



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 08, 2010 10-01

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review on Site Work for Grand Teton National Park Headquarters Rehabilitation Project

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the *Moose Headquarters Rehabilitation Site Work Environmental Assessment (EA)* is now available for public review. This EA will be open to review for 30 days, from January 11 through February 9, 2010.

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to perform site improvements that are designed to enhance visitor services and address employee health and safety deficiencies at Grand Teton National Park's headquarters area in Moose, Wyoming. The site work would restructure vehicle/pedestrian access points, promote better traffic flow, reduce user-created trails and consolidate pedestrian walkways, and improve way-finding throughout the Moose headquarters complex. The purpose of the proposal is to upgrade and improve conditions in a way that enhances visitors' experiences while providing a safe, healthy, and functional working/living environment for park employees and their families.

The NPS preferred alternative involves the reconfiguration of vehicle and pedestrian traffic within the park administrative area and the Moose river landing access, the removal of several temporary buildings, and restoration work targeted at providing appropriate stormwater management. The proposed improvements are designed to increase visitor and employee safety, refine parking and traffic flow patterns, reduce the built environment, and improve water quality while still preserving the character of the area and protecting natural and cultural resources. The preferred alternative would be developed as a plan to guide the proposed site work. The EA also evaluates a no-action alternative which describes the current condition with no site work applied.

For those choosing to submit a comment, be advised that any responses given—including personal identifying information—could be made public at any time. While persons making comments may request that their identifying information be withheld from public access, there is no guarantee that the NPS will be able to honor such a request.

Copies of the EA are available online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or on Grand Teton's Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/parkmgmt/planning.htm>. You may also request a copy through the park's Planning Office by calling 307.739.3390.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2010 10-02

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Recruits for 2010 Youth Conservation Program

Grand Teton National Park is now recruiting participants for the 2010 Youth Conservation Program (YCP). Thanks to generous donations made by several donors through the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, this marks the fifth 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 12, 2010.**

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 various recreational opportunities are also offered.

The 2010 YCP program will run for ten weeks from June 14 through August 19. Participants must be at least 16 years of age by June 14, 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 \$10.88 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, call Leslie Mattson at 307.732.0629, or email leslie@gtnpf.org.

To obtain an application or get further information about the 2010 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>.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 2010 10-03

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Deb Frauson/307.739.3420

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Offers Ranger-led Snowshoe Hike by Full Moon

Grand Teton National Park ranger naturalists invite visitors and local residents to experience a special activity: a moonlit snowshoe walk in the park. The ranger-led excursion will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening, January 30, from the Taggart Lake trailhead, three miles north of the Moose entrance station. Join park rangers to experience winter in a new light—the light of a full moon—and learn about the natural wonders and distinctive characteristics that make this season remarkable.

For thousands of years, people have used snowshoes as a means of winter travel. This activity is an excellent opportunity for beginning and casual snowshoe walkers to experience the pleasure of a winter trek in the company of others. The snowshoe walk will traverse a level, three-mile roundtrip distance along the snow-covered Teton Park Road. The two-hour-long excursion does not require previous snowshoeing experience, and snowshoes are provided for anyone without their own. Reservations are required; call 307.739.3399 to reserve a spot.

Those attending should wear warm layered clothing and sturdy insulated boots, and bring along an energy snack and water. Although headlamps or flashlights will not be needed, these items are recommended as essential safety equipment for any outdoor trek.

The snowshoe walk begins at twilight, a special time of day because of the exceptional quality of light. As the full moon rises on the eastern horizon, the open sagebrush meadows and towering Teton peaks will be bathed in a soft glow, creating a magical scene.

For a complete list of ranger-led activities and programs, please refer to the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, online at www.nps.gov/grte, or call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 8, 2010 10-04

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Assessment of Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions in Grand Teton National Park

Each year, Grand Teton National Park collects comprehensive data on the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions occurring on park roads. This information is used to examine trends and patterns in an effort to make park roads safer for both humans and wildlife. Four years ago, Grand Teton initiated a proactive education/ prevention campaign to reduce the apparent growing number of collisions and associated animal mortalities. Despite a determined effort to educate and alert motorists about wildlife on roads, the number of these incidents appears to be fairly consistent from year to year. In fact, park officials believe that the tally is likely higher than the numbers indicate, because some collisions are not reported, particularly when smaller animals are involved.

Wildlife-vehicle collision statistics for the past five years reveal that an average of 33 deer, 38 elk, ten bison, seven moose, three pronghorn, two bears and one wolf are killed each year on park roads. In addition, a host of smaller animals such as foxes, porcupines, beavers, marmots, pine martens, sage grouse, and owls die each year as a result of collisions with automobiles. The data suggests that vehicle speed, time of day (e.g. dusk, dawn, and nighttime), and specific location (e.g. the Gros Ventre junction and adjacent area) may be factors in wildlife-vehicle incidents.

In 2006, Grand Teton National Park and the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation entered into a cooperative agreement to address wildlife-vehicle collisions, and implement a variety of educational outreach and mitigation measures. One of the steps taken was the placement of flashing message boards at strategic locations along Highway 26/89/191; these variable message signs caution motorists to be alert for wildlife and to slow down. In addition to the flashing message boards, other efforts include stationary signs placed at wildlife crossing hotspots, public service announcements broadcast on the radio, flyers provided at park entrance stations, and cautionary alerts placed in the *Teewinot*, the park's newspaper. Grand Teton is also working with the Wyoming Department of Transportation on developing additional mitigation measures.

In an ongoing effort to reduce wildlife mortalities related to vehicle collisions, Grand Teton park managers once again urge motorists (local residents and out-of-state visitors alike) to stay alert, to slow down and to give wildlife a brake—especially during low-light conditions from dusk to dawn when animals may be difficult to see on roadways. Drivers should expect the unexpected with regard to wildlife that travel near and across park roads.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2010 10-05

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Prospectus Issued for Lodging, Food and Beverage, Retail, Marinas, Camping, and Other Services in Grand Teton National Park

The National Park Service (NPS) has issued a prospectus soliciting proposals to provide lodging, food and beverage, retail, marinas, camping and other services in Grand Teton National Park. The concession contract will be valid for 15 years. The NPS has determined that no preferred offeror for this contract exists pursuant to the terms of 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51; therefore, this solicitation for commercial services is fully competitive.

The existing concession operation provides lodging, food and beverage service, retail, marinas, camping and other services at the Signal Mountain Lodge and Leeks Marina areas within Grand Teton National Park, in northwest Wyoming. The concession facilities are concentrated in three primary areas and located between 30 to 45 miles north of the town of Jackson. The contract is currently held by Rex G. and Ruth G. Maughan.

There are many unique attributes to this concession contract that could potentially affect the operation; these include a significant amount of deferred maintenance, fluctuating water levels on Jackson Lake, a compressed operating season, and a high cost of doing business in the area. Any offeror for the contract will need to take into account these factors.

Prospectus packages are available by contacting Jacque Lavelle, Intermountain Region chief of concessions, at 303.969.2661, or by email at Jacque_Lavelle@nps.gov. Interested parties may also write to National Park Service, Concessions Management Division, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80228. The cost for a copy of the prospectus is \$35.00 per copy, if delivered by Federal Express, or \$30.00 if picked up in person. Checks and money orders (no cash accepted) must be payable to the National Park Service, and a physical address and phone number must be provided to receive a Federal Express package.

A prospectus package is also available online at <http://www.concessions.nps.gov/Prospectus.cfm>. 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. MST on Monday, May 10, 2010** by the Chief of Concessions, National Park Service, Intermountain Region, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2010 10-06

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Deb Frauson/307.739.3420

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Offers Ranger-led “Snow Moon” Walk

Grand Teton National Park ranger naturalists once again invite visitors and local residents to join them for a snowshoe walk in the park by full moon. This winter excursion will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening, February 27, from the Taggart Lake trailhead located three miles north of the Moose entrance station. The full moon walk offers a chance to experience the winter wonderland of Grand Teton and learn about the unique characteristics that make this season so incredible.

Throughout history, native peoples have used descriptive names for full moon cycles in order to keep track of the seasons of the year. Since the heaviest snow usually falls in February, American Indian tribes—from what is now the northern and eastern United States—called February’s moon, the “full snow moon.” Some tribes also referred to the February moon as the “full hunger moon” since harsh weather conditions made hunting difficult and food scarce. In recognition of this ancient tradition, rangers have dubbed this snowshoe activity, the “snow moon” walk.

For thousands of years, people have used snowshoes as a means of winter travel. Ranger-led snowshoe excursions are designed to introduce beginning and casual snowshoe walkers to the experience of a winter trek in the park in the company of others. The snowshoe walk traverses a level, three-mile roundtrip distance along the snow-covered Teton Park Road. The two-hour-long activity does not require previous snowshoeing experience, and snowshoes are provided for anyone without their own. Please arrive 15 minutes early in order to select and don a pair of snowshoes.

Those attending should wear warm layered clothing, sturdy insulated boots, and a face scarf or ski mask, plus bring along an energy snack and water, or hot beverage in a thermos. Although headlamps and flashlights will not be needed, these items are recommended as essential safety equipment for any outdoor trek. Reservations are required; call 307.739.3399 to reserve a spot.

For a complete list of ranger-led activities and programs, please refer to the park’s newspaper, *Teewinot*, online at www.nps.gov/grte, or call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2010 10-07

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Backcountry Skier Dies in Avalanche on South Teton in Grand Teton National Park

A backcountry skier triggered an avalanche on the South Teton that swept him to his death on Sunday morning, February 21, 2010 in Grand Teton National Park. Wray Landon, age 30, of Driggs, Idaho skied with two companions to the summit of the South Teton via Garnet Canyon and the Northwest Couloir early Sunday morning; they were descending the southeast face of the peak when Landon set off a two-foot crown avalanche, approximately 300 feet below the 12,514-foot summit. The avalanche carried Landon over 2,000 vertical feet of slope and cliff bands before he came to a rest about a thousand feet above Lake Taminah in upper Avalanche Canyon; the avalanche debris continued about 800 feet further before stopping. Landon and his companions were experienced with backcountry travel in the Teton Range and prepared with the appropriate equipment for a mountain excursion.

Landon's ski companions, Nathan Brown and Brady Johnston, made a 911 call to report the incident at 11:35 a.m., and Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received notice from the Teton County Sheriff's office shortly after. Park rangers immediately summoned the Teton County Search and Rescue contract helicopter to assist with the rescue operation. An aerial reconnaissance flight was conducted at 1:15 p.m. during which rangers were able to determine that Landon was deceased, although not buried by the avalanche debris.

In order to reach Landon—who was lying in an exposed avalanche-prone area—four rangers were flown via helicopter to a landing zone near Snowdrift Lake (elevation 10,006 feet) from which a recovery operation could be staged. Three Teton County Search and Rescue personnel were flown into the location, and they conducted aerial avalanche control using explosives to stabilize slopes above the route rangers intended to ski in order to reach Landon. After the avalanche control work was completed, four rangers traversed a steep slope below an area of cliff bands and couloirs. While two rangers acted as safety spotters, watching for additional avalanche activity, two rangers prepared Landon for aerial evacuation. Landon was airlifted by a long-line to the valley floor at 4:45 p.m.

Landon's two companions skied out of the backcountry on their own and the rescue personnel were evacuated by air, completing their operation at 5:30 p.m.

The avalanche condition rating for Sunday, February 21 was listed as “moderate” for mid level and high elevations, below 10,500 feet. The Bridger-Teton National Forest Avalanche Center does not forecast areas above 10,500 feet, and park rangers remind skiers and climbers that conditions on the higher peaks can be vastly different above the Bridger-Teton forecast zone.

A moderate rating means that areas of unstable snow exist, and human triggered avalanches are possible. The general avalanche advisory warns that pockets of dense surface slab up to thirty inches deep rest upon buried surface hoar and sun crusts at the mid and upper elevations, and the possibility persists for backcountry travelers to trigger these slabs in steep, avalanche-prone terrain.

—NPS—

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2010 10-08

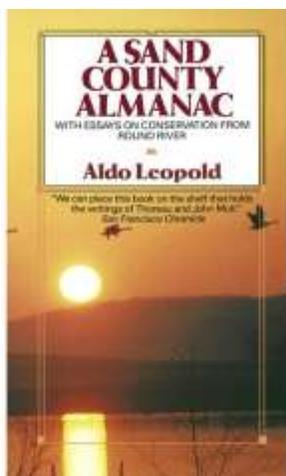
Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve to Host Fifth 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 *A Sand County Almanac*, a non-fiction book containing conservation essays by forester, ecologist and author Aldo Leopold. The book club discussion will take place on Thursday, March 11, from 4 - 6 p.m. at the historic Murie Ranch in Grand Teton National Park.

Established in the summer of 2009 to inspire a spirit of conversation stewardship, the LSR Preserve book club is designed to explore literature that examines our human connection to the natural world. This will be the fifth LSR Preserve book club discussion, and the third one to take place in collaboration with The Murie Center.



A Sand County Almanac is considered to be a quintessential collection of essays about the American conservation movement. In his book, Aldo Leopold describes the land around his home in Sauk County, Wisconsin, which had been logged, repeatedly burned by fires, overgrazed by dairy cows, and left barren. Leopold provides his thoughts, philosophy and theories about our American land ethic and our responsibility to the natural world. *A Sand County Almanac* was edited and published by Leopold's son, Luna, after his father's death in 1948. Another son, A. Sarker Leopold, was also an author, as well as a wildlife biologist, and professor at the University of California at Berkeley. In tribute to his thoughtful

conservation work and writings, Aldo Leopold's landmark book will be used as a springboard for discussions about wilderness and conservation ethics.

Please RSVP to attend the book discussion, as space is limited. To sign up for the discussion, or learn more about the book club and the upcoming meeting, please call Grand Teton National Park at 307.739.3656.



Aldo Leopold, forester
American ecologist, and
environmentalist.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2010 10-09

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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 Monday, March 15, weather depending. As plowing operations get underway, recreation on the snow-packed trail will cease for the 2009/10 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 Monday 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 14. 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 gates to provide bags for this purpose.

The paved, multi-use pathway running from Dornan's to South Jenny Lake will not be open for public use until the snow recedes naturally.

The Teton Park Road will open to vehicle traffic for the 2010 summer season on Saturday, May 1.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2010 10-10

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Steve Cain Receives Intermountain Region Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resources

Steve Cain, senior wildlife biologist at Grand Teton National Park, recently received the National Park Service Intermountain Region Director's 2009 award for professional excellence in natural resources. This annual award recognizes outstanding contributions in a specific natural resource field, and salutes individual accomplishments in advancing the science and successes of natural resource management by National Park Service (NPS) employees throughout the Intermountain Region.

Cain's outstanding contributions include: research, collaboration and impetus for an initiative to protect the migration corridor for pronghorn that summer in Grand Teton National Park and winter in the Upper Green River Basin; monitoring efforts and strategic planning for the past two decades with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team to help recover the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly population; initiation of studies to document the effects of a newly constructed multi-use pathway on bears, birds, and elk ; introduction of a non-lead ammunition program for Grand Teton rangers and hunters participating in the annual elk reduction program on park lands; inspiration of a \$500,000 donation from the Grand Teton National Park Foundation to support a five-year monitoring program for gray wolves in the park; and overseeing establishment of a pika inventory and monitoring project to document the population and track effects of climate change on pikas living in the Teton Range.

During Cain's career at Grand Teton—which spans nearly 20 years—he has accomplished major changes in wildlife and resource management practices and worked closely with federal and state wildlife managers, collaborating on programs that span the GYE. Cain has raised the profile of the NPS policy regarding natural processes, native species and the need for science-based management in the park. Cain, and many others, made significant contributions to the 2007 *Bison and Elk Management Plan for Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge*, which aims to reduce the reliance of elk and bison on supplemental feed and reduce the risk of disease transmission. Cain has authored several peer-reviewed publications on pronghorn migration, bison ecology, and other wildlife issues in Jackson Hole, leading to better awareness of management challenges in the park and surrounding areas.

In acknowledging the individual accomplishments of Cain, Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott stated, "We are so proud of Steve's lengthy NPS service and dedication to the natural resources of Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area. He is a key force in the increased understanding and preservation of wildlife that make this such a special landscape." Scott added, "Steve consistently makes science-based recommendations, and suggests adaptive and cooperative approaches that promote and improve resource management. His efforts have been critical to the conservation of species in Grand Teton and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and he sets a superb example for others to follow."

Cain will receive an eagle sculpture plaque, along with his award certificate. He and other regional award winners will be considered for a service-wide award to be presented by the NPS Director in Washington later this spring.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtntpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2010 10-11

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Hosts Public Presentation by Dr. Jamie Cornelius on Red Crossbills

Grand Teton National Park, in collaboration with The Murie Center, will host a special presentation by Dr. Jamie Cornelius on the behavior of red crossbills on Thursday March 18, 2010 at 1 p.m. in the Director's Room of the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming. Cornelius will discuss her research on red crossbills and describe how they face an increasingly unpredictable food supply due to habitat disturbance and a changing climate. This presentation is a free and open to the public.

Cornelius' talk is titled "Tracking a Nomadic Songbird in Grand Teton National Park: Behavior and Physiology of the Red Crossbill." Red crossbills are irregular residents of the Jackson Hole valley and Grand Teton National Park. However, their presence in Jackson Hole—as well as their breeding activity—is dependent on the annual crop of conifer cones. Cornelius' research is designed to define the behavior and physiology of red crossbills in the winter versus the summer, and determine the differences in years with variable food availability. Her study of red crossbills uses cutting-edge technology and addresses contemporary conservation issues. Red crossbills are tracked using innovative radio-transmitter technology that measures the heart rate of free-living birds, and allows for determining the energy it takes to survive and reproduce under different environmental conditions. Cornelius' work will further the understanding of how a species adapts to habitat changes and will help in predicting how other species might cope with increasingly unpredictable food supplies in the face of habitat disturbance and changing climate.



Dr. Cornelius is currently serving as a biologist in residence at The Murie Center in Moose. She is a post-doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Germany. Her project is a collaboration between the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology and the University of California at Davis.

Red crossbills received their descriptive name due to the configuration of their beaks.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2010 10-12

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Deb Frauson/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Launches Youth Ranger Club

In collaboration with the Van Vleck House and Teton Youth and Family Services, the Teton County 4-H Program, and Teton County/Jackson Parks and Recreation Department, Grand Teton National Park staff recently launched an innovative new youth program titled, “The Ranger Club.” Through a variety of activities, 12 young people—from the third, fourth and fifth grades—are learning about Grand Teton and its natural and cultural resources. The young participants are also making personal connections to their local environment, and discovering how to be responsible stewards of the natural world.

The Ranger Club is a five-week educational program that gives young people an opportunity to: meet rangers who are responsible for the park’s law enforcement functions, fire management, and emergency medical services; interact with park biologists who study and monitor wildlife (pikas, grizzly bears, wolves, moose, bison, and elk); and learn from park naturalists who provide information to visitors through interpretive presentations and guided hikes.

Participants in the Ranger Club program personify the motto of the National Park Service’s Junior Ranger program: Explore, Learn and Protect. At the culmination of the Ranger Club sessions, park staff will award participants with a Junior Ranger hat. To prepare for this award, Ranger Club members will design their own personal hat band with images that convey their interpretation of national park values. The ranger hats and handcrafted hat bands will be featured in a photo exhibition during the 2010 National Junior Ranger Day celebration on Saturday, April 24, at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming.

Local youth clubs, such as the Ranger Club, are made possible through partnership agreements and special grants awarded to community organizations like Teton County/Jackson Parks and Recreation Department, the Van Vleck House, and Teton County 4-H program, as well as a host of other organizations and community groups. The youth club program is administered by the Teton County/Jackson Parks and Recreation Department and coordinated by Van Vleck House. The program is designed to promote educational, cultural and social-learning opportunities for local children who may benefit from supplementary and affordable after-school activities.

For more information about the Ranger Club, please contact Grand Teton National Park at 307.739.3399, or the Teton County/Jackson Parks and Recreation Department at 307.739.9025.

If you have further questions about the variety of youth clubs, please contact Emily Sustick at 307.733.6440 or Mike Estes at 307.732.5761.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2010 10-13

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Wildlife Closure in Effect to Protect Sage Grouse in Grand Teton National Park

A temporary public closure is in effect to protect breeding sage grouse at the Moulton Ranch lek (a seasonal mating arena) off the Antelope Flats Road in Grand Teton National Park. A quarter-mile radius around the lek site will be posted as **closed to all public entry** from March 15 to May 15, to minimize human disturbance and reduce stress on grouse that traditionally use this site during their annual mating season. Violations of the wildlife protection closure may result in a citation.

Sage grouse are highly sensitive to human disturbance. Human activity near a lek can trigger birds to flush or leave the area, and continual disturbances can cause birds to permanently abandon or re-locate a lek site. To minimize disturbance to grouse, yet allow for bird watching, an adjacent viewing area has been established at the southwest side of the closure perimeter. Visitors may reach the viewing area by parking at a small pullout near one of the Moulton cabins and walking along a gated dirt road that heads north from the junction with Antelope Flats Road; the viewing spot is located just east of this dirt road. Visitors must observe the wildlife closure signs, stay within the viewing area, and not approach grouse at any time. Visitors should arrive well before sunrise and not leave until after the birds have completed their morning display, remain as quiet as possible, and refrain from talking loudly or making unnecessary noise while at the viewing area.

Grand Teton National Park rangers will be leading early-morning trips to observe the strutting sage grouse as they perform their springtime mating dance on this traditional lek. Strutting grouse tours are currently scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays during the weekends of April 10-11, April 17-18, and April 24-25. Trips begin at 5:30 a.m. from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, and reservations are required. Call the Discovery Center at 739.3399 to make reservations and obtain information about what to wear and bring along on these ranger-led excursions. The April ranger-led tours offer local residents and park visitors an excellent opportunity to see the unique antics of sage grouse as they perform their seasonal mating dance.



Sage grouse populations have been declining over several years throughout much of the West, in part due to habitat loss. Recently, Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that the population of sage grouse has declined by 90 percent and their habitat has been reduced by 50 percent across the western states. Consequently, the birds were named a “candidate species” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The FWS has plans to annually review the status of sage grouse and work with western states, such as Wyoming, on conservation programs as part of the recent decision on listing sage grouse under the ESA.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2010 10-14

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Teton Park Road Opens for Annual Spring-time Activities

The Teton Park Road from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain Lodge and the Moose-Wilson Road in Grand Teton National Park are now free of snow and available for non-motorized activities such as hiking, biking, and inline skating. These two roads will open to vehicle traffic for the full summer season on Saturday, May 1, 2010. The Antelope Flats Road is currently open to vehicles.

Although the Teton Park Road is open to non-motorized use, visitors should be alert for park vehicles that may occasionally travel the road for administrative purposes.

Leashed dogs are permitted on the Teton Park 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.

Important Note: the multi-use pathway running from Dornan's to South Jenny Lake will not be open for public use until the snow recedes naturally.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



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

Traci Weaver
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

April 5, 2010

Grand Teton National Park Plans Spring Prescribed Fire Projects

An early spring means opportunities for completing prescribed fires, including the Elbo West burn that was originally planned for last fall. As soon as weather permits, Teton interagency fire personnel and Grand Teton National Park natural resource managers plan to burn the 182-acre Elbo West unit, which is part of a 4,000-acre native rangeland restoration project along Grand Teton National Park's east boundary. 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*.

Located southwest of the Teton Science Schools' campus and Ditch Creek Road, 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 the area.

As soon as vegetation dries, fire managers also plan to burn a one-acre section of a restoration project that lies between Kelly Warm Springs and the Warm Springs Road. The burn will remove thatch and dead grass so resource managers can apply herbicide directly to cheatgrass that is spreading on the site.

Firefighters will only ignite burn units when favorable weather and fire behavior conditions exist. Smoke will be evident during the day of the burn. Smoke from larger prescribed fires may persist for several days after, especially in mountain valleys during early morning and evening hours. Local residents and visitors should be aware that minimal traffic restrictions may occur during the burn for safety concerns and fire equipment access.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2010 10-16

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program Initiated in Grand Teton National Park

In collaboration with Teton Science Schools, Grand Teton National Park recently launched a new multicultural program designed to connect local Latino students with nature. Through weeklong bi-lingual courses, participants will get an opportunity to discover, explore and learn about the park. The first sessions of the Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program— called, Pura Vida en Grand Teton National Park—took place during the two-week spring break for Teton County schools. Additional summer sessions are planned for June and August.

The Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program at Grand Teton received funding from a generous matching grant provided by the National Park Foundation (NPF) and Grand Teton National Park Foundation (GTNPF) through a target project called America's Best Idea Grants.

Six middle school and nine high school students were enrolled during the spring break courses. At the start of each weeklong session, students watched a short video titled, *This is America*—a condensed overview of Ken Burns' documentary film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Students then spent the remainder of the week exploring Grand Teton, meeting park staff, learning about park resources and operations, and becoming acquainted with the many occupations and duties required to run the park. Students participated in various activities from discovering how to snowshoe and dress appropriately for winter conditions, to learning about wildlife and taking a behind the scenes tour of the park administration building and the operational facilities located throughout the headquarters area. They also participated in a role-playing exercise where they learned how citizens may provide ideas and comments to help park officials with decisions and issues related to Grand Teton's cultural and natural resources management. Each week ended with a picnic celebration in which students' parents and park staff participated. These first sessions were instrumental in introducing students and their parents to the many features of Grand Teton and the value of experiencing the park's wildlife and beauty.

The Pura Vida en Grand Teton National Park summer programs are scheduled for June 14-18, August 2-6 and August 16-20. These programs will bring together approximately ten middle school and three high school students who will serve as mentors. Activities will be similar to the spring break sessions, with students meeting park staff, exploring the park through various outdoor recreational experiences, and completing a resource-related project. Prior to each week, youth mentors will meet with Teton Science Schools' staff to ensure that they have the skills and support they need to feel confident in mentoring younger students.

Ken Burns' documentary on national parks served as a catalyst for the Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program. The landmark film inspired the NPF to establish an America's Best Idea Grants program. Through matching grants, the NPF seeks to reach traditionally underserved groups and empower them to create strong, lasting bonds of stewardship with our treasured lands—continuing a tradition of diverse Americans working together to preserve and enhance the legacy of national parks. Grand Teton's Pura Vida program was specifically created to reach out to the Latino population in the park's gateway communities, introduce Latinos to Grand Teton's resources and recreational opportunities, and provide leadership development and mentoring opportunities to middle school and high school students.

For those interested in registering for a summer program session, please contact Teton Science Schools Registrar Judy Herman at 307.734.5659. For more information on the Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program, or other park educational outreach efforts, please contact Susanne McDonald at 307.739.3656.

—NPS—

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2010 10-17

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

National Park Week and National Junior Ranger Day

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has proclaimed April 17-25, 2010, as National Park Week. To highlight this annual observance, Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks will waive entrance fees during the week—along with all 392 national park units across America. April can be an outstanding time to visit Grand Teton and enjoy unique seasonal activities. Visitors may choose to bike, hike, or inline skate the Teton Park Road without vehicle traffic, observe sage grouse as they perform their spring-time courtship displays, drive park roads to sightsee or search for bears, wolves and other wildlife, or simply photograph the dramatic Teton Range draped in its winter mantle of snow.

During National Park Week, park ranger naturalists will lead weekend trips to observe sage grouse as they perform their annual mating dance (called strutting) at a lek in the Mormon Row area. Strutting grouse tours are scheduled for April 17-18 and April 24-25, and begin at 5:30 a.m. from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming. Reservations are required.

In addition to National Park Week, the National Park Service has declared Saturday, April 24, as National Junior Ranger Day. To mark this occasion, Grand Teton will offer educational activities for children of all ages from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Children who participate in three or more of the scheduled activities on Saturday will earn their Junior Ranger title and receive a Junior Ranger badge or patch. In celebration of Junior Ranger Day, the Grand Teton Association will be offering a 15% discount in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center bookstore to children who earn their Junior Ranger title during the Saturday event.

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 an Animal Olympics competition where children test their skills against the abilities of certain wildlife species. Other activities will involve a Ranger Club photo exhibition, an art project that will be displayed in the Discovery Center, and a chance to don an actual ranger uniform. Outside the visitor center, children will explore a park ambulance, fire engine, patrol car, and plow truck. Children will also be able to meet the park's horses and try out scientific equipment, such as radio telemetry, used in tracking and monitoring park wildlife.

Please call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399 for further information about Grand Teton's Junior Ranger Day event, and/or to make reservations for the weekend tours to watch strutting sage grouse.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 14, 2010 10-18

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Use Oak Plank Mats to Protect Vegetation at Moose Construction Site

Grand Teton National Park construction project managers will use interlocking oak plank mats to minimize disturbance to vegetation and soils during construction activities related to the Moose Complex rehabilitation project. As part of a cooperative arrangement, Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. has generously offered to loan to the park several sections of wooden oak mats from their surface reclamation project at the Jonah Field near Pinedale, Wyoming. Grand Teton plans to accept delivery of several sections of wooden mats this week at park headquarters in Moose.



The sectional oak mats are designed to protect vegetation, reduce damage to plant root systems and limit soil compaction caused by construction equipment and heavy machinery. As the mats are laid down, they flatten plants; however, the topsoil and root systems are largely undamaged. Use of the mats will greatly accelerate the recovery of construction areas and facilitate the revegetation of native plants after completion of the Moose Complex project. The “on loan” wooden mats will be used at targeted sites—specifically, locations near the Snake River that are especially fragile—to preserve native vegetation that otherwise would be damaged by heavy construction equipment.

Tract of oak mats on sagebrush
Photo courtesy of Encana

Encana initiated a pilot project in 2005 to test wooden oak mats at drilling pad sites in the Jonah Field. The test took place at a location where a drilling rig was erected on a platform of oak mats. Encana has been using the mats to limit damage to surface vegetation at drilling sites in natural gas fields near Pinedale since that pilot project was launched, and the company says that use of wooden mats at drilling sites has reduced vegetation disturbance by as much as 60 percent.

“We appreciate Encana’s technical assistance support and the loan of a truckload of oak plank mats,” said Chris Finlay, Grand Teton National Park’s chief of facility management. “This mutual arrangement benefits both Encana and the park. It allows Encana to showcase their reclamation efforts and their technical expertise in the use of improved techniques to minimize site disturbance at construction areas; and it permits Grand Teton to use those same techniques, at minimal cost, to protect native soils and vegetation during construction work on the Moose headquarters campus.”

—NPS—

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>
www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 19, 2010 10-19

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Awards Contract for Auditorium Wing on Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center

Acting Superintendent Bob Vogel announced today that Grand Teton National Park has awarded the contract for construction of an auditorium addition on the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center to a Utah-based contractor and construction company, Raass Brothers, Inc. To accomplish the project, Raass Brothers, Inc. will work with a co-contractor, R & O Construction, also of Utah. The Grand Teton National Park Foundation, a partnership organization of the park, pledged to fund 100 percent of the project costs. They are nearing that goal, making it possible to begin construction almost immediately. Completion of the auditorium addition is expected for spring 2011.

The Discovery Center's addition will place a 154-seat auditorium on the south side of the building. The new auditorium room will include an architectural feature called a "glass curtain wall" that will reveal stunning views of the Teton Range at the completion of video programs and educational lectures. The Seattle office of the architectural firm, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, designed both the principal visitor center building and the auditorium wing.

Through the initial phases of design, the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center included an auditorium. However, as a result of congressional concerns over the size and budget of the project, the building was downsized and the auditorium was removed from the final plan. Subsequent approval to add the auditorium was obtained in mid 2007; because the new visitor center was nearly completed when the approval came through, the auditorium addition became a separate phase of the overall project.

The entire funding for the auditorium addition is being raised by the Grand Teton National Park Foundation; no federal funds are allocated for its construction. The main visitor center was financed through a combined public-private initiative with funding provided by the federal government, the Grand Teton Association and the Grand Teton National Park Foundation.

The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center accommodates many visitor services: park orientation at a staffed information desk; educational experiences through traditional exhibits; innovative audio/visual displays; ranger-led programs at a state of the art topographic map and from a terrace with unobstructed views of the Tetons; and an art gallery with paintings and sculptures depicting Grand Teton and its wildlife. The facility also includes a bookstore—operated by the Grand Teton Association, the park's cooperating partner—public restrooms and staff office and work spaces. The new auditorium space will provide versatility and flexibility for educational programs and special events such as lectures and community presentations.

"Construction of the auditorium addition allows the original vision for the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center to be realized," said Acting Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Bob Vogel. "We appreciate the incredible fund-raising campaign orchestrated by the Grand Teton National Park Foundation. Their efforts will bring the primary building model to its intended design and function."

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2010 10-20

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Bears Active throughout Grand Teton National Park and the Rockefeller Parkway

Bears have emerged from their winter dens and local residents and park visitors need to be alert for their presence throughout all areas of Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Several recent sightings have been reported, and bears are active at locations from the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River and the park's east boundary with Bridger-Teton National Forest, to developed areas at Flagg Ranch, Colter Bay and Beaver Creek. At some of these sites, bears were observed feeding on winter-kill carcasses.

When bears leave their winter dens, they search for any food source that will help restore fat reserves lost during hibernation. Winter-killed animals provide immediate sources of protein, and hungry bears will strongly defend this and other food sources against perceived threats. Carcasses and freshly killed animals should serve as a point of caution—a red flag to detour away from the area. As snow banks recede, bears also dig up and eat spring wildflowers and burrowing rodents.

Adult male bears usually emerge from hibernation by mid to late March, followed by females without cubs. Female bears accompanied by cubs emerge later in the spring and are extremely protective of their young.

Park visitors are reminded to never approach a bear under any circumstances. This is particularly important for situations involving a bear near a carcass and other food sources, or a female bear with her cubs.

With the increased activity of bears, appropriate precautions must be taken. Visitors are advised to carry bear spray, keep it easily accessible and know how to properly handle it. Hikers enjoying the park's backcountry should exercise good judgment, stay alert, and follow recommended safety precautions such as making noise and traveling in a group.

Visitors should report any bear sightings or signs to the nearest visitor center or ranger station as soon as possible. Timely reporting will help to keep bears away from unnatural food sources, and allow park rangers to provide important safety messages to visitors about bear activity.

Access to human food and garbage usually leads to food-conditioned bears. When bears lose their fear of humans, they often become a nuisance and a safety concern. Park visitors are reminded to keep food, garbage and other odorous items unavailable to bears at all times by storing attractants inside vehicles, by disposing of garbage in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster, and by keeping personal items—such as backpacks or drink containers—with them at all times, especially when they contain food.

For further information on how to behave when hiking, camping or picnicking in bear country, read the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, online at www.nps.gov/grte.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 22, 2010 10-21

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship Awarded for 2010

Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Association (GTA) are pleased to announce that James Meadow has received the Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship for 2010. Meadow, the sixth recipient of an Evison Fellowship, is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in ecology and environmental sciences at Montana State University in Bozeman. He plans to use his fellowship award to study the composition, diversity and ecological environment of thermal-influenced soils in the Imperial Meadow thermal area of the Lower Geyser Basin in Yellowstone National Park. The Evison Graduate Fellowship was initiated to support studies throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Meadow received a Bachelor of Science degree in resource conservation in 2007 from the University of Montana's School of Forestry and Conservation at Missoula. He worked from 2001 to 2006 on ecological restoration projects at various mines and other industrial sites throughout the western states. In 2007, he began his graduate studies in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University with a focus on the ecology of biological soil crusts in thermal and desert areas. In 2008, Meadow was awarded a National Science Foundation graduate fellowship to develop an inquiry-based science program for teachers and children in classrooms from kindergarten through high school; his program centered on subjects from Montana soils, to growing mushrooms and composting with worms. The project he will launch as a result of receiving the Evison Fellowship will explore a relatively unknown aspect of the thermal landscape of Yellowstone, and will catalog and study a group of organisms and their environment not previously studied. An integral part of the study will include interpretation for park visitors regarding the diversity of life forms that live only in thermal ecosystems—specifically the soils that appear barren and lifeless yet provide an important habitat for other life forms.

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 in Grand Teton and throughout 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, Evison recipients provide a copy of their thesis to the GTA and often share their results through oral presentations to park staff and partners.

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.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2010 10-22

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Facilities Opening Dates for Grand Teton National Park & John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

Acting Superintendent Bob Vogel announced today the official opening dates for facilities throughout Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway for the 2010 season.

Roads

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

Teton Park Road
Moose-Wilson Road

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 hours. In addition, springtime repair work may be underway on any park roads. For current road conditions, call the park's road information 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

Bicyclists are reminded that they must stop and show an entry pass before proceeding through the gates, just as vehicles are required to do. **NOTE:** New this year, an automated self-serve machine will be placed on the multi-use pathway adjacent to the Moose Entrance Station. People traveling on the paved pathway by foot, bike, or rollerblade will be required to stop and pay \$12 for a 7-day entry permit, or have in possession a previously purchased pass. Personal identification is required with any pass that requires a signature.

Visitor Centers

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

Colter Bay Visitor Center	May 8
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	May 14
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	May 15
Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center	May 29
Flagg Ranch Information Station	June 7

Ranger-led activities begin Monday, June 7. An activity schedule can be found in the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, or online at www.nps.gov/grte.

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Campgrounds

The following campgrounds open:

Gros Ventre	May 7
Signal Mountain	May 7
Jenny Lake	May 14
Colter Bay	May 27
Colter Bay RV & Trailer Park	May 27
Flagg Ranch RV Park	May 29
Lizard Creek	June 11

At any of the concession-operated campgrounds within Grand Teton National Park, fees for individual campsites run \$20-\$35 per night, and hiker/bicyclist camping fees cost \$5-8 per site. All campgrounds, except the RV parks, 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 \$25.00 per reservation and \$5.00 per person, per night. Tent cabins, including bunk beds and wood stoves, are available at Colter Bay for \$50.00 per night with a charge of \$12.00 for each additional person over two. 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 \$35.00 per night with a charge of \$5.00 for each additional person over two; make reservations 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; added fees are charged for RV campgrounds with hook-ups. Camping sites, including showers, are available at Flagg Ranch Resort for \$35-\$60 per night; call either 307.543.2861 or 800.443.2311 for reservations. Fees for Colter Bay RV & Trailer Park run \$55 per night; call 307.543.3100 or 800.628.9988 for reservations.

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 7
Flagg Ranch Resort	May 17
Jackson Lake Lodge	May 21
Colter Bay Cabins	May 27
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.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2010 10-23

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Recognizes International Migratory Bird Day

Grand Teton National Park will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) with a bird-watching caravan on Saturday, May 8, 2010. 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.

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 items.

According to the IMBD Web site, the theme for 2010 is the "Power of Partnerships" in bird conservation. This theme highlights the many partnership organizations and conservation programs initiated to protect vulnerable species of migratory birds. Several avian species that have benefited from conservation programs coordinated by partnership organizations are also seasonal visitors to Grand Teton National Park. These birds include peregrine falcons, Swainson's hawks, long-billed curlews, rufous hummingbirds, burrowing owls, and yellow-bellied sapsuckers.

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. This year marks the 20th anniversary for Partners in Flight.

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.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2010 10-24

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Scheduled for 2010 Summer Season

The official summer season in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway generally begins with the May 1st opening of the Teton Park Road and Moose-Wilson Road to vehicle traffic. The arrival of summer also means that road construction projects resume or start anew throughout the park and parkway.

Of note, the access road leading to the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve from the Moose-Wilson Road, as well as the parking lot, will remain closed to public entry until the gravel surfaces can sufficiently dry and harden to handle vehicles. Parking along the Moose-Wilson Road within a mile of the Preserve entrance gate is not allowed, so hikers wishing to reach Preserve trails will need to temporarily use the parking area for Granite Canyon trailhead.

The multi-phase North Park Road project from Lizard Creek Campground to Flagg Ranch Resort will begin again, resulting in 30-minute delays weekdays through July 15. There may be some weekend work taking place on this road project.

An asphalt overlay project on the Teton Park Road from Jackson Lake Junction to North Jenny Lake Junction has already begun and delays of up to 30 minutes are expected from mid May through the month of August. The Signal Mountain boat ramp and access road will also receive an asphalt overlay, resulting in 30-minute delays through the month of August.

The five-mile Signal Mountain Summit Road will be closed for road work from Monday through Thursday—but open to vehicles on Friday, Saturday and Sunday—during the month of June.

When weather permits during May, and continuing through early June, Highway 26/89/191 will be striped from the park's south boundary to Cunningham Cabin. All other roads and parking areas in the southern portion of the park, including South Jenny Lake parking area, will also be striped during this time. In addition, the Snake River Bridge at Moose will be painted during May and early June. These road and bridge projects may cause 15-minute delays for traffic.

Finally, the Antelope Flats Road from Highway 26/89/191 to Mormon Row Road will receive an asphalt overlay in late July, resulting in 15-minute delays.

For road construction updates throughout the summer, please phone the road information hotline at 307.739.3614. Information on Yellowstone road conditions is available at 307.344.2117.

For park information or additional road updates, please call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399 or the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594 (after May 8).

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



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

Jackie Skaggs
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

May 13, 2010

Grand Teton National Park Prescribed Fire Project Update

Weather permitting, Teton interagency fire personnel and Grand Teton National Park natural resource managers plan to burn a 310-acre Elbo East unit on Saturday, May 15.

This unit is part of a 4,000-acre native rangeland restoration project along Grand Teton's east boundary with the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Elbo East burn will be conducted in lieu of the planned Elbo West burn that was originally schedule for this spring. Park personnel discovered a Sharp-tailed Grouse lek (a mating arena) on the Elbo West burn site, postponing the burn until grouse are no longer using this breeding site.

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*.

Located southeast of the Teton Science Schools' Kelly campus and Ditch Creek Road, the Elbo East 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 the area.

Firefighters will only ignite burn units 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 be aware that minimal traffic restrictions may occur during the burn for safety concerns and fire equipment access.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2010 10-26

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

John Wessels to Serve as Interim Superintendent at Grand Teton National Park

Acting Intermountain Region Director Mary Gibson Scott announced today that John Wessels, associate regional director for Business and Technology at the National Park Service Intermountain Region, will serve as interim superintendent at Grand Teton National Park for the next two months. Wessels will begin his temporary assignment on May 17 and lead the park through mid July when Gibson Scott returns from her temporary post at the regional office in Denver, Colorado. Deputy Superintendent Bob Vogel, serving as Grand Teton's superintendent for the past two months, will resume his previous duties when Wessels arrives.

Wessels brings a wealth of experience and background to his interim assignment at Grand Teton. He recently completed a detail as acting deputy superintendent for Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California, and previously served as the acting assistant director for Business Services at the National Park Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. Wessels' current responsibilities at the regional office encompass financial, acquisition, information systems and concessions business management supporting 92 national park units spread across 8 states from Montana south to Texas.



"John will provide great leadership and guidance for Grand Teton as the park launches into its busy summer season," said Acting Regional Director Mary Gibson Scott. "He brings a distinctive skill set that will serve the park well until my return in mid July, and I am confident that the local community and our many partner organizations will welcome John's fresh perspective and park operations expertise."

Wessels began his federal career 25 years ago as a presidential management fellow, working for the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C. He moved to the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, Colorado where he worked as administrative officer and supervisory computer scientist for ten years prior to joining the National Park Service 2001 as regional comptroller.

Wessels' academic background includes master's degrees in Public Finance and Computer Science from Carnegie-Mellon University and Regis University, respectively. He also currently serves as adjunct professor of Business and Information Systems for Regis University in Denver. Wessels lives in Denver with his wife Mary and their children, Grace and Jack.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2010 10-27

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Annual Roadside Clean-up in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park employees will join with park partners and concessioners to conduct the annual spring clean-up on Thursday, May 20 from 8 a.m. to noon. Park staff will pick up litter along roadsides, turnouts and parking lots. Anyone driving through Grand Teton during Thursday morning should be alert for people walking along the roads and slow down, or give clean-up crews a wide berth. Slow moving and parked vehicles may also be encountered.

Each year before the summer season is in full swing, park and Grand Teton Association employees—along with staff from the Grand Teton Lodge Company, Signal Mountain Lodge, Triangle X Ranch, and Flagg Ranch Resort—set aside a day to remove trash and unsightly debris from roads and turnouts to beautify Grand Teton before visitors arrive.

"Although park employees and concessioners traditionally take this time to 'spruce up' Grand Teton before the summer tourist season, anyone can contribute to keeping roadsides clean by taking the time to place litter in the garbage cans and dumpsters located throughout the park. This simple and responsible act also helps reduce the chance that bears might get unintended food rewards," said Acting Superintendent Bob Vogel.

The Craig Thomas and Colter Bay visitor centers and bookstores, as well as the interagency communication center and law enforcement patrols, will continue normal operations while the clean-up work is under way.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2010 10-28

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Volunteer Ambassadors Needed for Grand Teton National Park Pathway

Grand Teton National Park is recruiting for volunteers interested in serving as ambassadors for the multi-use pathway that extends from Dornan's in the Moose area to South Jenny Lake. 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 provide emergency assistance in the event of an accident, injury, or equipment malfunction.

For anyone interested in joining the Grand Teton pathway ambassador program, an orientation and mandatory training session is scheduled for Thursday, June 3, at 9 a.m. To learn more about this opportunity or sign up as a participant in the program, contact Sara Petsch, volunteer coordinator for the pathway ambassadors program, at 307.739.3397.

Volunteers who choose to become a Grand Teton pathway ambassador will join a cadre of park employees who are trained to educate people about how to safely and responsibly use this popular new route. Through a gentle informal approach, volunteer ambassadors will also provide proactive information regarding protection of park wildlife and other resources. In addition, volunteers will 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.

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2010 10-29

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

American Indian Guest Artists Program in Grand Teton National Park

Each year, Grand Teton National Park sponsors a program for visiting American Indian artists at the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum. For the past 35 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 2010 season are:

May 10-30	Willie & Debbie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flint Knapping
May 31-June 6	Warren Yellow Hair	Lakota Sioux	Ledger Art, Drums, Bead & Quillwork
June 7-13	Dallin Maybee	Arapaho/Seneca	Ledger Art
June 14-20	Guillermo Martinez	Tarascan-Apache	Drums, Flutes
June 21-27	Andrea Two Bulls	Ogalala Sioux	Beadwork, Painting
June 28-July 4	Charlotte Tendoy	Shoshone	Beadwork
July 5-11	Ted Moran	S'Klallan	Northwest Coastal Carving
July 12-18	Eddie Two Bulls	Ogalala Sioux	Painting
July 19-25	Maynard White Owl	Nez Perce-Cayuse	Beadwork, Jewelry
July 26-Aug. 1	Dolly & Bonnie Woodie	Navajo	Weaving, Clothing, Beadwork
August 2-8	Willie & Debbie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork, Flint Knapping
August 9-15	Jola LeBeau	Eastern Shoshone	Beadwork
August 16-22	DG House	Cherokee	Painting
August 23-29	Paul Hacker	Choctaw	Flutes, Knives, Pottery
August 30-Sept 5	Josie Bronco	Paiute	Beadwork
September 6-12	Clyde Hall & Nancy Nacki	Shoshone	Beadwork, Quillwork
September 13-19	Patricia Two Bulls	Ogalala Sioux	Beadwork
September 20-26	DG House	Cherokee	Painting
Sept. 27-Oct 4	Andrea Two Bulls	Ogalala Sioux	Beadwork, Painting

—NPS—
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>
www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2010 10-30

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

Grand Teton National Park will waive entrance fees for the weekends of June 5-6 and August 14-15 as part of a nationwide initiative directed by Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

Secretary Salazar announced that the fee waivers are being offered as a way to encourage Americans seeking affordable vacations to visit their national parks and national refuges. The initiative was also designed to encourage people to connect with the great outdoors and engage in healthy activities. In addition to the June and August dates, entrance fees will be waived for National Public Lands Day on September 25, 2010.

Besides the fee-free weekend, Grand Teton park ranger naturalists will begin their summer schedule of programs on Monday, June 7. Ranger-led 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; to explore the beauty and geology of Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point during a ranger-led hike from Jenny Lake; to discover the role of geology and fire ecology by taking a "Fire and Ice" cruise from the Colter Bay marina; to 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; to understand the power of place by taking an "Explore the Preserve" hike at the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve. A full listing of programs can be found in the park's newspaper, the *Teewinot*, posted online at www.nps.gov. A hard copy of the *Teewinot* can be picked up at any park visitor center or entrance station.

In addition to the regular summer schedule, the following featured programs will also be offered during June:

Monday, June 28: "Music in Nature Opening Concert." Come enjoy a fusion of music and nature performed by a Grand Teton Music Festival string quartet at 12:30 p.m. on the terrace of the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Outstanding natural beauty inspired both the creation of our national parks, and the creation of great music; in this spirit, the Festival quartet will perform classical music inspired by nature at various park locations throughout the summer, starting with the June 28th performance. All "Music in Nature" concerts are free and open to the public, and musicians play for 30 minutes. For a full list of performance dates, times and locations, please call the Discovery Center at 307.739.3399.

Wednesday, June 30: "Climate Change: Observed Trends and Future Impacts on North America." Grand Teton will host an informative program at 9 p.m. in the Colter Bay Amphitheater with National Weather Service Meteorologist Arthur Meunier. Meteorologist Meunier will talk about global warming and its impacts. He will address frequently asked questions and arguments about climate change and discuss the potential impacts to the Intermountain West and Wyoming. Meunier will also discuss mitigation strategies that might be available to reduce climate change impacts, and share interesting weather-related stories during his PowerPoint presentation. For more information, contact the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594.

"Many Americans still face challenging economic times, and our hope is that a free-entry weekend at Grand Teton National Park will provide some measure of financial relief," said Deputy Superintendent Bob Vogel. "We encourage families to introduce their children to a national park and make a memorable vacation by attending one of the ranger-led programs. Come and discover just how special a national park visit can be."

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Teton National Park
PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012
www.nps.gov/grte



Grand Teton National Park

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 3, 2010
Contact: Jackie Skaggs/ 307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park Awards Contract for Headquarters Rehabilitation Project

MOOSE, WY – Grand Teton National Park has awarded a \$12.6 million contract under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to Advanced Solutions Group, LLC from Kaysville, Utah and their partner Big-D Construction of Salt Lake City, Utah.

The two companies will complete a rehabilitation of the park's 68,300-square-foot Moose Headquarters Complex. This extensive renovation project was designed by AJC Architects of Salt Lake City in 2006; it will require three phases for its physical completion. Construction work is expected to begin in mid June.

Since 2005, the park has been working to resolve significant health/safety concerns at its headquarters campus and address long-term maintenance issues through the removal and consolidation of buildings. This project is consistent with the Recovery Act goal of increasing the energy efficiency of federal buildings. It is registered for the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification. The LEED certification will be earned in part because the project implements energy efficiency and environmental sustainability through water and energy saving equipment and a renewable ground-source heat pump. The project also includes innovation in design, as well as environmentally responsible site planning, careful selection of building materials and other resources, and improved indoor air quality. At completion of the project, the park will reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the current headquarters complex by 50 percent.

"These improvements will allow Grand Teton National Park to address critical maintenance issues while also improving health and safety conditions for park employees and enhancing services for the millions of people who visit the park annually. In addition to creating local jobs, this project supports the tourism industry that is so important to the economy and vitality of Jackson Hole," said Acting Grand Teton Superintendent Bob Vogel.

Under the Recovery Act, the Department of the Interior is investing \$3 billion to conserve America's timeless treasures. This includes an historic \$750 million for the National Park System to help preserve and protect national icons and historic landscapes, such as Grand Teton National Park. The Interior Department is also focusing on renewable energy projects, the needs of American Indians, youth employment, and community service.

"With its investments of Recovery Act funds, the Department of the Interior and its bureaus are putting people to work today to make improvements that will benefit the environment and the region for many years to come," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

Secretary Salazar has pledged unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Department's economic recovery projects. The public is able to follow the progress of each project on www.recovery.gov and www.interior.gov/recovery. Secretary Salazar also appointed a Senior Advisor for Economic Recovery and an Interior Economic Recovery Task Force to work closely with Interior's Inspector General to ensure the recovery program is meeting the high standards for accountability, responsibility and transparency set by President Obama.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2010 10-32

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Children in Nature Multicultural Program Scheduled for the Summer Season

In collaboration with Teton Science Schools, Grand Teton National Park will continue a multicultural program designed to connect local Latino students with nature. Two inaugural sessions for the Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program— called Pura Vida en Grand Teton National Park—took place in late March and early April. Participants will get an opportunity to explore, and learn about the park and its natural and cultural resources during summer sessions scheduled for June 14-18, August 2-6 and August 16-20.

The Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program received support through a target project called America's Best Idea Grants and acquired funding from a generous matching grant provided by the National Park Foundation (NPF) and Grand Teton National Park Foundation.

The summer sessions of Pura Vida en Grand Teton National Park will bring together approximately ten middle school, as well as three high school students who will serve as mentors. Prior to each week, youth mentors will meet with Teton Science Schools' staff to ensure that they learn the skills and get the support needed to mentor younger students.

At the start of each weeklong session, students will watch a short video titled *This is America* which highlights the Ken Burns documentary film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. This program will be shown at 10:15 a.m. and is also open to the general public. Students will then spend the remainder of each week exploring Grand Teton, learning about park resources and operations, and becoming acquainted with the many occupations and duties required to run the park. Students will participate in various activities from canoeing and meeting horses used by backcountry patrol rangers, to learning about wildlife and taking a behind the scenes tour of the park administration building and the operational facilities located in the headquarters area. The week will conclude with a picnic celebration for the students and their parents.

Ken Burns' documentary on national parks served as a catalyst for the Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program. The landmark film inspired the NPF to establish an America's Best Idea Grants program. Through matching grants, the NPF hopes to reach traditionally underserved groups and empower them to create strong, lasting bonds of stewardship with our treasured lands—continuing a tradition of diverse Americans working together to preserve and enhance the legacy of national parks.

Grand Teton's Pura Vida program was specifically created to reach out to the Latino population in the park's gateway communities, introduce Latinos to Grand Teton's recreational opportunities and unique resources, and provide leadership development and mentoring opportunities to middle school and high school students. The spring sessions were instrumental in introducing students and their parents to the many features of Grand Teton and the value of experiencing the park's wildlife and beauty. Six middle school and nine high school students participated.

For those interested in registering for a summer program session, please contact Teton Science Schools Registrar Judy Herman at 307.734.5659. For more information on the Children in Nature Multicultural Engagement Program, or other park educational outreach efforts, please contact Susanne McDonald at 307.739.3656.

—NPS—

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2010 10-33

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Cattle Drive to Happen 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 12, between the hours of 6:45 and 8:30 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 for 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 need to cross the Buffalo Fork bridge, causing a delay of 30–40 minutes while cattle clear both the bridge 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 minimize any inconvenience to travelers who may be using Highway 26/89/191 to access Moran Junction during the early morning cattle drive on Saturday.

Grand Teton 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.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2010 10-34

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Temporary Closure of Trail to Garnet Canyon and Surprise/Amphitheater Lakes

A temporary closure of the trail to Garnet Canyon and Surprise/Amphitheater Lakes will be in place from 8 a.m. to noon on Thursday, June 10, beginning at the junction with the Valley Trail and continuing to higher elevations. The temporary closure is necessary to allow for the removal of a large boulder that tumbled downhill and lodged on the slope above a spot on the trail called Three-mile Junction.

Grand Teton National Park's trail crew will remove the boulder from its perch and reopen the trail by Thursday afternoon, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Hikers intending to use the Lupine Meadows trailhead to reach Garnet Canyon or Surprise and Amphitheater lakes should either make alternate plans for the day or plan to start their hike at noon.

The trail will be signed as closed to public entry, and park staff will be stationed to reroute hikers during the temporary trail closure.

Springtime snowmelt and ground thaw often cause rock slides and sloughs on the steep slopes of the Teton Range. Debris slides and dislodged boulders require early season trail work that may include occasional trail closures to ensure the safety of backcountry hikers.

To learn about current trail conditions throughout Grand Teton National Park, visit online at <http://www.tetonclimbingcany.blogspot.com>.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2010 10-35

Jackie Skaggs/ 307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/307.739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Fills Key Positions at Jenny Lake Subdistrict and Fire Management Office

Acting Superintendent Bob Vogel is pleased to announce the selection of two critical park positions. Scott Guenther was chosen as the lead ranger for the Jenny Lake Subdistrict; he will manage the park's search and rescue operations as well as the backcountry and climbing program. Chip Collins was named as Grand Teton's Fire Management Officer and will supervise the park's wildland fire operations in coordination with the functions of the Teton Interagency Fire network. Guenther replaces Renny Jackson, who served as the Jenny Lake Subdistrict Ranger for over five years, and Collins replaces Lisa Elenz who transferred to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise in the fall of 2009.

Scott Guenther brings a great deal of experience to his new position as Jenny Lake Subdistrict Ranger. He has worked at Grand Teton for 20 years. For eight consecutive seasons from 1995 to 2002, Guenther worked as a seasonal climbing ranger in the Jenny Lake Subdistrict, and for the past eight years, he has served as a permanent Jenny Lake Area ranger. As with others before him, climbing is both Guenther's passion and profession.

Guenther began his National Park Service (NPS) career at Grand Teton in 1991 when he volunteered as a lake patrol ranger during his days off from duties with the Grand Teton Lodge Company. That winter, he attended an NPS seasonal law enforcement academy and was subsequently hired as a law enforcement ranger stationed at Colter Bay, a position he held from 1992-1994. Guenther became a backcountry ranger working in the Jenny Lake Subdistrict in 1995, and was hired on as a Jenny Lake climbing ranger under Mark Magnuson in 1997.

Guenther moved to Grand Teton in 1991 after graduating from college to begin a summer position with the Grand Teton Lodge Company. He claims that he did not realize the full impact of the Teton Range until he saw them for the first time while driving over Togwotee Pass in early May. That summer, Guenther spent as much time as he could discovering and exploring the Teton backcountry. His experiences inspired him to take personal responsibility for the preservation and protection of Grand Teton's resources and its wilderness character—a goal he continues to pursue.

Guenther was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana and earned a BA degree in history from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He and his wife, Anna Chalfoun—a PhD. wildlife ecologist and research scientist with the Wyoming Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit and Department of Zoology and Physiology at the University of Wyoming—enjoy climbing, biking and skiing.



—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Chip Collins has served as the acting Fire Management Officer (FMO) for Grand Teton during the past eight months. In that capacity, he supervises the park's wildland and prescribed fire operations and coordinates local firefighting operations through an interagency fire management team that includes staff from Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Jackson Hole Fire/EMS. Collins also assists in the fire management oversight of three other national park units—Fossil Butte National Monument, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, and Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area. Before he took over as the acting FMO, Collins was the park's assistant FMO, a position that he has held since 2002. In addition to his duties as assistant FMO, Collins also functions as a long-term fire analyst, and a Type 2 fire use manager, prescribed fire manager, and burn boss. Prior to his current position at Grand Teton, Collins was the prescribed fire specialist from 2000-2002 at Redwood National and State Parks in northwestern California.



Collins began his fire career as a seasonal employee in 1988, the legendary Yellowstone fire season. He worked for six years as a sawyer, firefighter, and prescribed fire monitor in Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. He spent five years working as the fire program assistant at Grand Teton, followed by two years (1999 - 2000) managing the environmental monitoring program and leading wildland fire use activities at a Everglades National Park.

Collins played a leadership role during the Blacktail Fire of 2003 and supervised the fire response effort during the September 2009 Bearpaw Bay Fire in Grand Teton. On both fires, Collins coordinated interagency firefighting efforts during the initial attack phase and remained directly involved throughout the extended firefighting period.

Collins received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree in 1986 from the University of Georgia, School of Environmental Design.

He and his wife, Holly McKinney, have raised their three children, Hunter, Bailey and Hayden, in Grand Teton and are long-time residents of Jackson Hole. When not working on fires or fire management planning, Collins keeps busy with family activities and loves to float the river.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnews.blogspot.com>



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

Jackie Skaggs
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 11, 2010

Federal and Local Fire Crews to Train Together Saturday in Wilson

This Saturday, June 12, fire crews from Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and Jackson Hole Fire/EMS will collaborate in training sessions for the North Zone All Fire Day: a cooperative effort dedicated to fire season preparation and proficiency drills.

During the morning, approximately 80 firefighters will gather at the Wilson Elementary School for indoor workshops covering topics such as fire and medical response skills, GPS map and compass use, interagency radio plans, fire ecology, ignition techniques, incident command and dispatch protocols, and incident planning.

In the afternoon, the group will move to the Stilson Lot's north parking area to hone various firefighting skills. This area will be closed to the public during the training sessions. Firefighters will actively train in engine drills, hose lays, line digging, medical transport, helicopter site selection, and radio and command operations.

“Annually this effort has helped to build positive relations and protocols between federal and local agencies,” said Steve Markason, North Zone Fire Day committee chair. “It benefits all of us to train together and get to know each other, and it’s an important time for preseason planning.”

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

For more information on Teton Interagency Fire, visit online at www.tetonfire.com.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2010 10-37

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/ .3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Wyoming Conservation Corps Completes Restoration Projects in Grand Teton National Park

A Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC) team of students from the University of Wyoming (UW) spent several days in Grand Teton National Park working on restoration and trail improvement projects in the Jenny Lake area and near the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming. The WCC team also completed projects at the historic Murie Ranch in the park, and they are scheduled to carry out several projects on the National Elk Refuge.

The crew of six students plus two crew leaders replaced wooden benches in the Jenny Lake campfire circle where park ranger naturalists give their evening twilight talks throughout the summer. The assortment of old lodgepole pine and plank benches at the campfire circle have been in place for over 20 years and time had taken its toll on the wooden seats. The weathered and rotten benches were replaced with new ones made from Engelmann spruce trees harvested in Wyoming outside of Grand Teton.

The WCC crew also helped improve an interpretive path that connects the Craig Thomas Discover and Visitor Center with the historic Murie Ranch. The half-mile-long path allows visitors an opportunity to stroll past blue spruce forests and sagebrush meadows to get a glimpse of the wilderness values that the Muries fought so hard to protect. The final destination of the path, the Murie Ranch, was home to Olaus, Mardy, Adolph and Louise Murie, and it served as the nexus for the modern American conservation movement.

The WCC program, founded in 2006, is an AmeriCorps program supported by the University of Wyoming Environment and Natural Resources Department. Their mission is to connect young adults with a diverse array of hands-on natural resource and environmental management experiences, and to promote leadership through the completion of service projects that benefit lands in Wyoming. Teams of students spend the summer working on habitat restoration and construction projects in partnership with state and federal agencies. Last summer, 39 students contributed more than 28,000 service hours, and in summer 2010, 48 students are scheduled to work on WCC projects.

“We appreciate the hard work of the WCC team and their willingness to take on rehabilitation projects in Grand Teton that the park cannot otherwise accomplish,” said Deputy Superintendent Bob Vogel. “We also appreciate the conservation values promoted by student conservation programs, such as WCC, and we hope participants in this program will become inspired to seek future employment with the National Park Service.”

Park ranger naturalists offer their twilight talks at the Jenny Lake campfire circle each evening at 7 p.m. A ranger-led walk called “Voices for Wilderness” takes place at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays from the Discovery Center. These free, ranger-led programs provide participants with an educational experience, as well as the chance to see the handiwork of the WCC team.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 2010 10-38

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Update for June 2010

Starting Monday, June 21, the **Signal Mountain Summit Road** will be closed to weekday travel while the road receives an asphalt overlay. This project requires a travel closure from Monday through Thursday, affecting weekday traffic. However, weekend traffic—Friday, Saturday and Sunday—will be allowed. The Signal Mountain Summit road is a scenic byway accessed from the Teton Park Road, just south of Signal Mountain Lodge. Travel restrictions for weekdays will be in place from June 21 through July 1, or longer if inclement weather interrupts completion of this project.

Also beginning Monday, June 21, crews will be painting the **Snake River Bridge** near park headquarters at Moose. This project may cause 15 minute delays in traffic on the Teton Park Road near the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center.

In addition, road striping projects are underway throughout Grand Teton, and may cause minimal delays on several park roads and turnouts.

A brief travel closure will be in effect on the unpaved section of the **Moose-Wilson Road** within the park for about 26 hours beginning at 4 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30. The temporary closure is scheduled to allow for a dust abatement treatment to be applied to the dirt roadbed. The Moose-Wilson Road will reopen by 7 a.m. on Thursday, July 1, 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. To alert travelers of the expected daytime road closure, electronic signs will be placed on Wyoming Highway #390, beginning Tuesday, June 29. For motorists heading south to Teton Village, signs will also be in place at the junction of the Teton Park Road, near the Discovery Center.

For road construction updates throughout the summer, phone the **road information hotline at 307.739.3614**.

For park information or additional road updates, call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399 or the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 2010 10-39

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Michael Nash Named Chief Ranger at Grand Teton National Park

Acting Superintendent John Wessels announced today that Michael Nash was selected to fill the vacant chief ranger position at Grand Teton National Park. For two years (2008-2010), Nash served as the deputy chief ranger at Grand Canyon National Park before he took over as Grand Canyon's chief ranger in February of this year. Nash replaces Andy Fisher who served as Grand Teton's chief ranger from June 2004 until his retirement from the position this past April.

Nash will be responsible for the park's Division of Visitor and Resource Protection: a division that includes the branch of ranger activities, the branch of fire and aviation management, the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center, and the fee and revenue program. The division performs a full range of public safety and service functions such as law enforcement, search and rescue (SAR), emergency medical services (EMS), wireless communications, structural fire response, and resource protection.

Nash started his National Park Service career as seasonal park ranger in 1992 at Acadia National Park in Maine. He landed a similar position at Grand Canyon in May of 1993 and worked through November of 1994 before he became a permanent park ranger with the primary responsibility of patrolling the backcountry and wilderness areas of Grand Canyon. In late 1999, Nash transferred to Yosemite National Park in California where he worked in the Valley District conducting front country patrols and SAR responses for this high use area of Yosemite. He accepted a detail (temporary) position as the EMS and SAR program coordinator at Yosemite in 2001 and served in that capacity for one year. In 2002, Nash transferred to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee as lead supervisory ranger for the Little River district. While working at Great Smoky Mountains, Nash also served as the acting North District ranger, and acting Cades Cove District ranger; he was also assigned to be the deputy operations chief during Hurricane Isabel in September of 2003.



Nash took a district ranger position at the South Rim of Grand Canyon in 2006, where in addition to conducting the major law enforcement activities for this busy park area, he also established a Volunteer-in-Parks visitor assistance program to support ranger operations. Nash once again accepted a detail (temporary) assignment as management assistant to the superintendent of Grand Canyon: a position he held for four months before becoming the deputy chief ranger at Grand Canyon in 2008.

Nash was born in Akron, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Akron in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in cartography/geography. He previously earned an Associate Degree of Applied Science in computer drafting technology.

Nash will begin his new assignment at Grand Teton in early August. He and his wife, Julie, along with their children, Dylan (age 8) and Ella (age 5), look forward to experiencing the many outdoor recreational opportunities available in the park and throughout the Jackson Hole valley.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2010 10-40

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739-3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Third Annual Grand Teton Music Festival Concerts in the Park

Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Music Festival are pleased to announce that a special concert series called “Music in Nature” will be offered again this summer at various park locations. A Grand Teton Music Festival resident string quartet will perform 30-minute musical recitals inspired by nature. The inaugural performance of the string quartet will take place on the terrace at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center on Monday, June 28 at 12:30 p.m. The free public concerts will run June 28 through July 23.

MUSIC IN NATURE



The String Quartet was established by the Grand Teton Music Festival as a way to showcase promising young musicians with 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 relaxing atmosphere that allows visitors to enjoy the beauty of the Teton landscape in an inspiring and moving way,” said Grand Teton National Park Deputy Superintendent Bob Vogel. “We are delighted to partner with the Grand Teton Music Festival again this summer to bring a special musical experience to our park 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 & Thursdays

11:30 a.m., Colter Bay Amphitheater

12:30 p.m., Colter Bay Amphitheater

Wednesdays & Fridays

2 p.m., Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center Terrace

3 p.m., Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center Terrace

5 p.m., Jackson Lake Lodge Lobby

6 p.m., Jackson Lake Lodge Lobby



—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2010 10-41

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton to Offer Special Programs in June

Each year, Grand Teton National Park ranger naturalists endeavor to provide special programs that offer unique experiences for visitors; these programs are designed to augment the regularly scheduled ranger-led programs listed in the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*. Five such programs are scheduled for the end of June. In addition, park visitors can get a temporary loan of a "naturalist family backpack," and use its contents to learn about the natural world while exploring Grand Teton. Backpacks are available at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center (CTDVC).

The schedule for special programs includes:

Friday, June 25: Bird Walk, 7 a.m. (approximately two hours). Explore a rich riparian habitat to locate birds and observe their behavior. Meet at the Jackson Lake Dam parking lot. All levels of bird identification and knowledge are welcome. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes encouraged. Reservations are recommended, call 307.739.3594.

Saturday, June 26: Full Moon Hike, 10 p.m. (approximately one hour). Join rangers for an easy, moonlit walk along Colter Bay lakeshore and learn about Native American myths and legends about the moon. Meet at the Colter Bay Visitor Center flagpole. Group size limited; reservations are required, call 307.739.3399.

Monday, June 28: Canoe on Jackson Lake, 7:30 a.m. (approximately three hours). Enjoy a relaxing morning by paddling along the shores of Colter Bay and Jackson Lake. Meet at the Colter Bay marina. Canoe rentals are available at the marina or visitors can bring their own canoe or kayak. Group size and rentals are limited; reservations are required, call 307.739.3399.

Wednesday, June 30: Evening Bird Walk, 7 p.m. (approximately two hours or until dusk). Enjoy an evening of bird watching along the Snake River. Meet at Schwabacher's Landing parking area. All levels of bird identification and knowledge are welcome. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes encouraged. Reservations are recommended, call 307.739.3399.

Wednesday, June 30: Global Climate Change Talk, 9 p.m. (approximately 1 hour) in the Colter Bay Amphitheater. National Weather Service Meteorologist Arthur Meunier will talk about large-scale changes in weather and describe how those global changes may affect or influence the plants, animals and other resources throughout Grand Teton and across the State of Wyoming. For information, call **307.739.3594**.

Naturalist Family Backpacks: Pack activities focus on the artistic and creative talents of Olaus and Mardy Murie. Each backpack contains all the supplies needed for watercolor painting, pencil sketching, track castings, and outdoor journaling as well as information about the Muries and their lives, which were devoted to the conservation of natural resources. The packs are funded by a grant from the Center of Wonder—an organization dedicated to supporting educational programs integrating nature with the arts. Backpacks can be checked out from the CTDVC anytime after 8 a.m. and must be returned by 6:30 p.m.

Visitors and local residents are invited to join park ranger naturalists to experience these new and exciting activities. For more information, call 307.739.3399, or stop by the CTDVC near park headquarters at Moose.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2010 10-42

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

Acting Grand Teton National Park Superintendent John Wessels announced today that a brief travel closure will be in effect on the unpaved section of the Moose-Wilson Road within the park for about 27 hours, beginning at 4 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30. The road is scheduled to reopen by 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 1, 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 this project in the shortest time possible; however, because the temporary closure prevents the ability for making 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 were placed on Wyoming Highway #390, beginning Tuesday, June 29. For motorists heading south to Teton Village, signs are also 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 Thursday 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.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



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

Jackie Skaggs
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 29, 2010

Reminder of Fireworks Restrictions for Fourth of July

As the Fourth of July holiday approaches, visitors and local residents alike are reminded that **fireworks are not permitted** in Grand Teton National Park, on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, or in Teton County. It is essential that everyone strictly comply with this regulation, especially given the drying conditions and warmer temperatures taking place across the greater Jackson Hole area.

Besides the fireworks prohibition on public and county lands, campers are reminded that unattended or abandoned campfires can quickly escalate into wildfires; therefore, it is extremely important that all campfires are completely extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving a site. Campers and day users should **never** leave a fire unattended, and should always prepare for the unexpected by having a water bucket and shovel on hand and ready for use.

On Sunday, June 27, at least 10 unattended or abandoned campfires were discovered and extinguished by Teton interagency fire staff and law enforcement officials at campgrounds in Grand Teton and roadside campsites on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Any one of these campfires could have easily started an unwanted wildfire.

With the arrival of the annual fire season, area residents and visitors are requested to report a fire or smoke by calling 307.739.3630. For more fire information, please visit www.tetonfires.com.

XXX



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2010 10-44

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Artwork on Display at the National Museum of Wildlife Art

Selections of Grand Teton National Park's fine art collection, previously on exhibit at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, will be temporarily on loan to the National Museum of Wildlife Art (NMWA) for the next several months. In a continuing partnership with the NMWA, the artwork will be displayed in the Museum's Wapiti Gallery while the Discovery Center is under construction to add an auditorium.

The park's fine art collection was initiated by the Grand Teton Association in the late 1950's; this eclectic collection features work by John Clymer, Olaus Murie, Conrad Schwierring, Jim Wilcox, Joanne Hennes, and Harrison Crandall, as well as many others. These prominent artists found creative inspiration from the Teton landscape, and each skillfully captured the spectacular scenery and wild inhabitants of this region. The notable collection serves as a testament to the crucial role that art has played in preserving Grand Teton National Park and other public lands, and it highlights the historic significance of artwork throughout the Jackson Hole area.



John Clymer's painting "*Sublette and Campbell, 1883*" is one of the pieces in the park's fine art collection.

During the summer of 2007, representatives from the curatorial department at the NMWA installed a selection of paintings from the Grand Teton collection in the newly built Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. When the Discovery Center opened on August 11, 2007, visitors were treated to a variety of interpretive exhibits, as well as a spacious art gallery featuring original work by some of the area's greatest painters. Along with work from the Grand Teton collection, the NMWA also installed three of its own paintings: Mary Roberson's *Enchanted Forest*, Conrad Schwierring's *Grand Tetons*, and Richard Murray's *Cougar*, along with a life-sized bronze sculpture by Dan Ostermiller, titled "*Tres Osos*" (Three Bears) depicting a mother grizzly and her two cubs.

"We are so grateful that the National Museum of Wildlife Art offered to house and exhibit the park's fine art collection and make it accessible for public viewing during the time that construction is underway on the Craig Thomas Discovery Center," said Acting Grand Teton National Park Superintendent John Wessels. "We value our partnership with the Museum, and appreciate their kind offer to care for Grand Teton's fine art collection while exhibit space in the park is unavailable. During the next few months, we hope that visitors and local residents will take advantage of the opportunity to view pieces from the park's collection in the world-class setting of the National Museum of Wildlife Art."

The Grand Teton collection will be on display in the NMWA's Wapiti Gallery from June through early September. The museum is located just north of Jackson, and open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2010 10-45

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Rescue Two Boaters on the Snake River

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued two local men from the Snake River after their fiberglass drift boat capsized when it hit an uprooted tree that was recently lodged in the stream. The accident occurred on Tuesday afternoon, June 29, about one mile south of the Bar BC Ranch area. Brothers Doug and Kelly Ward, both residents of Moran, Wyoming, launched their craft from Pacific Creek Landing and floated the Snake without incident until they encountered the midstream obstruction; they were apparently unable to avoid the uprooted tree due to the swift current. The two men were uninjured and able to swim safely to shore; neither was wearing a life vest at the time of the accident.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a call reporting the accident at 2:45 p.m. and rangers later located the men who were safe but stranded on the riverbank near the accident site. Rangers then floated the two men down river to the Moose Landing.

This is the first major accident on a reach of the Snake River in the park this season, and rangers remind river users that the Snake is a powerful river with strong currents and cold water temperatures. Due to its tangle of channels and constantly shifting logjams and downed trees, boaters are advised to have the proper equipment—as well as the knowledge and experience—to accurately read the river's current and navigate away from natural obstructions in the streambed.

Boaters are required to have certified personal floatation devices for all persons aboard the watercraft and to obtain appropriate boat permits. For those unfamiliar with the Snake River, a pre-float consultation with rangers is strongly advised.

River users are also reminded that it is **prohibited** to remove or take an abandoned boat from the Snake River, or to keep any personal property items found in the river or along its banks. Such items should be immediately turned in to a park visitor center or ranger station.

As a reminder, 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—whether on the river, on park roads, or in the backcountry.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 9, 2010 10-46

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307/739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve to Host Book Club Discussion

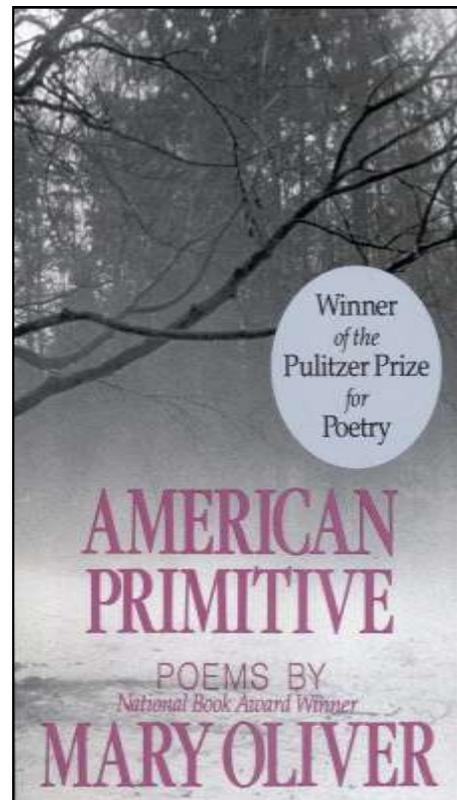
The staff at the Laurance S. Rockefeller (LSR) Preserve extends an invitation to local residents and visitors to join an upcoming LSR book club discussion of *American Primitive*, a collection of poems by Mary Oliver and the 1984 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. The book club discussion will take place on Thursday, July 15, from 4:30–5:30 p.m. at the LSR Preserve Center on the Moose-Wilson Road in Grand Teton National Park. The book discussion will be followed by a short hike on the Preserve.

In an effort to inspire a spirit of conversation stewardship, the LSR Preserve book club was created in the summer of 2009 and designed to explore literature that examines our connection to the natural world. This will be the sixth LSR Preserve book club discussion.

Mary Oliver's poetry has won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and a Lannan Literary Award. Her first collection of poems, *No Voyage, and Other Poems*, was published in 1963. Since then, Oliver has published numerous books, including *Why I Wake Early: New Poems*, *Thirst: Poems*, *West Wind: Poems and Prose Poems*, and *House of Light*. Her books of prose include *Long Life: Essays and Other Writings*, *Rules for the Dance: A Handbook for Writing and Reading Metrical Verse*, and *A Poetry Handbook*.

Oliver's writing is well known for its clear and poignant observations where her central themes focus on place and the intersection between the human and natural worlds. Literary critics have compared her work to that of great American lyric poets and celebrators of nature such as Walt Whitman, John Muir, and Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Space is limited and participants are required to sign up in advance. To sign up for the book club discussion or learn more about this event, please call the LSR Preserve at 307.739.3654.



—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 12, 2010 10-47

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton Rangers Recover Drift Boat from Snake River

Grand Teton National Park rangers recovered an aluminum Hyde drift boat from the Snake River on Sunday, July 11—a day after the boat capsized and sank. At approximately 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 10, the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a call from a party who reported that their drift boat had capsized on the Snake River just below the historic Bar BC Ranch area, about three miles north of the Moose landing. Dan Mei and James Fisher of Jackson, Wyoming and their guest, Joseph Keller, were fishing while floating between Deadmans Bar and Moose when the boat was pulled by the current toward an uprooted tree midstream. The boat operator did not have enough time to correct his course before the boat got caught in the tree and began to capsize.

All three men attempted to “high side” the boat and prevent it from taking on water, but were unsuccessful. None of the three boaters was wearing a life vest at the time of accident; however, they were all able to get out of the river on the east bank, uninjured. A commercial scenic float company saw the boaters on the riverbank and picked them up. The commercial operator then shuttled them to Moose, where park rangers met the party.

The drift boat sat about seven feet under water and had shifted a few hundred yards down river from the original accident site by Sunday when park rangers began their salvage operation. Rangers anchored a pulley system to a very large fallen tree on a gravel bar and tied a rope to one side of the boat, then used a complex system of pulleys, ropes and webbing to move and flip the boat upright. Rangers used a 3 to 1 system called a “Z drag” to move the boat closer to the bank. From there, they used a come-a-long system involving webbing, cable and ropes to right the boat in shallower water. The Hyde boat remained largely intact after its salvage from the river.

This is the second major accident on the Snake River in the park this season. Rangers remind river users that the Snake is a powerful river with strong currents and cold water temperatures. Due to its tangle of channels and constantly shifting logjams and downed trees, boaters are advised to have proper equipment—as well as knowledge and experience—to accurately read the river’s current and navigate away from natural obstructions in the streambed.

Boaters are required to have certified personal flotation devices for all persons aboard the watercraft and to obtain appropriate boat permits. For those unfamiliar with the river, a pre-float consultation with rangers is strongly advised.

River users are also reminded that it is prohibited to remove or take an abandoned boat from the Snake River, or to keep any personal property items found in the river or along its banks. Such items should be immediately turned in to a park visitor center or ranger station.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
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

July 14, 2010

Cathedral Group Fire in Grand Teton National Park

Teton interagency firefighters responded to several reports of a fire late yesterday afternoon, July 13, in Grand Teton National Park. The Cathedral Group Fire—which began about 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday—is currently 12 acres in size and burning in a mixed conifer forest about a quarter mile north of the Cathedral Group turnout on the Jenny Lake scenic loop road. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time. Anyone who may have been in the vicinity of an off-trail area called Boulder City, and who can provide information about this fire, is requested to phone the Teton interagency fire-reporting line at 307.739.3630.

Firefighters responded to the Cathedral Group Fire on Tuesday evening and used both a fire engine and crew, and a contract helicopter based out of Swan Valley, Idaho with the Caribou-Targhee National Forest to conduct suppression efforts during the evening hours. Yesterday's weather in Jackson Hole included 50 mph wind gusts and 9% relative humidity. Today, two fire engines, one hand crew, and the Swan Valley helicopter will continue suppression activities.

The Cathedral Group Fire is burning in an area flanked by a boulder ridge to its eastern side, a sagebrush meadow on the south, and a mixed lodgepole pine and subalpine fir forest to the north and west. The fire lies just south of, and relatively close to, the Bearpaw Bay Fire of 2009.

No trails or backcountry campsites have been closed at this time; however the portage of boats from String Lake to Leigh Lake will be temporarily suspended for safety considerations; the Cathedral Group turnout is also closed.

The current fire danger rating is moderate. With the arrival of the fire season, area residents and visitors are requested to report any fire or smoke by calling 307.739.3630. For additional fire information, please visit www.tetonfires.com.

—XXX—



National Park Service
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

July 15, 2010

Cathedral Group Fire 50 Percent Contained

The Cathedral Group Fire in Grand Teton National Park is 50 percent contained, and firefighters are making good progress toward complete suppression. Personnel recently mapped the fire with a Global Positioning System (GPS) device at 40 acres.

The fire continues to burn in a mixed conifer and aspen forest about a quarter mile north of the Cathedral Group turnout on the Jenny Lake scenic loop road. Yesterday, July 14, the fire was moving north toward the 2009 Bearpaw Bay Fire.

The west flank of the fire is contained, allowing for trail and campsite closures to be lifted. The only closures in place today include the Cathedral Group turnout—which is being used for staging of fire and helicopter operations—and the Boulder City off-trail area. All hiking trails, backcountry campsites and park roads are open to public use.

Today, a Teton interagency contract helicopter, two fire engines and a hand crew will continue suppression activities. In addition to the interagency fire personnel, a 20-person Type-2 crew from Island Park, Idaho—the Centennial Crew—are supporting operations, which brings the number of firefighters to approximately 60. On Wednesday, fire crew members established hand lines around the western and northwestern flank of the fire. Firefighters also established a network of hose lines, using several small ponds in the Boulder City area as sources for pumping water to hot spots.

Firefighters responded to the Cathedral Group Fire on Tuesday evening and used both a fire engine and crew, and a contract helicopter based out of Swan Valley, Idaho with the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, to conduct suppression efforts during the evening hours.

The cause of the fire remains unknown and is under investigation. Anyone who may have been in the vicinity of an off-trail area called Boulder City, and who can provide information about this fire, is requested to phone the Teton interagency fire-reporting line at 307.739.3630

The current fire danger rating is moderate. With the arrival of the fire season, area residents and visitors are requested to report any fire or smoke by calling 307.739.3630. For additional fire information, please visit www.tetonfires.com.

—XXX—



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 16, 2010 10-50

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Update for July through September

Road work is underway at several locations in Grand Teton National Park. Work includes a chip seal project on Highway 89/287 that spans from the Snake River Bridge near Flagg Ranch Resort to Sargent's Bay picnic area—approximately one mile north of Leek's Marina. Delays of 15-30 minutes may be encountered through this project area from July 19 through July 22; however, roadwork schedules may change or be delayed due to weather, equipment malfunction, or other extenuating circumstances.

Significant work continues on the **Teton Park Road** from the junction for the Spalding Bay Road to Jackson Lake Junction on Highway 89/287 as an asphalt overlay project proceeds. Expect delays up to 30 minutes on weekdays from now through late September.

Beginning Monday, July 19, crews will be painting the **Snake River Bridge** near park headquarters at Moose. This project may cause 15 minute delays on the Teton Park Road near the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center through mid-August.

Starting September 1, and lasting through early November, the **Pacific Creek Road** south of Two Ocean Lake Road will experience 30 minute delays during weekdays, as this road gets stabilized and widened near a bend of Pacific Creek. The road will also be closed to traffic on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents in the Pacific Creek area are being notified to plan for this daily closure.

For road construction updates throughout the summer, phone the **road information hotline** at 307.739.3614.

For park information or additional road updates, call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399 or the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 16, 2010 10-51

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Rangers Assist with Rescue of Injured Hiker in the Wind River Range

Grand Teton National Park rangers assisted with the rescue of an injured hiker from the upper and lower Ross Lakes area in Wyoming's Wind River Range on July 14. Rangers responded to help with the evacuation of the injured man at the request of Fremont County Search and Rescue. Four rangers, along with a Teton interagency contract helicopter and pilot, completed their mission at about 1:30 on Wednesday afternoon.

During the early morning hours of Tuesday, July 13, a hiker in the Wind River Range sustained a serious leg injury and was unable to continue hiking out of the remote backcountry area. The man's father and another hiking partner splinted his injured leg and hiked out to summon help. Late that afternoon, members of a Fremont County Search and Rescue team hiked into the Ross Lakes area, administered emergency medical care, and evaluated options for rescue. Due to the remoteness and complexity of the terrain, rescue personnel determined that an aerial evacuation would be necessary, so they initiated a call for assistance from Grand Teton rangers. Coincidentally, a Teton interagency contract helicopter was grounded at the Lander Airport because of high afternoon winds, so a ship was available, but not able to fly. As a consequence, the Fremont County rescue team spent the night in the backcountry with the injured man and made plans for a helicopter extrication the following day.

On the morning of July 14, four Grand Teton rangers drove to the Dubois Airport to rendezvous with the interagency ship and begin a helicopter-assisted rescue mission. One ranger was inserted via short-haul near the injured hiker, and he placed the patient into an evacuation suit for an aerial lift to a more appropriate landing spot. The park ranger flew in tandem with the hiker to a landing spot where the injured man could then be placed inside the aircraft for a longer flight to the Whiskey Basin trailhead and a waiting ambulance. The helicopter returned to the backcountry location to pick up the other three rangers and return them to the Dubois Airport.

"We readily respond to mutual aid requests from other federal and state agencies across the region, and the expertise and training of our park rangers is definitely an asset that we are willing to share whenever circumstances arise—such as this Wind River rescue," said Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. "Our rangers were glad to be of service for this rescue mission, and we all hope that the hiker has a speedy recovery."

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
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

July 16, 2010

Cathedral Group Fire 70 Percent Contained

The Cathedral Group Fire in Grand Teton National Park saw little activity on Thursday, July 15. The fire remains at slightly over 40 acres in size and is 70 percent contained as of this morning, July 16. Approximately 60 firefighters will work on hot spots throughout the day, and continue to complete a fire line along the northeast and east flanks of the fire. Work on these flanks is difficult due to the rocky terrain of the Boulder City climbing area.

The only closures in affect are the Cathedral Group turnout and the Boulder City off-trail area.

The cause of the fire remains unknown and is still under investigation. Anyone who may have been in the vicinity of the Boulder City area on Tuesday evening—and can provide information about this fire—is requested to phone the Teton interagency fire-reporting line at 307.739.3630

Firefighters first responded to the Cathedral Group Fire on Tuesday evening, July 13. Full suppression efforts have been ongoing since that time.

The current fire danger rating is moderate. As the fire season progresses, area residents and visitors are requested to report any fire or smoke by calling 307.739.3630. For additional fire information, please visit www.tetonfires.com.

—XXX—



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

Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles /Traci Weaver
307.739.3580/ 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

July 18, 2010

Cathedral Group Fire 100 Percent Contained

The Cathedral Group Fire in Grand Teton National Park was declared 100 percent contained at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 17. Fire crews completed a firebreak around the fire Saturday while suppressing hot spots in the interior of the fire and along the fire's northeast flank. With more accurate Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping the fire was listed at 46 acres in size.

Today, approximately 40 firefighters will continue to work toward control of the Cathedral Group Fire. Fire crews will patrol the 1.2 mile long perimeter of the fire to reinforce fire lines and cool down any hot spots. A Teton Interagency helicopter is available today for backhaul missions as crews begin to pull lateral hose lines and other materials off the fire.

Firefighters laid 13,500 feet of hose during their efforts to suppress the fire, which was burning in a boulder field that made digging traditional fireline to mineral soil next to impossible.

The Cathedral Group turnout and the Boulder City off-trail area remain closed.

The fire is presumed to be human caused and is still under investigation. Anyone who may have been in the vicinity of the Boulder City area on Tuesday evening—and can provide information about this fire—is requested to phone the Teton interagency fire-reporting line at 307.739.3630

Firefighters first responded to the Cathedral Group Fire on Tuesday evening, July 13. Full suppression efforts have been ongoing since that time.

The current fire danger rating is moderate. As the fire season progresses, fire managers remind area residents and visitors to make sure campfires are cold to the touch before leaving them, and to properly extinguish smoking materials in ash trays or bare mineral soil. For additional fire information and prevention tips, please visit www.tetonfires.com.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2010 10-54

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/307.739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Seriously Injured Hiker Rescued from Paintbrush Canyon

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued an injured hiker from Paintbrush Canyon on Sunday evening, July 18, using the Teton Interagency contract helicopter. John Stewart Laing, age 48, from Peyton, Colorado was hiking near the 10,720-foot elevation Paintbrush Divide when he slid about 30 feet after the snow he was walking across collapsed. Laing then somersaulted down a talus slope another 70 to 100 feet and sustained a serious leg injury. Laing had an ice axe, but fell onto his back and was unable to self arrest.

Laing and his brother were on the second day of an overnight backpacking trip, hiking the Paintbrush-Cascade Canyon loop trail. The men were approaching the top of the east side of the divide when the incident occurred just before 2 p.m.

Laing's brother, with the help of two hikers, stabilized the leg injury before running down Paintbrush Canyon until he was able to call for help on a cell phone. Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received the report around 3 p.m. and immediately initiated a rescue response.

Rangers conducted an aerial reconnaissance flight to locate Laing before dropping off two rangers on a snowfield near the top of the divide at about 4:20 p.m. Rangers hiked a short distance to the accident site, approximately 200 feet below the Paintbrush Divide summit, and provided Laing with emergency medical care before placing him into a rescue litter for aerial evacuation. Just after 6 p.m., Laing was flown via short-haul to the same snowfield at the top of Paintbrush Divide where the two rangers had been dropped off earlier; three additional rangers were stationed at the snowfield and waiting to receive the litter. Laing was then placed inside of the helicopter for a flight down to Lupine Meadows where a park ambulance was waiting to transport him to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

While rangers were in the midst of the Laing rescue, they received a request from Teton County Search and Rescue to assist with another injured hiker in Alaska Basin. Rangers remobilized and flew to Sunset Lake where they met Joanne Demay, age 66, from Salem, Oregon who had sustained a leg injury and was unable to hike out. Grand Teton rangers along with Teton County Search and Rescue personnel decided it would be most efficient to fly out Demay rather than perform a challenging and lengthy 16-mile evacuation by wheeled-litter, putting rescuers and the patient at risk for potential injury.

Rangers remind hikers and climbers that dangerous and variable snow conditions persist above 9,500 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 the day.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
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

July 20, 2010

Fire Danger Rating Elevated to High

Teton Interagency fire managers elevated the fire danger rating to “high” for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest as of Tuesday, July 20. Drying and cured vegetation—combined with a rise in daily temperatures, lower humidity, and breezy afternoon winds—has increased the potential for fire activity in the region.

In other fire news, the Cathedral Group Fire in Grand Teton National Park was declared controlled as of Monday, July 19. The 46-acre fire will be monitored for hotspots until fire managers can declare it to be out.

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.

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 **54** campfires in the Teton Interagency area. The fine for an abandoned campfire is significant, and 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.

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.

XXX



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2010 10-56

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Conduct Complex Mountain Rescue for Climbers Injured During Lightning Storm

Grand Teton National Park rangers launched a multi-faceted, complex rescue operation to reach numerous climbers who were injured by lightning during the passage of an active and severe thunderstorm in the Teton Range on Wednesday, July 21. Lightning bolts struck multiple locations on the 13,770-foot Grand Teton at around noon, and 16 climbers received moderate to severe injuries from indirect electrical charges radiating from the lightning. One climber—who was still missing on Wednesday evening—was discovered during an aerial search by helicopter at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 22. Brandon Oldenkamp, age 21, from Sanborn, Iowa, apparently fell about 2,000 feet to his death when he was impacted by a lightning strike. His body was located off the Northwest Face of the Grand Teton below a feature called the Black Ice Couloir.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received an initial cell phone call at 12:25 p.m. on Wednesday from one of the climbing parties, requesting help for injured persons. Rangers immediately began to stage a rescue mission for that climbing party, when another cell phone call was received at 1:30 p.m. by a separate climbing party who had also been hit by lightning. Eventually, a third group made contact to summon help and the rescue mission increased in size, scope and complexity.

Rangers summoned the Teton Interagency contract helicopter and began to fly rescue personnel and equipment to the 11,600-foot Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton from where the rescue operation would be staged. Once the equipment and staff were in place at the Lower Saddle, rangers quickly climbed to various areas on the Grand Teton where the injured people were located. As rangers reached the separate climbing parties, they provided emergency medical care and prepared the injured people for evacuation from the mountain. The 16 different climbers all received lightning-related injuries—burns and varying levels of neurological problems—as they were indirectly affected by an electrical charge from one or more lightning strikes. The rescue mission continued in the midst of rain squalls, thick clouds and additional thunderstorms throughout the afternoon and evening hours of Wednesday.

The rescue operation involved a sequential evacuation of the 16 climbers. Two climbers reached the Lower Saddle on their own, but were flown via helicopter to the Lupine Meadows rescue cache. Seven climbers were able to make their way down from a ledge above the Black Ice Couloir at 13,200 feet with the assistance of professional guides from Exum Mountain Guides. The remaining seven climbers—who were located between 13,300 and 13,600 feet in elevation—were reached by rangers and transported via short-haul to the Lower Saddle where they were treated by an emergency room doctor from St. John's Medical Center, before being placed in a second helicopter to be flown to the Lupine Meadows rescue cache on the valley floor at 6,700-foot elevation. The passage of a late afternoon thunderstorm temporarily delayed the transport of the climbers from the Lower Saddle. As weather conditions improved the aerial evacuation continued until all the injured persons were delivered to the valley floor and waiting ambulances that then transported them to St. John's Medical Center.

Three rangers remained at the Lower Saddle overnight in a rescue hut, to help complete rescue operations at first light on Thursday.

The rescue is one of the largest and more complex missions conducted by Grand Teton National Park staff given the number of injured people, the vertical terrain of the incident and inclement weather conditions.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 23, 2010 10-57

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Park Rangers Recover Body of University Student in Garnet Canyon

Grand Teton National Park rangers are investigating the death of a young University of Michigan student, who apparently fell 80 feet after summiting the 12,804-foot Middle Teton on Tuesday evening, July 20. Jillian Drow, age 21, of Chelsea, Michigan separated from her climbing partner as they descended the mountain. When Drow failed to return to a backcountry camp in Garnet Canyon, the group's leader began to search for her. He discovered Drow, who was unresponsive and lifeless, at approximately 9 p.m.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a cell phone call from the University of Michigan group leader at 7:30 on Tuesday evening. He reported that a member of their party—a group of eight—was missing, and they were searching for her whereabouts. A second cell phone call was received at 9:03 p.m. reporting that Drow had been found, but not alive.

Because of the late hour and waning light, a helicopter flight was not possible. Therefore, four park rangers were dispatched to hike up to the Garnet Canyon campsite to begin a recovery operation; they arrived at 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 21. Six of the University of Michigan students hiked out of the canyon to the valley floor in the early hours of Wednesday morning, while park rangers remained with Drow and the group leader to make preparations for an aerial evacuation with daylight on Wednesday morning.

A Teton Interagency helicopter flew Drow and the group leader out at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, just a few hours before a severe lightning storm enveloped the Teton Range. The lightning storm injured 17 climbers on the 13,770-foot Grand Teton and a full-scale rescue mission was launched by park rangers to rescue and extricate the injured climbers in the aftermath of the Drow evacuation and severe storm event.

Park rangers will continue their investigation to circumstances surrounding Drow's death. No further details are available at this time.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 23, 2010 10-58

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Hiker Rescued from Garnet Canyon

At 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, park rangers received a report of an injured hiker in Garnet Canyon. Scott Hanson, 43, of El Dorado Hills, California was completing a two-day guided climb of the Grand Teton when he slipped on a rock in a boulder field about four miles up Garnet Canyon and sustained minor injuries. Hanson had successfully completed his climb of the Grand Teton and was walking out of Garnet Canyon at the time of the accident.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received notice of the situation about 2 p.m. on Thursday. The guide for the excursion reported that his client was unable to continue hiking out and would require assistance for evacuation from the canyon.

A Teton Interagency helicopter was still on scene at the Jenny Lake rescue cache after completing two lengthy and challenging days of rescue operations on the Grand Teton. The ship's availability made it possible to conduct a quick aerial evacuation of Hanson. Two rangers were flown by helicopter to a spot near the boulder field. From there, they hiked to Hanson's location, provided emergency medical care and placed him in an evacuation suit for a short-haul flight. Hanson, accompanied by a ranger, was then flown beneath the helicopter directly to Lupine Meadows.

Hanson remained in the care of rangers until his father hiked out approximately four miles and transported him to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for additional care.

Rangers remind backcountry users that most injuries are the result of slips on rock or snow; in addition, most accidents with injuries occur at the end of the day, on the descent, when people are tired and perhaps inattentive.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2010 10-59

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton to Host Astronomy Lecture and Book Signing

Grand Teton National Park, in cooperation with the Grand Teton Association and Center of Wonder, will welcome Tyler Nordgren to the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center on Thursday, July 29 at 1 p.m. for a lecture and author signing of his new book *Stars Above, Earth Below: A guide to astronomy in the national parks*.

Nordgren, an associate professor of physics at University of the Redlands in California, is an astronomer and writer. He recently took a journey across the American landscape to explore connections between national parks and the wonders of the night sky. Nordgren visited 12 parks in 12 months, exploring the icy realms of Denali National Park in Alaska, the red rock cliffs and canyons of Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah and the serrated pinnacles of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. As he met with park experts and visitors, Nordgren examined the astrophysical features that link national parks to other elements of the solar system.



Tyler Nordgren captured this lunar eclipse sequence over the Tetons from his campsite in Grand Teton National Park on the night of August 29, 2007. He took an exposure every 10 minutes until the moon disappeared and sunlight bathed the mountains with alpenglow. Photo credit: Tyler Nordgren

Through his journey, Nordgren studied the uniquely dark skies visible at national parks across the West: a resource that is quickly vanishing from the rest of America. For a vast majority of national park visitors, a star-filled sky is as extraordinary and magical as glaciers, geysers, or grizzly bears. A night spent camping under the stars in places like Grand Teton affords a view of the cosmos not found in many other places. National parks preserve the last best window into the great universe beyond, offering a rare glimpse of the bright band of the Milky Way with its great family of stars, planets, and other astral bodies.

Nordgren's lecture begins at 1 p.m. with a book signing to follow at 2 p.m. For further information, please contact the Discovery Center at 307.739.3399. For information on the Center of Wonder, contact Carrie Geraci at 307.734.0570.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2010 10-60

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Vehicle Collision Kills Gray Wolf in Grand Teton National Park

A yearling male wolf was hit and killed by an unknown vehicle on Wednesday morning, August 4, just north of the Spread Creek Bridge on Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park. The black-colored wolf, weighing about 50-60 pounds, was discovered by a passerby around 8 a.m. It was lying in the middle of the roadway and still alive; however, it died before rangers could arrive. The young wolf was probably a member of the Buffalo Pack that frequents the eastern portion of Grand Teton; this pack has successfully denned in the park since 2008.

Park officials did not receive any reports of an accident and further details are not known. According to the Code of Federal Regulations, a motor vehicle operator is **required** to report an accident involving property damage, personal injury, or death—which includes the injury or death of wildlife.

This is the second gray wolf killed by a vehicle on park roads this year. On February 15, a sub-adult male wolf was hit and killed on Highway 26/89/191 in the vicinity of Elk Ranch Flats. Earlier this year, a 3 1/2-year-old male grizzly bear was hit and killed just south of the Spread Creek Bridge—not far from the current wolf mortality. This is a wildlife-rich area of the park, with brush and trees near to the roadbed; vegetation can reduce the visibility of animals that may be lingering near the road. Wildlife are also typically found near riparian areas, and motorists should slow down, use extra caution, and be more alert while driving through riparian areas or locations with limited roadside visibility.

Each year in Grand Teton, an average of one or more wolves and bears (grizzly and/or black bears) are involved in vehicle collisions that result in the injury or death of the animal. In the past five years, vehicle-related deaths of wolves and bears include: 2006, one black bear and one gray wolf; 2007, two black bears and one grizzly bear cub; 2008, two gray wolves; 2009, one black bear; and 2010, two wolves, one grizzly bear, and one bear (unverified species) that was injured, but left the scene.

These encounters between vehicles and bears or wolves—among other wildlife incidents—serve as a reminder that wildlife actively cross and use park roads. Motorists are reminded to drive the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop suddenly for wildlife along or on park roadways. Driving slower than indicated speed limits—especially at night—can increase the margin of safety for people and wildlife. 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.

In addition to wolves and bears, other wildlife such as elk, moose, bison, deer, pronghorn antelope, as well as smaller creatures such as beavers, marmots, and porcupines, may also be encountered on or near park roads. Many of these animals have been killed in vehicle collisions. In fact, over the past five weeks, one large animal (coyote size or larger) has been hit and killed on park roads each day, accounting for the deaths of nearly 50 animals.

Vehicles take a **significant toll** on park wildlife, resulting in the deaths of well over 100 animals per year.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
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



Nan Stinson
307.276.5826

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

August 5, 2010

Fire in Grand Teton National Park Prompts Closure of Pilgrim Creek Road

Teton Interagency firefighters responded to smoke reports late yesterday afternoon, August 4, in Grand Teton National Park. The Pilgrim Fire—which began about 5 p.m. on Wednesday—is currently 13 acres in size and burning in grass, sagebrush and light timber about a half mile east of the junction of the Pilgrim Creek Road and Highway 89/287, and about one mile from Colter Bay. The fire is presumed to be lightning-caused, but is still under investigation. Anyone who may have been in the vicinity of Pilgrim Creek with information about this fire is requested to phone the Teton Interagency fire-reporting line at 307.739.3630.

Wednesday evening, three wildland fire engines, a water tender, and two helicopters worked to suppress the south and west flanks of the fire, and to lay hose for water distribution around the perimeter of the fire.

Today, the Cedar City Hot Shot crew from Utah—on loan from the Bull Fire—will work with engine crews and Jackson Hole Fire/EMS personnel out of Moran to continue suppression efforts. Pilgrim Creek Road is temporarily closed due to suppression activities, but no other closures are in effect.

The current fire danger rating is high. Park visitors are reminded to do their part to prevent human-caused fires by carefully extinguishing campfires and properly disposing of smoking materials. For additional fire information, please visit www.tetonfires.com.

Please visit the Teton Fires Wildland Fire webpage at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/wildland-fires.html> for full updates and a map.

—XXX—



National Park Service
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



Nan Stinson
307.276.5826

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

August 6, 2010

Pilgrim Fire Ninety Percent Contained

Teton Interagency firefighters and the Cedar City Hot Shot crew made significant progress in containing the Pilgrim Fire on Thursday, August 5. The Pilgrim Fire is currently 90 percent contained and remains at 13 acres in size. The fire, presumed to be lightning-caused, is located just north of the junction between Pilgrim Creek Road and Highway 89/287—about one mile east of the Colter Bay area.

With minimal fire activity and very little growth on the Pilgrim Fire, the Cedar City Hot Shot crew will be reassigned to other fires in the area. A squad of Teton Interagency firefighters and two fire engines will continue to extinguish hotspots and place line around the remaining fire perimeter.

The Pilgrim Creek Road has been reopened; however, visitors are advised that fire equipment and firefighters are still working in the area, so caution is advised.

The current fire danger rating is high. Park visitors are reminded to do their part to prevent human-caused fires by carefully extinguishing campfires and properly disposing of smoking materials. For additional fire information, please visit www.tetonfires.com.

Please visit the Teton Fires Wildland Fire webpage at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/dispatch/wy-tdc/wildland-fires.html> for full updates and a map.

—XXX—



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2010 10-63

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Waive Entry Fees on Upcoming August Weekend

Grand Teton National Park will waive entrance fees for the weekend of August 14-15 as part of a nationwide initiative proclaimed earlier this year by Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

Secretary Salazar announced that fee waivers are being offered during targeted summer weekends as a way to encourage Americans seeking affordable vacations to visit their national parks and national refuges. The initiative is also designed to encourage people to connect with the great outdoors and engage in healthy activities. In addition to the August weekend, entrance fees will also be waived for National Public Lands Day on September 25, 2010.

Besides the fee-free weekend, Grand Teton park ranger naturalists will be conducting their summer schedule of programs. Ranger-led programs give visitors the chance: to ponder the challenges of protecting public lands and natural resources during a “Voices for Wilderness” walk from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center to the Murie Ranch; to explore the beauty and geology of Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point during a ranger-led hike from Jenny Lake; to discover the role of geology and fire ecology by taking a “Fire and Ice” cruise from the Colter Bay marina; to learn about American Indian culture during a tour of the David T. Vernon Indian Art Collection at the Colter Bay Museum; to understand the power of place by taking an “Explore the Preserve” hike at the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve; and to gather their families for an illustrated campfire chat at a “Jenny Lake Twilight Talk” or “Signal Mountain Campfire” program.

In addition, several special ranger-led activities will be conducted to encourage visitors to explore special park features. These programs include:

Canoe String Lake & Leigh Lake with a Ranger

Bring your canoe and enjoy an early morning paddle with a ranger on String and Leigh Lakes on Friday, August 13, at 8 a.m. Participants should bring a canoe and all necessary paddling equipment, including a personal floatation device, water, sunscreen, raingear, and snacks. Reservations are required; call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399.

100 years of Horses in the National Parks

Meet and greet the Grand Teton mounted patrol horses and learn about the historical and current uses of horses in the protection of our national parks on Saturday, August 14, at 7 p.m. This 45-minute program meets at the Gros Ventre Campground Amphitheater. For directions and more information please call the Discovery Center at 307.739.3399.

Additional special programs will be posted on flyers at park visitor centers; visitors can also call for this information by dialing the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399, Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594, Jenny Lake Visitor Center at 307.739.3392 and the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center at 307.739.3654.

A full listing of programs can be found in the park’s newspaper, *Teewinot*, posted online at www.nps.gov. A hard copy of the *Teewinot* can be picked up at any park visitor center or entrance station.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2010 10-64

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Celebrate Astronomy Day with Grand Teton National Park & Jackson Hole Astronomy Club

Grand Teton National Park will join with the Jackson Hole Astronomy Club to celebrate Grand Teton Astronomy Day on Sunday, August 15. Several family-oriented activities are planned, offering park visitors and local residents an opportunity to learn about star gazing, meteor showers, sunspots, star clusters, galaxies and much more. The special "Astronomy under the Tetons" day will begin at 2 p.m. at the Colter Bay Visitor Center in Grand Teton and end with late-night star gazing session on the shore of Jackson Lake.

To highlight Grand Teton Astronomy Day, solar-filtered telescopes will be available to view sunspots and other solar features from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. near the Colter Bay Visitor Center. Throughout the afternoon, exhibits and information tables will also be set up, providing fun and interesting information to children and adults alike.

At 3 p.m., Bob Hoyle, former professor of astronomy and park ranger naturalist, will present a one-hour program at the Colter Bay Amphitheater titled, "Why is the Sky Blue: the physics of color in the natural world." At 9 p.m., Ranger Hoyle will present a PowerPoint program at the Colter Bay Amphitheater titled, "Watchers of the Sky." This educational program focuses on the cultural history of star-gazing and brings this field of study into the modern-day science of astronomy; the program also includes incredible images of stars and other astronomical objects.



Whirlpool Galaxy

As a finale, several large telescopes will be set up at 10 p.m. along the shore of Colter Bay for participants to view stars, galaxies, nebulae and other celestial objects. Anyone planning to attend the evening program and telescope observation session should dress warmly as evening temperatures at Colter Bay can be quite chilly, even in August.

For those who would like to learn more about "Astronomy under the Tetons," call either the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594 or Jackson Hole Astronomy Club Program Coordinator Walt Farmer at 307.733.2173. Information is also available on the Astronomy Club's website at www.jhastronomy.com or on Walt Farmer's website at www.theastrocowboy.com/Astro/astro.htm.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2010 10-65

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Rescue Mountaineering Guide from Grand Teton

Grand Teton National Park rangers used a Teton Interagency contract helicopter to rescue and evacuate an injured climbing guide from the Grand Teton on Friday, August 6. Nate Opp, age 31, an employee of Jackson Hole Mountain Guides, fell approximately 20 feet while hiking just below the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton. He was not guiding clients at the time of the accident.

Opp sustained a head injury in the fall, which prompted a timely and expeditious flight from the Jackson Hole Mountain Guides' Corbet High Camp at 11,200 feet to Lupine Meadows at 6,700 feet, where a park ambulance waited to transport him to medical care in Jackson, Wyoming.

A separate employee with Jackson Hole Mountain Guides contacted the Jenny Lake Ranger Station via satellite phone at 10:10 a.m. on Friday to report the accident. Rangers initiated a rescue operation that involved landing the helicopter with one ranger on board onto Teepe Glacier below the Grand Teton. The ranger got out of the helicopter and continued on foot to reach Opp's location—near the high camp that is situated below the Lower Saddle.

Two additional rangers hiked down from the Lower Saddle and provided emergency medical care to Opp before the third ranger could arrive by helicopter and prepare him for a short-haul evacuation in a rescue litter suspended below the helicopter. One ranger flew in tandem with Opp during an aerial evacuation directly to the Jenny Lake rescue cache on the valley floor.

No further details about the accident are known at this time.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2010 10-66

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton Rangers to Conduct Traffic Safety Checkpoints

Grand Teton National Park rangers will conduct traffic safety checkpoints in the park on Saturday, August 14 and Sunday, August 15. The goal of these checkpoints is to identify and correct safety violations and reduce the number of impaired drivers in an effort to make park roads safer for the traveling public.

Park law enforcement personnel are very committed to roadway safety and safe driving practices. With approximately 160 miles of paved roads, Grand Teton has some unique driving conditions that require motorists to use an extra measure of caution. For example, drivers need to be especially alert for wildlife during dawn, dusk and nighttime hours, when animals linger near to, and cross over, park roads in search of food and water. Other safety concerns include drowsiness or intoxication of the vehicle operator, which may lead to inattentive or impaired driving situations.

Motorists are reminded that federal law requires the occupants of a vehicle to wear seatbelts when driving on park roads. Other public safety issues that will be addressed during a checkpoint stop may include the use of child safety seats and the presence of inoperable headlights.

Park rangers have seen a noticeable increase in alcohol-related contacts in 2010 compared to the last two years. As of August 1st, 17 people have been arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) in Grand Teton, and the peak travel season is still in full swing. In 2009, rangers handled 17 drunken driving incidents; 17 such incidents were also tallied in 2008, and 25 in 2007. Anyone charged with driving under the influence in the park faces prosecution in federal court and penalties that could include up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

The last time Grand Teton rangers conducted traffic safety checkpoints, they processed over 300 vehicles. Forty of those vehicles were asked to pull into secondary interview areas where about 20 warnings were issued for violations ranging from expired vehicle registrations to inoperable lights and failure to wear safety belts; nine citations were issued for alcohol-related violations and possession of controlled substances.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2010 10-67

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/307.739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Runner Evacuated from Lower Saddle

In a quick rescue operation taking less than an hour, Grand Teton National Park rangers evacuated an injured runner from the 11,650-foot Lower Saddle on Thursday morning, August 12, using the Teton Interagency contract helicopter. Meredith Edwards, age 26, from Wilson, Wyoming was on a day trip, attempting to run to the Lower Saddle and back.

Edwards was at the Lower Saddle when she took a misstep on a rock just before 11:00 a.m., causing an injury that prevented her from hiking out on her own. Two rangers who were already on patrol at the Saddle assisted Edwards and provided initial emergency medical care before requesting an aerial evacuation.

One ranger accompanied the helicopter to the Lower Saddle where they picked up Edwards and flew her inside the ship down to Lupine Meadows. From there, Edwards transported herself to further medical care.

Rangers remind hikers and climbers that dangerous and variable snow conditions persist above 10,000 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 the day.

This marks the eighth major search and rescue operation of the season conducted by Grand Teton rangers.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 13, 2010 10-68

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/307.739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton to Welcome Nationally Renowned Shelton Johnson

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that Grand Teton National Park, in collaboration with the Grand Teton Association, will host Yosemite Park Ranger Shelton Johnson for two public programs and book signings scheduled for Saturday, August 21, and Monday, August 23. Johnson was featured in the 2009 Ken Burns documentary film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, and has gained national recognition for his part in the popular PBS television series.

Johnson collaborated with Ken Burns during the filming of the landmark documentary and told a compelling story about his early experiences as a National Park Service ranger. In addition, he worked on a companion project that reveals the untold stories of diverse people in national parks.

During his programs, Johnson often focuses his masterful story-telling on personal experiences, and usually unveils the story of the buffalo soldiers—a group of African-American soldiers who patrolled Yosemite at the turn of the 20th century. In fact, Johnson presents a dramatic portrayal of the buffalo soldiers through a character he developed, named Elizy Boman. Through his presentations, Johnson tries to both enlighten listeners and create lasting connections between African-Americans and their national parks. Johnson has also authored a book called *Gloryland*—a fictional memoir of an African-American, born in 1863, who became a buffalo soldier stationed in Yosemite in 1903. Today, Johnson travels throughout America to speak with school children and share the story about the buffalo soldiers: a tale he has recounted in print, on camera, and in person.



“We are delighted to be able to bring Shelton Johnson to Grand Teton,” said Superintendent Scott. “This will be a great opportunity for park visitors and area residents to listen to stories about his life, his career and his outreach programs. Shelton has a captivating way of telling a story and his presentations promise to be both entertaining and inspiring.”

The schedule of events is as follows:

Saturday, Aug. 21

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Book signing at the Colter Bay Visitor Center & Indian Arts Museum

7:00 p.m. Public presentation in the Explorers Room at Jackson Lake Lodge. Ranger Johnson introduces the film, *This is America*, (Ken Burns' companion video to his documentary film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*) and leads a discussion with the audience after the screening.

Monday, Aug. 23

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Book signing at the Craig Thomas Discovery & Visitor Center

7:00 p.m. Public presentation at the Gros Ventre Campground. Ranger Johnson provides a traditional campfire program, *The Road to Wonderland*, and talks about the path he took from the urban landscape of Detroit's inner city to the wilderness of Yellowstone and Yosemite.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 16, 2010 10-69

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/307.739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Conducts Successful Traffic Safety Checkpoint

Grand Teton National Park rangers issued 48 warnings and six citations—including three arrests— during a traffic safety checkpoint conducted late Saturday evening, August 14 and early Sunday morning, August 15 on Highway 26/89/191 at the park's south boundary. In just over four hours, park rangers processed safety screenings for 497 vehicles.

The goal of the operation was to identify and correct safety violations and reduce the number of impaired drivers in an effort to make roads safer for the traveling public. Rangers received overwhelmingly positive comments from motorists who passed through the late night checkpoint. Many individuals thanked park rangers for helping to make roads safer and for protecting park wildlife.

Of the six citations that were issued, three were for driving under the influence of alcohol, two for having an open container, and one for possession of a controlled substance. Of the 48 warnings, over half were issued for not wearing a seatbelt—a federal law and a practice that saves lives.

During the safety checkpoint, vehicles and drivers received an initial screening. Of those, 33 drivers and vehicles exhibited potential clues of impairment or other serious safety hazards and were consequently directed to a secondary screening location. Rangers administered 11 field sobriety tests during the operation.

The last time rangers conducted a traffic safety checkpoint was in 2006. That evening, rangers screened 300 vehicles, arrested four drivers for driving under the influence of alcohol, and issued nine citations: three for having an open container, one for possession of a controlled substance, and five for public intoxication to individuals under 21 years of age.

The following statistics were collected during the 2010 checkpoint:

Total Citations – 6

DUI – 3

Open container – 2

Possession of a controlled substance – 1

Total Warnings – 48

No seatbelt – 28

Headlight out – 3

Tail/Brake light out – 3

License plate lamp out – 10

No or expired vehicle registration – 2

No or expired insurance – 2

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 16, 2010 10-70

Jackie Skaggs/ 307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske /307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Third Annual John Colter Day Observed

The third annual John Colter Day will be held on Wednesday, August 18, 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 European to travel the region. Colter Bay, on Jackson Lake's northeast shore, is named in his honor. To highlight this historical figure, Grand Teton National Park will offer programs during the week, including demonstrations of the lives of mountain men of the 1800's, discussions on John Colter's contributions to the exploration of the American West, and tipi demonstrations.



John Colter Day Highlights include:

Colter Stone on Display

The Colter Stone will be displayed at the Colter Bay Visitor Center from August 15 through August 20. 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 and engraved with the name John Colter, and 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 of Colter's pioneering sojourn through this region. As 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 Togwotee Pass, while the other commonly held view traces Colter's route through Jackson Hole, over Teton Pass and along the west side of the Teton Range. No evidence exists to substantiate either route, and the only sources of information are vague accounts and maps from interviews with Colter after his return.

Wednesday August 18

9 a.m. – Tipi Demonstration

Join Ranger Laine Thom behind the Colter Bay Visitor Center for a 45-minute program demonstrating the basic structure that the Plains Indians called home.

10 a.m. – The Story of the Colter Stone

Ranger Naturalist Dan Greenblatt will detail the legend and history of this fascinating artifact in the Colter Bay Auditorium.

2:30 p.m. – John Colter: Mountain Man Superhero

Dr. Barbara Mueller, professor of anthropology at Casper College, will discuss the life of John Colter, widely considered to be the first mountain man of the American West. Presentation in the Colter Bay Auditorium.

7 p.m. – The Life of a Mountain Man

Join Ranger Andrew Langford as he re-creates the rugged life of a mountain man, enduring brutal winters and physical dangers in unmapped West during the 1800s. Presentation at the Colter Bay Amphitheatre.

For more information about the Colter Day events, please call the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594.

—NPS—

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2010 10-71

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Lecture Series on Changes Affecting Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park will host a series of lectures titled, *Our Changing Park*, beginning on Thursday, August 19. The lecture series will offer a glimpse into some of the current issues facing the park. Lectures will be presented by specialists in a variety of subject areas; these experts will share their observations, their collected data, and their perspectives on challenging issues. The speakers will also lead discussions about the various changes affecting the park's natural and cultural resources. All talks will take place at 7 p.m. in the Director's Room at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose.

The lecture subjects cover a wide range of topics, such as: what is challenging the survival of whitebark pine in the Great Yellowstone Ecosystem; how is climate change affecting Wyoming and the Intermountain West; how will rising environmental temperatures in alpine and mountain ecosystems affect the American pika; and what are the challenges for preservation of historic park properties.

The scheduled lectures are:

August 19

Whitebark Pine: The Story of a Giant Prey, a Tiny Predator, and a Strangling Fungus

Join Grand Teton National Park Ecologist Nancy Bockino as she discusses the ecology of whitebark pine, a keystone species of high mountain ecosystems in western North America. Learn about the threats to its survival and the outlook for its future.

September 2

Climate Change: Observed Trends and Future Impacts on North American Climate and Weather

National Weather Service Meteorologist Arthur Meunier will talk about observed climate trends and discuss the likelihood of climate change impacts on the weather and climate of Wyoming and the Intermountain West. A discussion of climate change mitigation strategies, costs, and effectiveness will follow.

September 9

Beyond Buildings: Preserving a Sense of Place at Historic Sites in Grand Teton National Park

Join Kathryn Longfield, Grand Teton's cultural resource specialist, in a discussion of current issues facing historic properties and the methods to preserve human history, cultural landscapes, and the historic sense of place that reflect social history and its patterns of development.

September 23

Perils Facing the American Pika

Join Grand Teton National Park Biologist Sue Wolff as she discusses the American pika, a talus-dwelling relative of the rabbit family, and possibly one of the first mammals in North America to be affected by climate change. Discover how pikas are influenced by rising temperatures and learn about their current population.

For more information about the lecture series, call the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594, or the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2010 10-72

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Prospectus Issued for Lodging, Food & Beverage, Campground, Service Station, & Other Visitor Services in John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

The National Park Service (NPS) has issued a prospectus soliciting proposals to provide lodging, food and beverage, campground, service station, retail and other related visitor services within the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway (JDR Parkway) located between Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, approximately 55 miles north of Jackson, Wyoming. The new contract will be valid for 15 years, and this solicitation for commercial services is fully competitive.

The existing concession operation provides commercial services at Flagg Ranch Resort; the current contract is held by International Leisure Hosts, Ltd.

Under the new contract, the NPS will require the authorized concessioner to undertake improvement projects, including upgrades to some lodging rooms, the addition of camper cabins, the addition of a coffee/snack shop, and the replacement of diesel and unleaded gas pumps.

Attributes that warrant special consideration for this business opportunity include a high cost of doing business in a remote area and the management of services in two distinct seasons with vastly different operational needs and visitation. Any offeror for the contract will need to take into account these unique conditions.

Hard copies of the prospectus are available by contacting Jacque Lavelle, Intermountain Region chief of concessions, at 303.969.2661, or by email at Jacque.Lavelle@nps.gov. Interested parties may also write to National Park Service, Concessions Management Division, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80228. The cost for a print of the prospectus is \$35.00 per copy, if delivered by Federal Express, or \$30.00 per copy, if picked up in person. Checks and money orders (no cash accepted) must be payable to the National Park Service, and a physical address and phone number must be provided in order to receive a Federal Express package.

Prospectus packages are also available online at <http://www.nps.gov/commercialservices>. Those planning to submit a proposal, who have obtained a prospectus from the website, 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 website.

A site visit for this business opportunity is scheduled for Thursday, September 9. For those who wish to participate, please contact Grand Teton National Park Chief of Business Resources Mallory Smith at 307.739.3434 or Mallory.Smith@nps.gov by no later than September 3, 2010.

Contract offers must be received by the Chief of Concessions, National Park Service, Intermountain Region, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, CO 80228 **no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2010.**

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2010 10-73

Jackie Skaggs / 307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske / 307.739.3437

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Youth Conservation Program Flourishes

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott and the Grand Teton National Park Foundation (GTNPF) celebrated the fifth successful season of the Youth Conservation Program (YCP) during a gathering on August 3rd at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. This year, a record number of YCP teens participated in the program, which ends for the season on Thursday, August 19.

Thanks to generous donations from donors through the GTNPF, Grand Teton was able to expand the program to offer youth employment to 21 YCP crew members for the 2010 season—an increase of seven participants over last year’s crew of 14. The Foundation provided \$173,000 in support of the 2010 program, and has given over \$500,000 during the last five years.

Since its inception, dozens of teens on YCP crews have worked with National Park Service (NPS) staff to improve trails and structures throughout Grand Teton. Their efforts this summer included re-routing trails and restoring vegetation at Blacktail Ponds, constructing buck-and-rail fences at Lupine Meadows and Inspiration Point, creating new trail structures and causeways on the Emma-Matilda lakes trail, and removing weeds at numerous park locations. Additionally, students helped prepare and launch the historic Menor’s Ferry and assisted wildland fire crews with a hazard fuel reduction project near Signal Mountain.

NPS personnel provided the YCP crew with several educational and team-building experiences that introduced the teens to park operations, fire and rescue activities, history and science programs, and safety procedures. Crew members worked primarily for Grand Teton’s trails branch; but they also collaborated with other park divisions in order to gain a well-rounded understanding of the variety of resource protection and management issues that the park regularly encounters. YCP members were able to see firsthand the value of land stewardship and develop personal conservation ethics.

During their team-building exercises, the students participated in “Ranger Olympics” with the Jenny Lake rangers to gain an understanding of search and rescue operations. This extracurricular activity took place just one day before the park’s largest rescue operation in history occurred when 17 people were struck by lightning on the Grand Teton. Students also met with park wildlife biologists to learn about bears, wolves and cougars, and gain an understanding of the science and resource management program in Grand Teton.

The YCP is a summer employment program for high school students, ages 16 to 19. Enrollees develop conservation ethics as they assist with projects to complete critically-needed maintenance and rehabilitation on park trails and other resources. Participants work alongside NPS crew leaders to learn essential trail maintenance skills and become familiar with stewardship goals. As they complete project work on some of the most visible park trails, YCP participants also serve as park ambassadors. The YCP program runs for ten weeks, from mid-June through mid-August.

As an extension of their mission to support innovative projects that protect and add value to Grand Teton, the GTNPF provides funding for YCP participant salaries and some of their work gear, as well as their daily transportation to and from Jackson. For more information about the YCP program and how to contribute to future YCP activities, or other programs, call Leslie Mattson at 307.732.0629, or email leslie@gtnpf.org.

—NPS—
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2010 10-74

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

A brief travel closure will be in effect on the unpaved section of the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park for about 28 hours, beginning at 4 a.m. on Wednesday, August 25. The road is scheduled to reopen by 8 a.m. on Thursday, August 26, 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 this project in the shortest time possible; however, because the temporary closure prevents the ability for making 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 road closure, electronic signs will be placed on Wyoming Highway #390, beginning Tuesday, August 24. 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 Thursday 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.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 26, 2010 10-75

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles/307.739.3580

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Evacuated from the Valhalla Traverse

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued an injured climber from the Valhalla Traverse on the Grand Teton Thursday afternoon, August 26, after receiving a call for help at 11:30 a.m., alerting them of a climber who had fallen and sustained injuries. Michelle Smith, 29, of Jackson, Wyoming was traversing across snow and ice when she slipped and fell 30 feet.

Smith and her climbing partner were planning to do a one-day trip up the Enclosure Couloir (12,000 feet) on the northwest side of the Grand Teton. Both climbers were using ropes while crossing the Valhalla Traverse, and both have extensive climbing experience in the Teton Range.

Three rangers were flown from Lupine Meadows to the Lower Saddle at 12:40 p.m. to meet up with two other rangers who were already on patrol at the Lower Saddle. From there, two of the rangers were short-hauled below the helicopter and delivered in close proximity to the accident site. One ranger hiked to Smith and reached her at about 2:30 p.m. The ranger provided emergency medical care to Smith before preparing her for aerial evacuation.

Smith was flown to the Lower Saddle via short-haul, then placed inside the helicopter for the flight down to Lupine Meadows where a park ambulance was waiting to transport her to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

Rangers remind hikers and climbers that one-third of all backcountry injuries result from slips on snow and ice.

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 accidents occur on the descent at the end of the day.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2010 10-76

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Spread Creek Dam to be Removed

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that Grand Teton National Park, in partnership with Trout Unlimited (TU), will begin a project to remove the Spread Creek dam—a water diversion structure located on a tributary of the Upper Snake River that flows from the Bridger-Teton National Forest into the east boundary of the park. The project will reconnect approximately 50 miles of critical trout habitat along Spread Creek and allow for the natural movement of native cutthroat trout and other non-game fish that historically migrated through this waterway to spawn. This project involves the removal of the dam, installation of natural-design and fish-friendly rock weirs, and the restoration of stream channel contours and vegetation.

The Spread Creek diversion structure is managed by Grand Teton, but located on Bridger-Teton forest land. The National Park Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WG&F) identified the dam as a priority for restoration activities because Spread Creek provides habitat for the Snake River fine-spotted cutthroat trout—a state and federally recognized sensitive species. For more than 40 years, the existing Spread Creek diversion dam has caused a year-round barrier to fish migration because it spans the width of the creek and blocks tributary spawning and rearing habitat for native fish such as cutthroat trout, mountain suckers and whitefish.

Grand Teton will work in partnership with TU, a nonprofit 501(c) (3) corporation dedicated to protecting, reconnecting, restoring and sustaining native trout habitat. TU's Wyoming Water Project is securing the funding for the project and will oversee and conduct restoration activities, including the removal of the existing diversion structure, construction of a water delivery system, and restoration of the natural stream channel. Grand Teton staff and TU are working closely with stakeholder groups such as the WG&F, Bridger-Teton, and Triangle X and Moosehead ranches who are historic water users along with Grand Teton National Park.

This project involves removal of the dam by mechanical means. Workers will bury a portion of the old concrete edifice to help support a new irrigation infrastructure. In place of the dam, three rock weirs will be installed to maintain water level at a new headgate that will divert irrigation water to authorized users in the park. The weirs are designed to allow for native fish to either pass over or through the structures to access historic spawning and rearing areas. After the dam is removed and the rock weirs are in place, the Spread Creek channel will be reconstructed to establish its natural hydrology, which has been interrupted for decades. Restoration of the channel downstream of the rock weirs will reflect the natural elevation and contour of the streambed and encourage native re-vegetation.

“This is an historic step toward correcting a long-term disruption to fish migration and an important action for restoring Spread Creek’s hydrology,” said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. “We appreciate and applaud the work of Trout Unlimited and their funding partners in making this milestone project possible. We also appreciate the cooperation we’ve received from historic water users, Bridger-Teton National Forest staff and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as we launch this project to improve critical fish habitat outside and inside Grand Teton National Park.”

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



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

Jackie Skaggs
307/739-3393

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



Nan Stinson
307/276-5826

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2010

Escaped Campfire Prompts Suppression Actions on Elk Island in Grand Teton National Park

Teton Interagency firefighters initiated suppression actions on a new fire in Grand Teton National Park today, August 27. The tenth-acre Elk Fire was spotted at 6:49 a.m. Friday on the northwest tip of Elk Island, which is located in Jackson Lake. The island serves as a popular site for boat camping.

Law enforcement rangers located the boater that had camped at the site on Thursday night, and although he had a fire permit, he failed to properly extinguish his campfire before leaving the site Friday morning. High winds caused the fire to spot outside the rocky area below the high water mark where fires are permitted. The boater had changed his camping location about 2 a.m. because of the winds. He stated that he did not notice that the fire was still smoldering and therefore did not make attempts to extinguish it.

“It’s imperative that campers extinguish their fires before going to sleep at night,” North District Ranger Patrick Hattaway said. “Campfires should never be left unattended or abandoned. Campers need to make sure their campfire is cold to the touch before leaving a campsite.”

Hattaway said failure to properly extinguish a campfire has a minimum fine of \$100, but can require a mandatory court appearance and a judge can require restitution for suppression costs and damages.

The Elk Fire is smoldering in grass and light timber. Three firefighters from Teton Interagency’s Engine 4 responded to the fire by taking a boat from Colter Bay to Elk Island. They expect to have the fire contained by 6 p.m. today.

The Teton Interagency dispatch area, which includes Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest, was in a Red Flag Warning on Thursday for critical fire weather because of high winds and low humidity.

—XXX—



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 31, 2010 10-78

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Barbara Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park to Offer Limited Firewood Permits

For a second year, Grand Teton National Park will allow a limited number of firewood cords to be collected for personal use—by permit only—along Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway (JDR Parkway). Wood collection will begin on Friday, September 3 and end on October 11, 2010. Each permit will be limited to four cords of wood at a cost of \$15.00 per cord. Firewood is limited to private, non-commercial use.

Permits to gather the available firewood will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis from the Permits Desk at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose. This opportunity is possible as part of a hazard tree removal project along the Grassy Lake Road. In past years, wind storms toppled numerous trees onto the road creating a safety concern for motorists. Interagency fire personnel cleared the hazard trees last year, leaving behind stacks of rounds and limbs. Anyone obtaining a firewood permit will simply need to cut the already downed trees into manageable lengths and remove the wood. Standing trees may **not** be sawed down.

In order to gather firewood, a Special Use Permit is required. This permit will specify the amount of wood permitted, and those who gather wood must have the authorized permit with them while on site. Guidelines and regulations for firewood collection will be issued along with the permit.

No motorized vehicles are permitted away from established roads in the JDR Parkway. Winches, cables or ropes cannot be used to drag wood to the road. Logs should be hauled by hand or a non-motorized wheeled cart.

Wood collectors will need to buck the wood into manageable lengths and the use of chainsaws is approved in the identified areas. A map of these areas will be issued along with the firewood permit.

For further information about this opportunity, please call Barbara Visnovske at 307.739.3431 during business hours.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
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



Nan Stinson
307/276-5826

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 1, 2010

Grand Teton National Park Plans Hayfield Restoration Burn

Teton Interagency fire personnel and Grand Teton National Park natural resource managers plan to burn the 42-acre Elbo West unit as soon as weather permits. The Elbo West unit is part of a 4,000-acre native rangeland restoration project in Grand Teton. The project involves a multistage effort to convert pasture land back to native vegetation as outlined in the 2007 *Bison and Elk Management Plan for the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park*.

The Elbo West was originally a 182-acre unit, but after park personnel discovered a sharp-tailed grouse lek (a mating arena) on the proposed site this spring, resource managers opted to leave the lek area undisturbed while the birds were in the vicinity. Instead, fire managers burned the Elbo East unit during the spring project and have also removed the lek area from the burn planned for this fall.

Located southwest of the Teton Science School-Ditch Creek Road, 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 the area.

Firefighters will only ignite burn units when favorable weather and fire behavior conditions exist. Smoke will be evident during the day of the burn. Smoke from larger prescribed fires may persist for several days after, especially in mountain valleys during early morning and evening hours. Local residents and visitors should be aware that minimal traffic restrictions may occur during the burn for safety concerns and fire equipment access.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2010 10-80

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307/734/3431

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 list reflects the closing dates that will occur during September and October.

SEPTEMBER CLOSURES

Campgrounds

Lizard Creek	September 6	(Noon)
Flagg Ranch	September 26	(Noon)
Colter Bay	September 27	(11 am)

Ranger Stations & Visitor Centers

Flagg Ranch Information Station	September 6	(Noon)
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	September 19	(5 pm)
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	September 26	(4:30 pm)
Laurance Rockefeller Preserve Center	September 26	(5 pm)

OCTOBER CLOSURES

Campgrounds

Jenny Lake	October 3	(11 am)
Gros Ventre	October 8	(11 am)
Signal Mountain	October 17	(11 am)

Ranger Stations & Visitor Centers

Colter Bay Visitor Center	October 11	(5 pm)
---------------------------	------------	--------

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 26	(11 am)
Flagg Ranch	September 26	(Noon)
Jackson Lake Lodge	October 3	(11 am)
Triangle X Ranch	October 9	
Jenny Lake Lodge	October 10	(Noon)
Signal Mountain Lodge	October 17	(11 am)

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.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2010 10-81

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Barbara Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Offers Ranger-led Programs during September

To celebrate the special nature of autumn in the Tetons, a variety of programs will be offered beginning Tuesday, September 7. These ranger-led activities provide visitors with opportunities to learn about geology, history, and wildlife while enjoying fall colors and other park activities. The 2010 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.
- **Teton Highlights**, a 30-minute travel planner, 11 a.m. daily in Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium.
- **Autumn at the Preserve**, an informal chat with a ranger about the unique changes that occur in animals and plants during the fall season. Between 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. daily on the LSR Preserve Center porch.
- **Eco Chat**, a 30-minute chat about our changing landscape and the sustainability features of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center, 2 p.m. daily at the LSR Preserve Center.
- **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. Travel to various locations throughout the park to look for and learn about wildlife; ends just before dark when elk begin to bugle. Limited to 10 vehicles. Reservations required; call 739.3399 or stop by a visitor center to secure a spot. Dress warmly and bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes.
- **Autumn Stroll**, a 2.5-hour moderate hike to Taggart Lake, 1 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday only. Meet at the Taggart Lake trailhead; Bring water and be prepared for variable weather.
- **Wildlife Watch at Oxbow Bend**, a 90-minute wildlife watch offered at 6 p.m. daily at Oxbow Bend Scenic Turnout. Bring binoculars, cameras and questions.
- **Jenny Lake Twilight Talk**, 45-minute ranger talk, 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at Jenny Lake Campground Circle.
- **Signal Mountain Campfire Program**, 45-minute ranger talk, 6:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at Signal Mountain Campground Amphitheater.

Most of the fall programs will be offered through September 26; 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 2010 season on September 26, and the Colter Bay Visitor Center closes on October 11. The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is open year-round.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 7, 2010 10-82

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Planned on Pacific Creek Road

Construction work on Pacific Creek Road in Grand Teton National Park will begin next week. Roadwork will be underway from one mile north of the junction with Highway 26/287 to the Two Ocean Lake Road. Park visitors and residents of Pacific Creek Road are advised to plan for travel restrictions to be in place Monday through Friday from Monday, September 13 to mid-November. Construction activities will require temporary delays of up to 30 minutes and possible road closures. No weekend work is expected at this time, but may occur if necessary to complete the project before winter weather sets in.

Residents and visitors who wish to access Pacific Creek Road, Two Ocean Lake Road, trails to Two Ocean and Emma Matilda lakes, and the Bridger Teton National Forest should expect delays of up to 30 minutes at any time of the day or night during weekdays. Additionally, full road closures may be implemented between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday in order to complete the project. Passage of emergency vehicles will be accommodated whenever necessary.

Notification of road closures will be given approximately one week in advance. Updates will be recorded on the park's road information hotline at 307.739.3614. Information will also be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/grte.

The Pacific Creek Road construction project is necessary to repair a section of the roadbed that was damaged by the erosion of a supporting hillside and the subsequent collapse of a portion of the road's edge. The project will stabilize the embankment, widen the road through a steep cutbank area, and provide long-term protection for this secondary park road that serves visitors and residents of the Pacific Creek subdivision near Grand Teton's northeast boundary. In 2007, concrete barriers were placed on the narrowed section of eroded roadway as a safety precaution; however, the creek continued to wear away the embankment and threaten the integrity of the road itself. Stabilization of the steep cutbank slope is necessary to ensure that the road remains useable and safe.

The project's design calls for certain steps to be taken to minimize impacts to the wild and scenic character of Pacific Creek. Those steps include reseeded of the cutbank with native plants and the placement of logs to screen boulders that will be placed at the toe of the slope to stabilize the cutbank and reduce its continued erosion.

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

—NPS—

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 7, 2010 10-83

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Visitor Use Study Published on Grand Teton by University of Idaho Park Studies Unit

A visitor use study recently published by the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho shows the changing dynamics in visitation trends at Grand Teton National Park in the past eleven years. A similar study was conducted in 1997 and the comparison with the 2008 survey indicates that fewer children and a slightly older population are now visiting Grand Teton. In addition, two-thirds of the people surveyed were visiting for the first time, and spending more time and more money in the park. Eighty-six percent of visitor groups used one vehicle to arrive at the park, and many used the internet as a primary source for planning their trip.

In an effort to gather demographic and other information about Grand Teton's 3.8 million annual visitors, the new visitor use survey was conducted by University of Idaho and park staff from July 13-19, 2008. Not surprising perhaps, was the fact that three-quarters (77 percent) of visitors to Grand Teton reported their primary activity to be viewing scenery and/or taking a scenic drive; hiking/walking rated as the second most important activity at 52 percent. When polled about which location received the greatest focus and use, the Jenny Lake area proved to be the most popular.

Visitor spending more than doubled since the last study was conducted in 1997. In 2008, each visitor group spent on average \$1,388 compared to \$575 per visitor group in 1997. According to a 2004 report by Loomis and Koontz, visitor spending contributes \$590 million annually to the greater Jackson Hole area economy and the economic effect of park visitation is responsible for 30 percent of the local income and 56 percent of jobs in both Teton County, Wyoming and Teton County, Idaho.

The 2008 visitor survey showed that more local residents are getting out and enjoying their backyard park with 5 percent visitation from Teton County compared to just 2 percent in 1997; and more international visitors are traveling to Grand Teton. Domestic visitation came mostly from California (12 percent), Wyoming (7 percent) and Utah (7 percent). Ten percent of total visitation was from international visitors. The greatest number of international visitors hailed from Canada (18 percent), the United Kingdom (17 percent), Germany (10 percent) and the Netherlands (10 percent).

Survey respondents ranked the park brochure/map as the most commonly used and most important source of information. Also, 92 percent of visitors rated assistance from park staff as their most valued source of information. The overall quality of visitor facilities, services and recreational activities were rated as very good, and the overall satisfaction with services increased from 92 percent in 1997 to 96 percent in 2008.

For a summary of the 2008 report, visit http://psu.uidaho.edu/files/vsp/summaries/206_GRTE_sum.pdf , view the whole report at http://psu.uidaho.edu/files/vsp/reports/206_GRTE_rept.pdf.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2010 10-84

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Black Bear Cub Killed by Vehicle in Grand Teton National Park

A female black bear cub was hit and killed by a motorist about 10 p.m. Wednesday, September 15, on Highway 26/89/191 just north of the junction for Meadow Road in Grand Teton National Park. The young cub of the year was following its mother and a sibling cub across the highway when it was hit by a resident of Moran, Wyoming.

The local driver reported the incident and waited on scene for the arrival of a park ranger. According to the Code of Federal Regulations, a motor vehicle operator is **required** to report an accident involving property damage, personal injury, or death—which includes the injury or death of wildlife. The driver told the ranger that he swerved to avoid the animals crossing the road, but hit the cub that was the last in line.

This is the second bear fatality caused by a vehicle on park roads this year. In early June, a 3 1/2-year-old male grizzly bear was hit and killed on Highway 89/191 just south of the Spread Creek Bridge. Three other incidents involving vehicles hitting bears have also been reported this summer. On August 13, a black bear cub was hit on Highway 89/191 near the Snake River Overlook, but it ran away and its welfare after the accident is unknown. Two other bears (unverified species) were hit by vehicles: one incident occurred on July 26 near Pilgrim Creek Road, and the other happened August 19 south of the Triangle X Ranch. In both cases, the bears ran away from the accident scene with unknown injuries.

Each year in Grand Teton, an average of one or more bears (grizzly and/or black bears) are involved in vehicle collisions that result in the injury or death of the animal. In the past five years, vehicle-related deaths of bears include: 2006, one black bear; 2007, two black bears and one grizzly bear cub; 2009, one black bear; and 2010, one grizzly bear, one black bear cub, and one black bear cub and two other bears (unverified species) that were injured but left the scene.

These encounters between vehicles and bears —among other wildlife accidents—serve as a reminder that animals actively cross and use park roads. Motorists are reminded to drive the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop suddenly for wildlife along or on park roadways. Driving slower than indicated speed limits—especially at night—can increase the margin of safety for people and animals. 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.

In addition to bears, other wildlife such as wolves, elk, moose, bison, deer, pronghorn antelope, as well as smaller creatures such as beavers, marmots, and porcupines may also be encountered on or near park roads. Many of these animals have been killed by vehicle collisions during the past few months. As of the first week of August, a total of 107 animals have been hit and killed on park roads, compared to 71 animals killed during the same period in 2009.

More than 35 animals have been killed this year compared to last and the fall migration has yet to begin. Wildlife mortalities from vehicles generally increase during the fall and spring migration of large animals such as elk, bison, moose and deer.

Vehicles take a **significant toll** on park wildlife, resulting in the deaths of well over 100 animals per year.

—NPS—

<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2010 10-85

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Celebrate National Public Lands Day at Grand Teton National Park

In recognition of the 17th annual National Public Lands Day, Grand Teton National Park will waive entrance fees (including commercial tour fees) on Saturday, September 25. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has announced that admission fees will be waived to all National Park Service sites as part of an initiative to encourage individuals, families and communities to reconnect with nature and explore America's great outdoors.

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 during National Public Lands Day and beyond.

"September is a perfect month to experience the beauty and bounty of Grand Teton National Park," said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. "This time of year provides incredible opportunities for visitors to catch the brilliant fall colors and watch fascinating wildlife such as elk, moose, bears and pikas as they exhibit their traditional autumn behavior. We hope many people take advantage of this entry fee day and come to visit Grand Teton to enjoy great activities like hiking, fishing, boating and photography."

National Public Lands Day is the only time that entrance fees are systematically waived on all public lands across America. Fees will be waived at the national park units, as well as 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.

Visitors are reminded that the fee waiver applies to entrance fees only and does not affect use fees for camping or boating. For more information on fee-free opportunities in park units around the country, please visit www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



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

Jackie Skaggs
307/739-3393

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



Nan Stinson
307/276-5826

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2010

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, September 21. Dry vegetation—combined with seasonable temperatures, low humidity and afternoon winds—has increased the potential for fire activity.

When determining fire danger ratings, fire managers use several indices such as the moisture content of grasses, shrubs and trees, the 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.

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. 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 always prepare for the unexpected by having a water bucket and shovel on hand. This season in the Teton Interagency area, careless campers have left 104 campfires unattended.

Firefighters continue to work on several lightning-caused wildland fires in the Teton Interagency area, managing these for multiple objectives including the improvement of forage conditions for wildlife habitat and for the decrease of fuel build-up to reduce the potential of high-risk wildfires.

The Willow Draw Fire in the Buffalo District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest is .10 of an acre in size and about 1/2 mile from the boundary of Grand Teton and the national forest. There are no trail or area closures at this time and smoke may be visible in the afternoon.

Fire personnel are patrolling the 4,422-acre Bull Fire. Firefighters and equipment may be added to meet objectives as fire activity increases, or scaled back during quiet periods of the fire. If windy and warmer weather continues, fire activity will become more visible from the road and trails in the area. While there are no closures in place, visitors to the area are reminded to use caution when traveling in the vicinity of the Bull Fire and be aware of high winds and the hazard of falling trees.

The Crystal Fire, located in the Gros Ventre Wilderness in the Jackson Ranger District, near Crystal Slide and 1/2 mile from the Crystal Creek Trail, is 120 acres. Fire managers are staffing the fire for long-term management. The fire is spreading west and into the Hidden Basin area and backing slowly towards the Crystal Creek Trail. There are no trail or area closures at this time.

Teton Interagency firefighters are also managing several prescribed fires for resource benefits: the most active of which is the 3,530-acre Lower Gros Ventre Fire on the north of Slide Lake, south of the Ditch Creek drainage. While no formal closures are in place, visitors are asked to stay out of the Middle Fork of Ditch Creek until fire activity subsides, and to use caution in the vicinity of the fire.

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 <http://www.tetonfires.com/>, or follow GrandTetonNPS or BridgerTetonNF on Twitter.

XXX



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2010 10-87

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Final EIS Released for Jackson Hole Airport Agreement

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the *Jackson Hole Airport Agreement Extension /Final Environmental Impact Statement* (Airport/FEIS) is available on the National Park Service (NPS) Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The Airport/FEIS addresses continued air transportation services at the Jackson Hole Airport through an extension of the term of the 1983 agreement with the United States Department of the Interior (DOI).

The Airport/FEIS takes into account public and agency comments received on the draft environmental impact statement issued in April 2009, and incorporates additional analyses and information collected since that time. The Airport/FEIS considers two alternatives regarding the 1983 agreement: a no action alternative and an NPS preferred alternative.

Under the no action alternative, the 1983 agreement would remain unchanged and would expire on April 27, 2033. Beginning in 2013, however, the amount of time remaining on the agreement would no longer satisfy Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements for funding. Without FAA funding, the Jackson Hole Airport Board would likely be unable to maintain certification for scheduled passenger service for more than a few years. Under the NPS preferred alternative, the authorized term of 1983 agreement would be extended by 20 years through the addition of two 10-year options, thereby allowing the Airport Board to meet FAA funding requirements. The agreement would also be amended to strengthen the requirements of the Airport Board and the NPS to further mitigate and reduce the effects of the airport on park resources.

The NPS intends to issue a Record of Decision at least 30 days after the date of publication of a Notice of Availability by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register.

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 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 \$28 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.

A copy of the Airport/FEIS is available online at the PEPC website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Navigate to Grand Teton National Park; select the link for airport agreement and then select the link for document list. The document is also available on the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/parkmgmt/planning.htm>.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
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



Nan Stinson
307-276-5826

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 23, 2010

Phelps Moraine Prescribed Fire Slated for Next Week

Teton Interagency fire personnel plan to implement an 84-acre prescribed fire in Grand Teton National Park near Phelps Lake moraine—in an area west of the Death Canyon Road and south of the White Grass Ranger Station—on Monday, September 27. The Phelps Moraine prescribed fire is planned to supplement a mechanical treatment project completed in 2008. Some temporary road and trail closures will be in place during the prescribed fire, including the Death Canyon Road and the Death Canyon Trail from the trailhead parking area to the Valley Trail junction. Please check for closures and updates at www.tetonfires.com.

Teton Interagency fire managers plan extensively for prescribed fires, and make sure conditions remain within predetermined parameters throughout the burning process. Prescribed fires are implemented only when the target fuels and weather conditions are within prescription. In addition, several firefighters, as well as engines and helicopters, are typically assigned to conduct a prescribed fire and keep it within a project area. The Phelps Moraine project lies in a shaded and damp area that needed to dry out before a prescribed fire could be effective, which led to a late September operation.

Grand Teton National Park's primary fire management goal is to allow the natural process of fire to persist within the park while protecting lives and property. The purpose of the Phelps Moraine prescribed fire project is to reduce burnable live and dead vegetation and provide more flexibility for fire managers in responding to naturally ignited fires in the area. Since 1960, eight wildfires have started in the Phelps Moraine area, however, none grew larger than a tenth acre. Fire managers chose to aggressively suppress those wildfires because of the potential threat for spread toward developed areas, including private residences. Those suppression efforts have allowed for a change in the fuel conditions over time.

The combined benefit of the prescribed fire and the previous mechanical treatment will allow for an increase buffer between a wildfire and developed areas, providing agency administrators with opportunities to allow fire to naturally affect the ecosystem in the future.

The Death Canyon Road will close Sunday evening, September 26, at 5 p.m. The road closure will be re-evaluated on Wednesday afternoon, and the road may reopen on Thursday or Friday. For updates on the road opening, please call Traci Weaver, Teton Interagency fire information officer, at 307.739.3692.

--XXX--



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

Traci Weaver
307/739-3692

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



Nan Stinson
307/276-5826

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 29, 2010

Death Canyon Trailhead Road to Reopen Thursday Morning

The Death Canyon Trailhead Road and connector trail from the trailhead parking area to the Valley Trail will reopen at dawn on Thursday, Sept. 30. Fire managers on the Phelps Moraine Prescribed Fire request that people avoid the burned area adjacent to the trailhead due to safety concerns.

The 2-acre test fire area still has some fire and heat in the duff and logs, as well as numerous snags, which are unstable, standing dead trees that are prone to falling. Recently burned areas have other hazards, such as burned out stump holes, loose rocks and logs that make walking treacherous.

Fire managers decided to postpone burning the 84-acre unit after fire behavior during a test fire exceeded ecological objectives. The fire burned actively through the 2 acres in the test site, primarily due to unseasonably warm, dry weather. An engine crew will be monitoring the fire for the next few days.

For more information on the Phelps Moraine Prescribed Fire or other wildland fires in the area, please log on to www.tetonfires.com.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2010 10-90

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske /307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Hiker Rescued from Amphitheater Lake Area

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued an injured hiker from the Amphitheater Lake area on Saturday afternoon, October 10, using the Teton Interagency contract helicopter. Ashley Hymel, age 23, from Moose, Wyoming was hiking with a party of two hikers on a section of trail with a sloping ledge when she fell about 20 feet and landed on her back.

Hymel was hiking on an unmaintained trail near the base of Disappointment Peak from Amphitheater Lake to an overlook of the Teton Glacier when the incident occurred just around 4 p.m. A hiker in a nearby separate party witnessed the entire event and was able to call for help on a cell phone after running down the trail for cell reception. One member of Hymel's party was able to safely scramble down and assist her until rescuers arrived.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received the report at 4:06 p.m. and immediately initiated a short-haul rescue response. Two rangers were flown to a helicopter landing zone near Amphitheater Lake and hiked a short distance to the accident site. Rangers provided Hymel with emergency medical care, and then placed her into a rescue litter for an aerial evacuation. Just after 6 p.m., Hymel and an attending ranger were flown via short-haul to Lupine Meadows where a park ambulance was waiting to transport her to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

Short-haul, a technique to insert rescue personnel into or extract injured persons from a remote accident site where safe helicopter landings are not possible, involves the use of a rescue rope attached to a helicopter's center of gravity. It allows rescuers to expeditiously remove a seriously injured person from an inaccessible location.

This time of year provides pleasant autumn temperatures for hiking; however, backcountry users should be prepared for changing weather and variable trail conditions including wet snow at higher elevations. Hikers should take precautions such as: carrying a rain jacket, extra clothing and high energy snacks to protect against hypothermia; hiking in groups of two or more; and giving friends or family a detailed itinerary of the intended hiking route.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2010 10-91

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Installs Additional Food Storage Boxes

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that 52 new bear-resistant food storage boxes were recently installed in Grand Teton National Park, thanks in part to financial support from the Grand Teton National Park Foundation (GTNPF) and concessioner franchise fees. Durable bear-resistant food boxes provide an important and convenient method for visitors to properly store human foods away from the reach of bears, and the acquisition of these sturdy boxes has been a high priority of the park's bear management program for several years. To date, a total of 208 boxes have been purchased and placed at campgrounds and picnic areas located throughout the park. The latest boxes were installed at Flagg Ranch, Lizard Creek, Colter Bay and Signal Mountain campgrounds.

In an effort to help reduce human-bear conflicts, the GTNPF began a target campaign in 2008 to secure money for the purchase of food storage boxes; the Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Grand Teton National Park by raising funds for special programs and projects. In addition, the Grand Teton Lodge Company, an authorized park concessioner, supplied further funding in 2008 through a campground improvement program required under their concessions contract. Other funding was supplied by the National Park Service through concessioner franchise fees.

More than 3.5 million visitors come to Grand Teton each year—most during the summer months—and thousands of them picnic or stay overnight at one of the park's 1,230 campsites. Rangers document almost daily violations of food storage regulations by careless or uninformed visitors during the course of the tourist season. Although overall compliance with food storage regulations is high, it only takes one incident of a bear obtaining food for it to get "human food-conditioned" and become a potential nuisance bear. For public safety reasons, it often becomes necessary to euthanize food-conditioned bears.

Proper food storage is vital to prevent bears from becoming human food-conditioned as they search for available food sources throughout the park; however, nearly 75% of the park's front country campsites lack these important food storage containers. The park has identified approximately 800 front country sites that are suitable for the placement of bear-resistant food storage boxes. By being widely available for visitors to use, these boxes can prevent bears from becoming food-conditioned and better ensure that they remain wild, naturally foraging animals.

Bear-resistant food storage boxes cost approximately \$1,100 each. The GTNPF donors have generously provided funding for 94 boxes since their bear box campaign began in 2008. The generosity of individual GTNPF donors is often acknowledged through the placement of recognition plaques on a particular box. For further information about the bear box campaign, contact Leslie Mattson at 307.732.0629, or email leslie@gtnpf.org.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2010 10-92

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Rescue Stranded Climber on Teewinot Mountain

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued a stranded climber from the east face of Teewinot Mountain on Wednesday evening, October 20 with the assistance of a Teton Interagency contract helicopter. Eric Steinmann, age 26, of Wilson, Wyoming called a friend via cell phone to report that he was in a location on the mountain from which he could not continue climbing without risk of falling. The friend then contacted Teton Interagency Dispatch Center at 3:55 p.m. to report Steinmann's predicament, and rangers launched a rescue mission to reach Steinmann and bring him to safety. Due to the late hour of the day, rangers ultimately used a helicopter-assisted evacuation.

During a reconnaissance flight at 4:50 p.m., Steinmann was located on a steep pinnacle, high on the east face of Teewinot. With little remaining daylight and predicted cold overnight temperatures, a decision was made to insert one ranger via the short-haul technique and place Steinmann in an aerial evacuation suit for a short-haul extraction from the peak. The ranger reached the stranded Steinmann at 5:55 p.m. and prepared him for a flight to the Lupine Meadows rescue cache. The rescue concluded at 6:20 p.m.—just 40 minutes before “pumpkin hour,” the designated time beyond which the ship cannot fly according to FAA regulations.

Steinmann told rangers that he intended to climb the 4th class route up the east face of Teewinot Mountain. Being somewhat new to mountaineering, Steinmann had climbed multiple peaks in the park this summer with various partners; however, this was his first solo climb in the Teton Range. When Steinmann realized that he could no longer continue to climb without great risk of falling, he made the prudent decision to call for help.

Although mountain rescue operations have become relatively routine for Grand Teton National Park rangers, these operations demand a high level of preparation, technical skill and expertise—as well as focused safety deliberations—before a mission is executed. Many variables can delay or impede a rescue operation and climbers should never take for granted that a rescue is possible. Consequently, climbers should be prepared to initiate a self rescue as a first option.

Park rangers remind climbers to become familiar with the intended route and carry a route description along during their climb. Also, mountaineers should never climb into a position from which they cannot safely retreat: in other words, get “cliffed out.” Furthermore, rangers recommend that climbers go with a partner or partners as an added measure of safety.

Rangers also stress that backcountry users should carry extra clothing, food and water in the event of an unexpected night out in the Tetons. Ultimately, the responsibility for a mountaineer's safety rests with himself/herself and their climbing partners, plus their experience and preparation.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2010 10-93

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Stranded Kayakers Rescued from Snake River by Moonlight

Grand Teton National Park rangers rescued two local kayakers from the Snake River during an operation that took place by moonlight on Thursday night, October 21. Jackson resident Dave Muskat and Ann Marie Letko of Moose, Wyoming, became stranded, about 7 p.m.—a half hour after sunset—on an island between two channels of the river near the historic Bar BC Ranch after Letko struck a snag, flipped her kayak and lost it to the current. Rangers located the uninjured boaters at approximately 9 p.m. and subsequently launched a raft to reach the two and ferry them safely to the western bank of the river, about three miles upstream from the Moose Landing.

Rangers initiated a search and rescue operation at 7:15 p.m. after a call for help was received by the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center. Muskat was unsure of their exact location on the river. That uncertainty—coupled with the late hour—caused rangers to use the headlights from their patrol vehicles in an effort to pinpoint the kayakers' position on the river. In their search for the boaters, two rangers traveled by foot along the river bank south from Schwabacher's Landing, while two other rangers hiked from Glacier View turnout on Highway 26/89/191 to reach the river and begin searching upstream toward Schwabacher's Landing. In addition, four rangers drove along the River Road—a gravel road on the west side of the Snake River—to determine the site of the stranded boaters. After searching for well over an hour, rangers eventually found the kayakers near the historic Bar BC Ranch and launched a raft to rescue them from the island in the stream where they were stranded. The rescue operation concluded about 9:35 p.m. after Muskat and Letko were driven by patrol vehicle from the Bar BC area to the Moose Landing.

The current flow on the Snake River between Deadman's Bar and Moose Landing is running about 635 cubic feet per second, which means that a river trip requires a significantly longer period of time to complete than during the higher flows of summer and early fall. Boaters should make every attempt to complete their river trip before darkness falls, since natural obstacles such as snags and logjams are difficult to see after sunset—even with the diffused light of a full moon.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



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

Jackie Skaggs
307/739-3393

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



Nan Stinson
307/276-5826

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

Oct. 25, 2010

Grand Teton National Park Begins Pile Burning Operations

With the recent snowfall and seasonal moisture, Teton Interagency fire personnel initiated pile burning operations at certain locations in Grand Teton National Park. Pile burning activities began today near the 4 Lazy F Ranch. Other primary target areas include Flagg Ranch, Shadow Mountain, Signal Mountain campground, Death Canyon Road, and the Murie Ranch in Moose, Wyoming.

The slash piles are located in and around developed areas where fire crews previously completed fuels reduction projects that involved the thinning and removal of lower limbs from trees and the removal of dead wood and brush from the forest floor.

The fuels reduction projects were designed to increase firefighter and public safety, reduce the risk of losing structures to a wildfire, and increase open spaces to help moderate fire behavior during a wildfire. Firefighters place the forest debris in tepee-shaped piles and let them cure for a year before burning them.

Smoke will be evident from these scheduled pile burns during the day of the operation. Please check www.tetonfires.com for updates on the pile burning activities in the coming days and weeks.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2010 10-95

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Seasonal Road Closures and Hours of Operation Reminder

Jackson residents and park visitors are reminded that two roads within Grand Teton National Park will close to vehicle traffic for the winter season beginning Sunday evening, October 31, 2010. Vehicle closures include the length of the Teton Park Road between Taggart Lake parking area and the Signal Mountain Lodge parking lot, as well as the Moose-Wilson Road between Granite Canyon and Death Canyon trailheads.

In addition to the annual road closures, the Moose, Moran and Granite Canyon entrance stations will temporarily close for the month of November and early December; they are scheduled to reopen on December 15 for the winter season. The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming is open year-round; however, hours of operation for the winter season will be adjusted to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Annually, the Teton Park Road is not plowed after the first of November. During the time that the Teton Park Road remains free of snow, visitors are welcome to use the roadway for non-motorized recreation such as walking, bicycling, and in-line skating. Once the snow begins to accumulate on the roadbed, winter season activities such as cross-country skiing, skate skiing and snow-shoeing become possible.

Pets are permitted on park roadways; however, pet owners are reminded that **dogs must be leashed** and under physical restraint at all times. Dog owners are required to clean-up their pet's waste, and mutt mitt stations are provided for that purpose during the off season months.

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2010 10-96

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Male Black Bear Euthanized in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park officials euthanized a male black bear on Friday, October 29, out of concern for public safety. The bear gained entry into the main lodge building at Triangle X Ranch on Tuesday evening, October 26, and tracks indicated that it also visited and “nosed around” several other cabins on the property. It returned to the ranch attempting to get inside the main lodge on Wednesday evening as well as Thursday night, when it was captured in a culvert trap. The bear damaged a portion of the lodge roof in its attempts to gain entry into the building, received food rewards, and appeared to have little concern for the presence of humans and their activities at the ranch. This human-food conditioned and habituated behavior forced park officials to make the difficult decision to remove the bear from the population in order to reduce future threats to people and their safety.

The eight to ten-year-old black bear weighed 177 pounds, but was slightly underweight. The bear’s history and previous habits are unknown; it did not have ear tags or other identification that would mark it as a previously captured bear. However, a bear with a similar description got into a dumpster at Dornan’s earlier this year. Park officials are following up with Triangle X Ranch representatives to determine why the bear received food rewards and to mitigate any identified problems.

After transporting the captured bear to park headquarters to gather information on its physical condition (weight, tooth wear, blood samples, etc.), park biologist discovered that both the trap and the bear were inexplicably coated with bear spray. Park rangers subsequently questioned ranch managers about this situation and learned that one of the ranch employees disobeyed an agreement to not approach the trap, and also discharged a canister of bear spray at the animal early Thursday morning while it was confined in the trap. An investigation into this incident is ongoing; however, the individual ranch employee was issued a mandatory court appearance for cruelty to animals and will appear before the federal magistrate on these charges.

This is the only bear euthanized in Grand Teton National Park this year. In fact, park rangers and biologists did not capture or taken any management actions on bears—black or grizzly—during the past year. The availability and relative abundance of naturally occurring berries may have helped to keep bears in undeveloped portions of the park and away from developed areas and human food sources.

Once a bear acquires human food, it often loses its fear of people and may become dangerous. Park officials strongly remind local residents and visitors that proper storage of food items and disposal of garbage is extremely important. Thoughtless actions of people can literally lead to a life or death situation for bears that easily become corrupted by the availability of human food and garbage. Human carelessness doesn’t just endanger people; it can also result in a bear’s death.

Bears roam near park developments and throughout the backcountry. Consequently, for the health and safety of bears and people, park visitors and local residents must adhere to food storage rules. Detailed information about how to behave in bear country is available at park visitor centers or online at www.nps.gov/grte. With information and proper actions, people can help keep a bear from becoming human-food conditioned and possibly save its life.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 22, 2010 10-97

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Open House for Snake River Headwaters Management Planning

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will co-host an open house on Tuesday evening, November 30 from 5–7 p.m. at Snow King Resort to gather public input regarding concurrent planning initiatives by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service for managing the newly designated Wild and Scenic Snake River Headwaters. The open house will include a presentation about the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and a discussion about planning efforts being launched by the federal agencies as a result of the recent designation. The National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service will develop separate, but concurrent, management plans for river segments located within their respective administrative boundaries.

On March 30, 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act that amended the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to add approximately 388 miles of the Snake River and its tributary rivers and streams to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The National Park Service administers 121 miles of designated river segments, while remaining areas lie within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Passage of this landmark legislation reflects the leadership and collaborative approach of the late Senator Craig Thomas who worked for five years with groups of outfitters, conservationists, business owners, sportsmen and other river users to protect the Snake River's headwaters. This historic river protection legislation was renamed and passed as the Craig Thomas Snake Headwaters Legacy Act of 2009 in his honor.

As required by the Craig Thomas Snake Headwaters Legacy Act, the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service planning efforts will:

- Document the Snake River Headwaters' boundaries and river segment classifications (wild, scenic or recreational).
- Provide for protection of the free-flowing condition of the Snake River Headwaters in keeping with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- Describe the "outstandingly remarkable values" which provide the unique, rare or exemplary characteristics that make the Snake River Headwaters eligible for inclusion in the system.
- Establish a management program that protects the outstandingly remarkable values, free flowing condition, and water quality of the river system.
- Address user capacity and establish the kinds and amounts of appropriate visitor use.

The designation of the Snake River Headwaters is atypical because it encompasses an entire watershed involving 13 rivers and 25 separate river segments, totaling 388 river miles. This watershed spans areas managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a portion of state and private lands. Due to the sheer size of this designation, a collaborative planning effort is vital. Members of the public are highly encouraged to join in this first step towards development of the two comprehensive river management plans.

A public meeting is also scheduled in Bozeman, Montana, on December 2, 2010 from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Public Library at 626 E. Main Street. This session will focus on planning efforts for river segments located within Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. For additional information about the Snake River Headwaters planning, please visit online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/snakeriver>.

—NPS—

www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 2010 10-98

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

1945 Aerial Images of Jackson Hole Available Thanks to Grand Teton National Park and Teton Conservation District Project

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that aerial images of 1945 Jackson Hole that were stored in the park's archives are now available for public access thanks to a partnership project between Teton Conservation District and Grand Teton National Park, along with assistance from the National Park Service Western Archaeological Conservation Center (WACC) in Tucson, Arizona and Greenwood Mapping, Inc. of Wilson, Wyoming. The project was funded through contributions by Teton Conservation District, Grand Teton National Park, Region 4 of the U.S. Forest Service, the National Elk Refuge, Teton County, Wyoming, and the Grand Teton Association—a cooperating association that supports both Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Robb Sgroi, conservation programs coordinator for the Teton Conservation District, and Kathy Mellander, geographic information systems (GIS) specialist at Grand Teton, collaborated with staff from WACC and Greenwood Mapping, Inc. to assemble numerous aerial photographs taken during 1945 and transfer them to a suitable format for better public access. Teton Conservation District also contracted with Aero-Graphics, Inc. of Salt Lake City, Utah to “geographically reference and mosaic” the original 1200 aerial prints into a single, seamless aerial map. This image can now be seen through an Internet link or from a DVD.

The composite aerial map is available at <http://maps.tetonconservation.org>, where users can direct a web viewer to select a section of the image and perform simple functions such as zooming and panning to study different perspectives. Browsers should note that blank sections of the map will be filled with aerials from the same time period as they become available. Accessible to private sector and government agencies, as well as to the general public, the digitized 1945 aerial map may also serve as an important land use planning reference to identify and note land use changes between the 1940s and recent years.

The composite image is also stored on DVDs in .tif or .sid formats for users who have graphics or GIS software. DVDs can be obtained by contacting Teton Conservation District at 307.733.2110.

“We believe that the newly formatted image will provide an interesting window into Jackson Hole’s cultural past and allow viewers to see the old ranches and other landmarks that defined this landscape during the 1940s,” said Superintendent Scott. “We’re grateful for the financial support by the Grand Teton Association and the other major contributors who helped make this piece of history more accessible to the public, and we appreciate the cooperation from Robb Sgroi and other staff at Teton Conservation District on this a unique and illuminating project.”

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 6, 2010 10-99

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Colter Bay Visitor Services Plan Environmental Assessment Launched

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the National Park Service (NPS) has initiated a comprehensive review of the visitor services provided at Colter Bay in Grand Teton National Park. The NPS intends to prepare an environmental assessment and develop a management plan for the long-term operation of the Colter Bay Visitor Center and other park-provided visitor services in the Colter Bay area. A principal objective of the review will be to determine the appropriate management of the David T. Vernon Collection of American Indian Art—one of Grand Teton National Park's significant and irreplaceable cultural resources currently housed at the visitor center. Public scoping has begun, and interested persons are invited to provide ideas, concerns, and comments on this broad planning initiative.

The Colter Bay Visitor Center is located on the eastern shore of Jackson Lake, approximately 28 miles north of Moose, Wyoming, and 18 miles south of the park's shared boundary with Yellowstone National Park. The original visitor center was built in 1956 and the Indian Arts Museum addition—built to house the David T. Vernon Collection of American Indian Art—opened to the public in 1972. The Colter Bay area is a popular destination for overnight and day users to Grand Teton, as well as for visitors traveling to or from Yellowstone. The area seasonally offers a complete range of services, facilities, and opportunities to experience the park's spectacular scenery, wildlife, educational programs, and recreational activities.

Due to its age and deficient condition, the old visitor center building does not meet museum standards for the preservation, display, and interpretation of the David T. Vernon Collection of American Indian Art. In addition, the building does not meet life safety and accessibility standards, and it is inadequate for basic administration, interpretation, or visitor service needs. Furthermore, the building requires costly repairs and is no longer financially or environmentally sustainable.

Visitor facilities at Colter Bay are open for the summer season (May to September) and heated restroom facilities are open for winter visitors. This plan will *not* consider expanding NPS services during the winter season. The plan will address only NPS visitor services, facilities, and related infrastructure at Colter Bay; it will *not* address concessioner facilities at Colter Bay Village, which include an RV park, campground, general store and gift shop, restaurants, guest cabins (log cabins and tent cabins), marina, stables, fuel station and convenience store, laundry and shower facility, and concession employee housing area.

The comprehensive review and plan will consider various options for how visitor services will be managed and how operational needs will be met in the Colter Bay area in the years to come. The scoping newsletter is available for review at the NPS website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grte>. A copy of the newsletter can be downloaded through this website, and comments can be provided electronically online. The website will also provide regular updates on the project, including additional public involvement opportunities. To be most useful in this early planning stage, please submit comments on or before December 31, 2010.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 10, 2010 10-100

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Winter Season Activities to Begin in Grand Teton National Park

Activities for the 2010/11 winter season begin on Wednesday, 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 Sunday, December 26 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 children, 8 years or older. Reservations are required and can be made at 307.739.3399.

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 website www.jhavalanche.org, or call the avalanche hotline at 307.733.2664.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular winter activities in the park. Most trails are skier tracked, but not groomed. The Teton Park Road (TPR) is a designated winter trail, open to non-motorized use in winter. The TPR gets intermittently groomed for cross-country touring and skate skiing from the Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. Grooming operations began Thursday, December 9, 2010. Severe winter storms or park emergencies may preempt the trail grooming schedule on occasion.

Important reminder: Snowshoers should walk adjacent to the groomed 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 website 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 and Prospectors Mountain**
- Mount Hunt areas (see the park's cross-country ski brochure for descriptions)**

—MORE—

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 plowed roadways.

The unplowed TPR is open to visitors who wish to walk, snowshoe or ski with their leashed pet. Dogs are restricted to 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.

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

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 the regulations and approved BAT machines online at http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/current_batlist.htm, or stop by the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming.

Snowmobiles may also use the Grassy Lake Road in the JDR Parkway for recreation. The 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 website at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/winter.htm>.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte
<http://gtnpnews.blogspot.com>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 28 , 2010 10-101

Jackie Skaggs/307.739.3393
Bobbie Visnovske/307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Record of Decision Signed for Jackson Hole Airport Agreement

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a Record of Decision (ROD) for the *Jackson Hole Airport Agreement Extension* has been signed by National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director John Wessels. The ROD authorizes a 20-year extension to the term of the existing 1983 agreement between the Jackson Hole Airport Board and the United States Department of the Interior (DOI).

Under this ROD, the current airport agreement will be extended through the addition of two 10-year options, allowing the Jackson Hole Airport Board to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding requirements and maintain certification for passenger air service in northwestern Wyoming in the future. The ROD also amends the existing 1983 agreement to strengthen the requirements of the Airport Board to work cooperatively with the National Park Service (NPS) on efforts to further mitigate and reduce effects of the airport on park resources.

The Jackson Hole Airport is located on 533 acres of federal land within Grand Teton National Park and currently operates under an NPS administered agreement that authorizes its operation through April 27, 2033. Under FAA regulations, an airport must either 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 1983 agreement's term, the airport would lose its eligibility for Airport Improvement Program funding in April of 2013—20 years before the agreement expires. Grants from the FAA may cover up to 95 percent of eligible costs for airfield capital improvement or repair projects that enhance airport safety, capacity, and security, or for projects that address environmental concerns. Over the past decade, this FAA program has funded almost \$28 million in projects at the Jackson Hole Airport. Similar funding will be needed to enable the airport to maintain its necessary certification and provide continued commercial air service.

In 2005, the NPS initiated a process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to address a request by the Jackson Hole Airport Board to extend the term of their use agreement. Environmental impacts associated with the alternatives defined in the *Jackson Hole Airport Extension/ Final Environmental Impact Statement* were thoroughly analyzed in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, the NPS Management Policies 2006, and the NPS Director's Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis and Decision Making. All public comments were taken into consideration before the record of decision was prepared and signed.

“Through an extensive review and careful application of the NEPA process, we have determined that extending the current Jackson Hole Airport agreement serves the visiting public, ensures continued commercial air service to Jackson, Wyoming, and appropriately maintains the vital NPS mission to protect valuable park resources,” said Intermountain Director John Wessels.

“While this decision ensures that airport operations continue into the future, it significantly strengthens the commitment by the NPS and Airport Board to mutually work together to mitigate impacts to park resources to the greatest extent possible,” said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott.

The ROD, which documents the decision and rationale, along with the *Jackson Hole Airport/FEIS*, is available online at the PEPC website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. The document is also available on the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/parkmgmt/planning.htm>.

—NPS—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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