construction information is available by dialing (307) 739-3614. The park's website [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte) will also provide current information.

Traffic signals will be placed at the north and south ends of the work area. Minimum delays of up to 15 minutes may be experienced as pilot cars escort vehicles through the project zone. For the next two weeks, work is scheduled to be underway Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. No road work will occur over the weekends.

The chip sealing process involves sweeping the road and sealing it with heavy road oil. Crushed gravel is then spread over the top of the oil and rolled in. Chip seal application is the standard procedure used on highways in order to provide a better wear surface for older roads and thereby extend their longevity.

Motorists are cautioned to be alert for flaggers and to obey lower speed limits through the chip sealed area. Slow speed limits (35 miles per hour) will be posted for several days following chip seal work to prevent loose gravel from being kicked up by vehicle tires, potentially causing windshield damage.

On the North Park Road project, from Leeks Marina to Yellowstone National Park south gate, no work is currently taking place during nighttime hours. Consequently, there are **no delays during the nighttime hours**. However, daytime delays of up to 30 minutes can be expected from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. throughout this roadwork area.

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August 3, 2004 04-43

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Armed Robbery Incident at Grand Teton National Park**

Grand Teton National Park rangers and Teton County Sheriff deputies responded to an emergency 911 call from Will Winkler, a resident of Kelly, Wyoming, at 10:45 last night, August 2. Winkler reported that he was the victim of an armed robbery that had just occurred along the Gros Ventre Road between the Gros Ventre Campground and the community of Kelly. Winkler was driving home when he was hailed down by a man who appeared to be distressed and in need of assistance. When Winkler stopped to provide help, the man pulled a hunting knife on him and demanded that he empty his pockets and hand over his car keys. The man took some money, threw both Winkler's wallet and car keys into the sagebrush, and proceeded to walk westward on the Gros Ventre Road.

The suspect is reported to be a white male with a full beard, who was wearing a gray sweatshirt, khaki shorts, and sandals at the time of the robbery. Seven park rangers and six deputy sheriffs used a search dog and night vision goggles to comb areas along the Gros Ventre Road and throughout the campground looking for the fugitive. Although search efforts were temporarily halted at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, park rangers resumed the search at daybreak.

Residents of Kelly and surrounding homes, and park visitors, are requested to notify law enforcement authorities if they see a man fitting the above description or have any details that might be helpful in the investigation of this robbery. Please call (307) 739-3327 with any leads or information.

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Lightning Strike Ignites Small Fire near Emma Matilda Lake in Grand Teton National Park**

A Teton Interagency fire crew responded to a report of smoke between Emma Matilda and Two Ocean lakes, near the northern Emma Matilda Lake loop trail, at 1:45 p.m. on Monday, August 2, and confirmed that a small fire had ignited. The Two Ocean Fire apparently began when lightning struck a tree and blew a piece of burning bark to the ground, where it ignited a bed of dry vegetation at the base of a nearby tree.

Three crew members hiked into the area of the fire and reported the fire's size as less than a quarter of an acre. The Two Ocean Fire is located within the park's wildland fire use zone, allowing it to be managed for resource benefits. Naturally-ignited fires within wildland fire use zones are allowed to burn if all safety and fire management standards are met. With each wildland fire use incident, the park's fire management committee meets to evaluate the management response, based on the fire's location and fuel conditions, the current fire danger rating and available resources. The Two Ocean Fire is not threatening any structures or developed areas, and its potential to spread is low. The fire is near the site of the 50-acre Emma Matilda Fire, which burned in similar vegetation in July of 1994. Three personnel will remain on scene to monitor the Two Ocean Fire's progress.

There are no road or trail closures in effect at this time. The Two Ocean Fire is the fourth lightning-caused fire in Grand Teton National Park this year. The area fire danger is rated Moderate. As warmer, drier weather conditions continue, the potential for wildland fire activity may increase. To report a fire in Grand Teton National Park or the Bridger-Teton National Forest, please call (307) 739-3630. Up-to-date fire information for these areas can be found at [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com).

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August 9, 2004 04-45

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Road Construction Projects Update Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway**

Road work on the North Park Road improvement project within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway will be **underway 7 days a week** beginning Monday, August 9, and continuing through the months of September and October. The road construction zone includes portions of Highway 89/287 between Leeks Marina, north of Colter Bay Village, and the south entrance of Yellowstone National Park. Work will be underway each day of the week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and delays of up to 30 minutes can be expected. Recorded road construction information is available by dialing (307) 739-3614 or by visiting the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte).

Frequent rain and snowstorms during May and June combined with recurring afternoon thunderstorms during July have repeatedly delayed work on this road project. In order to complete work before winter snowfall, the project contractor has been given approval from the park to work 7 days a week for the remainder of August and throughout the months of September and October.

Road construction **will not** take place over the Labor Day weekend; work will temporarily halt during the holiday weekend from 7 p.m. Friday, September 3, through 7 a.m. Tuesday, September 7, 2004.

In addition to the ongoing work on the North Park Road, a chip sealing project will begin on Monday morning, August 9, on Highway 26/89/191 at Cunningham Cabin turnoff near Triangle X Dude Ranch. Over the span of two weeks, chip sealing will proceed southward on approximately 14 miles of roadway, ending near the Jackson Hole Airport junction. This project is scheduled to be underway Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Motorists should expect minimal delays of up to 15 minutes while pilot cars escort traffic through the project zone. Area residents and park guests who need to access the Jackson Hole Airport to meet scheduled flights may wish to plan extra driving time, accordingly.

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August 9, 2004 04-46

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Injured Backpacker Evacuated from Fox Creek Pass**

Grand Teton National Park rangers, with the assistance of the park's contract helicopter, evacuated an injured backpacker from Fox Creek Pass on Monday, August 9, around noon. John Waldner, age 50, from Southampton, PA suffered injuries to his ankle and knee, and was unable to walk out on his own.

Waldner was hiking the Teton Crest Trail with his wife and four other companions when the accident occurred. The party started hiking from the aerial tram in Teton Village yesterday, August 8. Later that afternoon, Waldner lost his footing on some loose rocks near Fox Creek Pass, twisting both his ankle and his knee. The group set up camp near where the incident took place. A physician who was hiking in the area examined Waldner's injuries this morning and continued hiking until she encountered a backcountry ranger who was on patrol; she relayed Waldner's condition and location to the ranger.

The backcountry ranger located the party, assessed Waldner's injuries, then contacted Teton Interagency Dispatch at 10:00 a.m. to report the incident. Based on the extent of Waldner's injuries, the unavailability of horses for evacuation, and the party's distance from the nearest trailhead, rangers decided to utilize the park's contract helicopter. One ranger was flown to the scene to assist with the helicopter evacuation of Waldner and his wife. After being transported to Lupine Meadows, the Waldners drove themselves to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson. The other members of the Waldner's party continued their backpacking trip as planned.

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

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August 10, 2004 04-47

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Multiple Incidents Keep Rangers Busy in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to two more incidents in the backcountry Monday evening, August 9. John Littel, age 49, from Seattle, WA, sustained a leg injury after falling near Surprise Lake. Rangers evacuated Littel by helicopter around 8:00 p.m. Monday evening. Ayako Miller, age 32, from Greenville, SC sprained her knee during an ascent to the Lower Saddle on Sunday, August 8. A park wrangler assisted rangers in evacuating her by horseback Monday, around 7:30 p.m. Earlier on Monday, rangers evacuated an injured backpacker from Fox Creek Pass by helicopter.

Littel was day hiking by himself, carrying a heavy pack filled with photography equipment, when he caught his leg between two boulders near the shore of Surprise Lake and injured his lower leg. A nearby hiker used a cell phone to call Teton Interagency Dispatch at 4:30 p.m. Based on the extent of Littel's injury, his inability to walk further, and the need for him to receive immediate medical assistance, rangers decided to utilize the park's contract helicopter to evacuate him. The helicopter flew two rangers to a landing zone near Amphitheater Lake; from there, the rangers hiked about a half mile to Mr. Littel and provided emergency medical care. The helicopter then flew four more rangers to the landing zone. These rangers brought a rescue litter to Littel, carried him back up to the landing zone, and transported him in the helicopter to Lupine Meadows. The park's ambulance took Littel to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment of his injury.

Miller's injury occurred Sunday while ascending to the Lower Saddle with Exum Mountain Guides. Miller slipped on a boulder and twisted her knee on the climber's trail near the bottom of the Moraine camping zone. She was able to ascend to the Lower Saddle that day, with assistance, but she did not climb the Grand Teton with the rest of the guided group. The group began their descent from the Lower Saddle around 1:30 p.m. Monday, but guides placed a cell phone call from just above the Garnet Canyon Meadows at 4:30 p.m. to request assistance from park rangers. An off-duty ranger who had been climbing in the area helped transport Miller through the boulder field above the Platforms to where a park wrangler with a horse could meet them, approximately three miles from the Lupine Meadows trailhead. The evacuation concluded around 9:30 p.m., and Miller left the area by private vehicle.

The helicopter evacuation marks the eleventh major search and rescue effort in Grand Teton National Park this year.

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August 10, 2004 04-48

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Human-Caused Fire Controlled Near Two Ocean Lake

A Teton Interagency fire crew responded Tuesday, August 10, at 10:30 a.m. to a report of a small human-caused fire near the northwest shore of Two Ocean Lake in Grand Teton National Park. The Blackburn Fire was apparently started by out-of-bounds campers who left it smoldering when they departed from the area.

Two crew members hiked in to the location, reaching the fire at 12:45 p.m. Park visitors hiking in the vicinity had already established a line around the burn area and thrown dirt onto any visible flames before the firefighters arrived. With the advance help of these visitors, the Blackburn Fire was declared controlled by 1:00 p.m. and declared out at 2:35 p.m.

The Blackburn Fire is the third human-caused fire in Grand Teton National Park this year. All three have been related to campfire use. In accordance with the park's fire management plan, all human-caused fires are suppressed.

Visitors are reminded that campfires are **only allowed** in fire grates within frontcountry park campgrounds and in established fire rings at some designated backcountry lakeshore campsites. Unattended or abandoned campfires can escalate into wildland fires, and it is extremely important that all campfires are completely extinguished and cold to the touch before campers leave the site.

The fire danger rating for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest is Moderate. To report a fire in either area, please call (307) 739-3630. The most up-to-date fire information for these areas can be found at [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com).

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August 11, 2004 04-49

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Domestic Calf Found Dead In Northeast Corner of Grand Teton National Park**

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a 400-pound Hereford calf was apparently killed by a wolf sometime late Tuesday, August 10, or early Wednesday, August 11, on the Elk Ranch grazing allotment near Moran Junction in Grand Teton National Park. Two federal wolf program staff discovered the carcass this morning, August 11, at about 9 a.m. and accompanied the range rider for the Porter-Gill grazing permittee to the site. Following wolf-related depredation protocol, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's wolf program coordinator, Mike Jimenez, was immediately notified. Jimenez inspected the carcass and verified that the domestic calf was killed by a wolf. This depredation marks the first confirmed livestock kill by a wolf in Grand Teton National Park.

Wolves from the Teton Pack have denned in the area known as the Elk Ranch since 1999 with virtually no livestock-related incidents. Staff monitoring wolf activity for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service noted that wolves have been recently traveling near the grazing cattle herd on a daily basis - without incident - to hunt and kill elk on the east bank of the Snake River.

Wolves, mountain lions, and both black and grizzly bears frequent the Elk Ranch. Park staff will monitor the Elk Ranch area and no management actions will be implemented at this time.

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National Park

PO Box 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 18, 2004 04-50

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Rangers Respond to Both Highway and Mountain Accidents**

Grand Teton National Park rangers were busy yesterday afternoon and evening, August 17, as they responded to a vehicle collision south of Gros Ventre Junction and an injured climber at the Lower Saddle between the Middle and Grand Teton. The traffic accident happened on Highway 26/89/191 at 2:20 p.m., and the mountain accident took place around 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday afternoon, rangers responded to a cell phone call made by a passing motorist that a serious traffic accident had just occurred on Highway 26/89/191 near the turnout at the park's south boundary. A southbound, semi tractor-trailer driven by Corry Bassett, age 27, of Afton, Wyoming, struck the rear of a Mercury Villager minivan driven by Ernest Schreiner, age 44, of Gillette, Wyoming. The force of the impact caused Schreiner's minivan to leave the pavement, rotate 180 degrees, and roll onto its roof before coming to rest in the sagebrush off the side of the road. Schreiner and his 20-year-old son, Matt, were wearing seat belts and escaped serious injury; however, both men were transported by park rangers to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for treatment of other injuries.

The accident occurred when traffic began to slow down through an area of road construction just north of the park's boundary. Bassett was apparently unable to slow down his semi truck before colliding with the rear-end of Schreiner's minivan. After hitting the Mercury Villager, Bassett's tractor-trailer blocked both lanes of traffic. Park rangers closed the highway for approximately 20 minutes to clear the semi truck from the road and conduct an investigation of the accident. Rangers then provided traffic control for approximately 2 more hours, keeping the highway open while further investigation took place and the disabled minivan was removed from the scene.

Exum Mountain Guides called park rangers at 7:20 Tuesday evening to report that a falling rock had struck and injured the leg of one of their clients, Anthony J. Chereso, age 41, of Schaumburg, Illinois, while he was climbing near the lower end of a fixed rope below the Lower Saddle. Exum guides provided emergency medical care to the injured Chereso and assisted him in reaching an overnight hut located on the Lower Saddle. Due to his injuries, Chereso was not able to walk further. The park's contract helicopter, returning from another assignment, was diverted to the area to evacuate the injured climber. Chereso was air-lifted from the Lower Saddle at approximately 8:10 p.m. and taken to the Lupine Meadows rescue cache where he was then transported by Exum staff to St. John's Medical Center for further treatment.

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

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 31, 2004 04-51

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Fall Programs Begin in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott 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 7, 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 geology walk along Jackson Lake, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 9 a.m. from the Colter Bay Visitor Center.
- **Walk into the Past**, a 30-minute walk around Menor's Ferry Historic Area near the Moose Visitor Center, 2 p.m. daily from Menor's Ferry General Store.
- **Teton Profiles**, a 20-minute Teton orientation, 11 a.m. and 3 p.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 hike, 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday 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. Monday, Friday and Saturday at the Colter Bay amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Evening Slide-Illustrated Programs**, presented 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at the Signal Mountain campground amphitheater, and 8 p.m. Monday, Friday and Saturday 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 30 at Jenny Lake and Moose visitor centers, and through October 3 at Colter Bay. The Jenny Lake Visitor Center will close for the season on Thursday, September 30 and the Colter Bay Visitor Center closes Sunday, October 3. Park visitor centers will be open from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. daily throughout September.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 1, 2004 04-52

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Park Resident Injured in a Horse-Drawn Wagon Accident**

Teton Interagency Dispatch received a phone call this morning, September 1, at 8:40 a.m. from Jackson Lake Lodge requesting emergency medical assistance for a wagon driver who received head injuries in an accident which occurred during the morning breakfast ride from Jackson Lake Lodge. Perrin Rutter, age 51, was driving a horse-drawn wagon when the horses became spooked by a moose in the willow bushes and suddenly ran for about 430 feet before stopping near a grove of trees. Rutter was thrown off her buckboard seat and injured as she fell to the ground. The accident occurred about three miles west of the lodge, along an old wagon road that runs between Jackson Lake Lodge and Colter Bay Village.

Grand Teton National Park rangers immediately responded to the scene of the accident from the nearby Colter Bay Ranger Station and a park ambulance arrived shortly after at 9:00 a.m. Park emergency medical technicians provided initial medical care to Rutter, but due to her injuries, summoned a life flight helicopter for transport to a local hospital. Portneuf Regional Medical Center sent a life flight ship which arrived at 9:50 a.m. and flew Rutter to the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls for further treatment.

When the accident occurred, two lodge guests were riding aboard the wagon with Rutter. Neither of these passengers was injured in the incident.

Rutter lives in Grand Teton National Park with her husband John, who is the senior vice president and chief operating officer for Grand Teton Lodge Company.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 6, 2004 04-53

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

### Grand Teton National Park Begins Roadwork in Upcoming Weeks

A road paving project is scheduled to start this week on the Moose-Wilson Road, within Grand Teton National Park. In addition, bridge replacement projects will soon begin during subsequent weeks in mid-September and early October. On Wednesday, September 8, paving will take place along the Moose-Wilson Road, between the Moose Visitor Center and the Granite Canyon Entrance Station. This paving project will be underway, weather permitting, during Wednesday, September 8 and Thursday, September 9. Additional paving work may occur on Monday, September 13. Delays of up to ten minutes can be expected while work is in progress.

During the next several weeks, three bridges on secondary park roads are also scheduled to be replaced. These bridges include: the Climber's Ranch bridge over Cottonwood Creek, near the Highlands housing area; the Lupine Meadows bridge over Cottonwood Creek, which provides access to the Lupine Meadows trailhead, just south of Jenny Lake; and the Lake Creek bridge, near the JY Ranch on the Moose-Wilson Road.

Work will begin at the Climber's Ranch bridge on Wednesday, September 15, and at the Lupine Meadows bridge on Friday, October 1. Both bridges will be closed to all traffic, except emergency vehicles, through April 30, 2005.

Work on the Lake Creek bridge will also begin on Friday, October 1, and this bridge will be closed to all traffic through November 30, 2004. Area residents and park visitors wishing to access the Death Canyon trailhead must travel south on the Moose-Wilson Road from the Teton Park Road junction, near the Moose Visitor Center. People planning to hike from the Granite Canyon trailhead should access this area by traveling north from Teton Village, through the Granite Canyon Entrance Station. No through traffic will be possible during the bridge closure from October 1 through November 30.

For further information about these and other road construction projects going on in the park, visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte) or call the recorded message line at 307-739-3614.

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September 6, 2004 04-54

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Rangers Evacuate Injured Climber from Teewinot Mountain**

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a request for assistance regarding an injured climber on Teewinot Mountain Sunday evening, September 5, at 6:10 p.m. Jeff Hopewell, age 31, from Arlington, Texas, injured his right ankle after falling approximately ten to twelve feet over a ledge while descending the mountain.

Hopewell and six companions had attempted to reach Teewinot's summit and were descending the steep East Face around 4:00 p.m. when the fall occurred. Two members of the party hurried down to the Jenny Lake Ranger Station to report the accident and request assistance. Rangers assessed the situation, evaluated the risk to rescue personnel as well as to the injured party, and decided that a wheeled litter evacuation would be safer than a helicopter evacuation. After contacting rangers at the Lower Saddle and verifying that all climbing parties had returned from the Grand Teton, it was determined that the chances of another accident were low and that sufficient numbers of rescue personnel were available to assist with evacuating Hopewell. Hopewell's relatively minor injury and the absence of a suitable helicopter landing zone near his location were also contributing factors in the decision to utilize a wheeled litter for evacuation.

Nine rangers and two fire personnel ascended approximately 3,200 feet to reach Hopewell near the top of the Apex Trail – about 10,000 feet in elevation – at 7:30 p.m. After providing emergency medical care and stabilizing Hopewell for transport, rangers began manually lowering him to the valley floor. In steeper areas, where the climber's trail was not adequate to accommodate the wheeled litter safely, rangers used a rope and anchor system to conduct a series of lowerings to bring Hopewell down the mountain. The rescue party reached Lupine Meadows at 10:40 p.m., and members of Hopewell's climbing party drove him to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment.

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

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September 7, 2004 04-55

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Climbing Accident Results in Fatality on Disappointment Peak**

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a report of a serious climbing accident at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 6. Adam Heiner, age 29, Eric Newman, age 30, and Frank Olding, age 40, all from Seattle, Washington, were climbing the East Ridge of Disappointment Peak – a technical route rated 5.6 on the Yosemite Decimal System – when a rappel anchor failed, causing Olding to fall approximately 50 feet. He died shortly after, from traumatic injuries sustained in the fall.

The climbing trio began their ascent of the East Ridge at 7:00 a.m. on Monday morning from their camp at Surprise Lake. After reaching the top of the fourth pitch, it appears that Olding assessed the next pitch and decided that it might be beyond the skill levels of his climbing partners. As he began to rappel in order to look for an easier route, his anchor failed. After Olding's fall, Heiner used slings and rock protection to down climb and reach Olding to assess his condition. Due to Olding's extensive injuries, Heiner quickly continued by rappelling the rest of the way down the technical climb. He then descended to Amphitheater Lake where he located a hiker with a cell phone to place a call for help. Newman was stranded at the original anchor site, because Heiner's descent required the use of all their climbing gear. Neither Heiner nor Newman was injured in the incident.

The park's contract helicopter began flying a total of seven park rangers and rescue equipment to the scene at 4:00 p.m. Two rangers reached Olding shortly after and determined that he was deceased. Meanwhile, two additional rangers used a rope and pulley system to begin raising Newman about 100 feet to a safe location, where they could reach a helicopter landing spot on the broad east slope below the summit of Disappointment Peak. All three climbers were airlifted off the peak before dark and flown to the Lupine Meadows rescue cache. The Teton County Coroner, Bob Campbell, arrived at Lupine Meadows to transport Olding's body to Valley Mortuary in Jackson, Wyoming.

The three men were all wearing helmets at the time of the accident. According to Heiner, Olding was an avid and experienced climber.

This marks the fourteenth major search and rescue and the second mountain fatality in Grand Teton National Park this year.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 7, 2004 04-56

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks Observe National Public Lands Day**

Visitors entering Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks on Saturday, September 18, 2004 will have their entrance fees waived in recognition of National Public Lands Day. To observe the eleventh anniversary of National Public Lands Day, all park entrance fees, including transportation and commercial tour entrance fees, will be waived for the day. Normally, an entry permit for Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks costs \$20 for a private, non-commercial vehicle.

National Public Lands Day was established in 1993 to increase awareness of the value of all public lands, to foster shared stewardship of these national resources, and to encourage people to volunteer their time. Federal land agencies are creating partnerships with private individuals and citizen groups in an effort to improve, restore or enhance public lands and provide additional opportunities for education, outdoor recreation, and enjoyment.

“We encourage visitors to take advantage of this free entry day in Grand Teton and Yellowstone. It’s also a great time to find solitude, catch the fall color display, and enjoy exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities,” states Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott.

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September 7, 2004 04-57

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### White Grass Ranch Environmental Document Available For Public Review

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that an Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AEF)) for the White Grass Ranch Rehabilitation and Adaptive Use is available for public review and comment. Comments will be accepted through October 12, 2004.

White Grass Ranch, located in Grand Teton National Park three miles west of Moose, Wyoming, is accessible off the Moose-Wilson Road. The purpose of this proposed action is to rehabilitate and preserve historic structures and portions of the cultural landscape at White Grass Ranch, and to adaptively use the area as a western center for historic preservation training and technology.

The Western Center for Preservation Training and Technology would offer opportunities for Grand Teton and other National Park Service (NPS) employees, volunteers, visiting students, contractors and other federal agency personnel to learn how to preserve and rehabilitate historic structures in the Intermountain Region, beginning with those in Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. The NPS solicited comments from the public on this proposal during a scoping period held from February 18 through March 21, 2004. A decision will be reached on this project following review and incorporation of public input received during the EA/AEF comment period.

The EA/AEF, prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), examines four alternatives: Alternative 1 – No-Action; Alternative 2 – Minimal Basic Functions; Alternative 3 – Phased Development (Preferred Alternative); and Alternative 4 – Complete Build- Out.

In the preferred alternative – Alternative 3 – three historic buildings would be rehabilitated immediately and used as the training and technology facility. Initially, lodging would not be available; however, as trainees rehabilitate additional cabins, up to 15 overnight users and trainees could be accommodated on a seasonal basis between the spring and fall. Eventually, all 13 buildings would be rehabilitated and adaptively used as part of the training and technology center. The preferred alternative would have full utilities and provide handicap accessibility.

Copies of the White Grass Ranch Rehabilitation and Adaptive Use EA/AEF are available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at Teton County Library reference desk. The document is posted online at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm) Call 307-739-3467 for further information.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 13, 2004 04-58

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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 7	(closed)
Jenny Lake	September 27	(12 noon)
Colter Bay	September 27	(12 noon)

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

Flagg Ranch Information Station	September 6	(closed)
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	September 26	(5:00 pm)
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	September 30	(5:00 pm)

#### OCTOBER CLOSURES

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

Colter Bay Visitor Center	October 3	(5:00 pm)
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##### **Campgrounds**

Gros Ventre	October 18	(12 noon)
Signal Mountain	October 18	(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**

Moose-Wilson Road	October 31	(evening)
Teton Park Road	October 31	(evening)

##### **Concessioner Lodging Closures**

Flagg Ranch	September 26
Colter Bay	September 26
Jackson Lake Lodge	October 6
Jenny Lake Lodge	October 10
Signal Mountain Lodge	October 17
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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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 13, 2004 04-59

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Boaters Spend Unexpected Overnight on the Snake River**

Grand Teton National Park rangers took a report Monday morning, September 13, of a boating accident that occurred on the Snake River at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, September 12. Karl Hammes, age 35, from Denver, Colorado, Christopher Texier, age 31, also from Denver, and his twin brother, Cory Texier, from St. Louis, Missouri, reported that they ran into a logjam on Sunday evening with their private dory while navigating through an area of the river known for its braided channels, about 2.5 miles north of Moose.

The trio put in at the Pacific Creek landing on Sunday, intending to float the twenty river miles to the Moose landing, fly fishing along the way. Throughout the day, they scouted the upper Snake successfully and stayed in the main channel. However, when they reached “Blowout Channel,” a multi-braided area upriver from Bar BC, they hit a logjam. All three men were thrown out of their boat. Cory landed in waist-deep water and waded to shore; however, Christopher and Karl were swept under the logjam debris. Fortunately, they flushed out the other side and were able to extract themselves from the river. The group managed to free the dory from the logjam, where it was pinned by the current. Because the boat was filled with water, it was heavy and began to pull the three men into the river. They decided to let it float downstream, rather than pull them into the river along with it – a good choice, in retrospect, that probably aided in their survival.

Cold, wet, disoriented, and having lost their gear, the group waded and swam several channels trying to get to the west bank. They reached a deep channel and decided that they could not continue swimming in such cold water, so they stopped on a gravel bar near the Bar BC Ranch and used a lighter to start a fire to warm themselves. Fires are typically not allowed in this part of Grand Teton National Park, but an emergency such as this warrants an exception to the rule. In this case, the group’s survival hinged on taking emergency measures and getting warm to reduce the risk of hypothermia from the cold, wet and windy weather conditions. They spent the night on the gravel bar and walked to the Moose Visitor Center Monday morning, where they reported the incident.

The boaters were all wearing life jackets at the time of the accident, which provided crucial flotation when Christopher and Karl were flushed out from under the logjam. However, they had neither obtained a permit for their boat, nor read the river condition report posted at the Pacific Creek landing, as well as at park visitor centers and ranger stations where permits are sold to all river users before they launch on park waters. Although the three men are experienced boaters, it was their first time floating this section of the Snake River – a section listed as expert on river information boards posted at park river landings. The Snake River is currently flowing at 2,800 cfs below the Buffalo Fork confluence.

This incident serves as a reminder that water temperatures remain very cold – currently 55 degrees Fahrenheit (12.7 degrees Celsius). 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

**-MORE-**

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U.S. Coast Guard approved safety equipment, including appropriately sized personal flotation devices (PFD's) 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 river or lake 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.

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September 17, 2004 04-60

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Moose-Wilson Road Closes to Through Traffic for Month of October**

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott reminds area residents and visitors that the Moose-Wilson road within Grand Teton National Park **will be closed to through traffic** beginning Friday, October 1, at 6:00 a.m. This closure is necessary to allow for replacement of the Lake Creek bridge, which lies two and one half miles north of Granite Canyon Entrance Station. Bridge replacement work will be underway through November 30. Annually, a portion of the Moose-Wilson Road closes for the winter season on November 1, and through travel is no longer possible until May 1 when the road reopens for the summer season. This year, motorists need to plan accordingly for an earlier closure in the month of October.

During this road closure, visitors wishing to access the Death Canyon trailhead can travel south along the Moose-Wilson Road from the intersection opposite the Moose Visitor Center. Those visitors who wish to reach the Granite Canyon trailhead may travel north from Teton Village on Highway 390 and pass through the Granite Canyon Entrance Station. Orange construction signs will alert motorists to road closure ahead, and barricades will be placed at both the Death Canyon road intersection and the Granite Canyon parking area. Absolutely **no through traffic** will be possible during the road closure. Visitors to this area of the park should also be alert for heavy construction vehicles that may be traveling the Moose-Wilson road in either direction.

Replacement work will also begin on Monday, October 4, at the Lupine Meadows bridge, which provides access to the Lupine Meadows trailhead south of Jenny Lake. Additionally, the bridge near the Highlands housing area, with access to the Climber's Ranch, is scheduled to close for replacement work on Monday, September 20. Vehicle access ends to both the Lupine Meadows and Climber's Ranch areas with the annual seasonal closure of the Teton Park Road at Taggart Lake parking area on November 1. These two bridges will remain closed until April 30, 2005.

For further information about these and other road construction projects going on in the park, visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte) or call the recorded message line at 307-739-3614.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 24, 2004 04-61

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Control of Non-Native Plant Underway in Rockefeller Parkway

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the National Park Service has undertaken aggressive efforts to control a non-native sedge unexpectedly found at a restoration site in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway.

A gravel pit located near the Snake River, used from the 1950s through the early 1990s, has been the site of restoration efforts since 2002. Restoration efforts have been paid for by funds from the Federal Lands Highway Program and the State of Wyoming Abandoned Mine Lands Program. Staff from Grand Teton National Park, which administers the Parkway, collaborated with the National Park Service Water Resource Division and Colorado State University on restoration designs, which called for reclaiming the site to a mix of wetlands, oxbow ponds, and upland features similar to those found on the adjacent undisturbed Snake River floodplain.

In June 2003, contractors planted more than 580,000 willow cuttings and other herbaceous wetland plants, which should have been propagated from locally collected seeds. Among the local native plants are three sedge (*Carex*) species, spikerush, and bluejoint grass.

In July 2004, Dr. David Cooper, a wetland scientist from Colorado State University, while inspecting the site for the National Park Service, became concerned that some of the growing sedge plants did not look like a native species. However, collection and positive identification of the plants was not possible until they flowered in August. National Park Service botanists at Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park and in the Intermountain Regional Office did not recognize the species as known to exist in the ecosystem. Samples were sent to two sedge experts at the University of Michigan and Washington State University. Both independently identified the plants as *Carex feta*, a sedge native to coastal California, Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. It is not native to Wyoming or the Rocky Mountain Region. An estimated 140,000 of the non-native plants are currently spread out over about 30 acres of the restoration area.

National Park Service policy prohibits deliberate introductions of non-native species, and calls for control of infestations, especially early on in their discovery when efforts to contain their spread may be most successful. The spread of this non-native species, up or downstream in the Snake River drainage, poses a threat to the ecology of the John D. Rockefeller Jr., Memorial Parkway and adjacent Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. In keeping with Integrated Pest Management Plans, Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott approved the use of hand pulling and the selective application of the herbicide "Rodeo" to control the new infestation.

(more)



Members of the National Park Service exotic plant management teams (EPMTs) located at Lake Mead, Carlsbad Caverns, Glacier, and Yellowstone National Parks are assisting Grand Teton staff with control efforts this week. Continued monitoring and subsequent control efforts will likely be necessary for several years at the Snake River Pit. A review is underway to determine how *Carex feta* might have turned up in the restoration site.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
**[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**  
September 28, 2004 04-62

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Three Bull Elk Poached In Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced that three mature bull elk were illegally shot and killed by four men in the Arizona Creek Drainage well inside of Grand Teton National Park early Monday morning, September 27.

The men, all Wyoming residents, were licensed to hunt in the Bridger-Teton National Forest with Wyoming Game and Fish permits. On Sunday evening, September 26, these men contacted a park ranger to verify boundary information and were advised with precise details about where the park boundary is located and how to identify it. The ranger reminded these hunters of the importance of being certain that they were inside the Bridger-Teton National Forest before beginning to hunt.

On Monday, other hunters in the area contacted the park to report shots from what they suspected was illegal hunting underway. Two park rangers and a Wyoming Game and Fish warden responded to the area and found the illegal hunters field dressing two of the three bull elk well inside of Grand Teton National Park.

Park rangers verified the identities of the illegal hunters and are currently working with the Assistant U.S. Attorney in Lander, Wyoming, to determine appropriate charges. Once charges are determined, the names of the men will be released.

The meat was sent to cold storage in Jackson, Wyoming, for the possibility of providing it to needy families. The remaining parts of the animals were left for scavengers to utilize.

Superintendent Gibson Scott reminds all area hunters that killing wildlife in a national park is a federal offense. Federal court prosecution for wildlife poaching carries significant penalties, which can include imprisonment, fines, seizure of equipment, and wildlife restitution charges.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 29, 2004 04-63

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

### **The Moose Wilson Road will close to through traffic on Monday, October 4**

The Moose-Wilson road within Grand Teton National Park **will be closed to through traffic** beginning Monday, October 4, at 7:00 a.m. This closure is necessary to allow for replacement of the Lake Creek bridge, which lies two and one half miles north of Granite Canyon Entrance Station. Bridge replacement work will be underway through November 30. Annually, a portion of the Moose-Wilson Road closes for the winter season on November 1, and through travel is no longer possible until May 1 when the road reopens for the summer season. This year, motorists need to plan accordingly for an earlier closure in the month of October.

During this road closure, visitors wishing to access the Death Canyon trailhead can travel south along the Moose-Wilson Road from the intersection opposite the Moose Visitor Center. Those visitors who wish to reach the Granite Canyon trailhead may travel north from Teton Village on Highway 390 and pass through the Granite Canyon Entrance Station. Orange construction signs will alert motorists to road closure ahead, and barricades will be placed at both the Death Canyon road intersection and the Granite Canyon parking area. Absolutely **no through traffic** will be possible during the road closure. Visitors to this area of the park should also be alert for heavy construction vehicles that may be traveling the Moose-Wilson road in either direction.

Replacement work will also begin on Monday, October 4, at the Lupine Meadows bridge, which provides access to the Lupine Meadows trailhead south of Jenny Lake. Additionally, the bridge near the Highlands housing area, with access to the Climber's Ranch, closed for replacement work on Monday, September 20. Vehicle access ends to both the Lupine Meadows and Climber's Ranch areas with the annual seasonal closure of the Teton Park Road at Taggart Lake parking area on November 1. These two bridges will remain closed until April 30, 2005.

For further information about these and other road construction projects going on in the park, visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte) or call the recorded message line at 307-739-3614.

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October 4, 2004 04-64

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Fire Management Plan Environmental Assessment Available For Public Review**

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that an environmental assessment (EA) on Grand Teton National Park's Fire Management Plan is available for public review and comment. The document is posted on the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm). Comments will be accepted through November 3, 2004.

Three EA alternatives were developed for the Fire Management Plan through an internal and external scoping process. The EA incorporates data from several sources including the Federal Fire Policy, park program goals and objectives, research and monitoring strategies, and experience from the current fire management program. The alternatives include: Alternative A – No-Action; Alternative B – Multiple Strategies and Adaptive Management (the preferred alternative); and Alternative C – Fewer Strategies (no prescribed fire) and Adaptive Management.

Proposed revisions to the park's current Fire Management Plan include: 1) integrating the previously separate Hazard Fuels Management Plan; 2) modifying existing fire management unit boundaries and corresponding management strategies; 3) expanding wildland fire use; 4) adopting a process of adaptive management decision-making to select, develop, implement, and monitor planned events, and determine appropriate management strategies for unplanned events; 5) defining current and desired future conditions for wildland-urban interface areas, and all park vegetation types, within an adaptive framework that provides for modifying these conditions as new information becomes available.

A public Open House is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2004 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Jackson Hole Middle School Commons. Park staff will be available at the Open House to provide information and answer questions on the environmental analysis conducted regarding the three Fire Management Plan alternatives. Interested individuals may wish to take the opportunity to make written and verbal comments while at the Open House. Comments may also be emailed to [GRTE\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:GRTE_planning@nps.gov), or mailed to Superintendent, Attn: Fire Management Plan EA, Grand Teton National Park, PO Drawer 170, Moose, Wyoming 83012.

Copies are available at the Moose Visitor Center and at the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library or available upon request. For further information, please contact Grand Teton National Park's planning office at (307)739-3390.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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October 25, 2004 04-65

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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 Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m. on the Teton Park Road between the Taggart Lake parking area and Signal Mountain Lodge parking lot, and on the Moose-Wilson Road between the Granite Canyon trailhead and Death Canyon trailhead. The Moose, Moran and Granite Canyon entrance stations are also scheduled to temporarily close as of Sunday, October 31; they will reopen for the winter season on Friday, December 17, 2004.

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 their pet's waste.

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.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 4, 2004 04-66

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

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Charges Filed For Elk Poaching In Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced that federal charges have been filed against three Wyoming men for poaching elk in the park on September 27, 2004. Jeffrey Wisenbaker, age 36, of Evanston, Shadron Wisenbaker, age 18, of Fort Bridger, and William Thompson, age 18, of Bear River all face charges for illegally killing three mature bull elk more than a mile inside the park's northeast boundary, in the Arizona Creek drainage.

On the morning of September 27, hunting guides on nearby Bridger-Teton National Forest reported hearing multiple gunshots from well inside the boundary of Grand Teton National Park. Park rangers and a Wyoming Game & Fish warden responded to the report and contacted what appeared to be hunters at the Arizona Creek trailhead. These individuals denied hunting inside the park, but directed rangers to where the shots were fired. Rangers then located Shadron and William in the park at the site of a freshly killed bull elk. During interviews with the hunters, investigating officers learned that two additional bull elk had also been shot and killed in the vicinity. Rangers confiscated the elk carcasses and the firearms involved in the incident.

Park rangers conducted a thorough investigation and worked closely with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Lander, Wyoming to complete the investigation and review the case. Subsequently, federal charges were served to both William and Shadron for illegal hunting and illegal possession of a firearm in a park. In addition, charges were filed against Jeffrey Wisenbaker for illegal hunting, illegal possession of a firearm in a park, and interfering with agency functions by making false statements.

All charges are made under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations and each requires a mandatory court appearance. The three men will appear at a later date before the U.S. Magistrate's Court in Jackson, Wyoming.

Each charge is punishable by fines of up to \$5,000 and/or six months imprisonment, restitution for each animal based upon Wyoming State standards (currently \$7,000 per animal), and court costs.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 16, 2004 04-67

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

### **Cow Moose Poached in Grand Teton National Park**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a cow moose, with her calf of the year nearby, was illegally shot and killed this morning, Tuesday, November 16, in the Kelly Hayfields east of Blacktail Butte. Two individuals, legally hunting elk in the area, witnessed the shooting at 7:45 a.m. and notified park rangers with information and a description of both the vehicle and person involved in this poaching incident.

Park rangers are searching for a late model Dodge Ram 4-wheel-drive pickup with California plates. The vehicle is a silver/gray extended cab truck with a long bed and no topper. The suspect is reported to be a clean-shaven, 6-foot tall, white male in his late twenties or early thirties, who was wearing an orange baseball cap.

Rangers arrived on the scene and located the dead cow moose just 200 yards north of the pole line road in the hayfields of Hunt Area 75. Rangers also found the moose calf lingering near its dead mother. Witnesses informed rangers that the suspect shot the moose at a distance of only one quarter mile, walked up to inspect the carcass, and then left the area driving his Dodge pickup south on the Antelope Flats loop road toward Kelly.

Park rangers, working in cooperation with adjacent jurisdictions, are aggressively pursuing the suspect and expect to locate him soon. Park rangers also request that anyone with information regarding the location of this truck and individual please contact the park's dispatch center at 739-3301.

Killing wildlife in a national park is a federal offense. Federal court prosecution for wildlife poaching carries significant penalties, which can include imprisonment, fines, seizure of equipment, and wildlife restitution charges.

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November 22, 2004 04-68

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Finding of No Significant Impact Determined for Teton Science School**

The National Park Service (NPS) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the environmental assessment titled *Teton Science School Rehabilitation and Improvement of Infrastructure*. The FONSI was signed by NPS Intermountain Regional Director Stephen P. Martin on November, 17, 2004.

The Teton Science School (TSS) Kelly Campus is located along Ditch Creek in the Antelope Flats portion of Grand Teton National Park, bordering Bridger-Teton National Forest. TSS is a nonprofit organization in partnership with Grand Teton that began operating in 1967. The school helps carry out the park's mission of providing environmental education within the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem to people of all ages.

Primary purposes for this project are: to provide student/employee housing and administrative space; to upgrade the existing water system; and to rehabilitate and improve handicap accessibility on campus trails.

After careful analysis of the impacts to cultural and natural resources, consideration of public comment, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the NPS has selected Alternative 4 - TSS Builds a Facility on the Kelly Campus - as the agency's preferred alternative. This alternative best meets the project purpose and need without causing an adverse effect to the Hunter Hereford Ranch Historic District.

Through implementation of Alternative 4, the TSS will build an architecturally compatible facility at the Kelly Campus with housing for five full-time and five seasonal residents, office space, equipment storage, and space for special functions. Seven existing buildings will be rehabilitated or replaced. With the newly-constructed facility and rehabilitation of existing structures, the Kelly Campus will house eleven additional full-time staff and five seasonal residents.

The NPS and TSS will rehabilitate the existing water system to provide a more sustainable and compliant water supply for human use and structural fire protection. The updated system will meet all federal and state drinking water standards. Portions of the existing hiking trail system will also be upgraded to make it an accessible trail system; no new trail construction is required. Other plan details, including mitigation measures designed to limit impacts to natural and cultural resources, are described in the FONSI. Project work will begin in the spring of 2005.

The FONSI for *Teton Science School Rehabilitation and Improvement of Infrastructure* is posted online at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm). Copies are available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library. For further information, please call 307-739-3390.

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December 6, 2004 04-69

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Finding of No Significant Impact Determined for Fire Management Plan**

The National Park Service issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a Grand Teton National Park environmental assessment (EA) titled *Fire Management Plan*. The FONSI was signed by NPS Intermountain Regional Director Stephen P. Martin on December 2, 2004.

Grand Teton's Fire Management Plan (FMP) was evaluated in an EA which was open to public review and comment during October 2004. The EA received concurrence from the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The preferred alternative – Alternative B – was selected for implementation following a thorough review of fire management goals, analysis of the impacts for each alternative on cultural, natural and social resources, consideration of public comment, and further consultation with the USFWS.

A revised FMP will continue to allow Grand Teton to counter the effects caused by past fire exclusion, and perpetuate fire in fire-dependent ecosystems while protecting life, property and park resources from unwanted fire. The new FMP will increase opportunities for wildland fire use, expand opportunities for using prescribed fire to meet resource objectives under a multi-year treatment schedule, and improve fuel reduction (mechanical fuel reduction and prescribed burning) treatments to enhance defensibility around developments, private lands and other resources at risk. The FMP will improve the management of fire on an ecosystem level by further integrating park lands with adjacent areas, and incorporating the plans, resources and risks associated with other jurisdictions at the private, county, state, regional and federal levels.

Topics of concern identified during scoping and evaluated in the EA include: vegetation; wildlife; threatened, endangered, and special concern species; water resources; wetlands; soils; wilderness; air quality; cultural resources; firefighter and public safety; park neighbors; and program costs. Mitigation measures described in the EA will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts. Grand Teton National Park will also follow national Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics, which are guidelines that address mitigation measures specific to fire-line construction, mop-up, aviation management, and restoration and rehabilitation.

The FONSI for the *Fire Management Plan* is posted online at [www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm). Copies are available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library. For further information, please call 307-739-3390.

**Grand Teton National Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 1929-2004**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 7, 2004 04-70

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Winter Season Activities Begin in Grand Teton National Park

Activities for the 2004–2005 winter season begin next week in Grand Teton National Park. On Wednesday, December 15, the Moose and Moran entrance stations and Flagg Ranch Information Station in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway will reopen for winter operations; the Granite Canyon Entrance Station opens Monday, December 20. Daily hours of winter operation for both the Moose and Flagg Ranch visitor centers will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and both locations will be closed Christmas Day in observance of the holiday.

A **Single Day Pass** is available to winter visitors at Grand Teton National Park's entrance stations. This winter-season permit allows a one-day entry into Grand Teton 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. 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 Grand Teton and the JDR Parkway
- \$15 One-day Pass valid for snowmobile entry to Grand Teton and the JDR Parkway
- \$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 p.m. everyday except Wednesday. Previous experience is not necessary and snowshoes are provided for participants. Reservations are required; please phone 307/ 739-3399.

**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 call the avalanche hotline at 307/ 733-2664.

**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 a designated winter trail, open to non-motorized use only. After sufficient snow accumulates, grooming of the unplowed roadway for cross-country touring and skate skiing will take place approximately twice a week from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. Severe winter storms and other road emergencies may preempt the trail grooming schedule. The TPR winter use trail consists of two 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 snowshoers, hikers and leashed dog use. For safety reasons, walkers are asked to stay off the groomed set of ski tracks.

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

**-MORE-**

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website at [www.nps.gov/grte/pphtml/maps.html](http://www.nps.gov/grte/pphtml/maps.html) , 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 and Uhl Hill**  
**Willow Flats**  
**Static Peak**  
**Prospectors Mountain**  
**Mount Hunt areas (see the park's cross-country ski brochure for descriptions)**

**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.

**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 Grand Teton and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and the Grassy Lake Road in the JDR Parkway, when conditions permit. Snowmobile operation hours are from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The CDST will not open until enough snow has accumulated to allow grooming for 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 through the Moran Entrance Station. Trail information is available through a recorded message by calling 307/ 739-3614.

Snowmobiles may also be used on the frozen surface of Jackson Lake for the purposes of ice fishing only. A Wyoming State fishing license and appropriate fishing gear must be in possession.

**Please Note:** Snowmobilers are required to use only approved best available technology (BAT) machines on the CDST and on Jackson Lake. Before operating a snowmobile in Grand Teton, check on current snowmobile regulations and approved BAT machines by visiting the park's website at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte) , or by stopping at the Moose Visitor Center.

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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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 21, 2004 04-71

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

### **Charges Pending for Moose Shot in Grand Teton National Park**

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced that federal charges are pending against Ryan Weber, age 29, of Palmdale, California for illegally shooting a cow moose in the park on November 16, 2004. Weber could face prosecution charges and fines of up to \$8,000 in connection with this incident.

Weber, a first-time elk hunter and a first-time hunter to the park, mistakenly identified a cow moose and her calf for an elk cow and calf on Tuesday morning, November 16, while he was legally hunting in the Kelly Hayfields area, east of Blacktail Butte. After taking a shot and killing the adult moose, Weber approached the carcass and discovered that the animal was not an elk. He then immediately left the area without contacting park rangers to report his error.

Two individuals who were also hunting elk in the area at the time, witnessed the shooting, notified park rangers, and supplied pertinent information about the hunter and his vehicle description. This information helped park rangers to locate Weber after he returned to his California home.

Grand Teton rangers, working with a National Park Service special agent from Joshua Tree National Park, contacted and interviewed Weber regarding the incident. Weber confessed and consequently faces charges that could include illegal taking of wrong species, wanton waste of wildlife, failure to report, and wildlife restitution penalties. The State of Wyoming recommends restitution values for individual species of wildlife taken in violation of Title 23, the Game and Fish Act. The restitution value for any moose is listed at \$7,500.

Park officials remind hunters that they are absolutely responsible to positively identify the animal they are about to shoot, and when in doubt, do not take the shot. If an animal is mistakenly shot, hunters should immediately contact a park ranger and report their error. By promptly and openly reporting a violation, hunters may face reduced charges and penalties.

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04-10

YELL: MATTHEWS, (307) 344-2010  
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## Yellowstone National Park News Release

On February 10, 2004, United States District Court Judge Clarence Brimmer issued an order temporarily restraining the National Park Service from enforcing the 2001 Snowcoach Rule in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway. Judge Brimmer also required the National Park Service to promulgate temporary rules for the remainder of the 2003-2004 season that will be fair and equitable to all parties.

An amendment to Yellowstone's National Park's Superintendent's Orders was signed today that will allow continued managed snowmobile use in the park. A similar order has been signed by Grand Teton National Park.

For Yellowstone National Park, the following restrictions are in place:

- 780 snowmobiles will be allowed to enter the park per day. Previously, 493 snowmobiles were allowed per day. The 780 snowmobiles are allocated as follows:
  - West Entrance - 400 (previously 278)
  - South Entrance - 220 (previously 90)
  - East Entrance - 100 (previously 65)
  - North Entrance - 60 (snowmobile numbers remain the same)
- The additional 287 snowmobiles allowed by the Superintendent's Order must be Best Available Technology (BAT) snowmobiles
- All snowmobiles must be commercially guided
- Routes that were previously designated snowcoach only will remain snowcoach only
- Park operating hours will remain the same – open 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller Memorial Parkway, 140 snowmobiles will be allowed each day. The 140 snowmobiles are allocated as follows:

- Grassy Lake Road (Ashton-Flagg Ranch) - 50 snowmobiles per day (previously 25)
- Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail - 50 snowmobiles per day (previously 25)
- Jackson Lake for fishing access only - 40 snowmobiles per day (previously 0)
- Snowplanes are prohibited on Jackson Lake
- There is no requirement for guides or BAT in Grand Teton or the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway
- The Grand Teton Park Road (the inside park road) remains open to skiing and snowshoeing only

Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway remain open to winter use, and we welcome and encourage park visitors to come enjoy the parks. Information on winter use in Yellowstone National Park, including the Judge's Order, can be found at [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell). Information on winter use in Grand Teton and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway, including the interim rule, can be found at [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte). A list of snowmobiles meeting NPS Best Available Technology requirements is attached.

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**Snowmobiles Meeting Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks'  
Best Available Technology (BAT) Requirements**

**February 11, 2004**

<b>Snowmobile</b>	<b>Average Air Emissions (g/kW-hr)</b>		<b>Sound Emissions (dBA)</b>
	Hydrocarbons	Carbon Monoxide	
<b>Average 2-Stroke Snowmobile (Non-BAT)</b>	150	400	No greater than 78*
<b>BAT Requirements</b>	Less than 15	Less than 120	73 or less
2002 Arctic Cat 4-Stroke Touring	6.20	79.95	71.3
2002 Arctic Cat 4-Stroke Trail	6.20	79.95	72.0
2002 Polaris Frontier Touring	3.19	79.15	74.6
2003 Arctic Cat 4-Stroke Touring	7.55	95.40	70.1
2003 Arctic Cat 4-Stroke Trail	7.55	95.40	72.2
2003 Polaris Frontier Classic	5.4	111.6	74.3
2003 Polaris Frontier Touring	5.4	111.6	73.3
2004 Arctic Cat T660 Touring	5.62	92.30	71.75
2004 Bombardier Ski-Doo Elite SE, equipped with the Elite BAT Upgrade	4.65	103.16	74.8
2004 Bombardier Ski-Doo Legend Sport GT V1000, equipped with BAT Upgrade (P/N 861-205-300)	6.12	92.93	72.3
2004 Polaris Frontier Classic	5.4	111.6	73.2
2004 Polaris Frontier Touring	5.4	111.6	73.7

\* Society of Automotive Engineers testing procedures allow for a 2 dB tolerance over the sound level limit to provide for variations in test site, temperature gradients, wind velocity gradients, test equipment, and inherent differences in nominally identical vehicles. (It has been observed that under some test site conditions, variability in test results greater than 2 dB can be experienced.)

**Notes**

- Emission figures presented are Official Test Results, which constitute an average of actual engine emissions.
- The 2002 Arctic Cat Trail and Touring models use the same engine and likewise have the same emissions. This is also the case with the 2003 Trail and Touring models.
- The Polaris 2003 and 2004 machines have identical emissions and sound results because only minor calibration changes were made between the model years, which would not affect emissions or sound.
- The 2004 Bombardier Ski-Doo Elite SE and Legend Sport GT V1000 must be equipped with BAT upgrade kits in order to meet BAT noise requirements. The upgrade kits lowers sound levels by controlling the maximum throttle body opening and use different software for the snowmobile's electronic control unit.

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**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 19, 2004 – 3:00 p.m. MDT  
04-85

Yellowstone National Park  
P.O. Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Matthews / Nash / Vallie  
(307) 344-2015

Grand Teton National Park  
P.O. Box 170  
Moose, WY 83012

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

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# Yellowstone/Grand Teton News Release

## Temporary Winter Use Plans Environmental Assessment Released for Public Review

The Temporary Winter Use Plans Environment Assessment for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and the draft Finding of No Significant Impact will be released for a 30-day public review Friday, August 20, 2004.

The environmental assessment contains five alternatives. The preferred alternative provides for a wide range of appropriate winter recreational opportunities including strictly limited and regulated snowmobile use while carrying out the National Park Service's mission to protect the natural and cultural resources of the three parks.

Specifically, the preferred alternative would allow 720 snowmobiles per day in Yellowstone led by commercial guides. This is below the historic use levels in the park and is somewhat lower than the level of access allowed during the last half of the 2003-2004 winter season. Commercial guides would not be required for the 140 snowmobiles per day allowed in Grand Teton National Park.

Under the preferred alternative, snowmobiles operating in Yellowstone would be allowed only on roads prepared for snowmobile use, which accounts for less than one-percent of the park. All snowmobiles entering the parks would be required to be four-stroke machines that meet the cleaner, quieter "Best Available Technology" standards.

Operating under a temporary winter use management plan for up to three years would give visitors, employees and residents of the park's gateway communities the information they want and need to plan for the near term. This would minimize economic impacts on gateway communities. It would also provide the National Park Service the opportunity to gather additional, real-time data to be used preparing permanent regulations for winter use in the parks.

The Temporary Winter Use Plans Environment Assessment and the draft Finding of No Significant Impact are available for review online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/winteruse-ea/>. Printed copies may be requested by calling Yellowstone National Park at (307) 344-2013. Comments can be submitted using an online form found at the above web address or by mail to Temporary Winter Use Plans EA, Yellowstone National Park, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190. Comments must be received by midnight on September 20, 2004.

A proposed rule guiding winter use for an interim period will be published in the *Federal Register* by early-September. It will have a separate review period and comment process.

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**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 7, 2004  
04-97

Yellowstone National Park  
P.O. Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Matthews / Nash / Vallie  
(307) 344-2015

Grand Teton National Park  
P.O. Box 170  
Moose, WY 83012

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

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# Yellowstone/Grand Teton News Release

## Proposed Winter Use Rule for Yellowstone and Grand Teton Published

The National Park Service today published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* for temporary winter use management in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway.

This is a separate and distinct public review period and comment process from that of the Temporary Winter Use Plans Environment Assessment and draft Finding of No Significant Impact, both of which were released for 30-day public review on August 20, 2004. The proposed rule reflects the preferred alternative and draft Finding of No Significant Impact in the Temporary Winter Use Plans Environment Assessment and is a necessary step in the administrative process in order to to implement the decision.

The proposed winter use rule provides for a wide range of appropriate winter recreational opportunities including strictly limited and regulated snowmobile use while carrying out the National Park Service's mission to protect the natural and cultural resources of the three parks.

The rule implementing a temporary winter use management plan would allow 720 snowmobiles per day in Yellowstone led by commercial guides. This is below the historic use levels in the park and is somewhat lower than the level of access allowed during the last half of the 2003-2004 winter season. Commercial guides would not be required for the 140 snowmobiles per day allowed in Grand Teton National Park. Snowmobiles operating in Yellowstone would be allowed only on roads prepared for snowmobile and snowcoach use, which are a portion of the same roads used for summer access in the park. All snowmobiles entering the parks would be required to be four-stroke machines that meet the cleaner, quieter "Best Available Technology" standards.

Operating under a temporary winter use management plan for up to three years would give visitors, employees and residents of the park's gateway communities the information they want and need to plan for the near term in order to minimize economic impacts on gateway communities. It would also provide the National Park Service the opportunity to gather additional, real-time data to be used preparing permanent regulations for winter use in the parks.

The proposed Winter Use Rule is available for review online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/winteruse-ea/>. Comments can be submitted using an online form found at the above web address or by mail to Winter Use Proposed Rule, Yellowstone National Park, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190. Comments must be received by midnight on October 7, 2004.

At the conclusion of the 30-day review period, the National Park Service will review public comments and incorporate changes to the rule as appropriate. A final rule will be published in the *Federal Register* in late October or early November to guide winter use management of the parks for up to three years beginning with 2004-2005 winter season.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park  
PO Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Grand Teton National Park  
PO Box 170  
Moose, WY 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 10, 2004 04-117

Matthews  
307 344-2010

Anzelmo or Skaggs  
307 739-3415 or 739-3393

## Final Winter Use Rule for Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks Published in Federal Register

The final rule required to implement the November 2004 Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Temporary Winter Use Plans for winter use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway was published on November 10, 2004, in the *Federal Register*. The rule becomes effective 30 days after publication and will be in effect when the parks open for the winter season on December 15, 2004.

The rule ensures that park resources are protected and allows for the use of snowmobiles and snowcoaches in the parks on roads that automobiles use in the summer. The rule authorizes snowmobile and snowcoach use for the next three winters.

The final rule requires, among other things, strict daily limits on the number of snowmobiles that will be allowed in the parks; commercially guided access only in Yellowstone National Park in order to protect wildlife; and the use of commercially available best available technology (BAT) snowmobiles in Yellowstone and most of Grand Teton National Parks to address air emissions and impacts to the natural soundscape.

For the winter season of 2004- 2005, the following regulations will be implemented in Yellowstone National Park:

- A total of 720 snowmobiles will be allowed in the park each day: 400 through the West Entrance, 220 through the South Entrance, 40 through the East Entrance, 30 through the North Entrance, and 30 at Old Faithful.
- All snowmobiles must be commercially guided.
- All commercially guided operators will be required to use snowmobiles that meet the NPS best available technology (BAT) requirements. The list of approved BAT snowmobiles is available on the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/winter/](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/winter/).
- Snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park will continue to be restricted to traveling on roads and parking lots specifically groomed for their use. Off- road travel, sidehilling, or berm- riding is prohibited.
- Snowmobiles will continue to be prohibited on specific side roads including the Fountain Flat Road, Virginia Cascades Drive, North Canyon Rim Drive, Riverside Drive and the road from Canyon Junction to Washburn Hot Springs Overlook. Snowmobiles would be allowed on the Lake Butte Road and, after 12:00 p.m. each day, the Firehole Canyon Drive.
- All snowmobile operators are required to have a valid driver's license; no learner permits are allowed.

Actions to be implemented in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway include:

- A total of 140 snowmobiles will be allowed in the park and parkway each day. Fifty snowmobiles per day will be allowed on both the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) and the Grassy Lake Road. Forty snowmobiles per day will be allowed on the frozen surface of Jackson Lake for the purpose of ice fishing; snowmobilers must have a valid Wyoming fishing license and fishing gear in their possession.
- Snowplanes will continue to be prohibited on Jackson Lake.
- Most snowmobiles will be required to meet BAT requirements, with the exception of a small portion of snowmobiles on the CDST and those originating in the Targhee National Forest and traveling on the Grassy Lake Road as far as Flagg Ranch.
- All snowmobile operators are required to have a valid driver's license; no learner permits are allowed.

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