



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2009 09-01

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Employees Give “Day of Service” to Local Community

Grand Teton National Park employees donated a “Day of Service” to their local community of Jackson, Wyoming in observance of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 19, 2009. Park Service staff contributed their time and energy in answer to the nation-wide challenge from President Barack Obama, who called upon American citizens to provide community service during the federal holiday.

A team of 13 Grand Teton employees joined 17 other community volunteers to help with the construction of two houses being built by the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate; these houses are destined to become homes for two well-deserving Jackson families. Park staff also collected about 200 pounds of food for the Jackson Cupboard, a community-based pantry, to help stock shelves with groceries for families in need. In addition to

the food drive and building projects by Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area, several park naturalists provided educational programs for two different audiences. Park interpretive rangers organized a field trip on Teton geology for the Jackson Hole Middle School’s gifted and talented students; and park naturalists also gave a hands-on program about park wildlife to the elderly residents of the Living Center, a nursing care facility, as well as to several pre-school students who were visiting the Living Center on Martin Luther King Day.



Living Center residents Leona Roberts & Elizabeth Thomas don animal skins with Darrah Thelin, NPS employee.



Grand Teton NP employees & community volunteers help Habitat for Humanity on Day of Service, January 19, 2009.

These multiple outreach initiatives offered Grand Teton employees an opportunity to give back to a generous and highly-engaged community that regularly supports park programs and projects with volunteer assistance throughout the year. It also provided park staff with the chance to contribute to their local community in a direct and tangible way.

National Park Service employees who participated in the “Day of Service” projects felt that it was a worthy and rewarding experience, and many expressed an interest in seeking additional opportunities to participate as community volunteers in the near future.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 9, 2011 10-02

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Rescue Stranded Snowboarder, Snowshoers from Backcountry of Grand Teton National Park in Same-Day Incidents

Grand Teton National Park rangers and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort ski patrollers conducted a search and rescue operation for a stranded snowboarder in the backcountry of Granite Canyon on Friday, January 7. Steven Sprague, age 20, a visitor from Rapid City, South Dakota, took a wrong turn after exiting an out-of-bounds gate at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort around 4 p.m.

Sprague and his two snowboarding partners intended to traverse into Cody Bowl on Friday afternoon. They exited the out-of-bounds gate at the top of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and entered Granite Canyon, instead of turning south where they had planned to ski. Sprague's partners, realizing that they were off course, attempted to alert Sprague by shouting at him to stop, yet Sprague was unable to hear his companions cries because he was wearing earphones for an iPod. Shortly after, Sprague's companions alerted patrol staff from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort of the situation and a search and rescue operation was initiated.

Park rangers used snowmobiles to access the Granite Canyon trailhead from park headquarters in Moose then mounted skis to access the canyon. Meanwhile, patrol staff from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort skied into Granite Canyon from the summit of Rendezvous Mountain. Patrol staff reached the stranded snowboarder XX miles from of the mouth of Granite Canyon just before nightfall while rangers skied into canyon reaching Sprague??XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX. Sprague was in good physical condition but was not prepared to spend the night in the backcountry and did not have extra clothing, food, basic emergency gear or adequate clothing or shelter. Sprague and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort patrollers were safely escorted out of the canyon by park rangers at XXTIME.

At XX minutes later at 5:50 p.m. the same day, rangers received a cell phone call from two lost snowshoers who had become disoriented and were now battling nightfall while snowshoeing the Taggart/Bradley Lakes area. Ross Trooien, age 26, from White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Gordon Mammel, age 25, from Minneapolis, Minnesota, became lost

Backcountry users are cautioned to be prepared with the knowledge, skills, and emergency equipment necessary to safely recreate in the park's backcountry areas before attempting a winter excursion. Be prepared to spend more time in the backcountry than expected by bringing extra clothing, high energy snacks, water and extra clothing. Consider your physical and time limitations while choosing your destination and bring a map of the area and know how to use it before setting out. Park rangers also remind backcountry users to pay special attention to avalanche and weather conditions before entering remote areas outside of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort boundaries.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 29, 2009 09-03

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Wyoming Resident Sentenced for Assault Incident in Grand Teton National Park

An investigation conducted by Grand Teton National Park rangers and the U.S. attorney's office resulted in the felony assault conviction and a recent sentence for Michael Jay Smith of Pinedale, Wyoming. Smith was accused of assaulting a park visitor on the Moose-Wilson Road in July of 2007, and following a guilty plea to a charge of Felony Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, Smith was sentenced in federal district court on December 11, 2008. Smith's sentence includes 18 months in federal custody, 3 years of supervised probation upon release, as well as restitution fees.

On July 20, 2007, Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a report of a serious physical altercation on the Moose-Wilson Road. Smith apparently became impatient with a slow moving vehicle whose driver and occupants were trying to locate wildlife along this scenic country road in the southwestern portion of the park. Due to its narrow lanes and winding nature, the Moose-Wilson Road requires slow speeds, especially when the presence of wildlife causes traffic congestion. When the driver of the slow moving vehicle stopped, Smith physically and forcefully assaulted him, rendering him unconscious; Smith then fled the scene. This act of physical assault serves as an example of "road rage," a situation more often associated with urban areas or interstate highways.

Upon the arrival of park rangers, witnesses were able to provide information about the incident. The initial investigating park ranger determined that Smith attacked the driver of the vehicle in front of him after he stopped to watch a moose on the side of the road along with other wildlife viewers. Park rangers used accounts supplied by witnesses, as well as surveillance evidence, to develop information that eventually led to the use of photographic lineups and the subsequent positive identification of Smith as the assailant.

Smith was eventually indicted by a federal grand jury in March of 2008 and arrested on a federal warrant in the town of Jackson without incident. He was recently sentenced in mid December 2008.

A successful investigation and federal prosecution of this case resulted from the combined law enforcement work of several park rangers, as well as to the invaluable assistance provided by the U.S. attorney's office.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 29, 2009 09-04

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Lost Skiers Rescued from Granite Canyon in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers collaborated with Teton County Search and Rescue personnel to locate and rescue by helicopter two lost skiers in the upper reaches of Granite Canyon on Thursday morning, January 29. Darin Gamba, age 32, and Patrick Thornberry, age 39, both residents of Jackson, Wyoming, became disoriented in white-out conditions and accidentally took a wrong turn after exiting an out-of-bounds gate at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort around 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28. Gamba and Thornberry spent the night out in the mountains with temperatures hovering near 1 degree Fahrenheit. They were located during an aerial reconnaissance flight at 9 a.m. Thursday and flown from the backcountry at 9:30 a.m. This marks the second incident in a single week of skiers getting lost in the park's backcountry and spending a night exposed to the elements.

Gamba and Thornberry exited the upper gate at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort on Wednesday afternoon, intending to ski into the Rock Springs drainage. White-out conditions obscured the route, causing them to ski westward and ultimately into Granite Canyon, rather than southwest into the Rock Springs area. The two men searched for ski tracks to confirm their whereabouts, but by 2:30 p.m., they realized that they were not where they intended to be. About an hour before sunset, they decided to make preparations to spend the night in the backcountry.

Gamba and Thornberry dug a snow cave, collected pine boughs to insulate themselves against the snow, and made a fire. They were carrying food and water; however they also melted snow to replenish their supplies. While the two men did not have a map, compass or GPS device, they did have extra clothing and full avalanche gear—recommended equipment for anyone entering the Teton backcountry.

Early Thursday morning, Gamba and Thornberry began skiing up slope in order to get a clear view above treeline and determine their location. When they spotted Mount Hunt, they realized they were in Granite Canyon. The Teton County Search and Rescue contract helicopter, carrying a park ranger and county rescue staff, spotted the skiers' tracks and eventually located them about 9 a.m. near the Shady Lady Couloir. Rescuers communicated to the two men, directing them to ski to a landing zone where the ship could safely touch down. Gamba and Thornberry were then flown to the base of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.

Park rangers credit Gamba and Thornberry with doing everything right to keep themselves safe and attempt their own self rescue. They carried the basic necessities and kept their wits about them during an unexpected night out in the Tetons.

Backcountry users are cautioned to be prepared with the knowledge, skills, and emergency equipment necessary to safely recreate in the park's backcountry areas before attempting any winter excursion. Park rangers also remind backcountry users to pay special attention to avalanche and weather conditions before entering remote areas outside of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort boundaries.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2009 09-05

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Tractor-Trailer Accident Causes Temporary Closures of Highway 89 in Grand Teton National Park

A large tractor-trailer truck veered off the road and into deep snow along Highway 89 just south of Gros Ventre Junction at 11:40 p.m. Thursday night, February 5, in Grand Teton National Park. The semi truck, hauling Coca-Cola products, became high centered and stuck in more than two feet of snow after it left the roadway and traveled down an embankment and about 100 feet into nearby sagebrush. Attempts to extricate the 93-ton vehicle from the snowpack, using two heavy-duty tow trucks, resulted in minor disruptions to traffic and some temporary closures of Highway 89 during Friday afternoon, February 6, and Saturday morning, February 7.

The driver of the semi truck apparently lost control of his vehicle just before midnight on Thursday when the right front tire drifted into a ridge of snow along the southbound lane of Highway 89. The driver was unable to steer his vehicle back onto the pavement, and the truck plunged down the roadside embankment into a deeper snowpack, where it came to rest—upright. The driver was uninjured, but the semi was completely stuck with its tires buried in snow up to the wheel-well cowlings. A Wyoming Highway patrolman responded to the accident scene on Thursday night and interviewed the driver at that time.

Due to the significant weight of the semi truck, conventional towing equipment proved to be inadequate to pull it back onto the road late Thursday night. Therefore, a heavy-duty tow truck from Snake River Towing Service of Idaho Falls, Idaho was summoned Friday morning, and together with a heavy-duty tow truck from Flat Creek Towing of Jackson, Wyoming, a second attempt was made on Friday afternoon to pull the tractor-trailer out of the snowbank. This effort was also unsuccessful, and by late Friday afternoon, a crew from the local Coca-Cola distribution warehouse began to unload the truck's cargo in order to lighten its weight for a third extrication attempt; the cargo reportedly consisted of several thousand cases of Coke products.

By reducing the tractor-trailer's cargo load, the two heavy-duty tow trucks were able to carefully and incrementally pull the rig up the embankment and back onto Highway 89 at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday. The semi truck was then driven to Jackson with no further delay.

For a photograph of this incident, please go to <http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2009 09-06

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Natural Resource Stewardship Awards Presented to Mary Gibson Scott and Sue Consolo Murphy

National Park Service Intermountain Region Director Mike Snyder recently presented awards for natural resource stewardship to Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott and Chief of Science and Resources Management Sue Consolo Murphy. The recognition awards acknowledge excellence in the areas of conservation leadership and resource management, and salute individual accomplishments in natural resource preservation by National Park Service employees throughout the Intermountain Region.

Superintendent Scott was recognized with the Superintendent of the Year Award for Natural Resource Stewardship. Scott's achievements include: development of a strategic plan to guide partnership efforts in securing monetary support for wildlife and climate change research, and for programs designed to protect park wildlife; initiation and support of an interagency project to designate a wildlife migration corridor to protect pronghorn antelope; service for two years as the chair of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee—a regional committee consisting of superintendents, supervisors and managers from two national parks, six national forests, and three national wildlife refuges; securing approval and funding for research on the potential adverse effects to wildlife from construction of a new multi-use pathway in the park; acquiring funding for permanent staff positions to research and monitor non-native plant infestations and increased grizzly bear presence in Grand Teton; and the establishment of strong relationships with park partners—notably the Rockefeller Associates and the Jackson Hole Airport Board—which led to consistent and long-term protection of park resources. Scott has regularly and consistently made resource protection a high priority and an overarching goal in managing new, and/or ongoing, park programs and projects.

Science and Resource Management Chief Consolo Murphy was presented with the Director's Award for Natural Resource Management. Initiatives leading to her selection for this award include: development of interagency, multi-partner projects for monitoring complex geological interactions between the Yellowstone volcanism and Greater Yellowstone Area fault systems; creation of a comprehensive mapping project of Grand Teton's trail system to assess conditions and impacts by horse and user-created trails; development of a data base to track research in climate change; contributions to the cooperative Greater Yellowstone Science and Learning Center with online reference products for researchers and educational institutions; oversight of research leading to the designation of the nation's first wildlife migration corridor to protect pronghorn antelope; and guidance and fund-raising efforts to support wolf research and monitoring, as well as other wildlife research programs. Consolo Murphy is universally recognized by her peers as a consummate professional, supportive mentor, and ardent advocate for resource stewardship.

In acknowledging the individual accomplishments of Scott and Consolo Murphy, Regional Director Snyder stated, "These Park Service professionals are extremely committed to making science-based decisions and creating adaptive and cooperative approaches to resource management. They have made great contributions not only to the National Park Service, but also to the preservation of natural resources within Grand Teton National Park. They each provide a superb example for others to follow."

Scott and Consolo Murphy will each receive an eagle sculpture plaque, along with their award certificates.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2009 09-07

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park and Greater Yellowstone Coalition Recruit for Wildlife Brigade Interns

For the second consecutive year, Grand Teton National Park is partnering with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) to offer a unique opportunity for undergraduate students, graduate students, or recent alumnae who are interested in wildlife biology, interpretation and/or park management. The park and GYC are recruiting to fill two internship positions designed to provide a safe wildlife-viewing experience for visitors and wildlife along park roads, in developed areas, and on popular trails. Individuals selected for these paid, full-time summer positions will gain significant knowledge related to animal behavior, bear management, and natural history, as well as park and recreation management.

Interns will become members of Grand Teton National Park's Wildlife Brigade — an interdisciplinary team responsible for promoting ethical wildlife viewing practices. The brigade assists with traffic and people management during roadside wildlife jams, performs patrols in developed areas to look for unsecured food and other bear attractants, educates visitors about bear safety at trailheads and on popular trails, and provides interpretive education for park visitors about wildlife and other park resources.



The 12-week internships will take place from May through September when wildlife-human conflicts are most common. Interns will work closely with National Park Service staff while managing situations where people are in close proximity to bears, moose, and other large mammals. Monetary compensation for the two internships is \$12 per hour; volunteer uniforms are provided and park housing is available for a nominal cost. Interns must possess a valid driver's license. A personal background check may be required before being employed.

Applications are due by March 11, 2009. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter addressing an interest in the internship and relevant experience, and a resume outlining experience and education — including contact information for three references (at least one previous work supervisor). Students may use this to satisfy academic requirements such as a senior thesis or required internship. Email applications with a subject line of "Grand Teton Internship" to amy@greateryellowstone.org.

For further information about this opportunity, please contact Amy McNamara, GYC's national parks program director, at 406.586.1593.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2009 09-08

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Turns Eighty

On February 26, 1929, President Calvin Coolidge signed into law the legislation that created Grand Teton National Park; the 96,000-acre federal reserve included just the Teton Range and six glacial lakes at the base of the rugged peaks — a park that was only one-third of its present-day size. Thursday will mark the 80th anniversary of this world-renowned and beloved national park located in northwestern Wyoming.

The history of Grand Teton's establishment as a national park involved significant controversy, a bit of intrigue, and skilled political maneuvering. The Teton landscape first received government protection in 1897 when Congress created the Teton Forest Reserve out of land not otherwise included in Yellowstone National Park. Charles Walcott, head of the U.S. Geological Survey, suggested in 1898 that the Teton Range be set aside in what he coined a "Teton National Park." It took until 1917, however, before members of congress began floating bills to make a larger sanctuary by expanding Yellowstone National Park in order to preserve northern portions of Jackson Hole and the Teton Range. In 1918, Wyoming Congressman Frank Mondell introduced a bill to extend Yellowstone's southern boundary, but it failed passage by the Senate. Ten years elapsed before Wyoming Senator John Kendrick successfully sponsored a bill to establish a separate area called Grand Teton National Park. When Congress finally approved the 1929 legislation for a national park, the wheels were already in motion to preserve additional lands throughout Jackson Hole.

Beginning in 1928, and for several years following, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. quietly purchased approximately 35,000 acres of valley lands with the intention of donating them to the federal government to expand the boundary of the newly created Grand Teton park. Local and statewide reluctance for park enlargement created a stalemate that prevented Rockefeller from finalizing his philanthropic plan. After holding the land for 15 years, Rockefeller became discouraged and wrote President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, threatening to sell the land to "...any satisfactory buyers" if the federal government would not accept his gift. Rockefeller spent over \$1.4 million to purchase Jackson Hole lands in his campaign to donate these holdings to the federal government.

Rockefeller's letter prompted Roosevelt to use presidential proclamation to establish a 221,000-acre Jackson Hole National Monument, effectively overriding Congress' deadlock on the issue. The March 15, 1943 proclamation combined Rockefeller's acreage with Jackson Lake, Teton National Forest lands and other federal properties. Creation of the monument was so unpopular with Congress that they voted to abolish it — forcing President Roosevelt to counter with a pocket veto. Then the State of Wyoming sued the National Park Service to overturn the proclamation, but that lawsuit failed in the courts. As a last resort to show their disapproval, Congress withheld operational funds for the monument. After World War II, sentiment against the park and its enlargement eased somewhat, and President Harry S. Truman eventually signed a bill on September 14, 1950 that merged the original 1929 park with the 1943 monument.

Establishment of the 1929 Grand Teton National Park proved to be a mere wave in an ocean of controversy that lasted decades. In opposition to the concept, local residents fought and defeated three attempts to federalize land in Jackson Hole. Today, most people agree that creating the national park was an insightful and valuable step toward preserving much of Jackson Hole from development and building a vibrant local and regional economy.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2009 09-09

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Nighttime Highway Closure Planned Near Flagg Ranch Resort

Construction work on the bridge across the Snake River on Highway 89/287 just south of Flagg Ranch Resort will begin next week, requiring a temporary nighttime road closure between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. for the dates of Sunday, March 8 through Friday, March 13. Park visitors and residents of Flagg Ranch Resort and Yellowstone National Park's south gate are advised to plan for overnight travel restrictions to be in place during each of the scheduled nights (Sunday through Friday).

Access to Flagg Ranch Resort and the Grassy Lake Road will not be possible during the nighttime hours. Daytime travel will be allowed; however, motorists should expect minor traffic delays of up to 30 minutes during daylight hours.

A second round of nighttime closures will occur between Sunday, March 22 and Saturday, March 28 with similar restrictions. The second road closures will occur after the winter season ends in Yellowstone National Park and visitors cannot otherwise travel beyond the Flagg Ranch area until May 8, when Yellowstone's summer season road opening occurs.

These two scheduled travel closures are necessary to facilitate major construction work being done on the Snake River bridge near Flagg Ranch Resort. The bridge repair work is part of a broader road construction project underway on Grand Teton National Park's north park road. Additional travel restrictions will become necessary during the 2009 summer travel season. Further information on this large-scale construction project will be announced at a later date.

Roadwork schedules may change or be delayed due to weather conditions, equipment failure, or other unforeseen circumstances. For road updates, call the park's recorded information line on road conditions at 307.739.3614 or visit the park's Web site at www.nps.gov/grte.

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Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2009 09-10

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Recruits for 2009 Youth Conservation Program

Grand Teton National Park is now recruiting participants for the 2009 Youth Conservation Program (YCP). Thanks to generous donations made by several donors through the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, this marks the fourth year that the park has offered this youth employment opportunity. Grand Teton plans to recruit 15-20 short-term positions. **Applications must be postmarked by March 27, 2009.**

The YCP is a summer employment program for high school students, ages 16 to 19. YCP enrollees develop an understanding of National Park Service (NPS) conservation ethics as they assist with critically-needed maintenance and rehabilitation on park trails and pathways. Participants work alongside NPS crew leaders and become familiar with NPS stewardship goals, while learning essential trail maintenance skills. YCP participants may also answer basic visitor questions and serve as park ambassadors as they complete project work on some of the most visible, and most impacted, park trails (i.e. Taggart, Bradley, Jenny and String lakes, and trails in the vicinity of Jackson Lake Lodge and Colter Bay).

YCP crews focus their efforts on projects dealing with rehabilitation of trails and backcountry areas through activities such as brushing, hazard tree removal, and construction of water bars and drainage swales. In addition to the project work, environmental education programs and extensive recreational opportunities are also offered.

The 2009 YCP program will run for ten weeks from June 22 through August 27. Participants must be at least 16 years of age by June 22, and live locally as housing is not provided. Applicants must also be United States citizens and students in good standing. Other qualifications include good team skills, a willingness to learn about Grand Teton National Park and its trail system, and the ability to work at a physically demanding job which may involve lifting 30-40 pounds. The program includes three work crews with five to six YCP trail members, and wages are set at \$10.20 per hour.

As an extension of their mission to support new and innovative projects that add value to the park, the Grand Teton National Park Foundation provides funding for salaries, work boots, work pants, tee-shirts, and free transportation to and from Jackson for YCP participants. For more information about YCP and how to contribute to future YCP activities, or other Foundation programs, please call Leslie Mattson at 307.732.0629, or email leslie@gnpf.org.

To obtain an application or get further information about the 2009 YCP, please call Brian Bergsma in Grand Teton National Park at 307.739.3364, or write to YCP Program, GTNP, Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012. Applications are also available online at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/supportyourpark/ycp.htm>

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March 3, 2009 09-11

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Renny Jackson to Present Retrospective on 30 Years of Search and Rescue in the Tetons

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott invites the public to a free program about the history of search and rescue operations in the Tetons given by Renny Jackson, Jenny Lake subdistrict ranger. Jackson will provide a personal, 30-year retrospective of rescue missions on Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m. in the Cook Auditorium at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, two miles north of Jackson, Wyoming.

Over the past five decades, rescue operations conducted by Grand Teton National Park rangers have involved some difficult and complex situations. From one of the earliest rescue missions conducted in the Teton Range on Thanksgiving Day of 1950, when a DC-3 plane crashed into Mount Moran, killing 21 people, to a 2003 rescue operation where six climbers were hit by lightning on the Grand Teton, requiring an intricate and well-coordinated helicopter evacuation, or the most recent incident in 2008 when a Helena, Montana resident died in fall on the south side of Gilkey Tower, skilled and highly-trained rangers have responded to assist injured people in the alpine and backcountry areas of the park. Jackson will provide an overview of these and other rescue missions and detail how mountain rescue operations have changed over time.

Jackson has served as a climbing ranger at Grand Teton National Park for the past 30 years and he will convey a wealth of knowledge and personal experience about the evolution of mountain rescue in the Teton Range and beyond. He just recently returned from a month-long trip to the Solu-Khumbu region of Nepal where he participated in an international clinic near Mt. Everest, instructing Sherpas and other local climbers about mountain rescue techniques. Jackson has received the Medal of Valor Award on two separate occasions from the Department of the Interior for the critical part that he played in technical rescue missions on the Grand Teton and on Mt. McKinley in Denali National Park. He also just received a 2008 Stewardship Award from the National Outdoor Leadership School.



Jackson's retrospective on mountain rescue also highlights Grand Teton National Park's 80th anniversary — the park was established on February 26, 1929. In tribute to the park's milestone anniversary, birthday cake will be served after the program.

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Annual Snow Plowing to Begin on Teton Park Road

The annual snow plowing of the Teton Park Road in Grand Teton National Park will begin on Sunday, March 15, weather depending. As plowing operations get underway, recreation on the snow-packed trail will cease for the 2008/09 winter season. Park visitors may continue to use other winter trails—or areas adjacent to the Teton Park Road—for skate skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing until snow conditions are no longer favorable for such activities.

For safety reasons, visitors may NOT access the Teton Park Road while rotary snow removal equipment and plows are working; the roadway is closed to ALL users during this period of time. Skiers and snowshoers using areas adjacent to the Teton Park Road are cautioned to avoid the arc of snow being blown from the rotary equipment because pieces of ice and gravel can be mixed with the snow spray. Park rangers will enforce the temporary road closure to ensure safe conditions for plow operators and park visitors alike. Depending on weather, snow conditions and plowing progress, the roadway should become accessible to traditional springtime, non-motorized activities in early April; the opening of the Teton Park Road to bikers, hikers and inline skaters will be announced once snow removal equipment is no longer operating.

The Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway is scheduled to close for the winter season on Sunday evening, March 15, in conjunction with other winter closures in nearby Yellowstone National Park. This road remains closed to all motor vehicles from April 1 to May 31, due to springtime grizzly bear activity.

Depending upon snow conditions, ranger-led snowshoe hikes from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center are scheduled to end on Sunday, March 15. To make a reservation for this activity, or to inquire whether snowshoe hikes are still being offered, please phone 307.739.3399. The Discovery Center will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout March, April and May.

Pet owners are reminded that dogs are not allowed in the park's backcountry, which includes all areas away from park roadways and turnouts. Pet owners are required to have their dogs on a maximum 6-foot leash whenever they are outside of a private vehicle. Pet owners must also clean up their dog waste. A "mutt-mitt" station is conveniently located near the Teton Park Road closure gate to provide bags for this purpose.

The new pathway running from Dornan's to South Jenny Lake will NOT be open for public use until the snow recedes naturally and final construction work can be completed on the bridge spanning Cottonwood Creek. A formal announcement will be made when the new pathway becomes available for public use, and until that time, visitors and local residents must refrain from accessing the pathway.

The Teton Park Road will open to vehicle traffic for the 2009 summer season on Friday, May 1.

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National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2009 09-13

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Teton Park Road Opens for Annual Spring-time Activities

The Teton Park, Moose-Wilson, and Antelope Flats roads in Grand Teton National Park have been plowed free of snow and may now be used for non-motorized activities such as hiking, biking, and inline skating. The Antelope Flats Road will open for vehicles in approximately two weeks time. The Teton Park and Moose-Wilson roads will open to vehicle traffic for the full summer season on Friday, May 1, 2009.

While these roadways were cleared of their winter snow cover this past week, new snow is likely to accumulate on their surfaces during late season snowstorms. Visitors should also be alert for park vehicles that may occasionally travel the Teton Park Road for administrative purposes.

Leashed dogs are permitted on the Teton Park, Antelope Flats, and Moose-Wilson roads, as well as other park roadways. Dogs are restricted to roads and turnouts — they are not permitted to travel beyond the roadbeds, or into the park's backcountry. Owners are required to keep pets on a leash (six foot maximum length). *Mutt Mitt* stations are in place at the Taggart Lake parking area and pet owners are required 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:

- \$12 7-day permit for foot/bicycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$20 7-day permit for motorcycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$25 7-day permit for vehicle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$50 Grand Teton/Yellowstone Annual Pass valid for one-year entry into both parks
- \$80 Interagency Annual Pass valid for one year entry to all fee areas on federal lands

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

Bicyclists are required to stop and show an entry pass before proceeding through the gates, just as motorized vehicles are required to do.

The new pathway running from Dornan's to South Jenny Lake will NOT be open for public use until the snow recedes naturally and final construction work can be completed on the bridge spanning Cottonwood Creek. A formal announcement will be made when the new pathway becomes available for public use, and until that time, visitors and local residents must refrain from accessing the pathway.

The annual springtime opening of the Teton Park Road is a much anticipated event because it provides a unique and excellent opportunity to access the roadway before regular vehicle traffic begins for the summer.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2009 09-14

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Prospectus Issued for Guided Float Trips, Fishing Trips, Multi-Day Lake Trips and/or Guided Horseback Rides in Grand Teton National Park

The National Park Service (NPS) has issued a prospectus soliciting proposals for up to 12 concession contracts to provide guided float trips and fishing trips on the Snake River, multi-day lake trips on Jackson Lake and/or guided horseback rides in Grand Teton National Park; these contracts will be valid for ten years. The NPS has determined that the existing 11 concessioners are preferred offerors for this contract, pursuant to the terms of 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51—Concession Contracts and Permits. An additional contract to provide fishing only from the Moose landing to downstream locations may also be awarded. Since this is a new contract, no preferred offeror exists.

The existing concession operations provide visitor services within Grand Teton National Park, approximately 12 miles from the town of Jackson. Each contract authorizes specific activities, designated launch and takeout points, passenger meeting points, meal sites if permitted, and the number of launches allowed per day and month.

There are several unique attributes to these concession contracts that could potentially affect the operations; these include a compressed operating season, limited launches per day and month, and a high cost of doing business in the area. Any offeror for a contract will need to take into account these specific conditions.

Prospectus packages are available by contacting the NPS Intermountain Region Chief of Concessions Management Division, Jacque Lavelle, by phone at 303.969.2661, or by email at Jacque.Lavelle@nps.gov. Interested parties may also write to Concessions Management Division, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80228. The cost for a copy of the prospectus is \$35 per copy, if delivered by Federal Express, or \$30 if picked up in person. Checks and money orders (no cash accepted) must be payable to the NPS, and a physical address and phone number must be provided to receive a Federal Express package.

A prospectus package is available online at <http://www.concessions.nps.gov/Prospectus.cfm>. For those planning to submit a proposal, who have obtained a prospectus from the Web site, should provide contact information to Jacque Lavelle in order to receive future responses to questions or amendments to the prospectus. Those requesting a hard copy, or who have been placed on the mailing list, will be provided with additional information specific to the prospectus. Information relative to the solicitation will also be posted to the above mentioned concessions Web site.

Contract offers must be received **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2009** by the Chief of Concessions Management, NPS, Intermountain Region, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228.

A site visit was conducted on September 25, 2008. Copies of the materials distributed during the site visit are available by contacting Mallory Smith, Grand Teton National Park's chief of Business Resources, by phone at 307.739.3434 or through email at Mallory_Smith@nps.gov.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2009 09-15

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Draft EIS Released for Jackson Hole Airport Use Agreement Extension

The National Park Service (NPS) announced today that the Jackson Hole Airport Use Agreement Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Airport DEIS) has been released for public comment. The purpose of the Airport DEIS is to enable continued air transportation services at the Jackson Hole Airport through an extension of the term of the existing agreement with the United States Department of the Interior (DOI). An extension of the agreement is needed to ensure that the Jackson Hole Airport will remain eligible for federal funding beyond the year 2013.

In 2005, the NPS initiated a process under the National Environmental Policy Act to address the Jackson Hole Airport Board's request to extend the term of their agreement. The airport is located on 533 acres of federal land within Grand Teton National Park and operates under the terms of a 1983 agreement between the Airport Board and the DOI. The NPS administers the agreement, which currently authorizes the operation of the airport until April 27, 2033. Under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, an airport must own its land or have more than 20 years remaining on its lease or agreement in order to remain eligible for grants from the FAA. Without an extension of the agreement's term, the airport would lose its eligibility for Airport Improvement Program funding in April of 2013 — 20 years before the current agreement expires.

Grants from the FAA cover 95 percent of the eligible costs for airfield capital improvement or repair projects that enhance airport safety, capacity, or security, and for projects that address environmental concerns. Over the past decade, this program has funded almost \$25 million in projects at the Jackson Hole Airport. Similar funding will be needed in the future to enable the airport to maintain the certification that enables it to provide scheduled commercial passenger service.

The Airport DEIS considers two alternatives. Under the no action alternative, the term of agreement would not be extended, and the airport would likely be unable to maintain its certification for scheduled commercial passenger service within a few years. The airport would continue operations at a much reduced level, serving only general aviation, and would close no later than April 2033. Under the preferred alternative, the agreement would be extended by the addition of two 10-year options, thus ensuring continued eligibility for future Airport Improvement Program funds.

A copy of the Airport DEIS is available online at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Web site through the following URL: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. The document is also available on Grand Teton National Park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/parkmgmt/planning.htm>, or interested persons may request a copy through the Superintendent's Office by calling 307.739.3410.

The review and public comment period will run for approximately 60 days. The actual closing date for comments will be determined by the Environmental Protection Agency issuance of a Notice of Availability of the Airport DEIS in the Federal Register and will be announced at a later date. Written comments may be submitted through the PEPC Web site, in person, or by mail. Comments will not be accepted over the phone, by fax, or e-mail.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2009 09-16

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Ranger-led Activities Scheduled for April

Grand Teton National Park will mark the arrival of spring — and observe National Park Week and Junior Ranger Day — by offering various ranger-led activities throughout the month of April.

Strutting Grouse Tours provide an opportunity to acknowledge the seasonal change and the chance to watch a fascinating ritual as grouse congregate to perform animated mating displays on their traditional lek (mating arena) located just off the Antelope Flats Road. Ranger-led tours start bright and early at 5:30 a.m. on weekend mornings from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Depending upon snow conditions, the first tour is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 11; there will not be a tour on Easter Sunday. Other tours will be held on April 18-19, and April 25-26. Reservations are required and participants are advised to phone the Discovery Center at 739.3399 to reserve a spot and to get information about what to wear and bring along on these April tours.

National Park Week will be observed across the country during the week of April 18–26. The week-long celebration offers diverse opportunities for U.S. citizens and international visitors to explore and learn about America's exceptional natural, cultural, and recreational heritage. National Park Week also salutes the many individuals, groups and associations that help to make the National Park System one of this Nation's greatest assets. Additional information about National Park Week is available on the National Park Service Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/npweek/>.

Junior Ranger Day will be celebrated on April 25, 2009. To encourage young people to learn more about national parks across America, Grand Teton park rangers will conduct special activities at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center and encourage participants to embark on a journey of discovery and fun. At the conclusion of the scheduled activities, children will earn their Junior Ranger title and receive a Junior Ranger patch or badge.

The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center provides educational opportunities in an engaging and relaxing atmosphere. Parents looking for family activities to enjoy while their kids are on the local school break may consider a visit to this Moose, Wyoming visitor center. The Discovery Center, open daily between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., offers the chance to learn about the history, people, landscape, and wildlife that make Grand Teton such a special landscape. Visitors can also experience the sights and sounds of the park in all seasons through the unique video river exhibit. In addition, a 24-minute high definition documentary film about the park is shown throughout the day in the Director's Room.

Teton Park Road Recreation includes strolling, biking or inline skating along the 15-mile-long roadway between Taggart Lake and Signal Mountain without vehicle traffic. The road opens to vehicles for the summer season on May 1st.

For further information about the grouse watching tours, National Park Week, Junior Ranger Day, or the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, please call 739.3399.

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Bears Emerge From Hibernation in Grand Teton National Park

Bears have emerged from their winter dens in the greater Jackson Hole area; consequently, local residents and park visitors need to be alert for their presence anywhere within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Just this week, a grizzly bear was observed near the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center and the park's headquarters building at Moose. Because this and other bears are again on the move and actively searching for springtime food sources, appropriate precautions for traveling in bear country must be taken.

Do not approach a bear under any circumstances. This is particularly important for situations involving bears near a carcass or other food source, and female bears with cubs.

When traveling in bear country, take precautionary measures such as carrying bear pepper spray and keeping it easily accessible for ready use. Please take the time to learn how to properly handle bear pepper spray and remember that having it with you is not a substitute for being alert. While enjoying recreational activities on the Teton Park Road, the Moose-Wilson Road, and in other backcountry areas within the park, visitors should always exercise good judgment by following recommended safety precautions: Be alert to surroundings, make noise, travel in a group, and keep food and garbage properly stored.

When bears leave their winter dens, they search for any food source that will help restore fat reserves lost during hibernation. Winter-weakened animals and winter-killed wildlife carcasses provide immediate sources of protein and are vigorously defended by hungry bears. As snow banks recede, bears also dig up and eat burrowing rodents and spring wildflowers. Historically, adult male bears emerge from hibernation by late March. Female bears, accompanied by their cubs, emerge later in the spring and are especially protective of their young. Any bear will defend a food source against perceived threats.

Visitors should report any bear sightings or signs of their activity to the nearest visitor center or ranger station as soon as possible. This timely information will assist park staff in keeping visitors informed about recent bear activity, and in keeping bears away from unnatural food sources. Access to human food habituates bears and habituated animals can lose their fear of humans, which threatens the safety of both 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 how to behave when hiking, biking, picnicking or camping in bear country, read the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, online at www.nps.gov/grte.

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Celebrate Junior Ranger Day

The National Park Service has declared Saturday, April 25, as National Junior Ranger Day for 2009. To mark this occasion, Grand Teton National Park will offer educational activities for children of all ages from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming. Children who participate in two or more of the scheduled activities on Saturday will earn their Junior Ranger title and receive a Junior Ranger badge or patch.

A variety of activities and learning experiences will be offered to inspire children and encourage them to become partners in helping to preserve not only Grand Teton, but also national parks throughout the United States. Indoor activities will include instruction about climbing in the Teton Range, a scavenger hunt to explore the state-of-the-art exhibits in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, an Animal Olympics competition where children can test their skills against the abilities of certain wildlife species, and a chance for children to don an actual ranger uniform. Outside, in the visitor center parking lot, children will have the chance to talk with rangers and explore a park ambulance, fire engine, patrol car, plow truck, and other equipment that rangers typically use to protect the park and its many visitors.

More than 225 National Park Service sites across America will host youth-oriented activities on Saturday, April 25, for the 3rd annual National Junior Ranger Day. The official motto is "Explore, learn, protect: Be a Junior Ranger." Acting National Park Service Director Dan Wenk said, "The Junior Ranger program is the National Park Service's signature program for young visitors. Throughout the year, children earn badges and certificates after completing age-appropriate, park-related activities at their own pace."

In addition to scheduled Junior Ranger Day activities, the National Park Foundation is asking youth across the nation to share ideas on how to protect and preserve America's National Parks through an essay contest. Children aged 9 to 12, with the help of a parent or guardian, have until May 1 to submit an essay of no more than 500 words on the theme, "Why are our national parks important to you and what is your best idea to protect our parks for the future?" The first prize winner will receive a \$1,000 Visa gift card and the opportunity to direct \$5,000 to support a favorite national park. To submit an entry online and view the official rules go to: <http://www.nationalparks.org/get-involved/essay-contest>.

For further information about Grand Teton National Park's Junior Ranger Day events, please call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399.

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Receives \$18.8 Million in NPS Recovery Act Allocation

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced today in Washington D.C. that the National Park Service (NPS) will invest \$750 million in nearly 800 projects to stimulate the economy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As part of this national initiative, Grand Teton National Park was awarded over \$18.8 million for several projects that will address deferred maintenance, energy efficiency, and youth participation. The allocation of these funds will also help stimulate local and regional economies, while creating job opportunities.

The most significant project selected for Recovery Act funding in Grand Teton is the rehabilitation of the Moose Complex. This project will consolidate park operations, office space, and visitor services in order to improve health and safety for park employees and visitors, to increase energy efficiency and reduce the park's carbon footprint, to provide for better visitor use at the Snake River boat landing and new multi-use pathway trailhead, and to combine park functions to achieve an overall reduction in building space. Planning and approval for this large-scale project have already been achieved, and the project is ready for bid announcement by the fall of 2009, with a contract award expected in January of 2010.

A separate project to replace a failed maintenance building at Colter Bay was also selected. In addition, funding was awarded to rehabilitate one of the park's most popular trails—the Granite Canyon trail. As part of the Recovery Act, the NPS hopes to engage young people and develop future stewards of public lands. The Granite Canyon trail project will ultimately create approximately 25 new job opportunities for young people and provide an opportunity for them to learn about the NPS, Grand Teton, and natural and cultural resource management. People, who get a first job with the NPS, often become career employees that carry on the critical work of preserving our American heritage.

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott said, “The allocation of Recovery Act funds for national parks across the nation is welcome news and unprecedented in its scope. We appreciate this opportunity to help get the American economy working again, while at the same time addressing our maintenance backlog, energy deficiencies and resource conservation needs. These projects will have long-term benefits to park visitors and the greater Jackson Hole community, and we are proud to be playing an instrumental role in the recovery of the regional economy in northwestern Wyoming.”

The complete list of all National Park Service projects funded by the Recovery Act is online at www.doi.gov/recovery/nps.

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April 27, 2009 09-20

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Facilities 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 throughout Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway for the 2009 season.

Roads

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

Teton Park Road
Moose-Wilson Road

The Antelope Flats Road reopened to vehicle traffic in mid April. The gravel road and parking area to the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve will remain closed to public entry until the road can sufficiently dry out and harden to handle vehicles, and work can be completed on the accessibility trail to the Preserve Center. The Grassy Lake Road, in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, will open June 1.

Motorists are advised to drive cautiously and be aware that wildlife are migrating throughout the park and crossing roads, especially during dawn and dusk. In addition, springtime repair work may be underway on any park roads. For current information, call the park's road conditions hotline at 307.739.3614.

Entrance Stations

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

\$12 7-day permit for foot/bicycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
\$20 7-day permit for motorcycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
\$25 7-day permit for vehicle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
\$50 Grand Teton/Yellowstone Annual Pass valid for one-year entry into both parks
\$80 Interagency Annual Pass valid for one year entry to all fee areas on federal lands

Personal checks may not be used for payment at entrance stations, and personal identification is required for entering the park with any pass that requires a signature. Bicyclists are reminded that they must stop and show an entry pass before proceeding through the gates, just as vehicles are required to do.

Visitor Centers

The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is open daily, year-round. Other visitor information centers will open on the following dates:

Colter Bay Visitor Center	May 9
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	May 15
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	May 16
Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center	May 24
Flagg Ranch Information Station	June 1

Ranger-led activities begin Monday, June 1. An activity schedule can be found in the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, or online at www.nps.gov/grte.

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Campgrounds

The following campgrounds will open:

Gros Ventre	May 8
Signal Mountain	May 8
Jenny Lake	May 15
Flagg Ranch RV Park	May 18
Colter Bay	May 22
Colter Bay RV & Trailer Park	May 22
Lizard Creek	June 5

Fees for individual campsites are \$19 per night, and hiker/bicyclist camping fees are \$7.00 per site, at any of the following concessioner-operated campgrounds within Grand Teton National Park: Colter Bay, Gros Ventre, and Jenny Lake. Campsites at Lizard Creek campground run \$18.00 per night and \$20.00 per night at Signal Mountain. All these campgrounds operate on a first-come, first-served basis.

Group sites at Colter Bay and Gros Ventre campgrounds are available by reservation at a cost of \$5.00 per person, per night. Reservations may be made by calling either 307.543.3100 or 800.628.9988. Tent sites, including showers, are available at Flagg Ranch Resort for \$30.00 per night with a charge of \$5.00 for each additional person over two. Reservations for these may be made by calling either 307.543.2861 or 800.443.2311.

Reservations can also be made for RV camping at either Colter Bay or Flagg Ranch RV Parks; additional fees are charged for RV campgrounds with hook-ups.

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 \$25 non-refundable fee. Reservations can be made online at www.nps.gov/grte/, by fax at 307.739.3438, or by 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
Flagg Ranch Resort	May 18
Jackson Lake Lodge	May 18
Colter Bay Cabins	May 22
Jenny Lake Lodge	May 30

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 Web site www.nps.gov/grte/, stop by any visitor center and ranger station, or call 307.739.3300.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

New Multi-Use Pathway Anticipated to Open for Public Use in Late May

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the new multi-use pathway within Grand Teton National Park will NOT open to public use until late May. The eight-mile-long pathway, which parallels the Teton Park Road from Dornan's to South Jenny Lake, requires additional construction work to be completed before it can safely be used by the public. This work includes the final attachment of the Cottonwood Creek Bridge to its footers, stabilization of an uphill segment east of Windy Point, stripping of the pathway surface, and the placement of all safety signs. In addition, the pathway is still covered by snowdrifts over much of its length. The pathway will remain closed to public use until all remaining construction work can be addressed, and users are requested to comply with this requisite closure. The opening date is dependent upon weather and construction progress.

As the new multi-use pathway gets phased into its first year of operation, visitors and local residents will have a unique opportunity to enjoy an area of the park not previously used in such a concentrated way. Base line studies are underway to assess the impacts that the pathway and its users may have on park wildlife and their activities and movements. These studies will be used in the planning efforts of future pathway segments.

Special rules and regulations apply to the different park areas that are open to non-motorized use, and the new multi-use pathway will be no exception. When the pathway finally opens, bicyclists, inline skaters, hikers, and other pathway users will be encouraged to follow some basic rules of courtesy and safety: Respect the rights of others; ride single file and stay on the right side of the pathway; use a bell, whistle or voice whenever passing others; wear appropriate protective equipment such as helmets and pads; observe bicycle speeds that are reasonable to the numbers and safety of other pathway users; don't use motorized vehicles (exception of wheelchairs and other mobility impaired devices); be bear aware and maintain a safe distance from all wildlife; and obey the sunset to sunrise closure for protection of wildlife.

This new pathway bisects an important wildlife corridor not previously occupied by people on foot or on a bike; therefore, pathway users will need to follow special regulations designed to diminish adverse impacts to animals that use this area. For example, pets are **not allowed** on the multi-use pathway in Grand Teton National Park in order to reduce potential adverse impacts to park wildlife from the presence of domestic animals.

A formal announcement will be made after the remaining construction work has been completed and the pathway is finally open for public use. In future years, the pathway will simply open as the snow cover recedes—much like the hiking trails in the park become useable as snow melts.

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Projects to Cause Traffic Delays During 2009 Travel Season

Road construction projects will be underway throughout Grand Teton National Park for much of the 2009 travel season, resulting in minor traffic delays at several locations. One road construction project will require a few overnight travel closures. For current and specific information, travelers are advised to call the park's road information line at 307.739.3614. The park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, includes a road construction map for further reference and can be found online at www.nps.gov/grte, or picked up at any park entrance station or visitor center.

The Snake River Bridge near Flagg Ranch Resort—2.5 miles south of Yellowstone National Park's south gate—is undergoing major reconstruction. This effort will require a limited number of overnight road closures during May and June. Closures will occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. for one night in mid May and again for three nights in early June; further details on overnight closures will be announced at a later date.

Reconstruction of the North Park Road in Grand Teton, between Lizard Creek campground and Flagg Ranch Resort, began in 2008. During the summer/fall travel season, significant road construction activities will again be underway to widen and repave this road and complete the reconstruction work on the Snake River Bridge. To facilitate the extensive work required for the North Park Road project, nighttime closures may be possible between Lizard Creek and Flagg Ranch, on weekdays only, from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. between now and June 15. In addition to the overnight road closures, motorists are advised to expect daytime delays of up to 30 minutes for travel between Lizard Creek campground and Flagg Ranch Resort through the end of November.

Important note: Road closures are not anticipated to occur anywhere in the park after June 15th. Work on the North Park Road will cease on weekends during July and August—and during the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day holiday weekends—to allow for unfettered traffic flow during peak season travel times.

In addition to the North Park Road project, several other road construction projects in Grand Teton are planned for the upcoming summer months, and each will involve 15-minute delays in traffic. These projects include: Routine striping projects on all park roads during the month of May; an asphalt overlay on the road from Colter Bay to Leeks Marina scheduled for early July; an asphalt overlay on the road to the Teton Science Schools' Kelly Campus during mid July; a chip seal project one mile north of Moose Junction to Cunningham Cabin along Hwy 89/191 scheduled for late August to Labor Day weekend; and a chip seal project from the park's south boundary to one mile north of Moose Junction on Hwy 89/191 scheduled for after Labor Day through mid September. Road work on the Signal Mountain Summit Road is also scheduled, and this project will result in a closure to weekday traffic during much of June (weekend traffic will be allowed).

Efforts will be made to minimize any inconvenience to drivers using park roads, however, traffic will be held up for short periods of time as road improvement work is underway. These road construction projects are necessary to improve safety, as well as provide routine maintenance, for the many vehicles that use park roads throughout the year.

Roadwork schedules may change or be delayed due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

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Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393/739-3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day

Grand Teton National Park will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) with a bird-watching caravan on Saturday, May 9, 2009. Park ranger naturalist Andrew Langford will visit areas throughout the park that provide excellent opportunities to locate, identify, and count birds as part of the North American Migration Count. The free activity begins at 8 a.m. in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming and finishes by 4 p.m. at Christian Pond near Jackson Lake Lodge. Reservations are not required.

Observed each year in May to celebrate and support bird conservation, IMBD serves as 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 factors that may contribute to worldwide declines. Anyone interested in birds is welcome to participate in Grand Teton's IMBD celebration and annual bird count. Throughout the day, participants will take short walks at various locations, so those attending should wear comfortable shoes and bring a lunch, drinking water, warm clothing and rain gear. Bird field guides, binoculars and spotting scopes are also recommended.

According to the IMBD Web site, the theme for 2009 is "Celebrating Birds in Culture." This theme explores the historical and continuing relationship between native people and birds. Images of birds in cave art and on everyday objects—weavings and pottery, ceremonial objects, and hunting tools—highlight the role that birds have played in native peoples' spirituality, stories, art, music, and dance. Birds were often considered a connection to the spirit world; it was believed that they carried messages to the spirits and, in the case of ducks, for example, they were thought to help the dead on the path to the afterlife. Native people invented the first duck decoys to help them hunt waterfowl, and many tribes are active today in bird and habitat conservation, protecting habitats, preserving wetlands, and reintroducing species to tribal lands.

For more information about International Migratory Bird Day and the North American Migration Count, please call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399. Participants of the Migratory Bird Day activity are reminded that park entrance stations are open; therefore, they will need to present a park pass to travel through these entrance gates.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2009 09-24

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Spring Clean-Up Day Beautifies Grand Teton National Park

Approximately 100 Grand Teton National Park staff and Grand Teton Association (GTA) employees joined together on Thursday morning, April 30, to carry out the park's annual spring clean-up. Each year before the summer season is in full swing, park and GTA staff, along employees from park concessioners (Grand Teton Lodge Company, Signal Mountain Lodge, Triangle X Ranch, and Flagg Ranch Resort), set aside a day to remove litter and debris from roadsides and turnouts to "beautify" Grand Teton before summer visitors arrive.

This year, a fence removal project was also incorporated into the annual clean-up activities. A two-mile section of old buck and rail fence was removed along Highway 26/89/191 from the Airport Junction to the south end of Blacktail Butte. This project will improve wildlife movements across park lands and reduce costs associated with maintaining an aging and decaying structure. For several years, park employees and volunteer groups have been removing barbed wire fences, and other fence remnants, from the Antelope Flats area. Removal of the buck and rail fence eliminates a significant barrier to wildlife migration in this area of the park; it also reduces old fencing that no longer serves a practical purpose.

"Keeping Grand Teton free from unsightly trash is a relatively simple step that area residents and park visitors can also help accomplish. While park employees and the staffs of GTA and park concessioners collectively pick up trash each spring, anyone can contribute to keeping the park's roadsides tidy by properly disposing of litter. This responsible act also reduces the chance of bears getting unintended food rewards," said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. "It was great to see so many people in orange safety vests scouring the roadsides for trash and removing old decadent fencing."

Park and GTA staff enjoyed the positive attention they received from passing motorists who honked their vehicle horns as a way of showing support for the clean-up efforts in progress.

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May 4, 2009 09-25

Jackie Skaggs\C. Cunningham
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship Awarded for 2009

Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Association (GTA) are pleased to announce that Nicholas Dowie has received the Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship for 2009. Dowie, the fifth recipient of an Evison Fellowship, is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in the Department of Biology at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He plans to use his fellowship award to study the symbiotic relationship between three specific organisms in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks: conifer trees, pinedrops (*Pterospora andomedeae*), a unique non-photosynthetic plant that spends most of its life underground and obtains carbon from fungi in order to reproduce, and a truffle-like fungus (*Rhizopogon spp.*) that associates with conifers to obtain carbon, which it does not produce itself.

Dowie received a Bachelor of Science degree in plant biology at Montana State University in Bozeman in 2005. He expects to finish a Master of Science degree at the University of Wyoming during summer 2009. Already working towards a Ph.D., Dowie is most interested in the study of evolutionary ecology, mycorrhizal symbioses (mutually-beneficial relationships between fungi and plant roots), and myco-heterotrophic plants that obtain carbon from various species of fungi.

Dowie's research will involve collecting and analyzing the genetics from samples of pinedrops, fungi, and various types of conifers in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. Dowie will attempt to decipher the nature of relationships between these organisms, determine the intricacies of the three-way relationship between conifers, pinedrops and fungi, and reveal how these species persist in natural ecosystems. Pinedrops, which are ecologically sensitive and have become extinct in some regions, may associate with specific strains of fungus to reproduce and persist. At the conclusion of his study, Dowie will submit his research data and findings for review by the divisions of science and resource management at Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

The Evison Fellowship was established in memory of Boyd Evison after his death in October, 2002, and created to honor Boyd's extensive and dedicated service to both the National Park Service (NPS) and the GTA. Evison retired in 1994 from an exemplary 42-year career with the NPS and soon after began a second career as executive director for the GTA—a non-profit park partner dedicated to aiding interpretive, educational, and research programs for Grand Teton National Park.

The Evison Fellowship program encourages scientific and conservation-related research in national parks. It invites highly motivated, graduate students to conduct research within Grand Teton and the greater Yellowstone area; and it supports study leading to a master's or Ph.D. degree in the biosciences, geosciences or social sciences. Upon program completion, the Evison Fellow provides a copy of his/her thesis to the GTA.

An Evison Fellowship provides tuition assistance and a yearly stipend to cover travel and field research costs; Grand Teton National Park offers housing and office space for students during field sessions. To inquire about applying for a Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship—or to donate funds toward this worthy program—please contact Jan Lynch, executive director, Grand Teton Association by mail at P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming, 83012, or by phone at 307.739.3406.

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National Forest Service
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Bridger-Teton National Forest



Mary Cernicek
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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2009

Prescribed Fire Planned for Hunter Ranch Area in Grand Teton National Park

Teton interagency fire personnel and Grand Teton National Park natural resource managers are planning a 60-acre prescribed fire as part of a 4,000-acre native rangeland restoration project in the Aspen Ridge/Hunter Ranch area of Grand Teton National Park. This project involves a multistage effort to convert pasture land back to native vegetation as part of the 2007 *Bison and Elk Management Plan for the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park*. The prescribed fire may be initiated as early as Monday, May 11.

The Aspen Ridge/Hunter Ranch area was an irrigated hayfield prior to the 1970s. Despite a decades-long recovery time, this extensive hayfield area is still dominated by non-native grasses and a host of noxious weeds.

“Non-native, perennial grasses are a considerable threat to native plant succession and restoration,” said Grand Teton National Park Ecologist Kelly McCloskey. “Without human intervention and management, the pasture grasses—particularly smooth brome—will likely remain, preventing the regrowth of native plants. Prescribed fire is an effective tool in creating and preparing a natural seed-bed.” Post burn, resource managers will treat the site with herbicides to remove remaining non-native species.

“The prescribed fire and herbicide treatment will be monitored for several years to determine the success of this project,” said Chip Collins, assistant fire management officer for Grand Teton National Park. “Depending on the outcome, further actions may be needed to sufficiently restore native vegetation across the historic hayfields in the Mormon Row area.”

Fire managers will consider several factors before beginning the Aspen Ridge/Hunter Ranch prescribed fire; these include weather forecasts, the condition of vegetation (dried or greening), and the presence of nesting birds in the area.

Prescribed-fire ignitions will proceed only when favorable weather and fire behavior conditions are met. Smoke will be evident during the day of the burn and may persist for several days after, especially in mountain valleys during early morning and evening hours. Local residents and visitors should exercise caution in the vicinity of the prescribed-fires. Minimal traffic restrictions may occur to allow for public and firefighter safety, and fire equipment access.

XXX



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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton Becomes First National Park to Earn StormReady Status

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides a nationwide community preparedness program titled, StormReady. After completing the requirements for this emergency preparedness program, Grand Teton National Park recently earned recognition as a StormReady unit, and the NWS confirms that Grand Teton is the first national park to gain this key designation.

Nearly 90% of all presidentially-declared disasters are weather related; these disasters lead to about 500 deaths per year and cost approximately \$14 billion in property damage. The NWS designed the StormReady program to help prepare people, government agencies, and community organizations for the communication and safety network necessary to save lives and reduce property damage during a severe weather event.

StormReady uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather. To be StormReady, a community, organization or agency must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts
- Have more than one way to alert the public to severe weather events
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars and outreach
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and conducting emergency exercises

To meet the StormReady emergency management guidelines, Grand Teton was required to demonstrate its capability to provide essential and response-ready communication network. In addition, several park employees completed training as weather spotters; these employees will provide critical weather observations to field offices for the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott said, “Grand Teton National Park continually seeks new ways to improve safety for visitors, local residents, and park employees. Completing the StormReady requirements—and gaining the knowledge and network necessary to effectively deal with severe weather events—is an important step in creating a safer environment for anyone residing in, or recreating throughout the park. We are proud to have earned StormReady status, and we intend to effectively implement the StormReady communication system for the benefit of not only the park, but also our neighbors.”

For more information about the StormReady program, contact Chris Jones, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Riverton, Wyoming at 307.857.3898, ext726.

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Author to Highlight New Book on Historic Bar BC Dude Ranch

Grand Teton National Park will host a fireside chat with author Renee Howard Smelker at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 18, in the lobby of the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Smelker has just completed a book titled, *The Bar BC Chronicle, Jackson Hole Dude and Cattle Ranching* that portrays life on the historic Bar BC Dude Ranch from the late 1920s through early 1940s. The program is free to the public, and a book signing will immediately follow the informal discussion at the Grand Teton Association bookstore, also in the Discovery Center.

Smelker uses letters written between her father Bill Howard, wrangler and long-time foreman of the Bar BC Ranch, and ranch owner Irving Corse to capture a sense of what life was like on one of Jackson Hole's best known and beloved dude ranches. Smelker, who lived at the ranch until she was sixteen-years-old, brings the place, indeed, the whole valley, to life through the correspondence that passed between her father and Mr. Corse, co-owner of the ranch with Struthers Burt. Their letters, dating from March 20, 1929 through February 19, 1942, depict the day to day operations on the ranch and reveal the very different personalities and backgrounds of these two men. The letters are also supplemented with notes to explain meanings and provide historical context and relevant background information. Throughout the book, Smelker provides an engaging commentary, blending first-hand experiences with the history of this distinctive place and unique era.

"The history of Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park are closely entwined. Because Grand Teton was established on February 26, 1929, Renee Smelker's descriptions of life on the Bar BC Ranch from 1929 through 1942 are especially relevant to us," said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. "Renee has provided an interesting look at our mutual past, and having her as a guest author during the park's 80th anniversary year is especially fitting."

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May 18, 2009 09-29

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

American Indian Guest Artists Program in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park annually sponsors a program for visiting American Indian artists at the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum. For the past 34 years, artists from diverse tribes have demonstrated their traditional and contemporary art forms, providing visitors an opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for, and understanding of American Indian art and culture.

Artists participating in the program represent tribes from across the United States. Among the art forms demonstrated are painting, weaving, pottery, beadwork, and musical instruments. Guest artists exhibit daily, Monday through Sunday, from approximately 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the lower level of the Colter Bay Indian Arts Museum. Artists also offer their finished items for purchase. The dates and guest artists scheduled for the 2009 season are:

May 18-24	Willie & Debbie LaMere	Shoshone	beadwork & flint knapping
May 25-31	Willie & Debbie LaMere	Shoshone	beadwork & flint knapping
June 1-7	Charlie Rising Sun	Northern Cheyenne	flutes & Indian art
June 8-14	Charlotte Tendoy	Shoshone	beadwork
June 15-21	Guillermo Martinez	Tarascan-Apache	drums & flutes
June 22-28	Andrea Two Bulls	Ogalala Sioux	beadwork and painting
June 29-July 5	Ted Moran	S'Klallan	Northwest coastal carving
July 6-12	Shonto Begay	Navajo	painting
July 13-19	Eddie Two Bulls	Ogalala Sioux	painting
July 20-26	Maynard White Owl	Nez Perce –Cayuse	beadwork & jewelry
July 27-Aug 2	Dolly & Bonnie Woodie	Navajo	weaving, clothes & beadwork
August 3-9	Paul Hacker	Choctaw	flutes, knives & pottery
August 10-16	Willie & Debbie LaMere	Shoshone	beadwork & flint knapping
August 17-23	DG House	Cherokee	painting
August 24-30	Jola Fay LeBeau	Eastern Shoshone	beadwork
August 31-Sept 6	Lela Teton & Josie Bronco	Shoshone	beadwork
September 7-13	Clyde Hall & Nancy Nacki	Shoshone	beadwork & quillwork
September 14-20	Guillermo Martinez	Tarascan-Apache	drums & flutes
September 21-27	DG House	Cherokee	painting
Sept 28-Oct 5	Willie & Debbie LeMere	Shoshone	beadwork & flint knapping

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Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Update #1

Construction work on the Snake River Bridge near Flagg Ranch Resort—2.5 miles south of Yellowstone National Park's entrance gate—will be underway during the Memorial Day weekend, resulting in minor traffic delays of 15-20 minutes. The deck of the Snake River Bridge has been reduced to only one lane; consequently, traffic flow will be somewhat restricted. Reconstruction of the Snake River Bridge will also require a limited number of overnight travel closures during the next few weeks. Closures are scheduled to occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Specific dates for these overnight travel closures will be announced at a later time.

Reconstruction of the North Park Road in Grand Teton, between Lizard Creek campground and Flagg Ranch Resort, began in 2008. During the 2009 travel season, road construction activities will again be underway to widen and repave the park road and complete the reconstruction of the Snake River Bridge. Motorists are advised to expect daytime travel delays of up to 30 minutes from now through the end of November. **Important note:** Work on the North Park Road will cease on weekends during July and August—and during the Fourth of July and Labor Day holiday weekends—to allow for unfettered traffic flow during peak travel times.

Starting Sunday, June 8, the Signal Mountain Summit Road will be closed to weekday travel while the road receives an asphalt overlay. This project requires a travel closure for weekday traffic only—weekend traffic will be allowed. The weekday travel restrictions will be in place from June 8 through June 26.

Other road construction projects are planned for upcoming months, and each will involve 15-minute delays in traffic. These projects include: Routine striping projects on all park roads during the month of May; an asphalt overlay on the road from Colter Bay to Leeks Marina during early July; an asphalt overlay on the road to the Teton Science Schools' Kelly Campus during mid July; a chip seal project one mile north of Moose Junction to Cunningham Cabin along Hwy 89/191 planned for late August to Labor Day weekend; and a chip seal project from the park's south boundary to one mile north of the Moose Junction on Hwy 89/191 scheduled for after Labor Day through mid September. As always, roadwork schedules may change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

Drivers are encouraged to plan ahead, and schedule extra time for their travel through Grand Teton National Park during the next several months. As road improvement work is underway, every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to drivers using park roads; however, traffic will be held up for short periods of time. These road construction projects are necessary to improve safety, as well as provide routine maintenance, for the many vehicles that use park roads throughout the year.

For current road construction information, travelers are advised to call the park's information hotline at 307.739.3614. The park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, includes a road construction map for further reference and can be found online at www.nps.gov/grte, or picked up at any entrance station or visitor center.

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May 19, 2009 09-31

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

New Multi-Use Pathway Opens for Public Use

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the new multi-use pathway, that parallels the Teton Park Road from Dornan's to South Jenny Lake, will open for public use on Saturday, May 23, 2009. Starting Memorial Day weekend, park visitors and local residents can use the eight-mile-long pathway as an alternate recreational route between the Moose area and South Jenny Lake.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the pathway took place on May 17, 2008, and construction work began shortly after. HK Contractors, Inc. of Idaho Falls, the project's construction company, worked steadily throughout the summer and fall of 2008, concluding the majority of pathway construction several months ahead of a fall 2009 projected completion date. Consequently, people can get an opportunity to use this new pathway earlier than anticipated.

As the new multi-use pathway begins its first year of operation, visitors and local residents will have a unique opportunity to enjoy an area of the park not previously used in such a concentrated way. To help different types of users safely enjoy the pathway—and avoid disturbing wildlife—bicyclists, hikers, inline skaters and other users will be encouraged to follow some basic rules of courtesy and safety:

- Respect the rights of others
- Ride single file and stay on the right side of the pathway
- Observe bicycle speeds that are reasonable to the numbers and safety of other users
- Use a bell, whistle or voice whenever passing others
- Wear appropriate protective equipment such as helmets and pads
- Don't use motorized vehicles (except wheelchairs and other mobility impaired devices)
- Be bear aware and maintain a safe distance from *all* wildlife
- Obey the sunset to sunrise closure for protection of park wildlife.

Because this new pathway bisects an important wildlife corridor not previously occupied by people on foot or on a bike, users will need to follow regulations designed to prevent adverse impacts to wild animals. For example, pets are **not allowed** on the multi-use pathway in Grand Teton to reduce potential negative impacts to wildlife from the presence of domestic pets. In addition, base line studies were conducted, and monitoring will continue, to assess the impacts that the pathway and its users may have on wildlife and their activities and movements. These studies will be used in the planning of future pathway segments.

Superintendent Scott said, "It is my sincere hope that the creation of this new pathway in Grand Teton offers visitors a safe alternative to explore one of the most stunning landscapes on earth. Through the pathway, along with our established hiking trails and new visitor centers, we have set the stage for people to make a personal connection to the natural world and become more conservation-minded—engaged in helping to care for the land, our incomparable wildlife, and our common heritage. We must keep in mind that all of us are stewards of this special place, for now and future generations."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2009 09-32

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Volunteer Ambassadors Needed for New Multi-Use Pathway in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Grand Teton National Park is now recruiting for volunteers interested in serving as an ambassador for the park's new multi-use pathway—scheduled to open for public use on Saturday, May 23. Volunteer ambassadors will patrol the eight-mile-long paved pathway on foot, bicycle or roller blades to meet and greet other pathway users and offer information about the “rules of the road,” as well as emergency assistance in the event of an accident, injury, or equipment malfunction.

Volunteers who choose to become a Grand Teton pathway ambassador will join a cadre of park employees and local residents trained to help usher in activities on the park's pathway system. Through a gentle informal approach, volunteer ambassadors will educate people about how to safely and responsibly use the new paved route between Dornan's and the South Jenny Lake area. Pathway ambassadors will also provide proactive information regarding wildlife and resource protection, and be available to help anyone who may require first aid or need a minor bike repair. Ambassadors will also tally visitor statistics for documentation of pathway use.

“This is a great opportunity for local residents to support Grand Teton National Park while sharing their knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Teton landscape with visitors from around the world and across the United States,” said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. “Pathway ambassadors will undoubtedly make a positive difference in the enjoyment and experience of visitors using the new recreational route.”

Official ambassadors will wear a National Park Service jersey, vest or other recognizable, and authorized, clothing while in volunteer status on the pathway; clothing items will be supplied by Grand Teton National Park.

For anyone interested in joining the Grand Teton National Park pathway ambassador program, an orientation and mandatory training session is scheduled for Monday, June 1, at 10 a.m. To sign up as a participant in the program, or learn more about this opportunity, please contact Sara Petsch, volunteer coordinator for pathway ambassadors, at 307.739.3397.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2009 09-32

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the *Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect* (EA/AEF) is now available for public review. Public comments will be accepted on the EA/AEF for 30 days, from May 26 to June 25, 2009.

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the Gros Ventre Campground through improvements to its infrastructure and other facilities that would benefit the visiting public, wildlife and other natural resources, park operations, and seasonal park employees. The primary objective of the project is to address health and safety concerns related to aging campground infrastructure. The project would also meet current and future visitor demands, reduce impervious surface, and restore natural vegetation and wildlife habitat. In addition, the project would provide for additional RV administrative sites for park concessioners, park partners, and seasonal employees.

The EA/AEF, prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), examines two alternatives: Alternative 1, a no action alternative; and Alternative 2, the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative proposes to upgrade, and/or replace, critical campground infrastructure. Elements of the infrastructure improvements include: Installation of a new water and waste water system; installation of up to 50 visitor-served electric hook ups sites; addition of administrative campsites; upgrades on comfort stations to meet current accessibility standards; construction of new shower and laundry facilities for visitor and administrative use; and the permanent closure of two existing campground loops. The campground entry area—including the office, parking area, and dump station—would be realigned and expanded to meet present-day visitor needs. The preferred alternative also proposes to reduce the existing campground footprint by up to eight acres and restore valuable wildlife habitat.

Electronic copies of the *Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation EA/AEF* are available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or on the park's Web site at www.nps.gov/grte. Interested persons may also request a copy through Grand Teton National Park's planning office by calling 307.739.3390.

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Mary Cernicek
307/739-5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

May 26, 2009

Firefighters and Homeowners to Participate in All Fire Day Training

Teton interagency firefighters will start the wildland fire season with an integrated fire training exercise on Saturday, June 6. About 200 firefighters from Teton, Sublette and Lincoln counties, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, the National Elk Refuge, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Wyoming State Forestry Division will gather at Star Valley Ranch for the 11th annual All Fire Day. Star Valley Ranch residents are also participating this year, along with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, Star Valley Search and Rescue, and Star Valley Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

During All Fire Day, firefighters will work through a variety of drills, structure assessments and live fire exercises. Homeowners at Star Valley Ranch will have the opportunity to participate in a mock evacuation and learn the steps to take in protecting their homes from wildfire.

"This year, we are including a Firewise program and conducting our interagency fire training with cooperators and emergency response personnel in a wildland-urban interface community," said All Fire Day Incident Commander Bryan Karchut. "By doing so, both the firefighters and the community will get a valuable experience as they practice their wildfire response and a mock evacuation in a life-like situation."

"The Town of Star Valley Ranch is extremely delighted to have been chosen to host this year's All Fires Day training session," said Mayor Boyd Siddoway. "This is an excellent opportunity for the citizens of Star Valley Ranch and western Wyoming to safely experience and learn about what these dedicated men and women do. We look forward to a continuing partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and local fire and EMS units."

Residents from the surrounding area will have the opportunity to attend a Firewise workshop on Friday evening, June 5, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Alpine Town Hall. Pat Durland with the national Firewise Communities program is the featured presenter. To register, please contact Terri Potter at the Alpine Fire Station, 307.654.7581.

All Fire Day training was established in 1998 to provide opportunities for interagency fire personnel to complete field exercises that test skills. The exercises also promote safety and efficiency in wildland firefighting, while building relationships and better communication through increased agency coordination.

Media representatives are welcome to attend the Firewise workshop and Saturday training session. Please contact Angie Crook at 307.886.5336 or Traci Weaver at 307.739.3692 for further information.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2009 09-35

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Natural Resource Research Award Presented to Dr. Robert Smith

Dr. Robert B. Smith, research professor and professor emeritus of geology and geophysics at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, recently became the recipient of a 2008 National Park Service (NPS) award for natural resource research from Intermountain Region Director Mike Snyder. Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott will present Dr. Smith with his award certificate and an eagle sculpture plaque at an informal NPS employee gathering on Thursday, June 4, at Moose, Wyoming.

The NPS regional director's award for research in the field of natural resources is an annual recognition created to acknowledge excellence in developing scientific programs, and in publishing research that furthers the cause of science or natural resource management in national parks. The 2008 award was given to Dr. Smith in recognition for his outstanding contributions in the field of geology, specifically in association with Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. Smith's lengthy and distinguished career in studying and interpreting earthquakes, fault zones, and volcanoes—and their impacts on the geologic evolution of northwestern Wyoming—has generated a greater appreciation for, and increased knowledge of, the dynamic forces at work in the physical landscape of the world-renowned Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Of special note, Smith was the only non-federal employee to receive a 2008 Intermountain Region Director's Natural Resource Research Award.

Smith has generously donated his time and expertise to assist resource specialists and national park managers while providing advice on geologic issues within the Intermountain Region. He has devoted most of his 52-year career to studying and interpreting significant geologic events in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Smith holds a Ph.D. from the University of Utah and has served as a visiting professor at Columbia University, Cambridge University and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland. His popular book with Lee Siegel, *Windows Into the Earth: The Geologic Story of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks* (2000, Oxford University Press) explains the geology of the parks, and he regularly provides 'real-time' feedback to personnel in both parks about seismic events throughout the region to encourage effective response planning to natural geologic hazards. In 2008, he retired from teaching at the University of Utah, where he was a key founder of the university's seismic network—a system that operates more than 200 regional and urban seismic stations serving Utah, eastern Idaho, and western Wyoming (including Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks). Smith was a founder of, and remains a coordinating scientist for, the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory—a facility that monitors volcanic and seismic activity in the greater Yellowstone area. He has also been integrally involved in planning and implementing the National Science Foundation-led EarthScope initiative, which uses high-precision instrumentation to explore the structure and evolution of the North American continent and the processes responsible for earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

In acknowledging Smith's achievements, Superintendent Gibson Scott said, "Dr. Smith demonstrates outstanding leadership in his field and supplies invaluable scientific information to help our staff and visitors understand the physical forces that influence the landscapes in the GYE and beyond. We appreciate his unfailing dedication and commitment to America's national parks, and are especially grateful for the wealth of knowledge that he provides in support of the safety of visitors and residents throughout the Intermountain Region."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2 , 2009 09-36

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Cattle Drive May Cause Minor Traffic Delay near Moran Junction in Grand Teton National Park

Motorists may experience a minor travel delay along Highway 26/89/191 from Moran Junction to the Elk Ranch flats (one mile south of the junction) on Saturday morning, June 6, between the hours of 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. The temporary delay will allow for the safe movement of cattle from the Pinto Ranch of Buffalo Valley to the Elk Ranch pastures, which lie south of Moran Junction and the Buffalo Fork River. Park rangers will provide traffic control during the cattle drive.

Pinto Ranch wranglers will drive a herd of about 250 cattle westward from the ranch using a right of way along Highway 26/287. When the cattle drive reaches Moran Junction, the animals will need to use the roadway to cross the Buffalo Fork bridge. At this point, motorists will likely experience a delay of 30–40 minutes while cattle clear both the bridge itself and a swampy area just south of the bridge.

To avoid the temporary road delay during the cattle drive, local residents and park visitors may choose to travel an alternate route through Grand Teton National Park using the Teton Park Road between Jackson Lake Junction and Moose Junction. Every effort will be made to reduce the time required for this travel delay and minimize any inconvenience to travelers who may be using Highway 26/89/191 to access Moran Junction during the Saturday morning cattle drive.

Grand Teton National Park officials requested that the Pinto Ranch shift their cattle from their historic, free-range Pacific Creek grazing allotment north of Moran to the fenced Elk Ranch pastures in order to minimize potential conflicts with predators living in the Pacific Creek drainage.

In accordance with the 1950 Grand Teton National Park enabling legislation, certain historic grazing privileges were retained. Since that time, the fenced and irrigated Elk Ranch pastures have been used for cattle grazing.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Promotes Healthy Family Recreation

As part of a nation-wide initiative to promote healthy family recreation in national parks, Grand Teton National Park reminds visitors and neighbors that numerous outdoor activities are available during the 2009 summer travel season. To support greater participation in recreational activities, encourage exercise, and develop healthy habits through outdoor recreation, June 6 has been declared as National Trails Day by a consortium of federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the recreation industry. In addition, June 13 has been named National Get Outdoors Day, and July has been designated as National Park and Recreation Month.

To mark National Trails Day, visitors may choose to experience the spectacular Teton landscape on foot, bicycle or rollerblades by traveling the park's new multi-use pathway from Dornan's to the South Jenny Lake area. This 8-mile-long paved pathway offers the chance to breath fresh air, get physical exercise, and soak in the beauty of the park's dramatic scenery and wildlife. Because the pathway traverses a wildlife-rich corridor, special regulations apply. Visitors should stop and read the posted informational signs before proceeding along this route, and observe safety precautions such as: wear helmets and sunscreen; ride single file and maintain bicycle speeds that are reasonable to the numbers of other pathway users; be bear aware; and keep a safe distance from all wildlife. Pets are **not** allowed on the multi-use pathway and this route is closed from sunset to sunrise to protect park animals.

In addition to the new paved pathway, Grand Teton National Park boasts over 250 miles of hiking trails that are scattered throughout the Teton canyons and peaks, as well as across the valley floor. The extensive network of hiking trails offers a variety of opportunities to experience the geology and natural resources of the park. Many park trails are gradually becoming snow-free, and they offer access to the park's ruggedly beautiful backcountry. Visitors are advised to stop at a park visitor center or ranger station to get information about park trails, their current conditions, and safety precautions to consider.

Numerous ranger-led activities are now underway in Grand Teton; a list is available in the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, which is available at visitor centers and entrance stations or online at www.nps.gov/grte. For National Trails Day, visitors may join the ranger-led Taggart Lake Hike to explore a moderately difficult trail and learn about fire ecology, early season wildflowers, and native wildlife; this ranger-led activity begins at 9 a.m. from the Taggart Lake parking area, three miles north of the Moose Entrance Station. Visitors may also elect to take a ranger-led walk along the Snake River to the Murie Ranch and discover how the modern-day conservation movement was launched by Olaus, Mardy, Adolph and Louise Murie from their home in Grand Teton National Park. This activity begins at 10 a.m. from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose.

There are limitless activities available in Grand Teton National Park—with rangers, as well as with authorized park concessioners who operate scenic float trips on the Snake River, cruises on Jackson Lake, horseback rides, guided fishing trips, and more.

Grand Teton National Park joins other national parks across the country in welcoming visitors and neighbors to the great American outdoors this summer. National parks provide some of the best and most cost effective vacation opportunities—special places through which lasting family memories are made.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2009 09-38

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Update #2

Due to recent inclement weather, road construction work on the Signal Mountain Summit Road will be delayed by one week, allowing for unrestricted travel on this scenic drive through June 14. Starting Sunday evening, June 14, the Signal Mountain Summit Road will be closed to weekday travel while the road receives an asphalt overlay. This project requires a closure for weekday traffic only—weekend traffic will be allowed. The weekday travel restrictions will be in place from June 14 through the remainder of the month.

Reconstruction of the North Park Road in Grand Teton, between Lizard Creek campground and Flagg Ranch Resort is progressing. Work is being done to widen and repave the park road and complete the reconstruction of the Snake River Bridge. Motorists are advised to expect daytime travel delays of up to 30 minutes from now through the end of November.

Important note: Work on the North Park Road will cease on weekends during July and August—and during the Fourth of July and Labor Day holiday weekends—to allow for unfettered traffic flow during peak travel times.

Other road construction projects are planned for upcoming months, and each will involve 15-minute delays in traffic. These projects include: An asphalt overlay on the road from Colter Bay to Leeks Marina during early July; an asphalt overlay on the road to the Teton Science Schools' Kelly Campus during mid July; a chip seal project one mile north of Moose Junction to Cunningham Cabin along Hwy 89/191 planned for late August to Labor Day weekend; and a chip seal project from the park's south boundary to one mile north of the Moose Junction on Hwy 89/191 scheduled for after Labor Day through mid September. As always, roadwork schedules may change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

Drivers are encouraged to plan ahead, and schedule extra time for their travel through Grand Teton National Park during the next several months. As road improvement work is underway, every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to drivers using park roads; however, traffic will be held up for short periods of time. These road construction projects are necessary to improve safety, as well as provide routine maintenance, for the many vehicles that use park roads each year.

For current road construction information, travelers are advised to call the park's information hotline at 307.739.3614. The park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, includes a road construction map for further reference and can be found online at www.nps.gov/grte, or picked up at any entrance station or visitor center.

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307/739-3393

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



Mary Cernicek
307/739-5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

June 10, 2009

Firefighters and Homeowners Train Together in All Fire Day Exercises

Firefighters and homeowners participated in the 11th annual All Fire Day training exercises on June 6 at Star Valley Ranch despite rainy weather. Firefighters from Teton, Sublette, Sweetwater and Lincoln counties, as well as Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Wyoming State Forestry Division gathered together to improve interagency coordination and emergency preparedness, communication and skills. The exercise gave interagency fire personnel the chance to “train the way they fight.”

Firefighter drills included: laying firefighting hoses for defending areas from approaching wildfire; digging lines to confine a wildfire to a particular area; practicing techniques and tactics for insuring a fire is extinguished; and responding to staged motor vehicle accidents and medical emergencies.

“The drills provide an opportunity for firefighters from all around the area to work together in a simulated incident,” said Incident Commander Bryan Karchut. “I think the whole day was a valuable training experience from the ground firefighter on up to the agency administrator.”

Some of the crews, along with Pat Durlan, national Firewise coordinator from Boise, Idaho, conducted home assessments along the forest boundary to see how defensible structures would be in the event of an approaching wildfire. Homeowners had been asked in advance to perform their own assessments so they could compare notes with the firefighters. The crews evaluated nine homes for their Firewise program and provided information to the residents.

“It is valuable for a homeowner to see how the firefighters look at a home and the risks associated with it,” said Fire Information Officer Traci Weaver. “The assessments identify steps homeowners can take to ensure the survivability of their home if it were threatened by a wildfire.”

Wyoming Governor David Freudenthal and Wyoming State Senator Dan Dockstader made an early morning appearance at All Fire Day to applaud the efforts of the firefighters. Lincoln County Commissioners Jerry Harman, Tammy Archibald and Kent Connelly also stopped by to lend their support and thanks to the participants.

“We are very grateful to the town of Star Valley Ranch,” said Karchut. “The town leaders and many residents gave up their Saturday and let us invade their neighborhood. They were incredibly good sports about the whole thing. Now, should Star Valley Ranch be threatened by a wildfire, we’ve all worked together and are familiar with the town—and they are with us.”

For more information on All Fire Day, contact Angie Crook at 307.886.5336 or 307.413.2146.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2009 09-40

Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole Astronomy Club Celebrate International Year of Astronomy

This summer, Grand Teton National Park will join with the Jackson Hole Astronomy Club to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy. To mark this 2009 designation, Grand Teton and the local astronomy club will host several family-oriented programs, culminating with a special day of astronomy on August 16. The programs are designed to provide visitors and local residents with an opportunity to learn about star gazing, meteor showers, sunspots, star clusters, galaxies and much more.

The International Year of Astronomy proclaims to be modern astronomy's quadricentennial, involving a world-wide celebration of numerous astronomical and scientific milestones. During 2009, events are planned to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Galileo's use of a telescope to study the skies, and Johannes Kepler's publication of *Astronomia Nova*, among other notable achievements. Special programs offered at Grand Teton will provide opportunities for park visitors to gain a deeper insight into the role astronomy plays in the cultural history of people around the world.

Park Ranger Naturalist Bob Hoyle will give three evening programs focusing on American Indian mythology and the use of the sky and its celestial bodies in cultural history. Following each program—as a finale—large telescopes will be set up for participants to view stars, galaxies, nebulae and other cosmic phenomena. Anyone planning to attend the evening programs and telescope observation sessions should dress warmly as evening temperatures in Grand Teton can be quite chilly, even during summer. Solar-filtered telescopes will also be available to view sunspots during a daytime event at Colter Bay Visitor Center on August 16, and exhibit tables will be set up, providing fun and interesting information for children and adults alike.



Big Dipper over the Tetons by Full Moon—Photo, Bob Hoyle

The 2009 Year of Astronomy schedule is:

June 20

Signal Mountain Amphitheater
9:30 p.m.

July 19

Gros Ventre Amphitheater
9:30 p.m.

August 16

Colter Bay Visitor Center
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Colter Bay Amphitheater
9:00 p.m.

To learn more about the International Year of Astronomy scheduled events, call the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594. For more information on the International Year of Astronomy or the International Astronomical Union, visit their Web site at www.astronomy2009.org.

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June 12, 2009 09-41

Jackie Skaggs/ 307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Observes Second Annual John Colter Day

Grand Teton National Park will hold its second annual John Colter Day on Monday, June 22, 2009 at the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum. Colter explored the greater Yellowstone area during the winter of 1807-08, and was likely the first white man to do so. To highlight this historical figure, Grand Teton will offer several programs during the second and third week of June. Colter Bay, on the northeast shore of Jackson Lake, is named in his honor.

Dr. Barbara Mueller, Professor of Anthropology at Casper College, will be the keynote speaker presenting “John Colter: Mountain Man Superhero,” at 3 p.m. on June 22 on the back deck of the Colter Bay Visitor Center. Additionally Mueller will provide museum tours of the David T. Vernon Indian Arts collection at the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum, Monday June 15 through Friday June 19. Mueller’s tours will take the place of the regularly scheduled 4 p.m. museum tours.



The Colter Stone will be on display at the Colter Bay Visitor Center from June 22-28. Park Ranger Naturalist Dan Greenblatt will present “The Story of the Colter Stone,” at 11 a.m. in the Colter Bay auditorium, detailing the legend and history of this fascinating artifact. The stone, which is on loan from the Teton Valley Historical Museum in Driggs, Idaho, is a piece of rhyolite lava rock carved in the shape of a human head. It is engraved on one side with the name “John Colter,” and on the other side is the year “1808.” Discovered in Teton, Idaho in 1933, the stone, if authentic, represents the only solid proof of the route followed by trapper and explorer John Colter. The Colter Stone remains a fascinating piece of the puzzle yet to fit into the mystery of John Colter’s pioneering sojourn through this region. For information on the Colter Stone visit <http://www.nps.gov/grte/historyculture/colterstone.htm>.

Colter’s route through the Jackson Hole valley is uncertain, and no clear maps or records exist. A member of the famed Lewis and Clark expedition from 1804 to 1806, Colter was given an early discharge from the Corps of Discovery. He set out on his own from a fur trapping fort in present-day southern Montana and headed south to present-day Cody, Wyoming. On his return, he passed through what is now Yellowstone National Park. The middle section of his journey is a matter of speculation. One theory indicates he traveled via Togowtee Pass. The other commonly held view traces Colter’s route through Jackson Hole, over Teton Pass, and north along the west side of the Teton Range. No evidence exists to substantiate either route, and the only available sources of information are vague accounts and maps derived from interviews with Colter after his return.

For information about John Colter Day events, please call the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 739.3594.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2009 09-42

Jackie Skaggs/Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Waive Entrance Fees During Three Summer Weekends

Grand Teton National Park will waive entrance fees during the weekends of June 20-21 (Fathers Day), July 18-19, and August 15-16, as part of a nation-wide initiative launched by Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on June 1st. In concert with the fee-free weekends, Grand Teton will offer educational programs that are designed to highlight special features of the park.

In an effort to encourage Americans seeking affordable vacations to visit their national parks, and explore the treasures that these unique places safeguard, Interior Secretary Salazar declared that national parks across the country will offer three separate fee-free weekends this summer. "National Parks serve as powerful economic engines for local communities," said Secretary Salazar during a formal announcement about the new initiative at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio. "We hope that promoting visitation will give a small shot in the arm to businesses in the area."

During each of the upcoming fee-free weekends, Grand Teton park ranger naturalists will offer interpretative programs at various park locations—the Moose area, Jenny Lake, Colter Bay, and the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve. Visitors will be invited to learn about the park and its natural and cultural features by joining one of the regularly scheduled programs listed in the park's newspaper, the *Teewinot*. These programs offer visitors the chance to: ponder the challenges of protecting public lands and natural resources during a "Conversation on Conservation" walk from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center to the Murie Ranch; hear about mountain climbing in the Tetons in the Jenny Lake area; discover the role of geology and fire ecology by taking a "Fire and Ice" cruise from the Colter Bay marina; learn about American Indian culture during a tour of the David T. Vernon Indian Art Collection at the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum; or catch the "Explore the Preserve" hike at the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve to gain insight into the power of place.

In addition to regularly scheduled programs, the following special programs will also be available:

"Experience nature through art" on Saturday, June 20. Sketch the natural world during a walk along Lake Creek on the Laurance S. Rockefeller (LSR) Preserve. Bring art supplies (sketching paper, pencil, and pen). Meet on the LSR Preserve Center veranda at 10 a.m. Space is limited, so please call 739.3654 to reserve a spot.

"Celebrate International Year of Astronomy" on Saturday, June 20. Ranger Bob Hoyle will provide a program on Native American sky mythology and the use of the sky and its celestial bodies throughout human history. Large telescopes will be set up for participants to view stars, nebulae and other cosmic phenomena. Meet at the Signal Mountain Amphitheater at 9:30 p.m.

"Enjoy a Bird Walk" on Sunday, June 21. Take an early morning bird walk along the Snake River. Meet at the flagpole at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 7 a.m. Learn to "bird by ear" on a two-hour bird walk at the LSR Preserve at 8 a.m. Reservations are recommended; call 307.739.3654.

"Many Americans are facing tough economic times right now. Our hope is that these free-entry weekends will give some financial relief, while providing a memorable vacation experience," said Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. "We encourage families to bring their children to Grand Teton, attend one of the ranger-led programs, and discover how rewarding and special a national park visit can truly be."

For more about fee-free weekends in national parks, go to <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>.

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Mary Cernicek
307/739-5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

June 19, 2009

Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officers Practice Fire Investigation

Teton interagency firefighters will team up with law enforcement next week to practice an additional component of their job. Through a Wildland Fire Origin and Cause course taught by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, interagency fire personnel will learn ways to determine how and where a fire started, while also conducting a prescribed fire.

Weather permitting, instructors will burn approximately five acres, broken out into 20 100-by-100 foot blocks near the power line two-track along Mormon Row Road. This area lies within the 300-acre Warm Springs Ditch project—a previous prescribed fire and weed treatment area. Each block will be ignited using a different method, and students will then investigate each block to determine the cause of the fire and the characteristics of its spread.

Students in the course will learn to identify the behavior of a wildland fire and the environmental factors that affect its start and spread; they will also learn to interpret burn patterns. In addition, the course covers elements of a fire scene such as: evidence identification, preservation, and collection; fire investigation methodology; witness interviews; ignition factors and sources; arson recognition; and preparation and testimony for the courtroom.

“This course is important because we need more qualified fire investigators in Teton Interagency Fire,” said Mack McFarland, interagency fuels specialist. “As we investigate human-caused fires, we need to be able to accurately determine the cause, and preserve evidence, so that we can pursue cost recovery for fire suppression activities.”

The Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination course runs from June 22-26. Instructors will burn the study blocks on whichever day has the favorable weather and conditions to sustain a prescribe fire.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2009 09-44

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Motorcycle Collision with Pronghorn Results in Serious Injury to Rider

A collision between a motorcycle, with two riders aboard, and a pronghorn on Saturday afternoon, June 20, resulted in serious injuries to the passenger and minor injuries to the driver. The single vehicle collision occurred at 1:25 p.m. on Highway 26/89/191, two miles south of the Snake River Overlook in Grand Teton National Park. Brady Burgess, a 38-year-old resident of Garland, Utah and his passenger and wife, 46-year-old Koreen Burgess, were traveling southbound when the collision occurred.

Burgess, driving his 2005 Polaris Victory motorcycle, was leading a string of about seven motorcycles, when he entered the northbound lane, attempting to pass a motor home. As he started to clear the front of the RV, a pronghorn, heading eastward, began to race across the highway. While traveling at approximately 65 miles per hour, Burgess attempted to swerve left to avoid the animal. In response to the approaching vehicle, the pronghorn leapt into the air and impacted the right side of the motorcycle. The force of the impact knocked both riders off the motorcycle, causing the bike to tip over. The motorcycle continued to slide for approximately 100 feet down the highway. Neither Burgess nor his wife was wearing a helmet at the time.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received reports of the accident from several passers-by shortly after it occurred. Eleven park rangers and emergency medical personnel responded immediately to the scene. Emergency medical personnel from Teton County and an off duty Minnesota highway patrolman, who was first on the scene, also assisted with the incident. Two ambulances—one from Grand Teton and the other from Teton County—responded to the scene to transport the two injured people to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

Due to the serious nature of the incident, and the multiple ambulances and emergency medical personnel required to treat the injured people, Highway 26/89/191 was closed to traffic for one hour from 1:40 p.m. to 2:40 p.m. Park rangers assisted with traffic control at Moran and Moose junctions and diverted vehicles through a detour along the Teton Park Road.

Grand Teton National Park rangers have concluded their investigation of the collision; however, this incident serves as an important reminder that wildlife are often wandering across, or lingering near, park roadways. Therefore, all motorists must be extra alert while driving and slow down for their own safety, as well as the welfare of park animals.

Motorists are reminded to drive the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop suddenly for wildlife on park roads. Driving slower than indicated speed limits—especially at night—can increase the margin of safety for people and animals alike. Collisions between motor vehicles and wildlife may result in severe damage to a vehicle, serious or fatal injuries to the occupants of that vehicle, and/or death for the animal involved.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2009 09-45

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Temporary Road Closure Scheduled for Moose-Wilson Road in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a brief travel closure will be in effect on the unpaved section of the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park for about seven hours beginning at 5:30 a.m. on Friday, June 26. The temporary closure is scheduled to allow for grading work to be done on the unpaved roadbed. The Moose-Wilson Road will reopen by 1 p.m., barring inclement weather or equipment malfunction.

Road crews will complete the project in the shortest time possible; however, because this temporary closure prevents the ability to make a “through trip” on the Moose-Wilson Road, local residents and park visitors are advised to plan accordingly and use an alternate route. For those visitors wishing to reach the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve or the Death Canyon trailhead, access will be possible by driving south on the Moose-Wilson Road from the junction with the Teton Park Road at Moose, Wyoming.

To alert travelers of the expected daytime road closure, electronic signs will be in place on Wyoming Highway #390, beginning Wednesday, June 24. For motorists heading south to Teton Village, signs will also be placed at the junction of the Teton Park Road, near the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center.

The gravel surface of the Moose-Wilson Road between the Granite Canyon trailhead and the old JY Ranch gate, 1.5 miles north of the trailhead, becomes eroded during the summer months due to volume of vehicles that travel on it. Road grading will create a smoother surface and provide an added measure of safety for motorists using this roadway.

Roadwork schedules may change, or be delayed, due to weather conditions, equipment malfunction, or other extenuating circumstances.

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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2009

Firefighters Respond to Human and Lightning-Caused Fires in Grand Teton National Park

Teton interagency firefighters responded to a lightning-caused fire in Grand Teton National Park on Saturday evening, June 20. The Snake Fire was ignited about one mile north of the Teton Point Turnout on Highway 26/89/191 during the passage of an active thunderstorm. The fire is currently a quarter-acre in size, and Teton interagency firefighters are managing the fire for resource benefit.

The first fire of the season in Grand Teton started Wednesday, June 17. The Granite Bridge Fire was ignited by an illegal cooking fire on the Granite Canyon Trail, 1.3 miles from the trailhead. The party who reported the fire also knocked down the main flames. Interagency firefighters from the Moose-based engine 3 hiked in and extinguished it.

“With the rain we’ve had this month, it was surprisingly dry under the trees. The duff burned deeper and hotter than we would have expected,” said Lisa Elenz, fire management officer for Grand Teton National Park. “People need to be aware that fires are not permitted in the park’s backcountry; they are only allowed in certain lakeshore sites by special permit.”

The Bridger-Teton National Forest has also had two fires this season, both on June 7. The Sheep Fire in Curtis Canyon at Sheep Creek was a human-caused, debris-burning fire; and the George’s Canyon Fire was a single tree lightning fire on Munger Mountain, south of Jackson. Both of those fires have been extinguished. In addition, campers have abandoned 19 campfires so far this season on National Forest Service land.

“People tend to be lulled into a false sense of security because of the wet weather and the green grass,” said Leslie Williams, fire prevention technician with the Bridger-Teton National Forest. “Campfires still need to be cool to the touch, fully extinguished with water and dirt, before leaving them. Should a campfire escape and start a wildfire, the responsible party can be held liable for suppression costs. Depending how large the fire is, that cost can be in the millions.”

For local fire information, log on to <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html>, or use the redirect from www.tetonfires.com.

XXX



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2009 09-47

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park International Postage Stamp Unveiling

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott wishes to invite the public to a special event to mark the first day of issue and the unveiling of a new 98-cent international postage stamp that pays tribute to Grand Teton National Park. This new stamp is part of the Scenic American Landscape series. The stamp unveiling event will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 28, in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming.



This is the first time that Grand Teton National Park has been honored by being chosen to grace a postage stamp specifically highlighting the park. To help celebrate this special recognition, Grand Teton National Park International Postage Stamps and commemorative cachet envelopes will be offered for purchase. Moose Postmaster, Penny Maldonado, will also be available to cancel first day issue stamps for collection purposes.

Gary Sims, senior operating manager of the Colorado/Wyoming United States Postal Service District, will attend the special event. In addition, Philatelist Chris Lazaroff of Elkton, Maryland, president of the American First Day Cover Society and a specialist in stamp collecting, will be on hand to discuss the significance of the Grand Teton National Park International Stamp in the context of the art of stamp collecting. The stamp itself displays a photograph taken at dawn from the Snake River Overlook by Bishop, California resident, Dennis Flaherty; it exhibits an awe-inspiring view of the Teton Range that was captured by Ansel Adams in his classic 1942 black and white photograph.

Postage stamps were first issued in the United States in 1847—a little over 100 years before Grand Teton National Park was enlarged to its present-day boundaries in 1950. Stamp collecting is now a varied and widely popular hobby around the world; it provides an inexpensive and fascinating way to explore cultures, places, and history. It is estimated that over 80% of the world's children have dabbled in stamp collecting, and adults share the same passion. In fact, the American Philatelic Society boasts over 50,000 members from 110 countries worldwide. Many beginning collectors choose a favorite subject like art, history, sports, transportation, famous people or animals as the theme of their collection and the Grand Teton National Park International Stamp unveiling offers a great way to start a new collection or enhance a current collection.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2009 09-48

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739-3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Update # 3

Motorists traveling Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park will encounter road construction and delays during the next several weeks. Crack sealing will occur the week of June 22 on the highway between Gros Ventre Junction and the park's south boundary, just north of the Jackson National Fish Hatchery. Motorists should expect delays up to 15 minutes for this project. Road striping will be underway through July 2, with minor delays expected. The Signal Mountain Summit Road will be closed Mondays through Thursdays, from June 29 through July 9 for an asphalt overlay project. The road will still be open Friday through Sunday during this time.

Reconstruction of the North Park Road in Grand Teton & Rockefeller Parkway, between Lizard Creek campground and Flagg Ranch Resort, is progressing. Work is being done to widen and repave the park road and complete the reconstruction of the Snake River Bridge just south of Yellowstone National Park. Motorists are advised to expect day and night travel delays of up to 30 minutes from now through the end of November. There are no night closures planned for the remainder of the season on the North Park Road.

Other road construction projects are planned for upcoming months, and each will involve 15-minute delays in traffic. These projects include: Asphalt overlays on the road from Colter Bay to Leeks Marina and on the road to the Teton Science Schools' Kelly Campus during July. Bridge maintenance is also underway throughout the park and intermittent 15 minute delays should be expected at some park bridges.

Motorists traveling Highway 26/89/191 between the park's south boundary and Cunningham Cabin should expect delays up to 30 minutes beginning August 24 to early September for completion of a chip seal project.

As always, roadwork schedules may change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Drivers are encouraged to plan ahead, and schedule extra time for their travel through Grand Teton during the next several months. As road improvement work is underway, efforts will be made to minimize inconvenience to drivers using park roads; however, traffic will be held up for short periods of time. These road construction projects are necessary for visitor safety, and maintenance of visitor facilities, for the many vehicles that use park roads each year.

For current road construction information, travelers are advised to call the park's information hotline at 307.739.3614. The park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, includes a road construction map for further reference and can be found online at www.nps.gov/grte, or picked up at any entrance station or visitor center.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2009 09:49

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739-3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Offers Junior Ranger Programs

Grand Teton National Park has scheduled a variety of activities and learning experiences throughout the summer months to inspire children and encourage them to become partners in helping to preserve not only Grand Teton, but all of America's national parks. As the National Park Service's signature initiative for young visitors, the Junior Ranger program provides children with age-appropriate, park-related activities that they can do at their own pace. The official Junior Ranger slogan, "Explore, Learn, Protect: Be a Junior Ranger," captures the essence of a program designed to educate children about nature, wildlife and our nation's history.

There are three ways to become a Junior Ranger in Grand Teton. The first option is for children to fill out the fun activities in "The Grand Adventure" newspaper and attend two programs, one of which must be ranger-led. The second option is for children ages 8-12 to attend a more hands-on program hosted at each of the park's visitor centers. The third option is to explore the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve with a nature explorer's backpack. Once participants have completed the required activities, they will be sworn in as official Junior Rangers and presented with a badge or patch (a donation of \$1 is requested for these items). Reservations are required and can be made at any park visitor center.

Grand Teton National Park Junior Ranger programs include:

Moose:

Offered Sundays and Thursdays, June 1 – August 13, 2009
1:30 p.m. at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center fireplace

Jenny Lake:

Offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, June 1 – August 14, 2009
1:30 p.m. at the Jenny Lake Visitor Center flagpole

Colter Bay:

Offered Tuesdays and Saturdays, June 1 – August 15, 2009
1:30 p.m. at the Colter Bay Visitor Center flagpole

Laurance S. Rockefeller (LSR) Preserve:

Offered everyday, June 22 – September 27, 2009
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the LSR Preserve Center

Children learn the art of journaling while discovering the wonders of the natural world using a nature explorer's backpack. After a brief orientation by a ranger, each child receives their own nature journal and set of activities to take with them as they explore the LSR Preserve trails. Backpacks may be checked out during the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. This program is recommended for children ages 6-12. Backpacks are limited, one per family. A similar program is available at the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center at 532 North Cache in Jackson. Please call 734.9378 for further information.

For more information on Grand Teton's Junior Ranger programs, contact the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399, Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594, or LSR Preserve Center 307.739.3654.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2009 09-50

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739-3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Conducts Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspections

Grand Teton National Park, in partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Wyoming Highway Patrol, conducted two days of full-level commercial vehicle safety inspections on June 23 and 24. A complete inspection evaluates both the driver and the commercial vehicle to ensure compliance with federal regulations that govern these vehicles. The inspections were unannounced and focused on commercial buses and trucks.

A safety inspection station was assembled in Colter Bay Village, and every commercial vehicle traveling on Highway 89/287 through the park was diverted through the inspection station by Grand Teton National Park rangers. The vehicles inspected included passenger vans operated by local hotels for touring guests, commercial passenger buses, delivery vehicles, construction vehicles, and commercial vehicles carrying hazardous materials (a propane truck and a double trailer hauling gasoline). A total of 45 commercial vehicles and drivers were checked. Inspections focused on safety issues that could lead to motor vehicle accidents, injuries to passengers and others, and/or resource damage to the park.

The inspections resulted in nine “out-of-service” violations, requiring the vehicles to be parked until identified safety issues were resolved. Three construction side-loading dump trucks were parked for mechanical failures, two vehicles (a beverage delivery truck and a 40-passenger bus) were parked for brake failure, one propane truck was parked due to an unsecured load, and a delivery truck with an underage driver was suspended from service until the driver could be replaced. Additionally, nine operators received citations for equipment or driver violations.

This is the second year in a row that Grand Teton has hosted a commercial vehicle safety inspection operation. A similar operation may be scheduled for later in the summer. Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott said, “We are committed to ensuring the safety of all who travel park roads and these coordinated unannounced inspection stations are instrumental in identifying and addressing safety violations that pose a serious threat to the safety of park visitors and local residents.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2009 09-51

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Second Annual Grand Teton Music Festival Concerts in the Park

Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Music Festival have joined together to offer a second year of special programs, promoting the deep connection between nature and music. Created through a special partnership, the “Music in Nature” concert series runs from June 30 through July 25. The Grand Teton Music Festival’s resident String Quartet will perform 30-minute programs of music inspired by nature; a park ranger will host each performance. The concerts are free and open to the public



The inaugural performance of the String Quartet from Rice University in Houston, Texas will take place at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center on Monday, June 29 at 12 noon. The String Quartet was established by the Grand Teton Music Festival as a way to usher in promising musicians to the festival orchestra that plays each summer at Walk Festival Hall in Teton Village. These musicians will delight listeners through their recitals, continuing a musical tradition inspired by the beauty of Grand Teton National Park and its majestic scenery.

“The ‘Music in Nature’ concerts create a unique, relaxing atmosphere that allows visitors to enjoy the picturesque Teton landscape in a truly personal and moving way,” said Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. “We are excited to partner with the Grand Teton Music Festival again this summer to bring a special musical experience to our visitors.”

Several park locations will host these concerts: Colter Bay Visitor Center, Jackson Lake Lodge and the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. The times and locations are:

Tuesdays and Thursdays

12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Colter Bay Visitor Center (back deck)

4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Jackson Lake Lodge (lobby)

Wednesdays and Fridays

11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center (terrace)

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June 29, 2009 09-52

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/307.739.3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

International Postage Stamp Featuring Grand Teton National Park Unveiled

Over 100 people gathered at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming on Sunday, June 28 to celebrate the unveiling of a new 98-cent international postage stamp featuring Grand Teton National Park. The stamp—part of the Scenic American Landscape series—displays a photograph taken at dawn from the Snake River Overlook by Bishop, California resident, Dennis Flaherty. The stamp's image is reminiscent of the famous Teton view captured by Ansel Adams in his classic 1942 black and white photograph.

This is the first time that Grand Teton National Park has been on a postage stamp specifically honoring the park. To celebrate this special recognition, Grand Teton National Park international postage stamps and commemorative cachet envelopes were offered for sale by Moose Postmaster, Penny Maldonado, and cancelled with a specially designed first day issue stamp for collection purposes.

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott joined Gary Sims, senior operating manager of the Colorado/Wyoming United States Postal Service District, and Philatelist Richard Thomas of the American First Day Cover Society to mark the occasion and acknowledge the audience, many of whom had traveled from across the country just for the event. All three remained after the dedication to sign collectors' programs and specially created cachet envelopes.

Postage stamps were first issued in the United States in 1847—a little over 100 years before Grand Teton National Park was enlarged to its present-day boundaries in 1950. Stamp collecting is now a varied and widely popular hobby around the world; it provides an inexpensive and fascinating way to explore cultures, places, and history. It is estimated that over 80% of the world's children have dabbled in stamp collecting, and adults share the same passion. In fact, the American Philatelic Society boasts over 50,000 members from 110 countries worldwide. Many beginning collectors choose a favorite subject like art, history, sports, transportation, famous people or animals as the theme of their collection and the Grand Teton National Park international stamp offers a great way to start a new collection or enhance a current collection.



Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott unveils new international postage stamp with Richard Thomas of the American First Day Cover Society at a June 28 event in Grand Teton NP.

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July 1, 2009 09-53

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Two Youths Overcome by Carbon Monoxide Exposure in Grand Teton National Park

Two nine-year-old girls from Jackson, Wyoming families suffered carbon-monoxide poisoning while “teak surfing” behind an inboard ski boat on Jackson Lake on Tuesday afternoon, June 30. Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a 911 call regarding the situation about 4:30 p.m. and park emergency medical providers, along with numerous park personnel from other divisions, responded immediately to the Colter Bay Marina to provide life-saving medical care before transporting the young girls to St. John’s Medical Center. After receiving highly concentrated oxygen treatment, the girls were revived and later released from the hospital.

A family of four (mom, dad, son and daughter), along with a young girl and her brother from another family, were out for an afternoon excursion on the lake. The young girls, and their older brothers, were taking turns holding onto a swim platform attached to the back of a 20-foot, 1994 Tige ski boat while being pulled across the water. Because of the close proximity to the boat’s exhaust ports, the two girls and one of the boys were subjected to a high concentration of carbon-monoxide gas. When both girls lost consciousness and slumped down behind the platform, one of the brothers realized something was wrong and quickly pulled them out of the water and onto the platform. The young man also made an emergency call for help on his cell phone. Although the father was operating the ski boat when the girls lost consciousness, his son took over in order to drive to the marina to get emergency care. During this time, the father gave CPR to one of the girls.

An investigation is underway regarding the circumstances of this incident and a citation for operating a vessel while allowing a person to hang onto a swim platform will likely be issued, as well as a citation for failure to provide required personal floatation devices for all boat occupants. Because of its inherently unsafe nature, “teak surfing” is illegal in all national park units—including Grand Teton; it is also illegal in a number of states.

The activity is called “teak surfing” because the swim platforms on boats are often made of teak wood. Swimmers use these transom platforms to body surf on the wake behind a slow moving boat; however the inboard-motor exhaust ports place the swimmers in direct contact with carbon-monoxide gases, leading to potentially deadly exposure. High concentrations of carbon monoxide can cause a rapid loss of consciousness and death. Levels of carbon-monoxide are more dangerous in the boating environment because they can lead to drowning. In addition, carbon-monoxide concentrations released from boats can be over 150 times higher than exhaust from an ordinary automobile.

Carbon monoxide—an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas—is a leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths each year in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 500 people perish annually due to carbon-monoxide poisoning. Symptoms of carbon-monoxide poisoning may include severe headache, dizziness, confusion, nausea, fainting, and death. Low levels can cause shortness of breath, slight nausea, and a mild headache.

“This incident serves as a harsh lesson that a seemingly innocent activity can actually be quite dangerous,” said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. “We are so relieved that these two young ladies were revived, and that this incident had a positive ending for the families involved.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 6, 2009 09-54

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739-3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Alleviate Disruptions from Airport Terminal Expansion Project

Grand Teton National Park has agreed to allow the Jackson Hole Airport to use a previously disturbed area for the stockpiling of construction materials and equipment needed for an upcoming airport terminal expansion project. The area is located on the east side of Highway 26/89/191, in close proximity to the airport, and may be visible to passing motorists. Grand Teton also plans to temporarily stockpile gravel and other materials in the same location for use on road improvement projects scheduled for July and August.

In discussions with the Jackson Hole Airport board, Grand Teton officials recognized that allowing the airport to use an alternate stockpile area would alleviate safety concerns regarding the operation of the Teton Interagency Helibase located at the northern end of the airport parking lot. It will also reduce disruptions to both public and employee parking. The Teton Interagency Helibase supports firefighting activities, search and rescue operations and other emergency services for Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and the National Elk Refuge.

Contractors for the airport terminal expansion project will only be permitted to stockpile materials and equipment on previously disturbed land; the area will be enclosed with a secure fence to prevent people and wildlife from entering the site. In order to lessen traffic to and from the stockpile location, certain restrictions will apply. The materials and equipment stored in the area will not be accessed on a regular basis; generally, no more than three trips per day will occur between the stockpile site and the airport. In addition, warning signs will be placed to alert motorists traveling Highway 216/89/191 about the potential for trucks crossing the road.

The Jackson Hole Airport terminal expansion project is consistent with the terms of the current agreement between the airport board and the Department of the Interior. Additional space is required in the terminal building to accommodate ticketing functions and security procedures, as well as baggage handling and screening operations. The project is expected to begin in mid-July.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2009 09-55

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Celebrate National Park and Recreation Month, Bike with a Ranger

To help celebrate National Park and Recreation Month, Grand Teton National Park will offer a unique excursion: a bicycle ride with a park ranger. Visitors and local residents may join a park ranger naturalist on Saturday, July 11, at 9:30 a.m. at the Taggart Lake trailhead, just three miles north of the Moose entrance station, for a leisurely bike ride along the park's new multi-use pathway.

It is also possible to join the ranger at any point along the pathway between Taggart Lake and Jenny Lake. As a friendly reminder, those attending should bring drinking water, rain gear and a snack. Bicycle helmets for all participants are highly recommended. The distance between Taggart Lake trailhead and Jenny Lake is approximately 3.5 miles. This section of the pathway is mostly level or rolling; there is slight elevation gain of about 165' over the 3.5-mile distance. This activity will last for two and one half hours.

July was designated as America's National Park and Recreation Month in 1985 and has been annually observed since that time. In an effort to promote physical activity and encourage an appreciation for the great outdoors during the 2009 National Park and Recreation Month, Grand Teton has scheduled several new ranger-led activities—beginning with the bike with a ranger tour. This is an excellent activity for families and reservations are not required. Additional new ranger-led activities will be announced throughout the month of July.

“Visitors to Grand Teton can discover recreational activities to help them pursue healthy lifestyle goals during each season of the year,” said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. “During National Park and Recreation Month in July, visitors and area residents can take advantage of not only the multi-use pathway, but also the extensive hiking trails located throughout the park's backcountry. Biking and hiking are just two of the many excellent ways that visitors can explore the beauty and wonders of the park while getting fresh air and exercise.”

For a complete list of ranger-led activities and programs, please refer to the park's newspaper, the *Teewinot*, online at www.nps.gov/grte or call one of the park's visitor centers: the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399, the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594 or the Jenny Lake Visitor Center at 307.739.3392.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2009 09-56

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Junior Ranger Essay Contest Winner Pays Tribute to Grand Teton National Park

With more than 400 compositions submitted for the 2009 National Park Foundation Junior Ranger Essay Contest, Jason Roy Maki, of Marysville, Washington, won second place for his piece highlighting the best of Grand Teton National Park. Maki and other contestants, submitted essays to answer the question: "Why are our national parks important to you and what is your best idea to protect our parks for the future?" This is the third year for the Foundation-sponsored contest, which is open to children aged 9 to 12. Vice Chair of the National Park Foundation Vin Cipolla explains the importance of the writing competition, stating: "This essay contest is about giving [the children] a microphone to tell their stories, and also empowering them to become stewards by giving them a chance to direct grants to the parks of their choice."



As part of his second place prize, Maki won a \$500 Visa gift card, an America The Beautiful pass, and an opportunity to direct a \$2,000 contribution to the park of his choice. Maki chose Grand Teton as the recipient of his contribution, and his choice seems appropriate given the vivid descriptions he uses in his winning essay. Maki states simply, "I love Grand Teton National Park the best," and who could doubt him when he describes some of his favorite moments: "I've seen an eagle and an osprey fighting over a fish... I've even seen a rare black wolf running across a snow field... [and] I've watched a huge bison lit up against the night sky when lightning struck the mountains." Maki appreciates the importance of all national parks, and explains that a "national park is like a special cabinet that contains memories that are filled with truly special natural treasures."

Maki comments that "We the people own the national parks," and he urges us all not to litter, feed animals, or leave campfires carelessly. In addition, Maki offers several suggestions for increasing awareness for our national parks. First, Maki recommends a national contest for kids in school to brainstorm ideas about protecting and preserving national parks. Second, Maki proposes a reading program where school-age children can learn about national parks and eventually visit them one day.

"A national park is like a special cabinet that contains memories that are filled with truly special natural treasures."

"Jason's enthusiasm about our park and his stewardship potential are truly inspiring," Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott said. "The Junior Ranger Essay Contest highlights the kind of future leaders we need to endorse and advocate for our national park system. Jason was generous in his decision to gift Grand Teton National Park with a monetary contribution, and it will be put to use furthering the kind of awareness that Jason so eloquently promotes in his essay."

All winning essays will be featured in the 2009 Junior Ranger Gazette, published by sponsor Unilever. They are also posted on the National Park Foundation's Web site www.nationalparks.org/essaycontest.

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Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Park Rangers Rescue Stranded Father and Son from the Snake River

Grand Teton National Park rangers, Teton interagency fire personnel and emergency medical personnel rescued a father and son on Friday night, July 10 at 9 p.m. after they became separated from their small boat and stranded on a logjam in the swift-flowing Snake River. Forty-year-old Byron Thames, of Los Angeles, California, and his 15-year-old son were floating down the river in a petite, swimming pool-style, inflatable raft when their boat partially deflated, causing them to eventually fall into the river. Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a report of the incident at 5:55 p.m. from the wife and mother of the two Thameses. At 6:40 p.m., park rescue personnel located the two boaters hanging onto a logjam on the right side of the Bourbon Street channel, about a mile and a half south of the Moose Bridge.

Thames and his son launched their inflatable dinghy from Deadman's Bar—one of four river launch areas in the park—at approximately 2:30 p.m. They intended to float all the way to the Wilson Bridge, about 25 river miles away. A river guide for a park concessionaire saw the pair getting ready to launch and questioned their preparedness. The guide noticed that the two did not have any oars or paddles and cautioned that they needed something to help them navigate their small craft. Thames then picked up two sticks to serve as makeshift paddles for his float trip. Besides lacking oars, the Thameses did not have any life jackets—basic safety equipment required when boating on park waters.

The pair floated several miles downstream without incident until the side of their inflatable dinghy got punctured, leaving only the floor chamber inflated. They were able to float past Menor's Ferry and attempted to pull out at the Moose landing; however, they could not reach the riverbank using the makeshift stick paddles and continued floating beyond the Moose Bridge. About a mile and a half south of Moose, the river forks and the floaters took the left channel known as Bourbon Street. At this point, their inflatable dinghy became lodged against an obstruction, causing both men to fall into the river. Byron was trapped in a tangle of branches on a submerged tree and pinned underwater. River users call this river debris a "strainer." Strainers are a particularly risky hazard for boaters because they can trap people against the branches and cause them to become submerged in the current. Fortunately, Thames was able to free himself from the strainer and make his way upstream to where his son was clinging to a logjam. Once he reached his son, Thames was able to call his wife from his cell phone; she then called for help.

Rangers used a technical river rescue technique to reach the stranded men, positioning a rescuer into the current to reach each of the floaters, one person at a time. While both men experienced early stages of hypothermia, they were not seriously injured and refused medical treatment. A total of 21 park personnel and Teton interagency firefighters responded to this incident. Two citations were issued to Byron Thames: one for not having life jackets, and the other for failure to obtain a park boat permit.

Although this incident had a positive outcome, it could have resulted in serious injury or worse for the two boaters. The force of the current and water temperature of the Snake River can be deceiving. Rangers remind river users that the section of the Snake River that runs from Deadman's Bar to Moose is fairly technical and demands a certain level of skill to negotiate. Proper equipment, as well as knowledge of how to read a river's current, are essential before beginning any float trip. Boaters are required to have certified personal flotation devices for all persons aboard the watercraft and to obtain appropriate permits.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Evacuated by Helicopter from Teewinot Mountain

An injured climber was evacuated by helicopter from Teewinot Mountain on Saturday afternoon, July 11, in Grand Teton National Park. Sam Russell, 22, of Jackson, Wyoming sustained serious injuries when he slipped on snow and tumbled about 200 feet before landing on a break between two snow patches, while attempting to descend the North West Couloir (elevation 12,000 ft). He was wearing crampons and carrying an ice axe at the time, but was unable to perform a self arrest.

Russell's climbing party had successfully reached the summit of Teewinot and was on their way down when the accident occurred; all of the climbers had ice axes and crampons, but none were wearing helmets. The group decided to make their decent via the South West Couloir but missed their intended route and ended up on the more technical North West Couloir.

Grand Teton National Park rangers were notified of the accident at around 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, when Russell's companions placed a call for help from a cell phone. Rangers immediately organized a rescue operation and requested the assistance of an interagency contract helicopter for support in the rescue. The helicopter flew to Lupine Meadows, picked up several rangers, and performed an aerial reconnaissance flight. Rangers were able to remain in contact via cell phone with a member of Russell's climbing party, which was helpful in pinpointing his location on the mountain.

A suitable helicopter landing zone near the accident site allowed rangers to arrive on scene just before 2 p.m. Rangers provided Russell with emergency medical care before placing him into a rescue litter for aerial evacuation. He was then flown via the short-haul method at 2:30 p.m.—with a ranger accompanying him below the helicopter—directly to the Jenny Lake rescue cache located on the valley floor. A park ambulance transported Russell to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment of his injuries.

Park rangers also evacuated Russell's companions via helicopter after helping them descend to the high west shoulder of Teewinot Mountain.

Rangers remind climbers that dangerous and variable snow conditions persist above 9,000 feet. Backcountry users are advised to stop in or call a visitor center or ranger station on the day of travel to obtain the most current trail, route and snow conditions. Climbers should also note that most climbing accidents involve slips on snow, and most occur on the descent at the end of a long day.

This marks the first major mountain rescue operation in Grand Teton National Park this summer.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2009 09:59

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Two-Day Travel Closure Scheduled for Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a temporary travel closure will be in place on the unpaved segment of the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park from 5 a.m. Thursday, July 16, to 5 p.m. on Friday, July 17. The road closure will allow for a two-part road improvement project to be completed: grading work will be done on the gravel roadbed from the Granite Canyon trailhead parking area for a distance of 1.5 miles north; and a dust abatement product will be applied. Barring inclement weather or equipment malfunction, the Moose-Wilson Road will reopen by 5 p.m. on July 17.

The scheduled two-day closure will prevent the ability to make a “through trip” on the Moose-Wilson Road, so local residents and park visitors are advised to make alternate travel plans and expect to use a detour route via Highway 26/89/191. Visitors wishing to reach the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve or the Death Canyon trailhead will need to access these locations by driving south from the Teton Park Road junction near the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming.

The gravel surface of the Moose-Wilson Road between the Granite Canyon trailhead and the old JY Ranch gate (1.5 miles north of the trailhead) becomes eroded throughout the summer due to the volume of vehicles that travel on it. Road grading creates a smoother surface and provides an added measure of safety for motorists using this park roadway.

Although the temporary closure will inconvenience visitors and local residents who wish to drive the length of the Moose-Wilson Road on Thursday and Friday, the dust abatement application will make future travel a safer and more enjoyable experience. By minimizing dust on this road, visibility will be improved and damage to nearby vegetation will be reduced. The product used for dust abatement is a slurry of magnesium chloride. It is the same product that is used to treat dirt roads in and around Jackson Hole. This product coats the road surface, but it can also adhere to the undercarriage of vehicles. Motorists, who drive this portion of the Moose-Wilson Road after it reopens on Friday evening, may want to rinse off their vehicles to eliminate any residue.

Roadwork schedules may change, or be delayed, due to weather conditions or other extenuating circumstances.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2009 09-60

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Second Fee-Free Weekend in Grand Teton National Park Offers Special Events

Grand Teton National Park will mark its second fee-free weekend on July 18 and 19, by offering special ranger-led activities. In addition to free admission into the park, several family-friendly programs aimed at providing education and promoting conservation are scheduled to help make the weekend a time to remember.

Jenny Lake: Canoe and Kayak Trip

Saturday, July 18, 2009—7:30 am

Join a 3-hour trip with a ranger to explore the beauty of Jenny Lake by canoe or kayak. Reservations are required; the limit is 10 boats. Canoes or kayaks can be rented from Jenny Lake Boating or participants can bring their own. Those attending should bring drinking water, rain gear and a snack. Participants must wear a life preserver during this activity. Obtain more information at the Jenny Lake Visitor Center (307.739.3392).

Gros Ventre Amphitheater: International Year of Astronomy

Sunday, July 19, 2009—9:30 pm



In recognition of the International Year of Astronomy, Park Ranger Naturalist Bob Hoyle will give a talk about American Indian mythology and the use of the sky and its celestial bodies in cultural history. Following the program, large telescopes will be set up for participants to view stars, galaxies, nebulae and other cosmic phenomena. Anyone planning to attend the program and telescope session should dress warmly as evening temperatures in Grand Teton can be quite chilly. For information on the International Year of Astronomy or the International Astronomical Union, visit their Web site at www.astronomy2009.org.

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve: Birds and Climate Change

Birds of the Preserve

Saturday, July 18, 2009—10:00 am – 12 noon

Discover the magnificent, colorful world of birds on a hike to Phelps Lake with a ranger. Round-trip distance is 2.5-3 miles.

Songs of Spring and Summer

Sunday, July 19, 2009—8:00 am – 10:30 am

Summer bird songs are a pleasant addition to any outdoor excursion. Join a ranger for an easy walk emphasizing “birding by ear” as a form of bird identification. Round-trip distance is 2.2 miles.



-MORE-

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Our Changing Planet: Climate Change in Grand Teton

Saturday, July 18, 2009—2:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Will the park's spectacular scenery look the same in 20 years? Come explore some of Grand Teton's pristine habitats and learn about how climate change will affect them. Round-trip distance is 3.2 miles.

Space is limited to 10 people in the special programs listed above, and reservations are recommended: call 307.739.3654. Meet on the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center Porch. Bring appropriate clothing, sunscreen, insect repellent, water and snacks if desired.

Craig Thomas Discovery Center: All Day Hike with a Ranger

Saturday, July 18, 2009—9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Join a park ranger to walk along crystal-clear glacial lakes, enjoy incredible mountain views and discover special stories about Grand Teton. Round-trip hike to Trapper and Bearpaw lakes is 7.5 miles. This activity is limited to 15 people, and reservations are required. Those attending should bring drinking water, rain gear and lunch. Obtain more information at the Discovery Center (307.739.3399).

These ranger-led activities are being offered in addition to the regularly-scheduled activities that are listed in the park's newspaper, the *Teewinot*. Please visit online at www.nps.gov to see a complete list of ranger-led activities for 2009.

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Grand Teton National Park

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



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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

July 13, 2009

Passing Thunderstorm Ignites Several Fires in Grand Teton National Park

More than 500 lightning strikes were recorded in Grand Teton National Park and on the north zone of the Bridger-Teton National Forest as an active thunderstorm moved through the greater Jackson Hole area early Monday morning, July 13. At least three lightning-caused fires ignited in Grand Teton during the past 24 hours. Teton interagency firefighters are on alert for additional fires as the temperature rises and afternoon winds increase.

Lightning ignited the Valley Fire, one mile southwest of the park's Beaver Creek housing area on Sunday afternoon, and early Monday morning, lightning ignited the Smurf House Fire near Moran Junction. Interagency firefighters suppressed both fires at a tenth-acre due to their proximity to park developments. Firefighters are monitoring a third fire, Falling Ice Fire west of Leigh Lake. The fire, which is one-tenth of an acre, may be managed for resource benefit.

Fire managers raised the fire danger rating to moderate on July 8, which means fires start and spread easily. In addition to lightning-ignited fires, the Bridger-Teton National Forest has dealt with 50 abandoned campfires so far this summer.

“With warmer and drier weather in the forecast, it is critical that campers make sure their campfires are cold to the touch before leaving them,” said Fire Prevention Technician Lesley Williams. “Should your campfire become a wildfire, you can be held liable for suppression costs.”

For local fire information, log on to <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html>, or use the redirect from www.tetonfires.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2009 09-62

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve to Host Book Club

The staff of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve in Grand Teton National Park invites local residents and park visitors to join them for a new opportunity—a monthly book club discussion. The introductory book club discussion will take place at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, in the Preserve Center’s resource room. After the Thursday afternoon discussion, participants may take an optional hike on the Preserve trails with a ranger.

In an effort to inspire a spirit of stewardship, the newly-created book club is designed to explore literature that examines our connection to the natural world. The first book to be read and discussed is *Wapiti Wilderness* by Margaret and Olaus Murie.



Margaret “Mardy” Murie

The Muries arrived in Jackson in 1927 from Alaska, after Olaus was commissioned by the U.S. Biological Service to study the Jackson Hole elk herd. In 1945, Olaus and Margaret “Mardy,” along with his brother, Adolph, and sister-in-law, Louise, pooled their resources to purchase the STS dude ranch in Moose, Wyoming. From their ranch, the Muries helped to spearhead the modern-day American conservation movement. Olaus was also an outspoken supporter of the controversial establishment of Grand Teton National Park. After Olaus passed away in 1963, Mardy went on to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest civilian honor awarded by the United States—in 1998 for her unflinching work on behalf of natural landscapes and their wild inhabitants. *Wapiti Wilderness* is the story of the Muries’ lives as they made a home in early-day Jackson Hole.

For those interested in participating in the book club discussion, a copy of the book of the month can be purchased from a Grand Teton Association bookstore at a 10 percent discount. Grand Teton Association bookstores are located in park visitor centers and at the interagency visitor center located on North Cache Street in Jackson, Wyoming.

To sign up for the book club, or for more information about this new activity, please call the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve at 307.739.3654.

Future books, times and dates for the monthly book club have yet to be determined.

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July 13, 2009 09-63

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Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Crucial Glacial Study to be Discussed at AMK Ranch Lecture

The current status of glaciers in the Teton Range—including preliminary findings for glacial changes over time and the implications for park resources and visitors—will be discussed by Dr. Glenn Tootle during an informative talk slated for Thursday, July 16, at the historic AMK Ranch, north of Leeks Marina, in Grand Teton National Park. Also presenting are Jake Edmunds, lead UW graduate student on the Teton Range glacier study, and Greg Kerr, director of the Office of Water Programs at the University of Wyoming. The program is part of a summer lecture series annually hosted by the University of Wyoming-National Park Service Research Center. The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m., immediately following a barbecue cookout.



*Schoolroom Glacier in South Cascade Canyon,
Example of Glacial Recession
Photo Above, 1987 Photo Below, 2007*



Formerly an assistant professor and researcher in the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Wyoming, Tootle is currently with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Tootle supervises a research project team of three UW graduate students (Jake Edmunds, Derrick Thompson and Jeb Bell) on glaciers in the Teton Range and Wind River Range.

For fifteen years, Teton glaciers existed without much scrutiny. However, in 2008 two studies were initiated to document glacial changes in the Teton Range. The research to be discussed in the AMK lecture incorporates aerial photographs and remote sensing data. The project utilizes USGS aeriels to calculate 3-dimensional images of glaciers and to evaluate glacial area and volume changes. Edmunds' early findings indicate the two glaciers studied (Middle Teton and Teton) have lost over half of their area since 1967.

This research represents a growing initiative on the part of the National Park Service to monitor the trend of natural resources during the current period of climate change, studies made possible in part through funding provided by Grand Teton National Park Foundation. The Teton glacier studies, in particular, provide significant insight into the possibility of an environmentally-changing Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). Among other factors, climate and glaciers strongly influence the timing and intensity of peak stream flows, which are important factors driving both agricultural practices and natural ecosystems in the area. The findings will also provide vital information for a future meeting of regional climate change experts discussing current research, information gaps, and priorities for the GYE.

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Park Rangers Locate and Rescue Kayaker from the Snake River

Grand Teton National Park rangers conducted a full-scale search for an overdue, solo kayaker on the Snake River late Wednesday night, July 15 and early Thursday morning, July 16. Jane Dukes, age 71, of Colfax, Indiana, was spotted by rangers and members of the Teton interagency helitak crew from the park's contract helicopter at approximately 8:15 a.m. Thursday after she had spent an unexpected night out on the river. Although Dukes was found relatively unharmed, she ended up floating several miles beyond her intended destination of Deadman's Bar landing; she was located two miles upstream from the Moose landing, near the Bar BC historic site.

Dukes launched an inflatable kayak at 6:30 Wednesday evening from the Pacific Creek landing, telling family members that she would either float a short distance and paddle back to the launch site, or continue on to Deadman's Bar, some 10 river miles downstream. Dukes was unfamiliar with the Snake River, and although she has experience canoeing on lakes and small streams, she lacked experience with both a kayak and a swift flowing river—the Snake River is currently flowing at approximately 4,300 cubic-feet-per-second below the Buffalo Fork confluence. When darkness overcame Dukes **around 9:30 p.m.**, she beached her kayak on a sandbar in the middle of the river and stayed put, rather than continuing to float downstream on an unknown course. She also turned her kayak over and took shelter from a cold breeze. Overnight temperatures on the Snake River reached 35 degrees Fahrenheit, and Dukes had no supplemental clothing or equipment to protect her from the elements.

Rangers received a report at 9:47 p.m. that Dukes was overdue and her whereabouts were unknown. Due to the late hour and decreasing temperature, rangers quickly organized a wide-spread search that included checking several river locations. Rangers also used night-vision goggles to attempt to detect her in the dark conditions before the moon rose, but were unsuccessful in their efforts. A more extensive search was organized for first light on Thursday morning, and the Teton interagency helicopter was summoned to assist with an aerial reconnaissance. A total of **19** park personnel and Teton interagency staff ultimately assisted with the search and rescue operation.

Although Dukes was wearing a sage green life jacket that blended in with her surroundings, rangers spotted her when she waved her arms at the sight of the helicopter on Thursday morning. Two additional rangers were able to launch a raft from the west bank of the river and reach her shortly after she was spotted from the air. They then floated her to a location near the old Bar BC Dude Ranch, where a park ambulance was waiting. Emergency medical personnel assessed her physical condition and determined that she should be transported to St. John's Medical Center for additional medical care.

Rangers credit Dukes with keeping her wits about her and for beaching on the sandbar rather than continuing through the braided and debris-strewn river channels beyond. Although this incident had a positive outcome, it could have resulted in serious injury or worse for Dukes because of the late hour of the day and her lack of river knowledge.

The Snake is a natural river and its current and water temperature can be deceiving. Novice boaters should never underestimate the river and should consult with rangers before beginning their trip. Anyone planning to float the distance from Pacific Creek to Deadman's Bar should get an early start to avoid fading light and reduced visibility as dusk sets in.

This marks the second significant search and rescue operation involving ill-prepared boaters on the Snake River.

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July 19, 2009 09-65

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Celebrates David T. Vernon Collection with Special Lecture Series

Grand Teton National Park will host a special lecture series in celebration of the David T. Vernon Indian Arts Collection. “Celebrate the Vernon Collection” lectures will be held the week of July 20 at Colter Bay, Signal Mountain and Gros Ventre. Three guest speakers, Mr. George Horse Capture, Dr. Douglas Evelyn and Dr. Herman J. Viola will share their in-depth knowledge of American Indian interests and museum curation, as well as specific information about the David T. Vernon Collection, on exhibit in the Indian Arts Museum at Colter Bay. Collectively, these speakers have many years of experience at the world-renowned Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

This is the second consecutive year these three men will participate in celebrating the Vernon Collection. The return of these museum experts is a testament to the value and significance of the Vernon Collection. The collection contains an impressive variety of American Indian artifacts collected by David T. Vernon over his lifetime. The collection was purchased by the Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated—a Rockefeller Family foundation dedicated to conservation of cultural and natural resources. Laurance S. Rockefeller loaned the Vernon collection to the National Park Service and requested that the impressive artifacts be exhibited in Grand Teton National Park. The Indian Arts Museum was built to house the collection and it opened to the public in June 1972 with Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Vernon serving as key dignitaries at the dedication. A few years later, Mr. Rockefeller donated the entire collection to the National Park Service with the stipulation that it continue to be displayed in Grand Teton

Monday, July 20: Mr. George Horse Capture will present “Plains Indian Art from the Museums of the World” at 7:30 p.m. in the Colter Bay Visitor Center Auditorium

Tuesday, July 21: Dr. Douglas Evelyn will present “Inventions’ Treasures, Indians and Presidents- Washington’s Civil War Era Patent Office Building” at 7:30 p.m. in the Colter Bay Visitor Center Auditorium

Wednesday, July 22: Dr. Herman J. Viola will present “Exploring the West” at 7:30 p.m. in the Colter Bay Visitor Center Auditorium

Thursday, July 23: Dr. Douglas Evelyn will present “The National Mall and the Smithsonian” at 7:30 p.m. in the Colter Bay Visitor Center Auditorium, and Mr. George Horse Capture will present “In Search of the Gros Ventre Indian People” at 9:30 p.m. in the Gros Ventre Campground Amphitheater

Friday, July 24: Dr. Herman J. Viola will present “The View from the Riverbank: American Indians and the Lewis and Clark Expedition” at 9:30 p.m. in the Signal Mountain Campground Amphitheatre

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Dr. Evelyn, a historian of Washington, D.C. by avocation and an independent museum consultant by occupation, specializes in museum planning and management following a 36-year career at the Smithsonian Institution. He helped establish the National Museum of the American Indian, serving as its deputy director for 14 years. He also served as deputy director at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, from 1979 to 1991, and at the National Portrait Gallery, where he began his Smithsonian career in 1969. Dr. Evelyn has been active in the American museum scene for over four decades, including serving as staff, treasurer and board member for the American Association of Museums; as president and board member of the American Association of State and Local History; and on the United States board of the International Council of Museums. He is now a trustee of the New York State Historical Association and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Mr. Horse Capture served as deputy assistant director for cultural resources of the National Museum of the American Indian from March 1994 until his retirement in 2006. He was curator at the Plains Indian Museum, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in Cody, Wyoming for 11 years, and he has taught Native American Studies at Montana State University in Bozeman. His many awards include the Lila Wallace-Readers' Digest Community Folklife Program Grant—a \$15,000 award to conduct the "Ft. Belknap Tribes Traditional Design Recovery Project." He has published several book reviews, as well as other publications, including the article "From Reservation to the Smithsonian via Alcatraz," in *American Culture and Research Journal*. He has served as a consultant to many Indian tribes, participated in a range of community activities, appeared in several films and television programs, and even produced several films himself, including *I'd Rather Be Powwowing*, a 16mm film that won the Old West Trail's William F. Cody Motion Picture Award for best film portraying the West in 1983.

Dr. Viola is a curator emeritus at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. A specialist on the history of the American West, he served as director of the museum's National Anthropological Archives in addition to organizing two major exhibitions for the Smithsonian: "Magnificent Voyagers" and "Seeds of Change." Prior to joining the staff of the Smithsonian Institution in 1972, he was an archivist at the National Archives of the United States, where he launched and was the first editor of *Prologue: The Journal of the National Archives*. His publications include *Exploring the West*, *After Columbus*, *Warrior Artists*, and *The North American Indians*. He is also the author of the middle school social studies textbook, *Why We Remember*. His most recent book, *Little Bighorn Remembered: the Untold Indian Story of Custer's Last Stand*, was selected by both the Book of the Month Club and the Quality Paperback Club, and was a primary selection of the History Club.

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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

July 21, 2009

Fire Danger Rating Elevated to High

Teton interagency fire managers elevated the fire danger rating to “High” for both the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park as of Tuesday, July 21. Drying vegetation combined with a recent rise in temperatures, lower humidity, and afternoon winds has increased the potential for fire activity. Local residents and visitors alike should exercise an extra measure of caution and practice heightened fire safety at all times—responsible steps include making sure that a campfire is thoroughly extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving a campsite.

Unattended or abandoned campfires can quickly escalate into wildfires. So far this summer, campers have carelessly abandoned 67 campfires on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The fine for an abandoned campfire is \$225, but campers can also be held liable for suppression costs if their campfire becomes a wildfire. Visitors should **never** leave a fire unattended, and should prepare for the unexpected by having a water bucket and shovel on hand.

Teton interagency firefighters are managing three fires for resource benefits, the most active of which is the Falling Ice Fire on the west side of Leigh Lake near the base of Mount Moran in Grand Teton National Park. The fire is still less than an acre, but smoke was visible Tuesday morning from Teton Park Road. The Snake Fire near the Teton Point Turnout and the Box Creek Fire in the Teton Wilderness on the Bridger-Teton National Forest are smoldering, but are not currently producing visible smoke.

When determining fire danger ratings, fire managers use several indices such as, the moisture content of grasses, shrubs and trees, projected weather conditions (including temperatures and possible wind events), the ability of fire to spread after ignition, and the availability of firefighting resources across the country. A high fire danger rating means that fires can start easily and spread quickly.

To report a fire or smoke in either area, call Teton Interagency Dispatch Center at 307.739.3630. For more fire information, please visit the Web at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html> or www.tetonfires.com, or follow GrandTetonNPS or BridgerTetonNF on Twitter.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2009 09-67

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Host Lecture on Harrison Crandall

Grand Teton National Park will host a special lecture titled, “Harrison Crandall: Creating a Vision of Grand Teton National Park,” by Dr. Ken Barrick, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28 at the Colter Bay Visitor Center Auditorium. This program is free and open to the public.

Harrison “Hank” Crandall homesteaded in Jackson Hole in 1922. He was a fine-art painter, photographer, early concessionaire and fervent supporter of Grand Teton National Park until his death in 1970. In fact, he was the first resident artist in the valley and ran two Crandall Studios for decades: one at Jenny Lake (now the Jenny Lake Visitor Center) and the other at the former town of Moran near the shore of Jackson Lake. Crandall is best known for his landscape photos and oil paintings of the Teton Range, hand-painted wildflower photographs, and images of ranch life in Jackson Hole—including cowboys and cowgirls.

Dr. Barrick, an associate professor of geography at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, has been doing research in the Rocky Mountains for 25 years, including studies in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. For nearly 10 years, Barrick has done extensive research on Harrison Crandall’s contributions to the art of national parks.



Oil Painting by Harrison Crandall, circa mid-1960s

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 24, 2009 09-68

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Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Tauck Volunteers Connect with Grand Teton National Park

This past May, tour operator Tauck World Discovery announced plans to relocate their guest-volunteer program from Yellowstone National Park to Grand Teton National Park. The program is designed for Tauck's guests to donate a small portion of their vacation time toward preservation and beautification projects in national parks. To date, 21 volunteer groups have participated at Grand Teton in a number of beneficial projects—ranging from painting park structures to trail restoration work. The program annually runs from late May through September.

Over 11,000 Tauck guests have donated nearly 20,000 hours of labor since the innovative program began in Yellowstone in 2003, and the program has been honored at the White House with the Preserve America Award—the country's highest recognition for historic preservation. With the program now in its seventh year, Tauck's Volunteer Project Leader Bruce Fladmark reports no signs of dwindling enthusiasm. "The feeling of accomplishment and the ability to donate time to something that people feel passionate about are timeless," said Fladmark. Statistically, nearly 95% of participants have said that they would volunteer again if given the chance, and 86% said that volunteering enhanced their overall tour experience.



Tauck volunteers paint park structures during their vacation at Grand Teton National Park

Fladmark credits the Tauck program with further volunteerism. The guest-volunteer program has often served as a catalyst for other volunteer work once participants return home. It also helps build a sense of community responsibility and develops a sense of stewardship for America's national parks. In the end, Fladmark notes that participants acquire a new awareness of national parks, as well as a realization that ordinary citizens can make a difference.

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott commends the Tauck guest volunteers for their efforts, and looks forward to continuing this effective program. "Volunteers are a key part of getting essential projects accomplished throughout the National Park System, and we are pleased to welcome the participants of Tauck's guest-volunteer program this summer," said Superintendent Scott. "Grand Teton hosts nearly four million visitors a year, so there is no shortage of tasks that need attention to keep the park in tip-top shape. We know that Tauck volunteers give generously of their time and talents, and we appreciate the opportunity to work with such a supportive group."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2009 09-69

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/ 739.3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Conduct Third Significant Rescue on the Snake River in Two Weeks

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued a 72-year-old man from the Snake River at 7:30 on Saturday evening, July 25, after his canoe capsized, spilling both he and his partner into the river approximately two miles south of the Moose Bridge. Jackson Davis and Beverly Horyza, age 67, both residents of Moran, Wyoming, launched their canoe from the Moose Landing about noon on Saturday intending to float 14 river miles to the Wilson Bridge. A river guide conducting a concessioner-operated scenic float trip spotted Horyza about 5:30 p.m. and rescued her. Rangers later located and rescued Davis, who was stranded on an island between the Bourbon Street and main river channels. Neither Davis nor Horyza were injured in the boating accident and both were wearing life jackets.

At about 3 p.m. Saturday, Davis and Horyza hit a log with their canoe while floating in the Bourbon Street channel. The boat capsized and both were thrown into the Snake River. Horyza was able to reach an island in the middle of the river, while Davis was able to flip the canoe over and continue paddling downstream. Davis hit another log, causing the boat to capsize again; this time, Davis floated downstream without his canoe until he could reach the southern end of the same island on which Horyza was stranded. Davis hiked back up river trying to locate Horyza, but the two were on opposite sides of the island and were unable to reunite with one another.

The commercial float-trip guide and his passengers saw Horyza and rescued her from the island; Horyza placed a 911 call to report the accident using the boat guide's cell phone and Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a report of the incident at 6:48 p.m.

While in the process of rescuing Horyza, the river guide also saw another capsized canoe with two people in the water and clinging to the craft; he used his river "rescue throw bag," which contains a coiled length of rope, to reach those people, and was eventually able to pull them aboard his boat. After rescuing Davis and locating Horyza—who had driven her car back to the Moose Landing—park rangers were able to reunite the pair at about 9:30 p.m.

The second boating accident was not reported to park personnel. Park visitors are required by law to immediately report any collision, accident, fire or other incident that results in property loss, property damage, personal injury or death. River users are also reminded that it is prohibited to remove or take any abandoned boat or other items from the Snake River.

The Snake is a powerful river with strong currents and cold water temperatures. Due to its tangle of channels and constantly shifting logjams, boaters are advised to have the proper equipment, as well as the knowledge and experience to accurately read the river's current. For those unfamiliar with the Snake River, a pre-float consultation with rangers is strongly advised.

This marks the third significant search and rescue operation on the Snake River in the last two weeks, and the second in the Bourbon Street channel.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2009 09-70

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739-3650

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Update # 3

Bridge maintenance work will be underway throughout Grand Teton National Park and consequently, motorists should expect 15-minute delays in travel at various locations. The Christian Creek Bridge just south of Jackson Lake Lodge will be open to a single lane of traffic only for a few days beginning August 5. Work on the Buffalo Fork Bridge near Moran Junction will follow with one-lane travel restrictions and 15-minute delays. The Spread Creek Bridge, on Highway 26/89/191 just south of Elk Ranch Flats, will experience similar one-lane closures beginning August 17.

Motorists traveling Highway 26/89/191 between the park's south boundary (four miles north of Jackson) and Cunningham Cabin near Triangle X Ranch should expect delays of up to 30 minutes during a chip-seal project scheduled to begin on August 24. Work will start on the northern portion of Highway 26/89/191 from one mile north of Moose Junction to Cunningham Cabin, then conclude with the southern segment of the highway from Moose Junction to Fish Hatchery Hill. Weather permitting, road crews plan to complete the chip-seal project before Labor Day weekend. Motorists are advised to drive slowly throughout the work zone in order to prevent windshield damage.

During the chip-seal project, the Teton Point Turnout will be closed to facilitate the staging of construction equipment and materials. This closure will begin August 17 and end before Labor Day weekend.

Reconstruction of the North Park Road in Grand Teton—between Lizard Creek campground and Flagg Ranch Resort—is progressing. Work is being done to widen and repave the park road and complete the reconstruction of the Snake River Bridge. Motorists are advised to expect travel delays of up to 30 minutes from now through the end of November.

Important note: Work on the North Park Road will cease on weekends during August—and during the Labor Day holiday—to allow for unfettered traffic flow during peak travel times.

Drivers are encouraged to plan ahead, and schedule extra time for their travel through Grand Teton National Park during the next several weeks. While road improvement work is underway, every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to drivers using park roads; however, traffic will be held up for short periods of time. These road construction projects are necessary to improve safety, as well as provide routine maintenance, for the many vehicles that use park roads each year.

For current road construction information, travelers are advised to call the park's information hotline at 307.739.3614. The park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, includes a road construction map for reference; it can also be found online at www.nps.gov/grte, or picked up at any entrance station or visitor center.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2009 09-71

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Menor's Ferry in Operation at Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park recently launched a refurbished replica of Menor's Ferry into the Snake River, and the popular vessel is once again "sea worthy" and available for rides. Park ranger naturalists offer free ferry rides daily between Bill Menor's general store and Dornan's on the east bank. The ferry serves as a central feature of the Menor/Noble historic district and is located just north of the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center.

Menor's Ferry consists of a platform deck which is set upon two pontoons for flotation. The ferry is tethered to a cable system that spans the river and operates by directing the pontoons toward the opposite riverbank, allowing the power of the current to push the craft across the river channel; the system uses river power—rather than motor power—to push the ferry across the water. This type of river travel existed in ancient times and was widely used throughout the United States.

Menor's Ferry offers a unique way to step back into the past. The ferry played a vital role in providing safe transport for passengers over the swift-flowing Snake River during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Prior to the ferry's existence, the Snake River was essentially impassable from Wilson to Moran—except during low water periods in the fall and winter months. As a man of vision, Bill Menor saw the need for a more convenient access across the Snake River and built and operated his ferry from 1894 until 1918 when he sold it to Maud Noble. Maud operated the ferry until 1927 when its use became obsolete after a steel truss bridge was constructed across the river, allowing for vehicles and foot traffic to cross without the assistance of a boat.



Bill Menor navigating his ferry

"Passing of the Ferry"
by Ruth Patterson, 1927

*The old landmarks are vanishing;
One by one they are passing out.
The tourist with his modern ways
has brought this change about . . .*

*Many things are changing fast;
even the faithful Menor's Ferry
has been moored to rest at last.*



Ranger Nicklas operates replica ferry

Although many things are changing fast, Menor's Ferry was never "moored to rest for last." Park visitors can experience a ride across the Snake River just as early residents of Jackson Hole did during previous centuries.

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Jackie Skaggs
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Elk Refuge



Lori Iverson
307.733.9212 ext.227

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

August 6, 2009

Grand Teton National Park and National Elk Refuge Encourage Voluntary Use of Non-Lead Ammunition during the 2009 Elk and Bison Seasons

Grand Teton National Park and National Elk Refuge officials are encouraging hunters currently using lead ammunition to make a voluntary switch to non-lead ammunition during the 2009 elk and bison seasons.

Lead is an environmental toxin well known for its capability to directly impact wildlife. Recently, more attention has been directed to lead poisoning of animals that consume carcasses shot with lead bullets from center fire rifles, such as those commonly used in big-game hunting. Studies by Craighead Beringia South, a local non-profit research institute based in Kelly, Wyoming, reveal that during the fall hunting season, lead levels spike in the blood of ravens and eagles in the Jackson Hole valley. These and other studies have shown that fragmented bullets often stay in the discarded remains of wild game and subsequently enter the food chain as they are consumed by other animals. Lead poisoning can result when wildlife species ingest the toxic material.

Recent documentation of lead bullet fragments found in packaged game meat has also raised concerns that this may serve as a potential source of lead contamination in humans. One of the goals of the voluntary non-lead ammunition program is to raise awareness about the potential risks of lead ammunition so hunters can make informed decisions when selecting hunting ammunition.

Hunters have played a key role in wildlife protection and restoration programs for over a century. Since hunters commonly use lead bullets to harvest big game on public lands, they have an opportunity to assist agency administrators in managing for healthy wildlife populations by reducing the quantity of lead in the environment. Though lead ammunition does not appear to be affecting large-scale population levels of individual species in the Jackson Hole area, a reduction in the amount of lead deposited in the environment during hunting season can help reduce the loss of individual raptors such as bald and golden eagles. Several ammunition manufacturers have responded to the demand for non-lead ammunition by making high performance non-lead bullets available in the most popular rifle calibers.

By reporting non-lead ammunition use this season, hunters will provide Grand Teton National Park and National Elk Refuge staff with a means to measure participation in the voluntary program this year. This will help the agencies explore incentive programs to encourage additional voluntary participation during the 2010 elk and bison seasons. Hunters can note on their hunting permits whether or not they participated in the voluntary program.

Hunters are **not** required to use non-lead ammunition while pursuing elk in Grand Teton National Park or National Elk Refuge, or while pursuing bison on the National Elk Refuge. This is strictly a voluntary program. However, by participating in this program, hunters can help to maintain support for hunting programs by demonstrating a commitment to safe, quality hunting practices that will benefit the long-term conservation of wildlife.

—XXX—

www.nps.gov/grte
www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2009 09-73

Jackie Skaggs/C. Cunningham
307.739.3393/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Roadside Sagebrush Removal Scheduled for Two Locations in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Teton Interagency fire crews will be mowing sagebrush within 30 feet of roadsides at two locations west of Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park. Fire crews will mow mature sagebrush along the roads to help minimize the potential impacts of wildfire to developed areas of the park and to valuable wildlife habitat. The work will be done during the first two weeks of August.

Fire crews will use a Bobcat skidsteer with a mower attachment to remove heavy sagebrush concentrations along both sides of the Airport Road and Circle EW Road. The project is designed to aid in the control of wildfires occurring in the sagebrush/bitterbrush habitat along the west side of the highway, as well as to minimize fire size and provide for safer access for fire crews in the event of a wildfire. Removing the sagebrush will convert the roadside areas to a grass and forb vegetation mix, which generally burns with less intensity and is therefore easier to control with fire engines. Treatments at each location will affect approximately 3.8 acres.

As witnessed during the 2003 Blacktail Fire, a wildfire burning across mature and dense sagebrush areas can easily cross roadways. This project will create a buffer area that can be burned out ahead of a wildfire, thereby containing it to a smaller area and increasing firefighter safety.

Crews will mow the sagebrush to match the landscape, creating a scalloped edge; this will provide for enough sage removal while still meeting project objectives.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2009 09-74

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

The Lorax Visits Grand Teton National Park

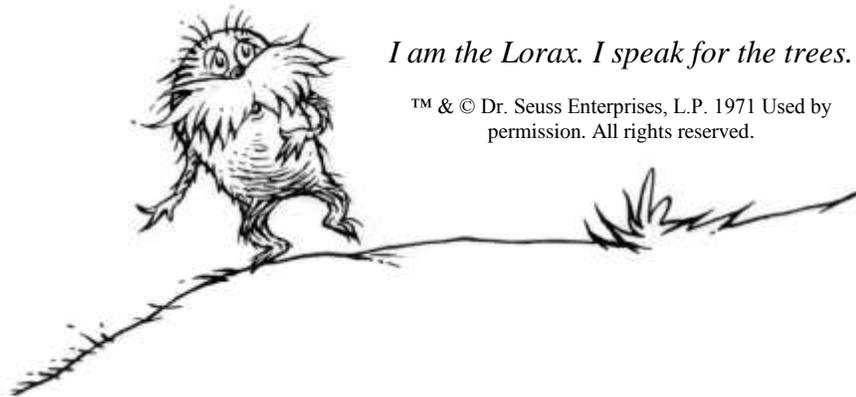
Special family-oriented Junior Ranger programs inspired by Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* will be offered at Grand Teton National Park during the week of August 9-15. Families with children of all ages are invited to attend one of the unique Junior Ranger sessions designed to highlight the whimsy and love of nature that Dr. Seuss incorporated into many of his literary works.

The Junior Ranger programs will begin each day at 1:30 p.m. and last for 1.5 hours. The specific locations and days for each session are:

Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center: Sunday & Thursday
Jenny Lake Visitor Center: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Colter Bay Visitor Center: Tuesday & Saturday

An exhibition of the visual art of *The Lorax*, is currently on display at the National Museum of Wildlife Art located two and a half miles north of Jackson, Wyoming. Exploring the exhibit, *The Lorax: Original Illustrations by Dr. Seuss*, will fulfill part of the requirements for earning a Junior Ranger badge at Grand Teton National Park. For details about the lively exhibit, call the National Museum of Wildlife Art at 307.733. 5771 or visit online at www.WildlifeArt.org.

The Lorax is a story about an enterprising character named Once-ler who chops down all the Truffula trees and unwittingly changes the environment. The Lorax tries to defend the trees and all the creatures that depend upon the forest. In the end, the Lorax must go away, but not before leaving the Once-ler with one thought-provoking word: "UNLESS." Later, the Once-ler realizes that it is up to a boy to save the forest, by restoring it to the way it was before. "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not," reflects the Once-ler.



I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2009 09-75

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Final Fee-Free Weekend in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park will once again waive entry fees this Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16, in keeping with Interior Secretary Salazar's decree to allow free entry into national parks on three weekends during the 2009 summer season; the program was designed to provide an extra incentive for visitors to travel to America's national parks for a cost effective family vacation. As with the previous fee-free weekends, Grand Teton will offer special ranger-led activities to encourage visitors to explore interesting features of the park.

Ranger-led activities scheduled for the coming weekend include:

Lake Solitude Hike

Join a ranger on an all day hike to Lake Solitude in Cascade Canyon for a chance to explore the spectacular Teton backcountry. Visitors will hike beside Cascade Creek while learning about park wildflowers, wildlife, and the expansive mountain scenery and geology. This is a moderate to strenuous hike that includes an elevation gain of 2,950 feet and a roundtrip distance of 14.7 miles. Approximate time for the hike is eight hours. Due to the length, this hike is recommended for experienced hikers. While the ranger will set a steady pace up to Lake Solitude, visitors can return at their own speed. The hike begins with a shuttle boat ride across Jenny Lake at 7:30 a.m. Boat fares are: \$10 for adults (roundtrip); and \$5 for children (age 2-11). No reservations are required. Participants are required to bring water, sunscreen, raingear, hiking boots, and a lunch/snacks. For more information please call the Jenny Lake Visitor Center at 307.739.3392.

Astronomy Day

As part of the International Year of Astronomy, Grand Teton National Park and the Jackson Hole Astronomy Club are partnering to provide two "Astronomy Day" programs on Sunday, August 16, at the Colter Bay Visitor Center. Telescope demonstrations will be available throughout the day on the back deck of the visitor center. In addition, there will be an evening ranger program at 9 p.m. at the Colter Bay Amphitheater, followed by a stargazing session on the shore of Jackson Lake. For information on Astronomy Day activities, please call the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594.

Living Simply

Take a deep breath, unwind, and reflect on the simple things in life. Meet on the porch at the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 15 to enjoy a relaxing hike with a ranger to discover simpler ways of living in harmony with the environment. The ranger-led stroll is 1.5 miles roundtrip and lasts for 2 hours. For more information contact the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve at 307.739.3654

Special ranger-led activities are being offered in addition to the regularly scheduled programs that are listed in the park's newspaper, the *Teewinot*. Please visit online at www.nps.gov to see a complete list of ranger-led activities for the 2009 summer season.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2009 09-76

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Krystal Kirwan

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Shoshonean Cultural Celebration at Colter Bay in Grand Teton National Park

A Shoshonean Cultural Celebration will take place at the Colter Bay Visitor Center on August 12 and 13. Cultural speakers and exhibits of traditional and modern Shoshonean arts will interpret the rich history and the present-day influence of the Shoshone peoples. Programs, times, and locations for special events are listed below.

August 12

- 9:00 a.m.** **Tipi Demonstration**, by Laine Thom, behind the Colter Bay Visitor Center
- 12:00 p.m.** **We Shall Remain: Goshute**, a video playing in the Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium
- 3:00 p.m.** **The Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation: Yesterday and Today**, by speaker Gloria St. Clair, Colter Bay Visitor Center back deck.
The Eastern Shoshone people migrated from the Great Basin to the High Plain to present-day Wyoming during the last 600 years. They became a buffalo hunting culture in the high plains. In the 1800s they were settled on the Wind River Indian Reservation and were later joined by the Northern Arapahoe tribe who now share the reservation.
- 7:00 p.m.** **Sacajawea**, by speaker Ken Thomasma, Colter Bay Visitor Center amphitheater

August 13

- 9:00 a.m.** **Flint Knapping Demonstration**, by artist Willie LaMere, Indian Arts Museum guest artist area
- 12:00 p.m.** **We Shall Remain: Northwestern Shoshone**, a video playing in the Colter Bay VC auditorium
- 3:00 p.m.** **The Language and Culture of the Shoshone People of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation of Southeastern Idaho**, by speaker Drusilla Gould, Colter Bay Visitor Center back deck.
The Shoshone and Bannock are two different tribes with two different languages. Historically, they traveled in small groups and mixed with each other on hunting trips. Today they share the same reservation in southeastern Idaho. The lifestyles of both tribes were influenced by Plains cultures as evidenced by the introduction of the horse for transportation and hunting. The horse allowed them to range farther and hunt more effectively, leading to material riches.
- 7:00 p.m.** **Archaeology of Grand Teton NP**, by speaker Jacquelin St. Clair, Colter Bay VC amphitheater

Speaker Gloria St. Clair was born in 1954 and raised by her maternal grandparents, Richard and Lydia Engavo of the Eastern Shoshone tribe of Fort Washakie, Wyoming. She attended Central Wyoming College and received her degree in Native American Studies. She was a Shoshonean language instructor at Fort Washakie elementary school and is now the cultural interpretation specialist at the Eastern Shoshone Cultural Center.

Speaker Drusilla Gould is a native speaker of the Lemhi and Fort Washakie Shoshonean dialects and an enrolled member of the Shoshone-Bannock tribes of Fort Hall, Idaho. She has been involved in teaching, preserving, and promoting her native language for more than 25 years.

The Shoshonean peoples of the Eastern Great Basin and Western Plains hunted seasonally in what is now Grand Teton National Park and left behind a rich archeological record. Their modern-day descendants still live in the region and have maintained their languages and cultural practices.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2009 09-77

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Offer Limited Firewood Permits

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that about 100 cords of firewood will be offered for personal collection, starting in late August, to facilitate a hazard tree removal project along the Grassy Lake in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Recent wind storms have caused multiple trees to topple onto the Grassy Lake Road, creating a safety concern for motorists. The tree removal project is designed to reduce a number of dead standing trees—burned by the Glade Fire during the year 2000—and improve driving conditions along a section of this backcountry route.

Individuals interested in applying for a permit to gather the available firewood must submit a written request with their name, address and phone number to: Grand Teton National Park, Firewood Permit, P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming, 83012. Requests to participate in this opportunity must be received by August 24. Names will be drawn by lottery, and those selected will be notified by phone and provided with details regarding the guidelines and regulations of the firewood collection.

Wood collection will begin on August 24 and conclude on October 19, 2009. Successful applicants will be limited to four cords of wood and the cost will be \$15.00 per cord.

Interagency fire staff have already felled and limbed the selected hazard trees along the Grassy Lake Road. Successful applicants will simply need to cut the downed trees into manageable lengths and remove the firewood. Standing trees may **not** be sawed down by firewood permittees.

For further information about this opportunity, please call Thayne O'Brien at 307.739.3447 during business hours.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2009 09-78

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Rescue Three Boaters from Snake River

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued three boaters from the Snake River on Tuesday afternoon, August 11, after they flipped their canoe and fell into the river. Will Shafer, age 23, of Ogden, Utah and two of his relatives, a 16-year-old young man and a 5-year-old boy, were canoeing on the river just one mile downstream of the historic Bar BC Ranch when the accident occurred. Only the 5-year-old boy was wearing a life jacket at the time of the incident; Shafer and his other relative were not wearing their life preservers and lost them to the river's current when the canoe capsized.

After his canoe upset in the river, Shafer was able to hold onto the vessel as it continued to float downstream. He was diverted into a debris-choked side channel where the canoe became pinned against a logjam. This channel lies river left of the main current and is not navigable. The teenager and young boy were swept downstream until, with some difficulty, they were eventually able to grab hold of an exposed tree root and pull themselves out of the river and onto the bank. The two parties lost sight of one another and were unsure about each other's welfare for several minutes.

A river guide with Triangle X Ranch came upon the stranded canoeists and called the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center at 3:10 p.m. to report the situation. The river guide then proceeded to help the three boaters until a park ranger could arrive by raft to rescue them from their separate locations along the riverbank. The ranger then floated all three canoeists to the Moose Landing where other family members were waiting; the rescued party reached the boat landing at 3:35 p.m.

Rangers give credit to the Triangle X Ranch river guide for his invaluable assistance in this rescue operation, and for his help in directing rescue personnel to the exact location of the stranded boaters. Commercial river guides are often the first responders to river accidents because they consistently float the Snake River; their initial response can be a critical part of a successful river rescue, as was the case in this particular incident.

Rangers remind boaters that life preservers can save lives, and it's prudent to wear a life jacket whenever floating the Snake River because of its swift current and cold water temperature. According to park regulations, children under 13 years of age are required to be wearing a life jacket whenever a vessel is in motion, and any boat operating on park waters is required to have life jackets for each person on board.

Rangers were unable to dislodge and recover the rental canoe. Additional attempts will be made once the seasonal river flow recedes.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 14, 2009 09-79

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Temporary Road Closure Scheduled for Moose-Wilson Road in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a brief travel closure will be in effect on the unpaved section of the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park for about thirty-six hours beginning at 5:00 a.m. on Friday, August 21. The road is scheduled to reopen by 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 22, barring equipment malfunction or rainy weather. The temporary closure is scheduled to allow for dust abatement work to be done on the unpaved roadbed.

Road crews will complete the project in the shortest time possible; however, because this temporary closure prevents the ability to make a “through trip” on the Moose-Wilson Road, local residents and park visitors are advised to plan accordingly and use an alternate route. For those wishing to reach the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve or Death Canyon trailhead, access will be possible by driving south from the junction with the Teton Park Road near the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming.

To alert travelers of the expected daytime road closure, electronic signs will be in place on Wyoming Highway #390, beginning Wednesday, August 19. For motorists heading south to Teton Village, signs will also be placed at the junction of the Teton Park Road in Moose.

The product used for dust abatement is a slurry of magnesium chloride. It is the same product that is used to treat dirt roads in and around Jackson Hole. This product coats the road surface, but it can also adhere to the undercarriage of vehicles; therefore, motorists who drive this portion of the Moose-Wilson Road after it reopens on Saturday evening may want to rinse off their vehicles to eliminate any residue.

Roadwork schedules may change, or be delayed, due to weather conditions, equipment malfunction, or other extenuating circumstances.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2009 09-80

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Update # 4

Beginning Monday, August 24, motorists traveling on Highway 26/89/191 between Cunningham Cabin (near Triangle X Ranch) and the park's south boundary (four miles north of Jackson) should expect delays of up to 30 minutes while a chip-seal project is underway. To facilitate the staging of project materials and construction equipment, Teton Point Turnout will be closed as of today, August 17, and remain closed throughout the duration of the project. Weather permitting, road crews plan to complete this chip-seal project before the Labor Day weekend.

The chip-seal application will progress north to south, moving from Cunningham Cabin on the northern portion of Highway 26/89/191 to one mile north of Moose Junction, then concluding with the southern segment of the highway from Moose Junction to Fish Hatchery Hill. **Motorists are advised to drive slowly throughout the work zone in order to prevent windshield damage.**

Travelers may choose to drive alternate routes to avoid the chip-seal work zone, and flashing message boards will be placed at the Moose, Moran, and Jackson Lake junctions, suggesting appropriate routes. The alternate routes will include the Teton Park Road, Antelope Flats Road, and Moose-Wilson Road, depending on where road work is currently taking place.

Bridge maintenance work is still underway and motorists should expect 15-minute travel delays at two locations: the Buffalo Fork Bridge near Moran Junction and the Spread Creek Bridge just south of Elk Ranch Flats.

Reconstruction of the North Park Road, between Lizard Creek campground in Grand Teton and Flagg Ranch Resort in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, is progressing. Motorists are advised to expect travel delays of up to 30 minutes from now through the end of November.

Drivers are encouraged to plan ahead, and schedule extra time for their travel through Grand Teton National Park during the next several weeks. While road improvement work is underway, every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience to drivers using park roads; however, traffic will be held up for short periods of time. These road construction projects are necessary to improve safety, as well as provide routine maintenance.

For current road construction information, travelers are advised to call the park's information hotline at 307.739.3614. The park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, includes a road construction map for reference; it can also be found online at www.nps.gov/grte, or picked up at any entrance station or visitor center.

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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
August 26, 2009 09-81

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Rescued from Death Canyon

Park rangers used the assistance of a Teton interagency helicopter to rescue a 23-year-old local man from a climbing route in Death Canyon at Grand Teton National Park on Tuesday, August 25. The climber, a resident of Jackson, Wyoming, and his partner were ascending the first pitch on a route called Caveat Emptor when they pulled off several rocks, causing them to fall approximately 30-40 feet. Although both climbers were wearing helmets at the time of the incident, one received injuries to his face and shoulder and required evacuation by helicopter.

Two off-duty guides from Exum Mountaineering were climbing in the vicinity at the time of the accident and were able to reach the injured man and make an emergency cell phone call to the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center to alert park personnel of the situation. Rangers responded to the scene on foot and by helicopter and provided emergency medical care to the injured climber.

With the assistance of the two Exum guides, rangers lowered the injured climber to a ledge below a route called the Snaz, where he was then airlifted via short-haul to a landing zone near the Death Canyon patrol cabin. A park ambulance then transported the injured man to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

Park rangers salute the Exum Mountain guides for their quick response and assistance during this rescue operation. Other climbers – both professional and amateur – are frequently the first persons on the scene of a backcountry accident; the information they provide to responding rangers, and the assistance they offer, are often instrumental in the positive outcome of a rescue effort.

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Grand Teton National Park

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



Mary Cernicek
307.739.5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 2, 2009

Lightning-Caused Fire Burning in Willow Flats Area of Grand Teton National Park

Teton interagency firefighters will monitor the activity of a new lightning-caused fire in Grand Teton National Park and manage it for resource benefit. The Third Creek Fire started during the passage of a thunderstorm on Sunday afternoon, August 30, in the Willow Flats area northwest of Jackson Lake Dam. The one-tenth acre fire is burning in a moist willow thicket, just north of the high-water line on Jackson Lake and about one-half mile east of the Hermitage Point Trail.

Smoke from the Third Creek Fire was visible yesterday from points along the Teton Park Road, as well as from Jackson Lake Lodge and Signal Mountain Lodge. The fire may periodically produce noticeable smoke for the next several days due to afternoon heating and increased winds.

No trail closures are in effect because of the Third Creek Fire.

The current fire danger rating for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest is "High."

For local fire information, visit the Teton Interagency Fire Web site at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html>, or use the redirect from www.tetonfires.com. For a map and information on the Third Creek Fire, go to <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/information/current-fires/index.html>.

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Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2009 09-83

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Offers Ranger-led Programs during September

To celebrate the special nature of autumn in Grand Teton National Park, a variety of programs will be offered beginning Tuesday, September 8. These ranger-led activities provide visitors with opportunities to learn about geology, history, and wildlife while enjoying fall colors and the seasonal antics of park animals. The 2009 fall schedule includes:

- **Inspiration Point Hike**, a 2.5-hour hike to Hidden Falls and a scenic overlook above Jenny Lake, 9:30 a.m. daily. Check in at the Jenny Lake Visitor Center. Boat ride costs \$10.00 for adults (roundtrip).
- **Explore the Preserve Hike**, a 2.5-hour hike to Phelps Lake to experience the pristine setting of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, 9:30 a.m. daily. Reservations recommended. Call 307.739.3654.
- **Map Chat**, a 30-minute talk about geology, park wildlife, and the stories behind the scenery, 11:30 a.m. daily at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center fireplace. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Teton Highlights**, a 30-minute travel planner, 11 a.m. daily in Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Autumn at the Preserve**, a chat about fall changes for wildlife and plants, 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily on the porch of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Walk into the Past**, a 45-minute stroll around Menor's Ferry historic district near park headquarters at Moose, 1:30 p.m. daily through September 15 from Menor's Ferry General Store. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Building Green**, a 30-minute talk about the innovative design and sustainable features of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center, 3 p.m. daily at the LSR Preserve Center. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Museum Grand Tour**, a 45-minute tour of the David T. Vernon Indian Arts collection, 3 p.m. daily in the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum.
- **Wildlife Caravan**, a 3-hour wildlife auto-tour, 5-8 p.m. daily from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Limited to 10 vehicles. Reservations are required; call 739.3399 or stop by a visitor center to secure a spot. Dress warmly and bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes.
- **Wildlife Watch at Oxbow Bend**, a 90-minute wildlife watch offered at 6 p.m. daily through September 25 at Oxbow Bend Scenic Turnout. Bring binoculars, cameras and questions. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Jenny Lake Twilight Talk**, 45-minute ranger talk, 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at Jenny Lake Campground Circle.
- **Signal Mountain Campfire Program**, 45-minute ranger talk, 6:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Signal Mountain Campground Amphitheater.

Most of the fall programs will be offered through September 27; however, the schedule is subject to change. For weekly updates on programs, or further information on any of the listed activities—as well as information on special programs being offered throughout September—please call the Craig Thomas Discovery Center at 307.739.3399, the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594 or the LSR Preserve Center at 307.739.3654.

The Craig Thomas, Colter Bay, Jenny Lake and Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve visitor centers are open daily during the month of September. The Jenny Lake and Rockefeller Preserve visitor centers both close for the 2009 season on September 27, and the Colter Bay Visitor Center closes on October 12. The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is open year-round.

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Grand Teton National Park

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National Forest Service
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Bridger-Teton National Forest



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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 3, 2009

Second Lightning-caused Fire Burning near Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park

Teton interagency firefighters will monitor—and manage for resource benefit—a second lightning-caused fire in Grand Teton National Park. The Bearpaw Bay Fire likely ignited during the passing of the same thunderstorm on Sunday, August 30, that also started the Third Creek Fire. This new fire is located one-half mile southeast of Bearpaw Bay on Jackson Lake. Although reported as a single tree fire on Wednesday afternoon, it grew to 2.5 acres by evening and produced smoke that was visible from several locations in the park and across Jackson Hole.

The Bearpaw Bay Fire is located at the northern edge of an area that burned in 1981 during the Mystic Isle Fire. Prevailing winds will push the fire toward the west shore of Jackson Lake.

The Third Creek Fire, also near Jackson Lake, has grown to .9 of an acre in size. It has burned a small grove of trees and a grassy meadow area; however, the fire has spread to the creek bank, which may limit its growth.

No public closures are in effect for trails or lakeshore campsites in the vicinities of the Bearpaw Bay or Third Creek fires.

The current fire danger rating for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest is “High.”

For local fire information, please visit the Teton Interagency Fire Web site at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html>, or go to www.tetonfires.com. For a map and additional information on the Bearpaw Bay and Third Creek fires, go to <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/information/current-fires/index.html>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2009 09-85

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Records Increased August Visitation

Recreational visits to Grand Teton National Park during the 2009 summer season showed a notable increase for the second consecutive month (July and August), over visitation numbers for the same months in 2008. A total of 568,122 visitors were recorded during August of 2009 compared with 527,256 visitors in August of 2008, making a 7.75% increase in visitation.

Grand Teton's July 2009 visitation numbers showed an increase of 5.91% over visitation totals for July of 2008. Although the year-to-date, total visitation is down a slight .81%, the increased numbers of visitors during July and August are encouraging. "Given the economic concerns across America, these visitation numbers are promising," said Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. "We believe that families and individuals look to our national parks for an economical, value-packed, quality vacation. In addition, visitors know that national parks are special places with the capacity to enrich our lives and provide education, enjoyment, and adventure."

The month of September affords one of the most enjoyable times to visit Grand Teton National Park. With spectacular autumn colors on display and exciting wildlife activity to watch, it's a truly special season in which to visit the park. Several free, ranger-led programs, along with many concessioner-operated activities, are available for fall visitors to Grand Teton. For a list of these activities, visit the park's Web site at www.nps.gov/grte or go directly to the following URL:
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2009-09-03T09%3A55%3A00-06%3A00>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 4, 2009 09-86

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Park Rangers Rescue Stranded Boaters from Snake River

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued two stranded boaters from the Bourbon Street Channel of the Snake River today, September 4, at approximately 3:45 p.m. A boatman and his partner apparently flipped their dory (drift boat) while floating the side channel and were unable to right their craft. One man was stranded atop the boat, which was lodged against the root-ball of a half submerged snag in the channel; the other man was able to get to the riverbank. Neither of the two men was wearing a life jacket at the time of the accident.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a cell phone call at 2:00 p.m. from a passing boater that reported seeing a man who was stranded in the river channel and clinging to the keel of his upturned boat. Park rangers launched two rescue rafts from the Moose Landing, while additional park staff drove to a remote river access point and approached the location on foot. In addition, Teton County Search and Rescue personnel launched a motorboat from the Wilson Landing, located 12 miles downstream. The rangers on foot were not able to reach the stranded boater and instructed him to stay atop his dory until rescue boats could get to him by water. Rangers reached the stranded boatman, safely transferred him to the rescue raft and floated him to a downstream landing. His partner was also transported to safety.

The identities of the two men have not been reported at this time.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2009 09-87

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Closing Dates for Visitor Services in Grand Teton National Park

Visitor services at Grand Teton National Park will make the annual transition from fall to winter season during the next few weeks. The following dates reflect the closing dates that will occur during September and October.

SEPTEMBER CLOSURES

Campgrounds

Lizard Creek	September 1	(closed)
Flagg Ranch	September 20	(12 noon)
Jenny Lake	September 27	(11 am)
Colter Bay	September 27	(11 am)

Ranger Stations & Visitor Centers

Flagg Ranch Information Station	September 7	(closed)
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	September 20	(5 pm)
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	September 27	(4:30 pm)
Laurance Rockefeller Preserve Center	September 27	(5 pm)

OCTOBER CLOSURES

Campgrounds

Gros Ventre	October 9	(11 am)
Signal Mountain	October 18	(11 am)

Ranger Stations & Visitor Centers

Colter Bay Visitor Center	October 12	(5 pm)
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Entrance Stations

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

Road Closures

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

CONCESSIONER LODGING CLOSURES

Colter Bay Village	September 27	(11 am)
Flagg Ranch	September 28	(Noon)
Jackson Lake Lodge	October 4	(11 am)
Jenny Lake Lodge	October 11	(Noon)
Signal Mountain Lodge	October 18	(11 am)
Triangle X Ranch	October 31	

For detailed information on facility closures, please phone 307.739.3300, or consult the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, online at www.nps.gov. The winter operation schedule will be announced in December.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2009 09-88

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton to Host America's Best Idea Events during September

Over the next several weeks, Grand Teton National Park will highlight the significance of national parks and their importance to our Nation's rich heritage by offering several special programs in advance of the television broadcast on WyomingPBS of Ken Burns' new documentary titled, *National Parks: America's Best Idea*. These programs are free and open to the public.

- September 12** Old Bill's Fun Run. Join park ranger naturalists for fun, educational activities at Grand Teton Association's booth during the community event on the Jackson Town Square. For more information, phone the Jenny Lake Visitor Center at 307.739.3392.
- September 14-18** *Untold Stories* Film Festival. Watch selections from Ken Burns' Florentine Films that highlight diverse groups who have been instrumental in the creation of America's national parks. Viewings occur daily in the Craig Thomas Discovery Center at 10 a.m. and in Colter Bay Visitor Center at 4 p.m. For details on these films, call the Colter Bay VC at 307.739.3594 or the Craig Thomas Center at 307.739.3399. Films include:
- *City Kids in National Parks*
 - *Manzanar: "Never Again"*
 - *Mount Rushmore: Telling America's Stories*
 - *San Antonio Missions: Keeping History Alive*
 - *Yosemite's Buffalo Soldiers*
- September 17** Nature Journaling and Sketching. Join rangers at the Laurance Rockefeller Preserve to learn about journaling techniques and how to make sketches of natural objects. All experience levels are welcome, but space is limited; to reserve a spot, call the LSR Preserve Center at 307.739.3654.
- September 24** Book Club Discussion. Attend a fireside conversation on *Creating the National Parks: the Missing Years* by Horace Albright & Marion Albright Schenk at the Laurance Rockefeller Preserve Center's Resource Room from 4-6 p.m. For more information, phone the LSR Preserve Center at 307.739.3654.
- September 26** A Grand Day of Public Service for America's Best Idea: the National Parks. Join park staff for a public viewing of *This is America*, a 45-minute film by Ken Burns, followed by volunteer projects (fence removal on Antelope Flats, reduction of social trails on LSR Preserve & other trails rehab projects, painting projects, etc.) The day of service culminates with a picnic sponsored by the Grand Teton Association. The film debut starts at 8 a.m. at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, and the picnic will conclude about 2 p.m. To sign up for this community volunteer day event, please call the Craig Thomas Discovery Center at 307.739.3399.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2009 09-89

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Charge Two for Attempted Poaching and Other Violations

Grand Teton National Park rangers arrested one man and cited another on Thursday, September 10, during an investigation of an attempted poaching of a bull elk in the park. Ryan Palmer, age 25, and his 32-year-old brother Tracy Palmer, both residents of Rawlins, Wyoming, were cited for resource violations, drug violations, and weapons violations. They will each face a mandatory appearance in federal court for multiple charges.

About 2 a.m. on Thursday, Ryan Palmer was driving his Chevy truck down Highway 26/89/191 near the Snake River Overlook when a Teton County deputy sheriff stopped him for swerving in the road. The deputy sheriff performed an investigation for alcohol-related violations, and consequently cited Palmer for possession of an open container. During the investigation, the deputy sheriff also learned that Ryan's brother, Tracy, had been let off near the Triangle X Ranch in pursuit of a bull elk with a bow and arrow. The deputy sheriff notified the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center, and park rangers responded to both locate Tracy and conduct an interview of Ryan in the investigation of a possible wildlife poaching. During the roadside interview with Ryan, other violations were discovered; as a result of the evidence, rangers took him into custody at 4:45 a.m.

Rangers discovered that the Palmer brothers had driven to Jackson Hole to hunt elk on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. In the early hours of Thursday morning, the brothers decided to spotlight wildlife—an illegal activity in Grand Teton National Park. They spotted a bull elk with its harem of cows about one mile south of Triangle X Ranch, and armed with a bow and quiver of arrows, Tracy got out of the vehicle to shoot the animal. Ryan apparently drove on down the highway after seeing the deputy sheriff's patrol car, leaving his brother behind in the brush.

After a systematic search, park rangers eventually located Tracy about 9:30 in the morning as he emerged from the underbrush and approached the road in an effort to hitch a ride. Tracy Palmer was subsequently charged with illegally spotlighting, discharging of a weapon in a national park, and attempting the illegal take of wildlife; he was cited and released.

During the interview of Ryan, evidence of other illegal activity was discovered; rangers found illegal drugs (methamphetamines) and paraphernalia as well as loaded firearms in his vehicle. Ryan Palmer was charged with illegally spotlighting, possession of drugs, and illegal possession of loaded firearms, in addition to the citation he received from the deputy sheriff for possession of an open container. Ryan is being held in the Teton County jail pending a more serious charge for felony possession of fire arms.

Rangers later returned to the area of the possible poaching and searched for evidence of blood or an animal carcass, but none was found. At this time, it appears that Tracy missed his intended target; however, the investigation is ongoing.

Law enforcement officers from the Teton County Sheriff's Office and the Jackson Hole Police Department were instrumental in the apprehension of these two brothers. Their assistance to park rangers serves as another great example of the cooperative support that local law enforcement agencies provide to one another throughout the greater Jackson Hole area.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2009 09-90

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Celebrate National Public Lands Day by Volunteering at Grand Teton National Park

In recognition of the 16th annual National Public Lands Day, Grand Teton National Park will waive entrance fees (including commercial tour fees) on Saturday, September 26. National Public Lands Day also serves as the nation's largest volunteer undertaking: an opportunity for individuals and communities to improve the natural and cultural treasures that Americans enjoy and value. As part of the 2009 event, Grand Teton is calling for a "Grand Day of Public Service for America's Best Idea: the National Parks" by inviting volunteers to join park staff in accomplishing several hands-on projects.

Anyone volunteering at Grand Teton on September 26 will be invited to begin their day of service by viewing a 45-minute video by documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, titled *This is America*, at 8 a.m. in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. After the film, volunteers will help with projects such as the rehabilitation and revegetation of Schwabacher's Landing on the Snake River, replacement of wooden benches at the Jenny Lake campground circle, exhibit cleaning at the Discovery Center, and various fence removal projects across the park. The day of service culminates with a picnic lunch at 1 p.m. sponsored by the Grand Teton Association, the park's non-profit partner of 72 years. To sign up for this community volunteer day, please call the Craig Thomas Discovery Center at 307.739.3391.

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott invites members of the Jackson Hole community to join park staff in making the 2009 National Public Lands Day especially memorable. "September is such a wonderful time to enjoy the beauty of Grand Teton and its wildlife," said Superintendent Scott. "Thanks to the new Ken Burns documentary film highlighting national parks, this year promises to be an even more compelling time to visit any one of the 391 national park units, to get involved, and show your personal appreciation through volunteering."

Episode one of Ken Burns' 6-part documentary series—titled *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*—is scheduled to air on WyomingPBS on Sunday evening, September 27.

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with a purpose to increase awareness of the value of all public lands, to foster shared stewardship of America's national resources, and to encourage people to volunteer their time. Federal land agencies have created partnerships with private individuals and citizen groups in an effort to improve, restore or enhance public lands and to provide opportunities for education, outdoor recreation, and enjoyment. Eight federal agencies and many state and local partners, plus dozens of non-profit organizations, tens of thousands of individuals, as well as national sponsors, are expected to participate in this annual day of caring for our shared lands. Last year, 120,000 volunteers participated in projects across the country, and many more are expected to get involved this year.

National Public Lands Day is the only time that entrance fees are systematically waived on public lands across America. In addition to national park units, fees will be waived at other land management sites, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Forest Service areas. In addition to National Public Lands Day, United States veterans are admitted free to national parks each year on Veteran's Day in November.

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



Mary Cernicek
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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

Sept. 17, 2009

Prescribed-burns Planned in Grand Teton National Park

Teton interagency fire personnel and Grand Teton National Park natural resource managers are planning a 182-acre prescribed burn as part of a 4,000-acre native rangeland restoration project. The Elbo West Prescribed Fire will cover an area on Antelope Flats that lies southeast of the Ditch Creek Road and Teton Science Schools' Kelly campus. This project involves a multi-stage effort to convert old pastureland to native vegetation as directed by the 2007 *Bison and Elk Management Plan for the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park*.

The Elbo West burn unit was an irrigated hayfield prior to the 1970s. Despite a decades-long recovery time, non-native grasses—and a host of noxious weeds—still dominate this area.

Another project in Grand Teton involves a 208-acre unit located on Signal Mountain. The Signal Mountain Prescribed Fire would mitigate a potential threat to life, and damage to property, from a wildfire by reducing accumulated vegetation and downed trees and creating a mosaic of burned and unburned areas. Reducing the density and continuity of fuels (trees and underbrush) using prescribed fire would increase options for wildfire containment and provide for better protection of Signal Mountain Lodge, the Chapel of the Sacred Heart and the Brinkerhoff Cabin in the event of a wildfire. Because of higher than normal fuel moisture this year, the Signal Mountain Prescribed Fire may not take place this fall; however, fire managers have a plan ready in case weather and fuel conditions become favorable to meet project objectives.

Prescribed fire ignitions will proceed only when favorable weather and fire behavior conditions exist. Smoke will be evident during the day of the burn, and may persist for several days after—especially in mountain valleys during early morning and evening hours. Local residents and visitors should exercise caution in the vicinity of the prescribed fires. Minimal traffic restrictions may occur to allow for public and firefighter safety, and fire equipment access.

Interagency fire personnel will also burn several “slash piles” in the park after early winter snowfall occurs. The primary target areas are Death Canyon, Ditch Creek and Flagg Ranch. These piles are mostly in developed areas where fire crews have removed dead wood and brush from the forest floor to increase firefighter and public safety and to lower the risk of losing structures in the event of a wildfire. Firefighters place the slash in tepee-shaped piles and let them cure for a year before burning them.

XXX



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 18, 2009 09-92

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Repair Work to Begin on the Snake River Bridge at Moose

Minor repair work will be underway on the Snake River Bridge at Moose, in Grand Teton National Park, beginning Monday, September 21. This project will require one-lane closures and traffic delays of up to 15 minutes while crews repair and paint portions of the bridge and its steel railings and girders. The work will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and continue until mid-October.

Local residents, park visitors and commercial services drivers should plan for minimal travel delays between Dornan's and the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center.

Flaggers will manage the traffic flow and make every attempt to minimize any inconvenience that this bridge work may cause; however, motorists are advised to allow for extra time in getting to their destination.

In order to reduce congestion and improve safety, parking near the Snake River Bridge will not be permitted while construction work is underway.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2009 09-93

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Celebrate America's Best Idea: the National Parks

In celebration of the premiere broadcast of the new Ken Burns film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, Grand Teton National Park, Grand Teton Lodge Company, WyomingPBS and WETA Television, and the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival are pleased to announce a co-sponsored community event to be held on Sunday evening, September 27. Please join family, friends, neighbors and other national park fans for a viewing of Episode One of the 12-hour, 6-part series about national parks created by documentary filmmaker Ken Burns and his partner Dayton Duncan.

This public event will be held in the Explorer Room at Jackson Lake Lodge. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a pre-reception cash bar and Jackson Lake Lodge's signature treats for purchase. Grand Teton Lodge Company will also provide popcorn during the movie. The premiere viewing will follow at 7 p.m. with a Blu-ray high-definition disc played on a large-format television screen, offering viewers an unprecedented visual experience. Seating will be limited, and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors will open to the Explorer Room at 6:30 p.m.; those planning to attend should come early.

Burns and Duncan, co-producer and script writer, began work on their documentary film over six years ago. The filmmakers wanted to capture what they believe to be a story of an idea as uniquely American, and just as radical, as the Declaration of Independence. This new series follows in the tradition of Burns' exploration of other American inventions, such as baseball and jazz, and it weaves together a fascinating tale of how the most exceptional places in our Nation were preserved for everyone—not for just royalty or the rich—to experience and enjoy.



Wallace Stegner called our national parks “the best idea we ever had,” and it was this sentiment that inspired the title for the series. The filmmakers and their production company, Florentine Films, visited both Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks several times in order to capture stories and scenic footage during the making of their documentary. The fruits of their labor have grown into an inspiring and educational journey into the history of the making of our National Park System.

One of our Nation's Best Ideas: Grand Teton National Park
Photo by Heather Voster, NPS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2009 09-94

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Backcountry Hiker Falls to his Death on Teewinot Mountain

Grand Teton National Park rangers used the Teton interagency contract helicopter to locate and retrieve the body of a backcountry hiker who apparently fell to his death on Teewinot Mountain about 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22. Eliot Kalmbach, age 24, from Pennsylvania and his partner Jon Winiasz, age 23, of Vermilion, Ohio were traversing a steep slope on Teewinot when Kalmbach fell and tumbled approximately 300 feet and sustained fatal injuries. Because the two men only intended to hike and scramble, neither was wearing a helmet or carrying climbing gear.

Kalmbach and Winiasz arrived in Grand Teton a few days before the accident. After consulting with park rangers about various backcountry hiking and climbing possibilities, they hiked to Delta Lake on Sunday, September 20, and climbed the Southwest Couloir on Middle Teton on Monday. On Tuesday morning, they parked at the Lupine Meadows trailhead and hiked up a portion of the Apex Trail to reach and explore the east flank of Teewinot. During their excursion, they got off course and onto a more vertical slope than they intended, and Kalmbach accidentally fell while trying to scramble across technical terrain. After Kalmbach came to rest, Winiasz scrambled down to him and realized that his friend was unconscious, not breathing and without a pulse. Winiasz used Kalmbach's cell phone to call 911 and the emergency call was transferred to Teton Interagency Dispatch Center at 1:28 p.m.

Park rangers summoned the contract helicopter that was already working in the vicinity, and used the ship to pinpoint the hikers' location from the air. Rangers determined that no suitable landing spot was available from which they could stage a mountain-based rescue operation, so they conducted a short-haul mission from the park's rescue cache at Lupine Meadows on the valley floor.

One ranger with emergency gear was inserted via short-haul into the accident site at 3:30 p.m. Upon arriving, he confirmed that Kalmbach was deceased. A second ranger was inserted with a rescue litter, and the two placed Winiasz into an evacuation suit for a short-haul flight to the Lupine Meadows rescue cache. The helicopter made a second flight at 4:30 p.m. to evacuate Kalmbach. Teton County Coroner Bob Campbell then met the rangers at Lupine Meadows to transport Kalmbach by vehicle to Jackson, Wyoming.

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Teton National Park

Jackie Skaggs/Traci Weaver
307.739.3393/ 307.739.3692

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



Mary Cernicek
307.739.5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2009

12:45 p.m. (MDT)

Bearpaw Bay Fire in Grand Teton National Park Increases

Teton Interagency firefighters began fire suppression activities on the southeast flank of the Bearpaw Bay Fire in Grand Teton National Park on Saturday morning, September 26, after brisk northwest winds on Friday evening pushed the fire 1.5 miles south toward the Teton Park Road. The Bearpaw Bay Fire has grown from 130 acres to about 350 acres in the past 24 hours.

Fire management officers called for one medium helicopter (300-gallon capacity) and two heavy helicopters (700-gallon capacity) to make water bucket drops on the southeast segment of the Bearpaw Bay Fire early Saturday. In addition to water-drops, four fire engines are patrolling the Teton Park Road to extinguish any spot fires that might occur with afternoon heating and increased winds. A Type II fire crew will arrive mid-day and begin to establish fire lines around the southeast perimeter of the fire. Weather forecasts call for brisk afternoon winds of 20- mph out of the southwest on Saturday with similar conditions predicted for Sunday, September 27.

A temporary closure of the Teton Park Road was imposed as a safety precaution due to heavy smoke for an hour on Friday evening. The eastshore trail along Leigh Lake is closed due to the proximity of the fire, as are several backcountry campsites on Leigh, Bearpaw and Trapper lakes, and the lakeshore campsites in the Spalding Bay area of Jackson Lake.

Heavy smoke has blanketed the Jackson Hole valley during the last few days because of fires in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, as well as prescribed burns on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Individuals with impaired respiratory conditions and young children are advised to stay indoors to reduce exposure to smoke. People should avoid exercise or physical exertion during the next two days while heavy smoke remains.

Bearpaw Bay Fire

Started: August 30, 2009

Estimated Size: 350+ acres

Location: Approximately two miles northeast of North Jenny Lake Junction on the Teton Park Road, and southeast of Bearpaw Bay on Jackson Lake.

Overview: The Bearpaw Bay Fire is a lightning-caused fire that began on August 30, and has been managed for resource benefits according to the park's fire management plan. The fire was burning primarily in the 1981 Mystic Isle Fire area, but moved into old growth lodgepole forest yesterday. It has remained within the approved area for a resource-benefit fire. Firefighters are suppressing the southeast flank, near the west shore of Spalding Bay, with an objective to limit any further spread to the east.

Recent Activity and Expectations: The Bearpaw Bay Fire has grown from 130 acres to about 350 acres in the past 24 hours. Weather forecasts call for increased winds out of the south/southwest on Saturday and Sunday.

Closures or Impacts to Visitors and Area Residents: The eastshore trail along Leigh Lake is closed due to the proximity of the fire, as are several backcountry campsites on Leigh, Bearpaw and Trapper lakes, and the lakeshore campsites in the Spalding Bay area of Jackson Lake. The Teton Park Road may be closed as conditions warrant during Saturday and Sunday.

Fire Updates: For current fire information, go to www.tetonfires.com or visit the Teton Interagency Fire Web site at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html>. For a map of the Bearpaw Bay Fire go to <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/information/current-fires/index.html>.



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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 27, 2009

3:00 p.m. (MDT)

Bearpaw Bay Fire Update

Teton Interagency firefighters continued fire suppression on the southeast flank of the Bearpaw Bay Fire in Grand Teton National Park throughout Saturday afternoon and evening, September 26. The fire was mapped on Saturday afternoon with a portable Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and determined to be 1,500 acres.

On Sunday, September 27, fire managers again used one medium helicopter (300-gallon capacity) and one heavy helicopter (700-gallon capacity) to make water bucket drops on the southeast segment of the fire. Four fire engines (three from Teton County and one from Grand Teton), as well as one Teton County water tender, are staged at various points along the Teton Park Road to extinguish spot fires that may occur with expected afternoon winds. A Type II fire crew from Salt Lake City arrived on Saturday, as well as a Hot Shot crew from Carson City, Nevada; these firefighters will continue to suppress hotspots and establish fire lines around the southeast fire perimeter throughout the afternoon and evening in an effort to limit further growth to the east. Weather forecasts call for brisk 20-mph afternoon winds out of the southwest, shifting to northwest winds in the late afternoon.

The eastshore trail along Leigh Lake is closed due to the proximity of the fire, as are several backcountry campsites on Leigh, Bearpaw and Trapper lakes, and the lakeshore campsites in the Spalding Bay area of Jackson Lake. At this time, the Teton Park Road is open; however, fire activity may require temporary closures as a safety precaution.

Heavy smoke has blanketed the Jackson Hole valley during the last few days because of fires in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, as well as prescribed burns on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Individuals with impaired respiratory conditions and young children are advised to stay indoors to reduce exposure to smoke. People should avoid exercise or physical exertion during the next two days while heavy smoke exists.

Bearpaw Bay Fire

Started: August 30, 2009, by lightning

Estimated Size: 1,500 acres

Location: Approximately two miles northeast of North Jenny Lake Junction on the Teton Park Road, and west of Spalding Bay on Jackson Lake.

Overview: A lightning-caused fire, the Bearpaw Bay Fire began on August 30 and has been managed for resource benefits according to the park's fire management plan. The fire was burning primarily in the 1981 Mystic Isle Fire area, but moved into old growth lodgepole forest late afternoon on September 25. It has remained within the approved area; however, firefighters are suppressing the southeast flank, near the southwestern shore of Spalding Bay, with an objective to limit any further spread to the east.

Recent Activity and Expectations: The Bearpaw Bay Fire was mapped using GPS at 1,500 acres on Saturday, September 27. Weather forecasts call for increased winds out of the southwest on Sunday.

Closures or Impacts to Visitors and Area Residents: The eastshore trail along Leigh Lake is closed due to the proximity of the fire, as are several backcountry campsites on Leigh, Bearpaw and Trapper lakes, and the lakeshore campsites in the Spalding Bay area of Jackson Lake. The Spalding Bay Road is closed, and the Teton Park Road may be closed as conditions warrant during Sunday.

Fire Updates: For current fire information, go to www.tetonfires.com or visit the Teton Interagency Fire Web site at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html>. For a map of the Bearpaw Bay Fire go to <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/information/current-fires/index.html>.



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Bridger-Teton National Forest



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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 28, 2009

5:00 p.m. (MDT)

Bearpaw Bay Fire Update #2

Teton Interagency firefighters continued fire suppression on the southeast flank of the Bearpaw Bay Fire in Grand Teton National Park throughout Monday, September 28. The fire was mapped during a mid-morning flight with a portable Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and determined to be 2,844 acres.

Throughout Monday, fire managers again used one heavy helicopter (700-gallon capacity) to make water bucket drops on the southeast segment of the fire. Two fire engines (one from Sublette County and one from Grand Teton), as well as water tender from Grand Teton continued to extinguish spot fires and hot spots along the Teton Park Road and Spalding Bay Road. Fire support from the Unified Fire Authority out of Salt Lake City and a Hot Shot crew from Carson City, Nevada continued to support firefighting activities as they have for the past two days. The Leigh Lake backcountry patrol cabin was partially wrapped in fire retardant material as a precaution; however, the fire did not reach the cabin. Weather forecasts call for windy conditions on Tuesday, September 29, in advance of a cold front. Fire suppression will remain focused on the southeast flank of the fire to prevent it from advancing further east and into old growth lodgepole pine forests.

The eastshore trail along Leigh Lake is closed due to the proximity of the fire, as are several backcountry campsites on Leigh, Bearpaw and Trapper lakes, and the lakeshore campsites in the Spalding Bay area of Jackson Lake. The Teton Park Road is open, and has remained open (with the exception of one hour on Friday evening, September 25) throughout the recent fire activity.

Heavy smoke blanketing the Jackson Hole valley is the result of fires in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, as well as prescribed burns on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Individuals with impaired respiratory conditions and young children are advised to stay indoors to reduce exposure to smoke. People should avoid exercise or physical exertion during the next two days while heavy smoke exists.

Bearpaw Bay Fire

Started: August 30, 2009, by lightning

Estimated Size: 2,844 acres

Location: Approximately two miles northeast of North Jenny Lake Junction on the Teton Park Road, and west of Spalding Bay on Jackson Lake.

Overview: A lightning-caused fire, the Bearpaw Bay Fire began on August 30 and has been managed for resource benefits according to the park's fire management plan. The fire was burning primarily in the 1981 Mystic Isle Fire area, but moved into old growth lodgepole forest late afternoon on September 25. It has remained within the approved area; however, firefighters are suppressing the southeast flank, near the southwestern shore of Spalding Bay, with an objective to limit any further spread to the east.

Recent Activity and Expectations: The Bearpaw Bay Fire was mapped using GPS at 1,500 acres on Saturday, September 27. Weather forecasts call for increased winds out of the southwest on Sunday.

Closures or Impacts to Visitors and Area Residents: The eastshore trail along Leigh Lake is closed due to the proximity of the fire, as are several backcountry campsites on Leigh, Bearpaw and Trapper lakes, and the lakeshore campsites in the Spalding Bay area of Jackson Lake. The Spalding Bay Road is closed, and the Teton Park Road may be closed as conditions warrant during Sunday.

Fire Updates: For current fire information, go to www.tetonfires.com or visit the Teton Interagency Fire Web site at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html>. For a map of the Bearpaw Bay Fire go to <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/information/current-fires/index.html>.



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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2009

5:00 p.m. (MDT)

Bearpaw Bay Fire Update #3

With the arrival of cooler temperatures and wetter weather on Wednesday, September 30, fire activity on the Bearpaw Bay Fire in Grand Teton National Park significantly decreased. Teton Interagency firefighters were able to successfully complete control actions on Tuesday to limit fire spread towards the east and into old growth lodgepole pine forests. Fire personnel will continue to closely monitor the fire, especially the southeast flank, to ensure that it stays within the acceptable perimeter. The Bearpaw Bay Fire remains at 2,844 acres in size, and will again be primarily managed as a resource-benefit fire.

On Wednesday morning, firefighters from the Unified Fire Authority out of Salt Lake City and Teton Interagency fire personnel pulled fire hoses, pumps and other equipment from established fire lines and completed rehabilitation work on those lines in an effort to mitigate the potential impacts of recent fire suppression work. In addition, the Type I FireHawk helicopter, which provided air support during the past two days, was released to its home base in Boise, Idaho. One Teton Interagency fire engine will monitor ongoing fire activity into the weekend, or until further fire activity dictates.

The Spalding Bay Road, eastshore trail along Leigh Lake, and backcountry campsites on Leigh, Bearpaw and Trapper lakes, and several lakeshore campsites along the west shore of Jackson Lake, will remain closed as a safety precaution until hazard trees (burned snags) can be removed.

Bearpaw Bay Fire

Started: August 30, 2009, by lightning

Estimated Size: 2,844 acres

Location: Approximately two miles northeast of North Jenny Lake Junction on the Teton Park Road, and west of Spalding Bay on Jackson Lake.

Overview: A lightning-caused fire, the Bearpaw Bay Fire began on August 30 and has been managed for resource benefits according to the park's fire management plan. The fire was burning primarily in the 1981 Mystic Isle Fire area, but moved into old growth lodgepole forest late afternoon on September 25. It spread toward the Teton Park Road and the southern tip of Jackson Lake, causing fire managers to initiate suppression activities. The fire has remained within the approved area, and due to recent moisture, the fire is again being monitored and managed as a resource-benefit fire.

Recent Activity and Expectations: The Bearpaw Bay Fire will continue to burn until sufficient late season rain or snows extinguish it; however, recent moisture and cooler temperatures have reduced its activity.

Closures or Impacts to Visitors and Area Residents: The Spalding Bay Road, eastshore trail along Leigh Lake, backcountry campsites on Leigh, Bearpaw and Trapper lakes, and several lakeshore campsites along the west shore of Jackson Lake, all remain closed due to hazard trees and ongoing fire activity.

Fire Updates: For current fire information, go to www.tetonfires.com or visit the Teton Interagency Fire Web site at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/index.html>. For a map of the Bearpaw Bay Fire go to <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/information/current-fires/index.html>.

XXX



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2009 09-99

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Annual Elk Reduction Program and Grizzly Bears in Grand Teton National Park

The annual elk reduction program in Grand Teton National Park will begin on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Under its 1950 enabling legislation, Grand Teton is mandated by federal law to conduct an elk reduction program — when necessary — for the conservation of the elk population in Jackson Hole. Because the elk herd is above its management objective of 11,000 animals, intensive management (including the reduction program) is warranted.

The elk reduction program utilizes Wyoming-licensed hunters that apply for and receive limited quota permits in hunt areas #75 and #79. As provided in the 1950 legislation, a park permit temporarily deputizes the hunters as park rangers, giving them the authority to take one elk. Permits are for either cow/calf elk, or for any elk. A map showing specific park locations open to hunters participating in the elk reduction program is available at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming.

As a part of their special use permit—and as an added safety measure—each participant receives a strong, proactive message alerting them to the presence of grizzly bears throughout the authorized hunt zones. In addition, hunters are **required** to carry bear pepper spray as a non-lethal deterrent for use during potential bear encounters. Hunters are also advised not to leave a carcass unattended and to remove their harvested elk as soon as possible. Each fall, park rangers strictly monitor and patrol the elk reduction areas located within the park to ensure compliance with rules and regulations associated with this wildlife management program.

The recent killing of grizzly bear #615 by a hunter in the Ditch Creek area east of Grand Teton makes a compelling case for hunters to carry bear spray and be alert while in the field. Scientific studies indicate that bear spray is more effective than bullets in defusing a potentially life-threatening, bear-human encounter; bear spray provides more effective protection for the hunter as well as the bear. Based on his extensive research, bear biologist Dr. Stephen Herrero has concluded that the chances of a person incurring serious injury from a charging grizzly significantly increases when bullets are fired versus when bear spray is used as a defense.

Bears and other scavengers throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) have learned to seek out and feed on gut piles and other hunter-related carrion during the fall season. This represents an important, highly nutritious food source to these animals, and it can create circumstances when bears aggressively defend carcasses and gut piles. Hunters and other park visitors should keep in mind that dozens of grizzlies use the park regularly and may be encountered anywhere and anytime. All necessary precautions for recreating in bear country need to be strictly followed, particularly those that apply to hunters.

The *Conservation Strategy for Grizzly Bears* in the GYE guides the continuing efforts by land and wildlife managers to conserve bear habitat and minimize bear-human conflicts through education and compliance with appropriate regulations, including those related to keeping a safe distance when viewing bears. To ensure a healthy grizzly bear population, every effort is made to educate park visitors, concessioner employees, local residents and hunters about living and recreating responsibly in bear country.

Rangers will continue to monitor park wildlife and educate all users about their personal responsibility for maintaining a safe environment—for their own health, as well as for the welfare of the animals.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2009 09-100

Carol Cunningham
307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

New Winter Use Plan Completed for Grand Teton National Park And John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

A new plan to provide for limited, regulated snowmobile access in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway has been approved. This decision provides long-term direction for winter use management for these park units.

An environmental assessment (EA) and proposed rule were released for public review last fall. Comments received have been reviewed, and a Finding of No Significant Impact has been signed. It is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/parkmgmt/planning.htm> and <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.

Twenty-five snowmobiles per day, with no best available technology (BAT) or guiding requirement, will be allowed to travel on the Grassy Lake Road to provide access to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. On Jackson Lake, an initial daily limit of 25 BAT snowmobiles will provide access to ice fishing opportunities for persons possessing appropriate fishing gear and a valid State of Wyoming fishing license. The limit may be increased to 40 snowmobiles per day if monitoring of park resources indicates acceptable conditions. Grooming and motorized oversnow travel on the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail between Moran Junction and Flagg Ranch will be discontinued.

For Yellowstone, the plan is temporary and would be effective for the next two winters. The Yellowstone plan allows up to 318 commercially guided, BAT snowmobiles, and up to 78 commercially guided snowcoaches in a day for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 winter seasons. It also continues to provide for motorized oversnow travel over Sylvan Pass and the East Entrance road. During the next two years, the National Park Service will prepare a new Environmental Impact Statement and a new long term plan for winter use in Yellowstone National Park.

Rules to implement the decision will be published in the coming weeks in the *Federal Register*, to allow the parks to open for the winter season as scheduled on December 15, 2009.

Before operating a snowmobile in Grand Teton National Park, visitors should review current snowmobile regulations and approved BAT machines online at http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/current_batlist.htm or stop at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2009 09-101

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Carol Cunningham

Grand Teton National Park News Release

National Parks from Different Continents Forge International Ties through Trails

From August through September, employees from Argentina's Parque Nacional Los Glaciares worked alongside Grand Teton National Park's trail crews and other park employees as part of a new, innovative agreement. Two international volunteers, Aristides Aieta and Juan Jose "Juanjo" Landucci, traveled to Grand Teton to expand their knowledge of trail maintenance and park management as part of a cooperative partnership between the two parks. A UNESCO World Heritage site located in the Austral Andes near the border with Chile, Los Glaciares is similar to Grand Teton in that it is a mountainous park containing rugged granite peaks, glacially-carved valleys, and a history of ranching. In 2008, the two national parks developed a "sister park" agreement, authorizing a five-year program of technical exchange and cooperation with the goal of sharing expertise to build excellence in national park management for both agencies—the National Park Service and Argentine Administracion de Parques Nacionales.

The unique partnership between Grand Teton and Los Glaciares began in October 2004 when Los Glaciares served as the host site for an International Conference on Sustainability. Grand Teton employees attending the conference learned that the Argentinean park needed assistance to address severe impacts to its trail system and backcountry campsites. In March 2008, local resident and climbing guide Rolando Garibotti received funding from the American Alpine Club, via a grant received from Patagonia, Inc., making it possible for several Grand Teton employees to travel to Los Glaciares to share their professional expertise and guidance. The Grand Teton team helped to create a four-year work plan to address extensive erosion on numerous user-created trails, resulting from the impacts of stock animals, visitors (mainly climbers), water, and wind: conditions compounded by the loose morainal and glacial soils common throughout the park. Their recommended improvements, including relocation and rehabilitation of poorly located trails and campsites, were designed to mitigate the adverse impacts to resources and enhance visitors' experiences in the South American park.



Los Glaciares NP employee Ari Aieta

This winter, a Grand Teton trail supervisor and other staff will make a third trip to Los Glaciares with direction and assistance provided by project coordinator Garibotti. The budding partnership has become an educational and beneficial endeavor for all of the participants—on both continents.

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott cordially welcomed the Argentinean volunteers and looks forward to continuing a productive program between the two "sister" parks. "This international partnership is a wonderful outreach effort, allowing us to assist and educate a park with similar topography and management issues," said Superintendent Scott. "The program also provides a valuable opportunity for Grand Teton's staff to learn from our counterparts in Argentina about their particular management challenges and resource impacts. The lessons we learn from one another will improve park operations in these separate, but similar, parts of the world."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 27, 2009 09-102

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Single Vehicle Rollover Results in Fatality on Highway 89 in Grand Teton National Park

A 55-year-old man from Freedom, Idaho died this morning, October 27, when he apparently lost control of his Chevy truck on icy conditions and slid off an embankment on Highway 26/89/191 just south of the Gros Ventre Bridge in Grand Teton National Park. After rolling over, the vehicle came to rest about 40 yards from the roadway. The single-occupant driver was ejected from his vehicle. It did not appear that he was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident.

Other motorists witnessed the accident and called 911 for help. The Teton County Sheriff's Office dispatchers then notified Teton Interagency Dispatch Center of the accident at 8:30 a.m. A member of Jackson Hole Fire/EMS arrived on the scene and park rangers, along with park emergency medical technicians, immediately responded from park headquarters at Moose. Although a passerby had initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), those efforts were terminated due to the fatal nature of injuries. Park medics confirmed that the gentleman was deceased.

Rangers believe that the gentleman was driving southbound on Highway 89 when he encountered black ice near the Gros Ventre Bridge. His vehicle crossed the northbound lane and came to rest on the east side of the highway, after rolling over.

A German shepherd dog riding in the truck with the man was taken to Spring Creek Animal Hospital for evaluation of possible injuries. The dog was determined to be in good condition.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2009 09-103

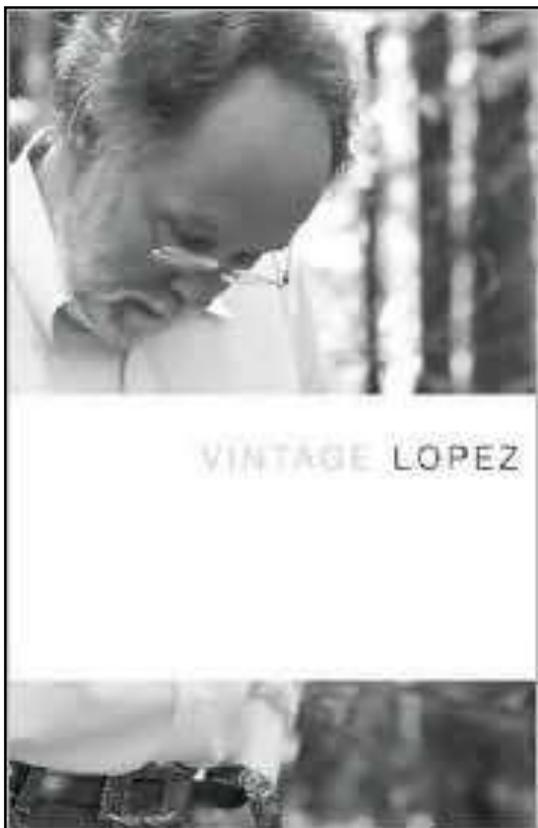
Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve to Host Third Book Club Discussion

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott extends an invitation to local residents to join an upcoming Laurance S. Rockefeller (LSR) Preserve book club discussion on *Vintage Lopez*, a book containing essays and short stories by author Barry Lopez. The book club discussion will take place Thursday, November 19, from 4 - 6 p.m. on the historic Murie Ranch in Grand Teton National Park. This event is being co-hosted by The Murie Center; the Teton County Library Foundation has offered to provide complimentary copies of *Vintage Lopez* to the first ten people that R.S.V.P. to attend the discussion.

In an effort to inspire a spirit of conversation stewardship, the LSR Preserve book club was created this past summer and designed to explore literature that examines our connection to the natural world. This will be the third LSR Preserve book club discussion. This session coincides with the Teton County Library and Library Foundation's "Page to Podium" speaker series—featuring Barry Lopez—which is scheduled for December 3, 2009 in Jackson, Wyoming.



Barry Lopez is an essayist, author, and short-story writer. He is the author of *Arctic Dreams*, *Of Wolves and Men*, *Field Notes*, *Resistance*, and *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*. His essays are collected in *Crossing Open Ground*, *About This Life*, and *Vintage Lopez*—a collection of five essays, an excerpt from *Arctic Dreams* and six short stories published in 2004. In his nonfiction, Lopez writes often about the relationship between the physical landscape and human culture. In his fiction, he frequently addresses issues of intimacy, ethics, and identity.

To sign up for the book club discussion, or learn more about this event and how to obtain a copy of the book, please call Grand Teton National Park at 307.739.3656.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2009 09-104

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Winter Use Rule for Grand Teton National Park to be Published in the Federal Register

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the rule implementing the winter use plan for Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway will be published in the Federal Register on Friday, November 20, 2009. The winter use plan allows snowmobile access for the purpose of ice fishing only on the frozen surface of Jackson Lake, and allows snowmobiles to use the Grassy Lake Road between Flagg Ranch Resort and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. On Jackson Lake, snowmobiles must meet National Park Service air and sound emissions requirements for Best Available Technology (BAT). This requirement does not apply to snowmobile use on the Grassy Lake Road.

The published rule will implement a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) signed last month by National Park Service Intermountain Region Director Mike Snyder. The FONSI and the winter use environmental assessment are available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, and the winter use rule will be available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html>.

Highway 26/89/191 from Jackson, Wyoming to Flagg Ranch Resort in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway is open and plowed for wheeled vehicles throughout the winter season. This road provides access to a wide range of recreational opportunities including wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice fishing. The Teton Park Road is closed to vehicle traffic during the winter season from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain Lodge—a distance of fifteen miles. The unplowed roadway is groomed and serves as a winter trail for cross-country skiing, skate skiing and snowshoeing.

The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center near park headquarters at Moose, Wyoming is open year-round and offers ranger-led snowshoe hikes each day from December 26 through late March. For information about winter activities and road conditions, please contact the Discovery Center at 307.739.3399. For a full range of winter information, please visit the park's Web site at www.nps.gov/grte.

Information on lodging, restaurants, activities and other visitor services offered in the community of Jackson, near Grand Teton, can be obtained from the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce at 307.733.3316 or www.jacksonholechamber.com. Information is also available from the Office of Wyoming Travel and Tourism at 800.225.5996 or <http://www.wyomingtourism.org>.

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Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 30, 2009 09-105

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Receives Generous Donation

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that a \$25,000 donation was recently presented to the Grand Teton Association by Mark Kornmann of the National Park Foundation on behalf of Carole Hays, a Foundation board member. Hays offered her generous donation as a personal thank you to Grand Teton National Park and its employees who conducted a backcountry rescue of her this past summer. Hays' substantial donation will be used to help establish a new "friends group" in support of the park's search and rescue (SAR) program based at Jenny Lake—a program that performs multiple SAR operations each year.

Although Grand Teton and other parks have access to a national funding source specifically designed to defray costs associated with rescue incidents, there are often shortfalls in the funding needed for proficiency training and exercises, new and advanced SAR equipment, and a myriad of other associated costs. Through this donation and the creation of a friends group for Grand Teton's SAR program, a sustainable fund source will be available to support the efforts necessary in maintaining a highly-trained rescue team and fully-equipped rescue cache. The new friends group will enable Grand Teton to perform and fund vital SAR operations now and into the future.



Mark Kornmann of NPF presents GTA Exec. Director Jan Lynch & Deputy Superintendent Bob Vogel with Carole Hays' check

The Grand Teton Association, the long-term cooperating association and partner of Grand Teton National Park, has accepted Hays' donation on behalf of the park and established a dedicated account for this and other donations that may be directed specifically to support the park's SAR program. The donation check was presented from the National Park Foundation to the Grand Teton Association through a grant agreement, establishing the Association as the fiscal manager of a Grand Teton National Park restricted "Search and Rescue" account.

"We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and highly-skilled rescue staff at Grand Teton: a staff that is continually prepared to spring into action whenever the need arises," said Superintendent Scott. "We are also very appreciative that Carole Hays has provided such a generous gift—the seed money to begin a new funding source that will help in assisting other visitors during their greatest time of need." Superintendent Scott added, "With this generous check, Carole has created new opportunities for Grand Teton to provide critical care to those who may find themselves in need of rescue and medical care. Her generosity will benefit countless others."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2009 09-106

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Winter Season Activities to Begin in Grand Teton National Park

Activities for the 2009/10 winter season begin on Tuesday, December 15 in Grand Teton National Park. The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center (12 miles north of Jackson, Wyoming) is open year-round and winter hours run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Discovery Center will be closed on December 25, to observe the Christmas holiday.

A **Single Day Pass** is available to winter visitors at the Moose, Moran and Granite Canyon 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 other options for entry:

\$25 Seven-day Pass valid for single vehicle entry into Grand Teton and Yellowstone

\$50 Grand Teton/Yellowstone Annual Pass valid for one year entry into both parks

\$80 Interagency Annual Pass valid for one year entry to all federal land management fee areas

Ranger-led snowshoe hikes begin Saturday, December 19 at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. This 2-hour activity is offered every day at 1:30 p.m., and previous experience is not necessary. Snowshoes are provided for a requested donation of \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids 8 years or older. Reservations are required and can be made at 307.739.3399. Snowshoe hikes include the following options:

Snake River Nature Loop on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

Murie Ranch Historic Landmark tour on Sundays and Wednesdays

Backcountry users and mountaineers planning to stay overnight in the backcountry must get a non-fee permit before their trip at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Permits are not required for day users. To obtain weather forecasts and avalanche hazard information, stop at the Discovery Center, visit the backcountry Web site 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 skier tracked, but not groomed. The Teton Park Road (TPR) is a designated winter trail, open to non-motorized use. During the winter season, the unplowed TPR will be intermittently groomed for cross-country touring and skate skiing from the Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. Severe winter storms or park emergencies may preempt the trail grooming schedule on occasion. **Important reminder:** Snowshoers should walk adjacent to the groomed cross-country ski trail, as snowshoes ruin the grooved track set for skiers' use.

Skiers and snowshoers are not restricted to established trails; however, for protection of wildlife, they are required to observe closure areas from December 15 to April 1. To obtain trail maps, closure locations, or winter information, go to the park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/maps.htm> or visit the Discovery Center in Moose, Wyoming. Winter wildlife closure areas include:

Snake River floodplain from Moran to Menor's Ferry near Moose

Buffalo Fork River floodplain within the park

Kelly Hill and Uhl Hill

Static Peak

Prospectors Mountain

Mount Hunt areas (see the park's cross-country ski brochure for descriptions)

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Leashed pets are allowed on the park's plowed roads and turnouts, 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.

The unplowed TPR will be open to visitors who wish to walk, snowshoe or ski with their leashed pet. Dogs are restricted to the multi-use portion of the TPR winter trail, and must be restrained at all times on a leash no longer than 6-feet in length. Dogs must also be leashed while in the parking areas at Taggart Lake or Signal Mountain. Please keep dogs off the groomed ski tracks as a courtesy to other trail users.

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. Some pet owners have left used bags along the side of the road, and when these bags become buried in snow, they cause problems for rotary snow plows during the spring road opening. If pet owners do not comply with the rules and regulations—especially with regard to pet waste disposal and leash rules—it is possible that pets will be prohibited from the TPR in the future.

Please note that allowing pets on the TPR is a provisional program that may be discontinued at any time.

Dog sleds are **not** allowed on the Teton Park Road or on Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway (JDR Parkway).

Snowmobilers may use 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.

On Jackson Lake, snowmobiles must meet National Park Service air and sound emissions requirements for Best Available Technology (BAT). Before operating a snowmobile in Grand Teton, review current snowmobile regulations and approved BAT machines online at http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/current_batlist.htm, or stop at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming.

Snowmobiles may also use the Grassy Lake Road in the JDR Parkway for recreation. For winter 2009/10 BAT machine requirement does not apply to snowmobile use on the Grassy Lake Road between Flagg Ranch Resort and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

For further information about winter activities in Grand Teton National Park or the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, visit the park's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/winter.htm>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2009 09:107

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Concession Contracts Awarded for Operation of Guided Float Trips, Fishing Trips, Multi-Day Lake Trips, and/or Guided Horseback Rides within Grand Teton National Park

National Park Service Intermountain Region Director Michael D. Snyder announced today in Denver, Colorado that operators have been selected for 12 concession contracts to provide guided float trips and fishing trips on the Snake River, multi-day lake trips on Jackson Lake, and/or guided horseback rides in Grand Teton National Park. Contracts will begin on January 1, 2010, and last for a term of 10 years.

Barker Ewing Scenic Tours, Jack Dennis Fishing Trips, Snake River Angler and Float Trips, Heart 6 Ranch, National Park Float Trips, O.A.R.S., Inc., Solitude Float Trips, Lost Creek Ranch, Boy Scouts of America and R Lazy S Ranch were preferred offerors for the contracts, pursuant to the terms of 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51—Concession Contracts and Permits. Incumbent concessioners submitted responsive proposals and were selected for the contracts to continue services within Grand Teton National Park.

Crescent H Ranch, the current holder of Concession Contract CC-GRTE014, declined to submit a proposal; therefore, no preferred offeror existed. Snake River Angler and Float trips operated by Will Dornan was selected as the new concessioner for CC-GRTE014-10.

An additional contract to provide fishing only, originating from the Moose landing and proceeding downstream, was also awarded. Grand Fishing Adventures operated by Mike Rheam was selected for the new CC-GRTE052-10 contract.

Each of the 12 concession contracts authorizes specific activities, the designated launch and takeout locations within the park, and the number of launches allowed per day and month.

The NPS solicited proposals for these business opportunities through a prospectus issued on March 24, 2009. Proposals were accepted through May 22, 2009. A review team of industry experts and NPS employees analyzed the proposals based on criteria specified under the provisions of the 1998 Concessions Management Improvement Act. The 1998 Act made a number of changes in how contracts are awarded with the intent of insuring quality visitor services, protecting park resources, and enhancing the competitive contract process for NPS concession contracts. Guidelines used to evaluate the proposals can be found online at:

<http://concessions.nps.gov/policy.cfm>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2009 09-108

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Applications Available for the 2010 Boyd Evison Fellowship

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott and Grand Teton Association Executive Director Jan Lynch announce that applications are available for the 2010 Boyd Evison Graduate Research Fellowship. Supported by donations to the Grand Teton Association (GTA), the Evison Fellowship provides whole or substantial support for new graduate studies that increase public awareness of the importance of science to parks, and of parks to science. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for research of the intangible and disappearing attributes of Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and public or private lands surrounding the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).

Proposals for the Evison Fellowship are encouraged to focus on new research studies or surveys; they may include studies which have not yet begun, or which have been initiated within the past year but are not fully funded. Emphasis areas may include topics such as: natural soundscapes; air and water; lesser-known ecosystem elements (plants, fish, insects, amphibians, fungi, snails, bacteria; geologic or other processes); and social science related to public understanding of natural resources and their use or management.

Fellowships average \$5000-\$10,000 per project, and may include housing at Grand Teton. In addition to a summary report or publication, students will be expected to provide one or more educational products to facilitate information transfer beyond the scientific audience, such as a presentation to resource managers, a public seminar, CD, or non-technical article.

Recent recipients of the Boyd Evison Fellowship include: Nicholas Dowie (2009, University of Wyoming) who is studying the symbiotic relationship between three organisms in Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks: conifer trees, pinedrops, and a non-photosynthetic fungus that associates with conifers to obtain carbon; Emilene Ostlind (2008, University of Wyoming) who is writing a series of nonfiction essays about the pronghorn antelope herd that summers in Grand Teton and winters in the Upper Green River Basin as a means to promote designation of a national migration corridor for their protection; and Lyman Persico (2007, University of New Mexico) who is using his award to continue research in stream response to environmental change in the western United States, including the long-term effects that beavers and drought have placed on streams in the GYA.

In 2005, Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Natural History Association collaborated to begin a new graduate research fellowship in memory of Boyd Evison, who died in October 2002. Evison retired in 1994 from an exemplary 42-year career with the National Park Service (NPS) in which he rose from being a park ranger and resource manager to superintendent and regional director in parks from Alaska to the Rocky Mountains. Evison was one of the greatest and most influential managers of the modern NPS. During his long career, he demonstrated leadership in conservation, environmental education, and expanding scientific knowledge to help shape wise management decisions and maintain native resources. After retiring from government service, Evison became the executive director of the Grand Teton Natural History Association, Grand Teton's principle interpretive and educational partner. In 2007 for their 70th anniversary, the Grand Teton Natural History Association was renamed Grand Teton Association.

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Applications for the 2010 Boyd Evison Fellowship must be postmarked by February 12, 2010; the recipient will be announced on April 15, 2010.

For further information or to request an application, write to Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship, Grand Teton Association, P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming 83012. Applicants may also phone Jan Lynch, executive director of the Grand Teton Association, at 307.739.3406, or call Grand Teton National Park Chief of Science and Resource Management Sue Consolo Murphy at 307.739.3481.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Pika Monitoring Initiated During Summer 2009 in Grand Teton National Park

In response to a growing body of evidence indicating that climate change is slowly and persistently affecting the ecology of plant and animal species on a global scale, Grand Teton National Park biologists—in collaboration with Yellowstone National Park and Teton Science Schools—initiated a survey this past summer to develop baseline data on the local population of American pika (*Ochotona princeps*). Pikas reside at high elevations (one of few mammal species to do so) and although they are found throughout the Teton Range, little is known about their habitat requirements, distribution, and historic or current range.

Recent scientific studies suggest that the American pika, a small lagomorph found in subalpine and alpine talus slopes, can be used as an indicator species for evaluating the effects of climate change in western North America because of its sensitivity to temperature fluctuations. In a study conducted in Nevada's Great Basin by Eric Beever, ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, 7 out of 25 pika populations were lost in the 55-86 years since their last recorded presence. Researchers also found that pika populations shifted upward an average elevation of 500 feet in Yosemite National Park; a fact that suggests pikas may eventually reach an elevation limit in their response to increasing temperatures. In addition, habitat models recently developed by April Craighead, with Craighead Environmental Research Institute, and Scott Loarie, with the Carnegie Institute, predict that pikas may disappear from over 80% of their current range by the turn of the century. The majority of this disappearance is expected to occur in the pikas' lower elevation range where temperatures may exceed thresholds for their survival.

Evidence linking changes in pika numbers and their distribution to a warming climate prompted the Center for Biological Diversity to petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2007 to list pikas under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). While a decision has not yet been issued on this petition, if listed, the American pika will become the first mammal species outside of Alaska to be protected under the ESA due to climate change threats.

Using geographic information system (GIS), Grand Teton biologists modeled suitable pika habitat located between Rendezvous Mountain and Paintbrush Canyon based on characteristics derived from published literature and related studies. Suitable habitat was defined as talus slopes less than 35 degrees in angle and no more than 400 meters from an established or "social" trail. Biologists selected 250 random locations to serve as established points for the survey. At each point, technicians assessed the area for habitat suitability and proceeded to locate physical evidence (scat, hay piles) as well as visual and/or vocal activity. Investigators then made population estimates in each plot and placed small sensors at ten survey sites that measure temperature several times a day. The sensors will be left in the field for one year, after which time they will be collected and the temperature data downloaded. Preliminary results from this year's survey indicate that, within Grand Teton, observers found evidence of pika occupancy in or surrounding 47 of 49 plots, which ranged from 2000-3500 meters in elevation.

Grand Teton's pika monitoring surveys were relatively simple and cost effective to implement. Based on this initial project, there is growing interest among Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem land management agencies in expanding surveys to include national forest areas, and other locations across the ecosystem.

This project serves as a critical first step in documenting where pika populations exist and ultimately will help biologists understand how those populations may change under different climate scenarios. Information from this project will be used to evaluate the health of Grand Teton's pika population and comes at a time when pikas throughout the western United States are predicted to disappear in the near future due to climate change.

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