Park News

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Teewinot

The official newspaper of Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

Summer 2004

LATHAM JENKINS

Welcome to Grand Teton National Park

Few landscapes in the world are as striking and memorable as that of Grand Teton National Park. The Teton Range, the central feature and focus of the park, draws the eyes for miles, captivating park visitors and local residents alike. For generations, the Tetons have touched all who have witnessed their beauty.

Rising abruptly from the valley floor, the Tetons offer a testament to the power and complexity of nature. The mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers, and skies are home to diverse and abundant plants and animals. People have been living in the shadow of the Teton Range for almost 11,000 years. The human history of this area is extensive, beginning with American Indian prehistoric life, to the early Euro-American explorers, and the more relatively recent frontier settlement, which left more than 300 historic structures.

This spectacular mountain range and the desire to protect it resulted in the establishment of Grand Teton National Park in 1929. Over time, through the vision and generous philanthropy of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., additional lands were added, creating the present-day park. This area continues to be protected through the combined efforts of the National Park Service, the local community, and Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem partners. Grand Teton National Park is a dynamic example of people from all walks of life working together to protect a mountain range and its surrounding landscape of natural and human communities.

Grand Teton National Park is truly a special and unique place. With thoughtful use and careful management, it can remain so for generations to come. As with other sites in the National Park System, Grand Teton preserves a piece of the natural and cultural heritage of America for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

While you are here, take a moment to put your cares aside, stroll through a grassy meadow, hike a park trail, sit on a quiet lakeshore, and lose yourself to the power of this place. We hope you will be refreshed and restored during your visit, and stay connected to this magnificent landscape long after you have returned home.

View of Teewinot Mountain from Jenny Lake

Alpine forget-me-not

American white pelican

Maud Noble Cabin

Road Construction ALERT!

Road improvements will take place in Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks throughout the 2004 summer season. Summer is the only time for roadwork because warm and dry conditions are essential for repairing and resurfacing roads. For the most up-to-date information:
- Grand Teton road information call (307) 739-3614 or visit www.nps.gov/grte
- Yellowstone road information call (307) 344-2117 or visit www.nps.gov/yell

Northern Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway
Expect total delays of up to 30 minutes on Highway 89/191/287 between Leeks Marina and the south entrance of Yellowstone National Park. **From May 24 to June 15 the road will be closed overnight** from Flagg Ranch to a picnic area south of Lizard Creek Campground, 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., Monday through Thursday.

South-Central Grand Teton National Park
Approximately 14 miles of Highway 191/26/89 will be chip-sealed from the Jackson Hole Airport junction to Cunningham Cabin. Travelers can expect delays of approximately 15 minutes. This road project is scheduled to begin on August 9 and be completed by August 27.

Bridge Replacement Projects
Three bridges on various gravel roads will be replaced in late fall:
- The Moose-Wilson Road will be closed October 1, 2004 through November 30, 2004, from just south of the Death Canyon Trailhead to just north of the Granite Canyon Trailhead, to replace the Lake Creek Bridge.
- The Climber's Ranch Bridge, over Cottonwood Creek, will be closed from September 15, 2004 through April 30, 2005.
- The Lupine Meadow Bridge, also over Cottonwood Creek, will be closed from October 1, 2004 through April 30, 2005.

International Visitors

Des renseignements en Français sont disponibles aux centres des visiteurs dans le parc.

Sie konnen Informationen auf Deutsch in den Besucherzentren bekommen.

Se puede conseguir información en Español en el Centro del Visitante.

Accessibilty information available at visitor centers and on www.nps.gov/grte

Phone Numbers

Grand Teton National Park's website .....www.nps.gov/grte/

Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY	911
Park Dispatch	739-3300
Visitor Information	739-3300
Weather	739-3611
Road Construction	739-3614
Backcountry & River Information	739-3602
Climbing Information	739-3604
Campground Information	739-3603
TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf only)	739-3400

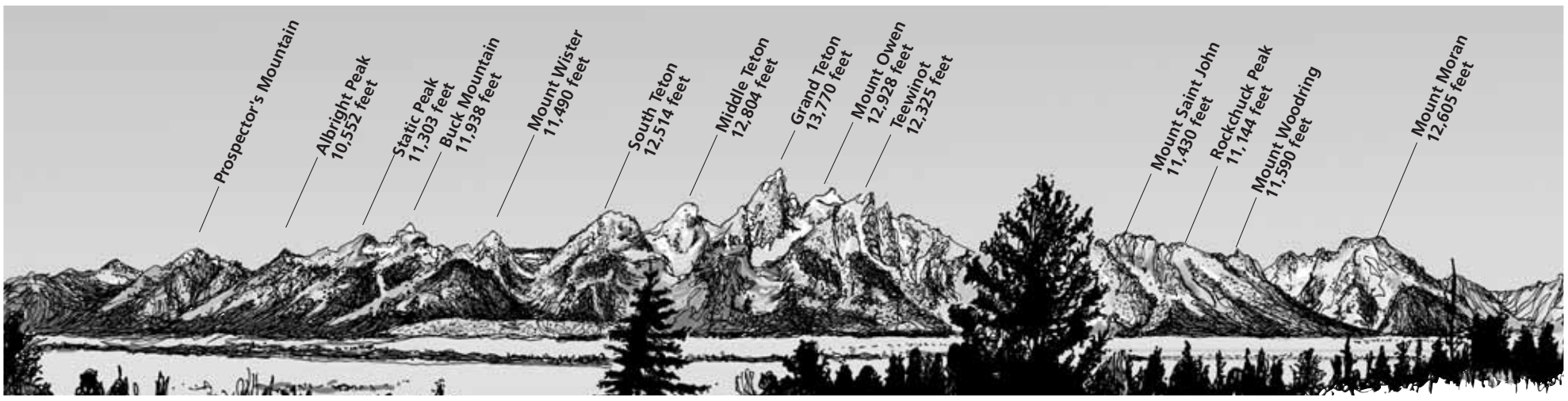
Index

Visitor Services 2
Geology 3
Wildlife 4
Natural History 5
Hiking 6
Safety 7
Camping 8
Park Partners 9
Fire Management 10
Yellowstone 11
Park Map 12

Services and Facilities

Open/close dates and hours subject to seasonal variation. Facilites listed south to north.

Gros Ventre	Camping	Gros Ventre Campground	May 1-Oct 18	(307) 739-3603	NPS campground, 360 sites, dump station. First-come, first-served.
Moose	Visitor Center	Moose Visitor Center	Year-round	(307) 739-3399	NPS visitor center, open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 8 a.m.-7 p.m. in summer.
	Lodging	Dornan's Spur Ranch	Year-round	(307) 733-2522	Cabins located on the Snake River.
	Food Service	Dornan's Chuck Wagon	June 14-Sept 14	(307) 733-2415 x203	Traditional western fare. Open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
		Dornan's Pizza & Pasta Co.	Year-round	(307) 733-2415 x204	May-Sept open 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Oct-April open 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
		Dornan's Trading Post	Year-round	(307) 733-2415 x201	Gourmet items, cheeses, and deli. Deli open May-September.
		Dornan's Wine Shoppe	Year-round	(307) 733-2415 x202	Large selection of wines. May-Sept 10 a.m.- 10 p.m., Oct-April 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
	Camp Store/Gift Shops	Dornan's Gift Shop	Year-round	(307) 733-2415 x301	Gifts, apparel, Internet access. May-Sept 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Oct-April 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
		Moosely Seconds	May-Sept	(307) 739-1801	Located at Dornan's. Mountaineering and camping equipment. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
		Moose Village Store	May 28-Sept 12	(307) 733-3471	Next to Moose Post Office. Guided fly-fishing, snacks, souvenirs, and apparel.
	Service Station	Dornan's	Year-round		Automotive fuel, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
	Other	Snake River Anglers	May-Oct	(307) 733-3699	Located at Dornan's. Spin and fly fishing, float trips, Wyoming fishing licenses.
		Adventure Sports	May-Sept	(307) 733-2415 x302	Located at Dornan's. Mountain bike, kayak, and canoe rentals and sales.
South Jenny Lake	Visitor Center	Jenny Lake Visitor Center	June 7-Sept 28		NPS visitor center, open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. through Sept 1.
	Ranger Station	Jenny Lake Ranger Station	May 15-Sept 19	(307) 739-3343	NPS ranger station offering backcountry permits, maps, and climbing information.
	Lodging	AAC Climber's Ranch	June 10-Sept 10	(307) 733-7271	Located south of Jenny Lake, very rustic accommodations.
	Camping	Jenny Lake Campground	May 14-Sept 27	(307) 739-3603	NPS campground, 51 sites, tents only. First-come, first-served.
	Camp Store/Gift Shops	General Store	May 14-Sept 19		Camping and hiking supplies, groceries, film and gifts.
	Marina	Jenny Lake Boating	Mid-May-Sept 30	(307) 734-9227	Shuttle and tours across Jenny Lake. Kayak and canoe rentals available.
North Jenny Lake	Lodging	Jenny Lake Lodge	May 28-Oct 10	(307) 733-4647 (800) 628-9988	Modified American Plan.
	Food Service	Lodge Dining Room	May 28-Oct 10		Breakfast 7:30-9 a.m., lunch 12-1:30 p.m., dinner 6-8:45 p.m. Reservations required for dinner.
	Gift Shops	Jenny Lake Lodge	May 28-Oct 10		Gifts, books, and apparel.
Signal Mountain	Lodging	Signal Mountain Lodge	May 8-Oct 17	(307) 543-2831	Lakefront suites, motel units, and log cabins.
	Food Service	Peaks Dining Room	May 8-Oct 17		Open daily for dinner, 5:30-10 p.m. Hours vary during shoulder seasons.
		Trapper Grill	May 8-Oct 17		Open daily. Breakfast 7-11 a.m., lunch 11 a.m-5:30 p.m., dinner 5:30-10 p.m. Hours vary during shoulder seasons.
	Camp Store/Gift Shops	Needles Gift Store	May 8-Oct 17		Open daily 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Hours vary during shoulder seasons.
		Timbers Gift Store	May 8-Oct 17		Open daily 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Hours vary during shoulder seasons.
	Service Stations		May 8-Oct 17		Open daily 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Fuel, groceries, sundries.
	Marina		May 22-Sept 19		Boat rentals, guest buoys, guided lake fishing trips, gas and courtesy docks.
	Camping	Signal Mountain CG	May 7-Oct 18	(307) 739-3603	NPS campground, 86 sites, 30-foot vehicle max, dump station. First-come, first-served.
Jackson Lake Lodge	Lodging	Jackson Lake Lodge	May 21-Oct 6	(307) 543-3100 (800) 628-9988	
	Food Service	Mural Room	May 21-Oct 6		Breakfast 7-9:30 am, lunch 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., dinner 5:30-9 p.m. Dinner reservations recommended.
		Pioneer Grill	May 21-Oct 6		Open daily 6 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
		Blue Heron	May 21-Oct 6		Coffee house open 6-10:30 a.m., lounge open 11 a.m.-midnight.
	Gift Shops	Jackson Lake Lodge	May 21-Oct 6		Sundries, magazines, books, gifts, souvenirs, and apparel.
	Service Station		May 21-Oct 6		Gas and diesel.
	Horseback Riding	Jackson Lake Lodge Corral	May 28-Oct 5	(307) 543-2811	Breakfast and dinner rides, wagon seats available. Trail rides.
Triangle X	Lodging	Triangle X Ranch	May 25-Oct 31 Dec 26-March 31	(307) 733-2183	Full service guest ranch with horseback riding, and other ranch activities. Winter activities include skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and sightseeing.
Colter Bay	Visitor Center	Colter Bay Visitor Center & Indian Arts Museum	May 8-Oct 3	(307) 739-3594	NPS visitor center and museum, open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. June 3 through Sept 6.
	Lodging	Colter Bay Cabins	May 28-Sept 26	(307) 543-3100	
		Tent Village	June 4-Sept 6	(800) 628-9988	
	Camping	RV Park	May 28-Sept 26	(307) 543-3100 (800) 628-9988	Hook-ups available.
		Colter Bay Campground	May 28-Sept 27	(307) 739-3603	NPS campground, 350 sites, dump station, propane, laundry and showers nearby. First-come, first-served.
	Food Service	Chuck Wagon	May 28-Sept 26		Breakfast 6:30-11 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., dinner 5:30-9 p.m.
		Café Court	June 4-Sept 6		Open daily 11 a.m.–10 p.m.
	Camp Store/Gift Shops	General Store	May 28-Sept 26		ATM, groceries, gifts, and firewood.
		Marina Store	May 28-Sept 26		Fishing tackle, film, outdoor apparel, beverages and snacks.
	Service Stations	Highway Station	May 1-Oct 31		Gas, diesel, beverages, snacks, souvenirs, and firewood.
		Village Station	May 28-Sept 26		Propane, gas, diesel, beverages, snacks, souvenirs, and firewood.
	Horseback Riding	Colter Bay Corral	June 2-Sept 6	(307) 543-2811	Breakfast and dinner rides, wagon seats available. Trail rides.
	Marina	Colter Bay	May 28-Sept 26		Scenic cruises, boat rentals, guided fishing, gas.
Leek's Marina	Food Service	Pizza Restaurant	May 27-Sept 5	(307) 543-2494	Pizza and sandwiches. Open daily 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
	Marina	Leek's Marina	May 22-Sept 12	(307) 543-2546	Gas, dock, overnight buoys.
Lizard Creek	Camping	Lizard Creek Campground	June 4-Sept 7	(307) 733-3606	NPS campground, 60 sites, 30-foot vehicle max. First-come, first-served.
Flagg Ranch	Visitor Center	Flagg Ranch Information Station	June 7-Sept 6	(307) 739-3594	NPS visitor center, open 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
	Lodging	Flagg Ranch Resort	May 21-Sept 26	(307) 543-2861	Log style units.
	Food Service	Flagg Ranch Resort	May 21-Sept 26	(800) 443-2311	Home-style menu, breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
	Camp Store/Gift Shop	Flagg Ranch Resort	May 21-Sept 26		Essentials for camping and fishing, diesel, and snowmobile rentals.
	Camping	Flagg Ranch Campground	May 21-Sept 26	(307) 543-2861	Full hook-ups, tent sites, laundry, showers.
	Horseback riding	Flagg Ranch Resort	June – August	(307) 543-2861	One-hour trail rides.
	Snowmobiling/Snowcoach	Flagg Ranch Resort	Dec-March	(307) 543-2861	Guided snowmobile and snowcoach trips into Yellowstone.
Other Services	Jackson Information	Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce		(307) 733-3316	Located 13 miles south of Moose. All services available. Stop at the visitor center at 532 N. Cache.
	Horseback Riding	Jackson Hole Trail Rides	May-Sept	(307) 733-6992	Two- and four-hour trail rides from Teton Village.
	Mountaineering	Exum Mountain Guides	Year-round	(307) 733-2297	Daily basic and intermediate schools. AMGA accredited.
		JH Mountain Guides	Year-round	(307) 733-4979	Guide service for individuals or small groups. AMGA accredited.
	Environmental Education	Teton Science School	May-August	(307) 733-4765	Field natural history seminars. One- to four-day field trips.
	Snake River Float Trips	Barker-Ewing Float Trips		(307) 733-1800	10-mile scenic trips. Departures throughout the day.
		Flagg Ranch Resort		(307) 543-2861	Whitewater and scenic trips. Only trips north of Jackson Lake.
		Snake River Angler		(307) 733 2853	Scenic rafting trips depart daily. Guided fishing trips.
		Grand Teton Lodge Co.		(307) 543-2811	10-mile scenic float trips; guided fishing trips.
		Jack Dennis Fishing Trips		(307) 733-3270	Guided fishing float trips; fly or spin.
		Heart 6 Float Trips		(307) 543-2477	10-mile scenic trips and sunrise wildlife trips.
		National Park Float Trips		(307) 733-6445	10-mile scenic wildlife trips, group arrangements available.
		O.A.R.S.		(800) 346-6277	Sea kayak and float trips.
		Signal Mountain Lodge		(307) 543-2831	10-mile scenic float trips.
		Solitude Float Trips		(307) 733-2871	10-mile scenic float trips.
		Triangle X Float		(307) 733-5500	5- and 10-mile scenic trips.
Medical Services		Medical Emergencies		Call 911	
		St. John's Medical Center		(307) 733-3636	Located in Jackson.
		Grand Teton Medical Clinic	May 21-Oct 6	(307) 543-2514	Located at Jackson Lake Lodge. Open daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Worship Services		Interdenominational Various Park Campgrounds	May 30-Sept 26		Sundays, check at visitor centers for more information. Provided by *A Christian Ministry in the National Parks*.
		Episcopal Chapel of Transfiguration	May 30-Sept 26		Sunday, Eucharist 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
		L.D.S. Jackson Lake Lodge	May 23-Sept 26		Sunday, Sacrament 9:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., Sunday School 7 p.m., Priesthood/Relief Society 7:45 p.m.
		Roman Catholic Chapel of the Sacred Heart	June 5-Sept 26		Saturday 5:30 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m.



Reading the Landscape

The Teton Range dominates the skyline of Grand Teton National Park, attracting the attention of all who pass through Jackson Hole. The geologic events that created the dramatic scenery of Jackson Hole indirectly account for the distribution and abundance of wildlife and plants found here. Herbivores – plant-eating animals like moose, mule deer, and elk – inhabit areas where their food sources exist. Carnivores – meat-eating animals such as bears, coyotes, and weasels – follow the herbivores they prey upon.

The Tetons owe their existence to movement along a fault located on the eastern front of the range. Starting about 13 million years ago, movement along this fault, caused by massive earthquakes, occurred every several thousand years or so. The mountain block uplifted along the west side of the fault, while the valley block dropped down on the east side of the fault. Today, the mountains rise more than a mile above Jackson Hole, with a total displacement of 30,000 feet.

As recently as 12-14,000 years ago, small mountain glaciers flowed from high elevation cirques and gouged out U-shaped canyons. Mountain glaciers spilled from the canyons to the valley floor, forming basins now filled by Leigh, Jenny, Bradley, Taggart, and Phelps lakes. Ridges of glacial debris, called moraines, surround these lakes and mark the edge of the glaciers' flow.

The Cathedral Group left to right: Teewinot, Grand, and Mt. Owen.

While small glaciers flowed within the Teton Range, an ice field covered much of what is now Yellowstone National Park. Beginning 50,000-25,000 years ago, lobes from this ice field flowed south, gouging out the depression that Jackson Lake fills today, and carrying debris as far as Snake River Overlook (eight miles north of Moose on Highway 26-89-191). Today, moraines support forests of lodgepole pine and other conifers. Elk and black bears seek refuge and shade in morainal forests and graze in nearby meadows during cooler parts of the day.

The southern part of Jackson Hole contains dry, poorly developed, rocky soils. As the climate warmed, glacial ice melted and broke through the moraines, flowing south through the valley and carrying away soil. Sagebrush, grasses, and wildflowers adapted to thrive in this rocky, dry landscape. Some mammals and birds favor the sagebrush flats, bison graze on grasses there, and pronghorn eat sagebrush itself. Sage grouse, large chicken-like birds, eat sagebrush leaves.

For the past 10,000 years or so, the Snake River has cut through glacial moraines to flow through the southern end of Jackson Hole. Old river terraces paralleling today's Snake River indicate that it once carried much more water. Cottonwood and spruce trees, home to bald eagles, grow along the Snake River. Beavers occasionally dam side channels of the Snake River, establishing ponds that Canada geese and ducks use for nesting and feeding. Moose and beavers eat willows that flourish in wetlands along the river. Willows and other wetland plants provide cover and nest sites for a multitude of songbirds.

As you explore Grand Teton National Park, read its landscape. Note the work of glaciers on the mountains and canyons, and the old river terraces carved by the Snake River. Watch for the wildlife that provides clues to the ancient processes that formed and shaped this area.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

Located at the heart of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the Rockefeller Parkway connects Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks. The late conservationist and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr. made significant contributions to several national parks including Grand Teton, Acadia, Great Smoky Mountains, and Virgin Islands. In 1972, Congress dedicated a 24,000-acre parcel of land as the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway to recognize his generosity and foresight. Congress also named the highway from the south boundary of Grand Teton to West Thumb in Yellowstone in honor of Rockefeller. The Rockefeller Parkway provides a natural link between the two national parks and contains features characteristic of both areas. In the parkway, the northern Teton Range tapers to a gentle slope while rocks born of volcanic flows from the north line the Snake River and form outcroppings scattered atop hills and ridges.

Peak Names

Static Peak
In the Teton Range north of Death Canyon. Named because it is often hit by lightning.

Buck Mountain
Named for George A. Buck, recorder for T.M. Bannon's 1898 mapping party. Bannon gave the name "Buck Station" to the triangulation station he and George Buck established on the summit in 1898.

Grand Teton
Highest mountain in the Teton Range. Named by French trappers. Upon viewing the Teton Range from the west, the trappers dubbed the South, Middle, and Grand, Les Trois Tetons, meaning "the three breasts." Wilson Price Hunt called them "Pilot Knobs" in 1811 because he had used them for orientation while crossing Union Pass. In his *Journal of a Trapper*, Osborne Russel said that the Shoshone Indians named the peaks "Hoary Headed Fathers."

Mount Owen
Northeast of the Grand Teton. Named for W.O. Owen, who climbed the Grand Teton in 1898 with Bishop Spalding, John Shive, and Frank Petersen.

Teewinot
Towers above Cascade Canyon and Jenny Lake. Its name comes from the Shoshone word meaning "many pinnacles." Teewinot probably once applied to the entire Teton Range, rather than just this one peak. Fritiof Fryxell and Phil Smith named the peak when they successfully completed the first ascent of the mountain in 1929.

Mount Saint John
Between Cascade and Paintbrush canyons. A series of peaks of nearly equal height. Named for Orestes St. John, geologist of Hayden's 1877 survey, whose monographs of the Teton and Wind River ranges are now classics.

Mount Moran
Most prominent peak in the northern end of the Teton Range. Named by Ferdinand V. Hayden for the landscape artist Thomas Moran, who traveled with the 1872 Hayden expedition into Yellowstone and into Pierre's Hole on the western side of the Teton Range. He produced many sketches and watercolors from these travels.

From the book *Origins* by Hayden and Nielsen.

The Migration Dilemma

Birds serve as colorful, sweet-sounding indicators of biodiversity. The return of migratory birds each spring seems as certain as spring itself. National parks like Grand Teton provide sanctuary for many species. Unfortunately, many of our birds spend only a part of their lives within national park protection. When birds fly south each fall, they face numerous perils. Human-caused habitat changes have fragmented forests, removing safe feeding and roosting areas along migration corridors. Birds that migrate as far as the tropics may lose their winter ranges due to deforestation.

Birdwatchers and scientists alike have become concerned about the future of migratory birds. Become involved by enjoying birds in your backyard and during your travels. At home, plant native vegetation to provide food, shelter and nest sites for migratory birds. Protect birds by keeping your cats indoors. Assist scientists measuring bird population changes by participating in bird counts and surveys, such as the annual Christmas Bird Count and the North American Migration Count. Find out about the *Partners in Flight* program in your home state. Use your interest and knowledge of birds to help assure their future!

Where to Look For Wildlife

Always Keep a Safe Distance When Viewing Wildlife

All animals require food, water, and shelter. Each species also has particular living space, or habitat, requirements. To learn more about wildlife habitats and animal behavior, attend ranger-led activities.

OXBOW BEND
One mile east of Jackson Lake Junction. Slow-moving water provides habitat for fish such as suckers and trout, which become food for river otters, ospreys, bald eagles, American white pelicans, and common mergansers. Look for swimming beavers and muskrats. Moose browse on abundant willows at the water's edge. Elk occasionally graze in open aspen groves to the east.

TIMBERED ISLAND
A forested ridge southeast of Jenny Lake. Small bands of pronghorn antelope, the fastest North American land animal, forage on nearby sagebrush throughout the day. Elk leave the shade of Timbered Island at dawn and dusk to eat the grasses growing among the surrounding sagebrush. View wildlife from your vehicle.

MORMON ROW
East of Highway 26-89-91, one mile north of Moose Junction. Along Mormon Row and Antelope Flats Road, bison and pronghorn can be seen grazing in spring, summer, and fall. Also watch for coyotes, Northern harriers, and American kestrels hunting mice, Uinta ground squirrels, and grasshoppers in open fields. Sage grouse, sage thrashers, and sparrows also frequent the area.

SNAKE RIVER
Jackson Lake Dam south to Moose. Elk and bison graze in grassy meadows along the river. Bison also eat grasses in the sagebrush flats on the benches above the river. Bald eagles, ospreys, and great blue herons build large stick nests within sight of the river. Beavers and moose eat willows that line the waterway.

CASCADE CANYON
West of Jenny Lake. Look for, but do not feed, golden-mantled ground squirrels at Inspiration Point. Pikas and yellow-bellied marmots live in scattered boulder fields. Mule deer and moose occasionally browse on shrubs growing at the mouth of the canyon. Listen for the numerous songbirds that nest in the canyon.

BLACKTAIL PONDS
Half-mile north of Moose on Highway 26-89-191. Old beaver ponds have filled in and now support grassy meadows where elk graze during the cooler parts of the day. Several kinds of ducks feed in the side channels of the Snake River. Moose browse on willows growing along the river.

Moose

Golden-mantled ground squirrel

Give Wildlife a Brake®

Moose, bison, elk, mule deer, pronghorn, black and grizzly bears – a host of large animals inhabit Grand Teton National Park, the Rockefeller Parkway, Yellowstone National Park, and surrounding areas. Animals are on roads and highways at any time of the day or night. For your own safety and for the protection of wildlife, please drive carefully and stay alert.

For Wildlife Observers and Photographers

Be a responsible wildlife observer. Remember that patience is rewarded. Use binoculars, spotting scopes or long lenses for close views and photographs. **Always maintain a safe distance of at least 300 feet from large animals such as bears, bison, moose, and elk.** Never position yourself between an adult and its offspring. Females with young are especially defensive.

It is illegal to feed wildlife, including ground squirrels and birds. Feeding wild animals makes them dependent on people, and animals often bite the hand that feeds them.

Do not harass wildlife. Harassment is any human action that causes unusual behavior, or a change of behavior, in an animal. Repeated encounters with people can have negative, long-term impacts on wildlife, including increased levels of stress and the avoidance of essential feeding areas.

Please remember, nesting birds are easily disturbed. For wildlife, raising young is a private affair. If an adult bird on a nest flies off at your approach, circles you, or screams in alarm — you are too close to the nest. Unattended nestlings readily succumb to predation and exposure to heat, cold, and wet weather.

Allow other visitors a chance to enjoy wildlife. If your actions cause an animal to flee, you have deprived other visitors of a viewing opportunity. Use an animal's behavior as a guide to your actions, and limit the time you spend with wildlife, just as you would when visiting a friend's home. Follow all park regulations and policies.

Grizzly Bears

What Kind of Bear Is That?

Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway provide habitat for black and grizzly bears. To distinguish between the two bear species, see below.

Grizzly Bear

Color — Ranges from blond to nearly black, sometimes have silver-tipped hairs that give them a grizzled appearance.

Physical Features — Grizzly bears have a dished, or concave, facial profile and a large hump of heavy muscle above the shoulders. Their claws are long and relatively straight, extending two or more inches (5 cm) beyond their toes.

Black Bear

Color — Color is not a reliable indicator of the species. Contrary to their name, black bears are often brown, cinnamon, and/or blond in color.

Physical Features — Black bears have a straight facial profile and lack a large hump above the shoulders. Their claws are short and curved, usually not extending more than 1.5 inches (4 cm) beyond their toes.

LAWRENCE ORMSBY

Natural Communities in the Park

The natural systems of Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole create a magnificent environment showcasing an incredible diversity of vegetation and wildlife. Many natural communities in the park are defined by the plants and animals that live within them.

ALPINE COMMUNITIES

Plants and animals in the alpine community survive in the harshest of Grand Teton's environments. High elevation, long winters, and short summers present special challenges to the inhabitants above tree line. Summer is short and intense, with long, bright days and cold nights. Lichens cling to rocks and miniature, low-growing mat-forming plants, such as phlox and pussytoes, guard themselves from wind and cold by growing only inches above the soil. Since bees are infrequent, many alpine flowers have unpleasant odors to attract pollinating flies and other insects. The insects in turn attract horned larks and white-crowned sparrows. The alpine forget-me-not rewards hikers with its vibrant blue color. Yellow-bellied marmots often sun themselves on rocky hillsides as Clark's nutcrackers fly overhead. Tiny rabbit-like pikas spend the warm months collecting and storing food for the long winter. Golden eagles sometimes soar on warm air currents searching for prey. By the time snow falls, most alpine residents have moved to lower elevations or begun a long winter hibernation.

FOREST COMMUNITIES

There are a number of forest communities in Grand Teton National Park. Because of the variations in the height of trees, shrubs, and grasses, forests support a wide variety of animal species. The most extensive of the forest communities is the lodgepole pine forest community, which extends from the southern portion of Yellowstone National Park and along the lower elevations of the Tetons to the south end of the range. Elk and mule deer find shade here during sunny, summer days. Red squirrels inhabit the trees, gathering seeds and storing them for the long winter. Snowshoe hares, deer mice, and red-backed voles are among the small mammals found on the forest floor. Black and grizzly bears, short-tailed weasels (ermine) and pine martens prey upon smaller animals. Colorful western tanagers fly through the less dense parts of the forest canopy.

Other forest communities include Douglas fir and spruce-fir forest communities. Stands of Douglas fir are found on either dry, south-facing slopes up to about 8,000 feet or on dry north-facing slopes at lower elevations. Voles, mice, and gophers also live here; they are hunted by great horned owls. Other birds found amongst the Douglas fir include chickadees, nuthatches, pine siskins, Cassin's finches, and dark-eyed juncos.

Spruce-fir forests are dominated by Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir and are often located at higher elevations. Moose feed extensively on subalpine fir in the winter months and elk and deer use these forests at other times during the year. Other mammals can be found here, including long-tailed weasels, pine martens, mountain lions, and the rare wolverine. Williamson's sapsuckers, hairy woodpeckers, Steller's and gray jays, olive-sided flycatchers, and mountain chickadees are among the birds occupying this forest type.

SAGEBRUSH COMMUNITIES

The sagebrush community is the most visible community in Grand Teton, covering most of the valley floor. Rocky, well-drained soils make it difficult for most plants to survive, but hardy big sage, low sage, antelope bitterbrush, and more than 20 species of grasses thrive here. Though it appears barren and sparse, this is a surprisingly diverse community.

Sage grouse use sage for food, shelter, and nesting sites. Arrowleaf balsamroot and spring beauty add spring color to the silvery green of the flats. Small mammals such as Uinta ground squirrels, deer mice and least chipmunks make their homes here. Badgers can sometimes be seen digging burrows while coyotes and wolves may lope across the cobbly plains. Pronghorn are summer residents on the sagebrush flats; they must migrate south to avoid deep winter snows. Large herds of elk feed on the grasses during the morning and evening hours of spring, summer, and fall. Areas where bitterbrush is abundant are good foraging places for moose, especially in fall and winter. Birders can find western meadowlarks, sage thrashers, green-tailed towhees, vesper and Brewer's sparrows, and raptors of many kinds among the sage.

WETLAND COMMUNITIES

Wetland and aquatic communities in and around rivers, lakes, and marshes are those that are dominated by water. The Snake River and its tributaries drain the mountains surrounding Jackson Hole, providing a rich habitat for a variety of wildlife. Trout and other fish are a valuable food source for bald eagles, ospreys, and river otters. The slower-moving braided channels of the river are home to beavers, otters, muskrats, and several reptiles and amphibians. The Oxbow Bend is an excellent area to find white pelicans, great blue herons, and a variety of waterfowl. Moose feed on aquatic plants and browse on streamside vegetation.

WET MEADOW COMMUNITIES

Wet meadows and willow flats are covered by water for at least part of the year. A high water table and good soil make an abundance of grasses, sedges, and forbs possible. Small mammals and birds that rely on this type of vegetation are common here. Willows also provide critical habitat for moose, which feed heavily on them, especially in late winter.

Whatever the community, it is important to remember that the wildlife, plants, and habitats within Grand Teton National Park are protected. While birding or watching animals, please keep a respectful distance. Please do not pick or disturb the vegetation. In order to continue to enjoy this national park, we must all work to preserve it.

Self-Guiding Trails around the Park

Sample the cultural history, natural history, and mystery of Jackson Hole. Obtain free trail guides at visitor centers and trailheads. Expanded versions of the trail guides for Cascade Canyon, Taggart Lake and the Colter Bay area are also sold at park visitor centers.

String Lake

CASCADE CANYON TRAIL
Follow part or all of the Cascade Canyon Trail. From the east shore boat dock to Inspiration Point the distance is 5.8 miles roundtrip (2.2 miles via shuttle boat).

CUNNINGHAM CABIN TRAIL
Cunningham Cabin is located 6 miles south of Moran. Take a 3/4-mile walk to learn about the early ranching history of Jackson Hole.

FLAGG RANCH AREA
The Polecat Creek Loop Trail (2.3 miles) and nearby Flagg Canyon Trail (5.0 miles roundtrip) offer scenic hiking opportunities. Leaflets available at visitor centers.

MENOR'S FERRY TRAIL
A 1/2-mile loop begins at the Chapel of the Transfiguration parking lot in Moose, and passes Bill Menor's cabin and ferry, and an exhibit of historic photographs at the Maud Noble cabin.

TAGGART LAKE TRAIL
The 3.2-mile Taggart Lake Trail traverses a major portion of the 1,028-acre Beaver Creek fire of 1985. The trail begins at the Taggart Lake parking area, 3 miles northwest of Moose.

ACCESS TRAIL AT STRING LAKE
A paved trail follows the shore of String Lake for 1/4-mile. Wayside exhibits explain the formation of glacial lakes.

COLTER BAY AREA
A variety of trails lead from the vicinity of the Colter Bay Visitor Center, including the Lakeshore Trail, paved for 1/3-mile.

FIRE WAYSIDES
Interpretive signs at Cottonwood Creek picnic area, String Lake, and Jackson Lake overlook explain various aspects of fire ecology and local fire history.

SCENIC TURNOUTS
Consult interpretive signs at scenic turnouts to learn about the natural history and geology of the Teton Range and Jackson Hole.

Menor's Cabin

Taggart Lake Trail

DAVE SMALDONE

This is Bear Country

A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR
Allowing a bear to obtain human food, even once, results in aggressive bear behavior. Aggressive bears are a threat to human safety and must be removed or destroyed. Help keep park bears wild and safe. Do not feed the bears for any reason! Failure to follow park regulations is a violation of federal law and may result in citations and fines.

KEEP A CLEAN CAMP
After eating and before leaving camp or sleeping, assure that you have a clean, bear-proof campsite:
- All food, containers, and utensils must be stored in a bear box or hidden in a closed, locked vehicle with windows rolled up. The only exceptions are during the transport, preparation, and eating of food.
- Trash and garbage must be stored in the same manner as food, or placed in bear-resistant trash cans or dumpsters.

- Treat odorous products such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste, suntan lotion, and perfumes in the same manner as food.
- For your safety, absolutely no food, foodstuffs, garbage, or odorous products may be stored in tents or sleeping bags.
- Ice chests, thermoses, water containers, barbecue grills, stoves, dishes, and pans must be stored in the same way as food – hidden inside a locked auto or bear box.

BEAR ETIQUETTE
- If you encounter a bear, do not run. If the bear is unaware of you, detour quickly and quietly. If the bear is aware but has not acted aggressively, back slowly away while talking in an even tone.
- Never approach a bear for any reason.
- Never allow a bear to get human food. If approached while eating, put food away and retreat to a safe distance (100 yards/91 meters).
- Never abandon food because of an approaching bear. Always take it with you.

Bears and Wilderness

Wild bears symbolize wilderness. Help us maintain bear populations and prevent bear problems. Follow the recommended practices for safe hiking and backcountry camping. Report all bear sightings and incidents at a visitor center or ranger station.

- Never throw your pack or food at a bear in an attempt to distract it.
- Never bury food scraps, containers, or fish entrails. Put them in garbage cans.
- Never leave food, containers, or garbage unattended in camp. Bears are active day and night.

Walks & Hikes

For talks and evening programs see page D.

Area	Event	Description	Meeting Place	Date/Time	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Moose/ Jenny Lake Area	**Inspiration Point Hike**	Learn about the creation of this magnificent landscape on a hike to Hidden Falls and a viewpoint above Jenny Lake. We will take the boat across Jenny Lake. This activity is first-come, first-served and is limited to 25. Please obtain a token for each member of your group at the Jenny Lake Visitor Center prior to meeting the ranger. Boat Fare (Roundtrip/One-way): adult $7/$5, child (7-12) $5/$4, 6 and under free. ROUNDTRIP HIKE DISTANCE: 2 miles. DIFFICULTY: Moderate uphill. TIME: 2-1/2 hours.	Jenny Lake Visitor Center Flagpole	June 7-Sept 6 8:30 a.m	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	A Walk Into The Past	Discover the story of Menor's Ferry Historic District and ride across the Snake River on a replica cable ferry. Ferry operation dependent on river conditions and staffing. Wheelchair accessible trail. DIFFICULTY: Easy. TIME: 1/2 hour.	Menor's Ferry Dock	June 7-Sept 6 11 a.m. 2 p.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Wildflower Walk	Learn about the flowers that add color to the valley. ROUNDTRIP DISTANCE: 2 miles. DIFFICULTY: Easy. TIME: 2 hours.	Taggart Lake Trailhead	June 7-July 31 9:30 a.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Young Naturalists	Children 8-12 years old are invited to explore the natural world of Grand Teton with a ranger. Make reservations at the Moose, Jenny Lake, or Colter Bay visitor centers. Wear old clothes and bring water, rain gear, insect repellent, and curiosity. Parents, please pick up your children promptly at 3 p.m. at the same location. Group size 12. ROUNDTRIP DISTANCE: 2 miles. DIFFICULTY: Easy, level. TIME: 1-1/2 hours.	Jenny Lake Visitor Center Flagpole	June 13-Aug 21 1:30 p.m.	■ Ends 8/15		■ Ends 8/17	■ Ends 8/18	■ Ends 8/19		■ Ends 8/21
Colter Bay Area	**Swan Lake Hike**	Unravel mysteries and sharpen your senses as you hike with a ranger through forest, meadows and along ponds east of Colter Bay. Bring water, binoculars, camera, rain gear and insect repellent. ROUNDTRIP DISTANCE: 3 miles. TIME: 3 hours.	Colter Bay Visitor Center Flagpole	June 7-Sept 6 8:30 a.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Young Naturalists	See Young Naturalists description above.	Colter Bay Visitor Center	June 14-Aug 20 1:30 p.m.		■ Ends 8/16		■ Ends 8/18		■ Ends 8/20	
	Lakeshore Stroll	Join the ranger for a leisurely one-hour stroll to enjoy panoramic views of the Teton Range and learn about the creation of the landscape.	Colter Bay Visitor Center Flagpole	June 7-Sept 6 4:30 p.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Naturalist's Choice	Activity will vary depending on the naturalist. Reservations may be required. Please check with the Colter Bay Visitor Center for specifics.	Colter Bay Visitor Center	June 7-Sept 6 Dates/times vary.	Dates, times, and topics will vary. Please check with the Colter Bay Visitor Center.						

Visitor Centers

Moose Visitor Center
(307) 739-3399. Located at Moose, 1/2-mile west of Moose Junction on the Teton Park Road. Open daily.

Through June 6	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
June 7-Sept 6	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
After Sept 6	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Colter Bay Visitor Center & Indian Arts Museum
(307) 739-3594. Located 1/2-mile west of Colter Bay Junction on Highway 89-191-287.

May 8-May 28	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
May 29-Sept 6	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sept 7-Oct 3	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jenny Lake Visitor Center
Located 8 miles north of Moose Junction on the Teton Park Road.

June 7-Sept 6	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sept 7-Sept 30	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Flagg Ranch Information Station
(307) 543-2327. Located at Flagg Ranch, 16 miles north of Colter Bay on Highway 89-191-287.

June 7-Sept 6	9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Indian Arts Museum

Located in the Colter Bay Visitor Center, the Indian Arts Museum houses the David T. Vernon Collection, a spectacular assemblage of Native American artifacts. Native American art has spiritual significance in addition to beauty and function. The artifacts in the museum are vivid examples of the diverse art forms of Native Americans. From June to September, interpretive activities such as craft demonstrations by tribal members and ranger-led museum tours enhance appreciation of Native American culture.

Menor's Ferry Historic District

Located just north of the Moose Visitor Center. Includes a self-guiding path and the historic Menor Store, which is open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from May 22 through September 26. The ferry operates when water levels and staffing allow. Inquire at the Moose Visitor Center.

Artists in the Environment

Jackson Hole attracts artists from all over the world. This summer you can observe professional artists demonstrating their techniques and capturing the essence of Grand Teton National Park. Check at visitor centers for demonstration times and locations. Sponsored by Grand Teton Natural History Association. Program dates: June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11.

New in 2004! Writers in the Environment

Local writers will share their talents by offering writing exercises for park visitors in various areas of the park. All workshop leaders are inspiring writers and teachers who draw on the natural and cultural values of the park in their published works. Check at visitor centers for times and locations. Sponsored by Grand Teton Natural History Association. Program dates: June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11.

Little Sunflower

Indian Paintbrush

Lupine

Dave Smaldone

Wildflowers

During late spring and summer, colorful wildflowers provide breathtaking displays throughout the park. Blooming follows snowmelt, so the show moves upslope as the season progresses.

June brings flowers to the southern half of Jackson Hole. Clumps of arrowleaf balsamroot, a yellow daisy-like flower with arrow-shaped leaves, add vivid splashes of color to the sagebrush flats. Spikes of blue-purple lupines, a member of the pea family, flower along streams.

During July, the meadows along Highway 89-191-287 north of Colter Bay, and those near Two Ocean Lake, reach peak flowering. Look for yellow mountain sunflowers, pink mountain hollyhock, purple lupines, pink sticky geraniums, and purple upland larkspur.

As snow melts in the canyons between the Teton peaks, hikers are treated to meadows with an exquisite mix of colors: yellow columbine, bluebells, red paintbrush, pink daisies, and lavender asters. Along canyon streams, the vegetation is lush and includes deep purple monkshood and tall cow parsnip, with its immense, flat-topped white flower clusters. Canyons with especially magnificent wildflower displays include upper Open, Cascade, and aptly named Paintbrush.

In high alpine areas above tree line, the flowers are diminutive, but worth stooping for. Alpine flowers grow in ground-hugging cushions to avoid wind and to cope with cold temperatures and the short growing season. Look for pink moss campion and blue alpine forget-me-not, the official flower of Grand Teton National Park. Alpine plants are well adapted to their environment, but they are extremely vulnerable to human disturbance. Be sure to stay on established trails.

Recently burned areas offer spectacular displays of wildflowers due to increased access to sunlight and the fertilizing effect of nitrogen-rich ash. At the Taggart Lake area, three miles north of Moose, a fire burned in 1985 and today wildflowers bloom amid stands of aspen saplings and numerous young lodgepole pines. Look for magenta fireweed, yellow heartleaf arnica, and flowering shrubs, especially pink spreading dogbane and snowbrush ceanothus, with its sweet-scented blossoms.

Sections of the Rockefeller Parkway burned in 1988 when a number of fires ignited throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Today look for fireweed, purple asters, yellow groundsel, and sticky geranium in a lush carpet of green grasses.

To help you enjoy the flowering plants of Grand Teton National Park, you may attend ranger-led hikes starting in June, or consult field guides and other books on display at visitor centers. Please leave wildflowers for others to appreciate. Do not pick any vegetation in the park and parkway.

Noxious Weeds Threaten Native Plants

If you spot the following weeds, or any other exotic plants, please report their exact location at a visitor center. Do not attempt to remove them yourself.

Noxious weeds, also called exotics or aliens, consist of non-native plants that seriously threaten the biodiversity of native plant communities. They grow and spread profusely, usually by sprouting early in the spring from numerous hardy seeds or from extensive root systems. Native wildlife and livestock tend to not eat these strangers, which allows them to grow unchecked. The introduction of non-native plants is generally tied to human activities such as automobile and truck traffic, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding.

Leafy Spurge

Musk Thistle

Wanted!

Musk Thistle

Grows to six feet tall in dense stands. Flowers are large and rose-colored. Dark green leaves have spiny margins. Established along roadways and trails.

Wanted!

Spotted Knapweed

Grows to three feet tall with a basal rosette of leaves. Pinkish-purple flowers bloom at the tips of branches. Stem leaves are tiny and pale green. A major problem in western states, spotted knapweed thrives in disturbed areas by inhibiting the growth of native plants.

Wanted!

Leafy Spurge

Grows to three feet tall. Paired, heart shaped, yellow-green bracts support yellow-green flowers. Leaves are narrow and arranged alternately along thickly clustered stems. Leafy spurge, severely toxic to cattle, has only infrequently been found within the park, so vigilance may prevent this alien from gaining a stronghold.

An Outdoor Laboratory: Current Research in Grand Teton

Along with protecting significant natural and cultural features and providing for their enjoyment, Congress recognized the value of national parks as some of the world's most important outdoor laboratories. Grand Teton National Park is no exception in providing an unparalleled research setting. As part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Grand Teton is an integral component of the world's largest intact temperate ecosystem. Below are just a few of the park's dozens of on-going research projects that are conducted by park staff, universities, and private research institutions. The results of these studies and many others like them furnish park managers with critical information needed for long-term conservation planning.

POPULATION STRUCTURE, HABITAT USE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF GRIZZLY BEARS

Ten years ago, grizzly bears, a threatened species, were rarely seen in Grand Teton. Today, however, they are common, especially in the northern half of the park. As part of an ecosystem effort, this project aims to determine the health of the grizzly population, their distribution in the park, and which habitats are most important. Information from this study will help managers protect important habitats and plan for visitor use patterns that minimize disturbance to grizzlies.

BRUCELLOSIS IN BISON

Since at least 1935, some bison and elk in the Yellowstone ecosystem have had brucellosis, a disease brought to the U.S. by cattle imported from Europe. While the disease is relatively unimportant in wildlife, it can devastate domestic cattle herds. Because a small potential exists for bison or elk to transmit the disease to uninfected cattle, researchers are interested in several aspects of how the disease exists and is transmitted among wild bison. The results of this project will help managers avoid conflicts with cattle that graze on public lands.

PREDATOR-MOOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Researchers are studying whether or not moose have been affected by the absence of large carnivores from portions of the park, and hope to discover whether changes in behavior and survival occur as grizzly bears and wolves re-colonize these areas. Of particular interest is how many moose calves are born each year and how long they survive. Moose behavior and survival rates may gradually change as large carnivores move back into the area.

LYNX AND WOLVERINE ECOLOGY

These two elusive predators are believed to occur in low densities in the park. Two new studies will attempt to determine the status and distribution of the lynx and wolverine in this part of the Yellowstone ecosystem, and how they respond to visitor use patterns. Park managers will use information obtained by this study to develop plans and take necessary steps for lynx and wolverine long-term conservation.

Wolves Are Here!

Wolves were restored to Yellowstone National Park in 1995 after being eliminated from the ecosystem through trapping and poisoning in the early 1900s. The reintroduction of wolves is part of the larger goal of the recovery and conservation of endangered species in the U.S. The Yellowstone-Grand Teton wolves came from Canada, and now consist of over 200 wolves.

As the population has grown and claimed new territories, wolf sightings have increased. In the winter of 1998-99 three groups of wolves frequented Grand Teton National Park. Two of these groups stayed in the area and produced litters of pups – the first wolves to den in Jackson Hole in 50 years! As the wolves continue to occupy suitable habitat, newly formed packs and lone individuals will expand into surrounding areas.

While looking for wildlife in the park, keep in mind that distinguishing wolves from coyotes is not easy. Coyotes are abundant in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and are much larger than coyotes found in other parts of the United States. Wolves are generally much larger than coyotes, have rounded, and relatively short ears. For more information about wolves, stop by any visitor center.

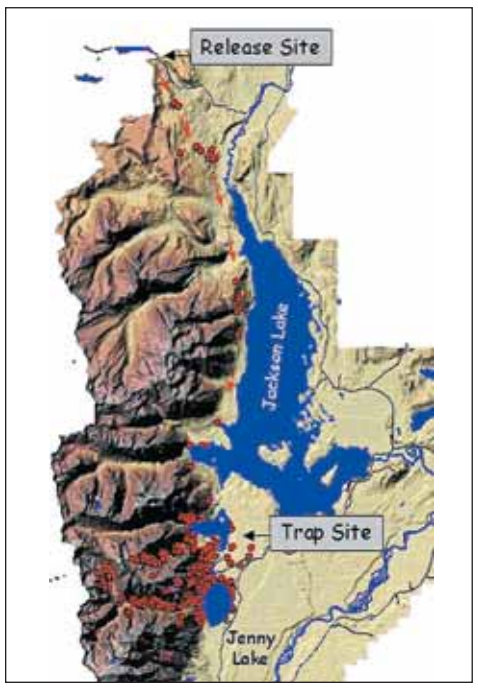
Using Global Positioning Systems to Track Bear Movements

Grand Teton National Park biologists are using global positioning system (GPS) technology to track the movements of bears. The study, which has been made possible by financial assistance from the National Park Foundation, will provide park managers with a better understanding of how human activities affect bears, and provide them with the tools necessary to assure long-term conservation of their populations.

The red dots the on map show locations of an adult female black bear fitted with a GPS radio collar from August 2000 to June 2001. This bear lived in the Jenny Lake area and became a nuisance bear after learning to seek human foods that were stored improperly. After her first small human food reward, she quickly became more aggressive in her raids, ripping into tents that contained food, breaking into coolers left in canoes, and stealing unattended daypacks. During the summer of 2000, she taught her two cubs these same behaviors.

In an effort to break this pattern, the entire family was trapped and moved to a remote area of the park in August of that year. Unfortunately, the bears quickly returned to their home range near Jenny Lake, and resumed their unnatural way of life. Disturbingly, it was the continued availability of unsecured human foods, in spite of an escalated ranger patrol and education program, that made this possible. By the end of the summer of 2002, all three bears were dead. One cub died of natural causes soon after emerging from the family's den – possibly because of poor nutrition the previous year. The other cub and its mother were both destroyed after their aggressive actions became a threat to human safety.

Monitoring this bear family reaffirmed that moving problem bears seldom resolves a bad situation, and highlighted the need for visitors to keep food secure at all times. It also provided insights into habitat characteristics that are important for bears. Using this and similar information from other bears, park managers will employ measures to minimize bear-human conflicts and help assure bear populations remain wild and healthy.



Talks & Evening Programs

See page A for visitor center information and a list of walks and talks offered throughout the park. Additional ranger activities will be offered during the summer. Check at a visitor center for special hikes and programs not listed here.

Area	Event	Description	Meeting Place	Date/Time	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Moose/ Jenny Lake Area	**Teton Profiles**	A 20-minute talk on a variety of topics. From the park's geologic story to learning about the variety of wildlife that call this park home, this program will give you insight to the stories behind the scenery. Wheelchair accessible.	Moose Visitor Center	June 7-Sept 6 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Wildlife Watch	Join a ranger for wildlife viewing in the park's sagebrush community. Look for the ranger with a spotting scope at a turnout on the Antelope Flats-Kelly Road.	Antelope Flats-Kelly-Gros Ventre Junction	Aug 1-Sept 6 Anytime from 9:30- 11:30 a.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Gros Ventre Campfire Program	A 45-minute, slide-illustrated ranger talk. Topics are posted on visitor center, amphitheater, and campground bulletin boards. Wheelchair accessible.	Gros Ventre Campground Amphitheater	June 7-July, 9:30 p.m. Aug-Sept 1, 9 p.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Jenny Lake Twilight Talk	Gather for a traditional ranger talk. Topics posted on visitor center, amphitheater, and campground bulletin boards. 45 minutes.	Jenny Lake Camp Circle	June 16-Sept 6 7:30 p.m.		■		■		■	■
	Jenny Lake Cruise	Join a ranger for a relaxing one-hour, scenic boat cruise on Jenny Lake. For reservations call Teton Boating at (307) 734-9227. The cruise costs $10 for adults and $7 for ages 7-12.	South Jenny Lake Boat Dock	June 15-Sept 2 6:30 p.m.	■		■		■		
	Signal Mountain Campfire Program	A 45-minute, slide-illustrated ranger talk. Topics are posted on visitor center, amphitheater, and campground bulletin boards. Wheelchair accessible.	Signal Campground Amphitheater	June 7-July, 9:30 p.m. Aug-Sept 6, 9 p.m	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Colter Bay Area	**Museum Grand Tour**	Tour a spectacular collection of Native American art and artifacts while learning about the native people who made them. 45 minutes.	Colter Bay Visitor Center Lobby	June 7-Sept 6 9 a.m. & 4 p.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Teton Highlights	Wondering what to do and see in the park? Join a ranger for some great ideas. 30 minutes. Wheelchair accessible.	Colter Bay Visitor Center Auditorium	June 7-Sept 6 11 a.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Indian Arts & Culture	Join the ranger for an in-depth look at a facet of Native American art and culture. 45 minutes. Wheelchair accessible.	Colter Bay Visitor Center Auditorium	June 8-Sept 3 1:30 p.m.			■			■	
	Evening On The Back Deck	Join the ranger on the back deck of Jackson Lake Lodge for answers to your questions about Grand Teton National Park. Look through the spotting scope at some of the best bird and moose habitat in the park. ALL VISITORS ARE INVITED. Wheelchair accessible.	Jackson Lake Lodge Back Deck	June 7-Sept 6 Anytime from 6:30-8 p.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Featured Creature	A look into the habits and habitats of a featured creature in the park. 45 minutes. Wheelchair accessible.	Colter Bay Amphitheater	June-July, 7:30 p.m. Aug-Sept, 7 p.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Lizard Creek Campfire Program	Gather around the campfire circle for a traditional ranger talk. Topics posted at various locations. Wheelchair accessible. Starts June 9.	Lizard Creek Campfire Circle	June-July, 8 p.m., Aug-Sept, 7:30 p.m.		■		■		■	■
	Jackson Lake Lodge	Join the ranger for a 45-minute, slide-illustrated talk in Jackson Lake Lodge's Wapiti Room. Topics are posted on the lodge bulletin board. ALL VISITORS ARE INVITED. Wheelchair accessible.	Jackson Lake Lodge Wapiti Room	June 28-Aug 14 8:30 p.m.		■	■		■	■	■
	Colter Bay Campfire Program	Join the ranger for a 45-minute, slide-illustrated ranger talk. Topics are posted at amphitheater, campground, and visitor center bulletin boards. Wheelchair accessible.	Colter Bay Amphitheater	June-July, 9:30 p.m. Aug-Sept, 9 p.m.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

For Your Safety

PLANTS & ANIMALS
Leave plants and animals in their natural setting for others to enjoy. Picking wildflowers is prohibited. Keep a respectful distance from all animals to avoid disturbing their natural routines. Larger animals are quick, powerful, and unpredictable. Getting too close can result in serious injury. Take special care to avoid encounters with bears and to help maintain their natural fear of humans.

Many small animals can carry diseases and should never be touched or handled. All plants and animals are part of the natural processes protected within the park and parkway. Allow them to find all their own food. Their natural diet assures their health and survival. No matter how convincingly the animals beg, feeding is prohibited.

HIKING
Hikers are reminded to stay on trails; shortcutting is prohibited because it damages fragile vegetation and causes erosion. Visitor centers and the Jenny Lake Ranger Station sell topographic maps and inexpensive trail guides. Sturdy footwear is essential. Know your limitations when traveling in the backcountry or taking extended hikes. If you are traveling alone, let someone know your planned destination, route, and expected time of return. Permits are not required for day hiking. Trailhead parking areas fill early during the day in July and August, so start your hike early to avoid parking problems. In Spring, many trails are snow-covered and you may need an ice axe.

FISHING
Whitefish and cutthroat, lake, and brown trout inhabit lakes and rivers of the park and parkway. Obtain fishing regulations at the Moose, Jenny Lake, or Colter Bay visitor centers. Purchase a Wyoming fishing license, required for fishing in the park and parkway, at the Moose Village Store, Signal Mountain Lodge, Colter Bay Marina, and Flagg Ranch Village. Fishing in Yellowstone National Park requires a separate permit (fee charged); purchase permits at Yellowstone visitor centers and ranger stations.

BOATING
Motorboats are permitted on Jenny (10 horsepower maximum), Jackson, and Phelps lakes. Human-powered vessels are permitted on Jackson, Jenny, Phelps, Emma Matilda, Two Ocean, Taggart, Bradley, Bearpaw, Leigh, and String lakes. Sailboats, water skiing, and windsurfers are allowed only on Jackson Lake. For motorized craft, the fee is $10 for a 7-day permit and $20 for an annual permit; for non-motorized craft, the fee is $5 for a 7-day permit and $10 for an annual permit. Jet skis are prohibited on all waters within the park. Obtain permits at the Moose or Colter Bay visitor centers. Jet skis are prohibited on all waters within the park.

FLOATING THE SNAKE RIVER
Only human-powered rafts, canoes, dories and kayaks are allowed on the Snake River within the park and parkway. Register non-motorized vessels and pay the fee ($5 for a 7-day permit; $10 for an annual permit) at the Moose Visitor Center or Colter Bay Visitor Center each year. Read the launch site bulletin boards for current river conditions. On the surface, the Snake does not seem very powerful, but only experienced floaters should attempt this swift, cold river.

Teton Weather

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
Avg. Max. Temp. (F)	25.7	31.1	39.0	49.0	60.9	70.6	79.8	78.8	68.9	55.9	38.0	26.0	52.0
Avg. Min. Temp. (F)	1.2	3.6	11.9	22.1	30.9	37.2	41.2	39.6	32.2	23.2	13.7	1.5	21.5
Avg. Total Precip. (in.)	2.61	2.00	1.60	1.45	1.96	1.80	1.22	1.37	1.44	1.24	2.14	2.47	21.3
Avg. Total Snow (in.)	44.4	30.0	20.6	9.3	2.8	0.1	0	0	0.5	4.4	25.2	39.2	176.5
Avg. Snow Depth (in.)	28.0	34.0	32.0	13.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.0	16.0	11.0

BACKPACKING
Grand Teton National Park has more than 250 miles of trails of varying difficulty. Obtain the required, non-fee backcountry permit for overnight trips at the Moose or Colter Bay visitor centers or the Jenny Lake Ranger Station. Backcountry campsites may be reserved in advance from January 1 - May 15 by writing the park; the fee is $15 per reservation. Pets are not allowed on park trails or in the backcountry. Campfires are prohibited except at designated sites depending upon fire danger.

SWIMMING
Swimming is allowed in all lakes. No swimming areas have lifeguards. The Snake River is dangerous and swimming is not recommended.

HOT SPRINGS
Thermal water can harbor organisms that cause a fatal meningitis infection and Legionnaires' disease. Exposing your head to thermal water by immersion, splashing, touching your face, or inhaling steam increases your risk of infection. Obtain more information at any ranger station or visitor center.

PETS
Pets must be restrained on a leash at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails or in the backcountry (which begins 50 feet from roadways), in boats on the Snake River, in boats on lakes other than Jackson Lake, or in visitor centers. Pets are not allowed on ranger-led activities. Kennels are available in Jackson.

CLIMBING
There are many risks and hazards associated with climbing and mountain travel. Experience and good judgment are essential. The Jenny Lake Ranger Station, the center for climbing in Grand Teton National Park, is staffed from late May to mid-September by climbing rangers who can provide up-to-date weather and route conditions. Registration is not required for day climbs and off-trail hiking. Backcountry permits are required, however, for all overnight climbs. The park DOES NOT check to see that you get safely out of the backcountry. Leave an agenda with friends or family. Pets are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry. Solo climbing and backcountry travel is not advised.

BIKING
Ride bicycles only where cars can legally go. Ride on the right side of the road in single file. Riding bicycles or other wheeled vehicles in the backcountry, on or off-trail, is prohibited.

Make the Most of Your Park Visit

Short on time? Wondering how to make the most of your time in Grand Teton National Park? Take a look at a few of the suggestions below to help plan your visit. Use the map on page 12. The distance from the south entrance of Yellowstone National Park to the south boundary of Grand Teton National Park is 56 miles; approximate driving time with no stops is 1½ hours. Please follow posted speed limits, watch for wildlife on roads, and be prepared for occasional delays due to road construction.

Colter Bay Visitor Center/ Indian Arts Museum
Visit the museum to view art created by native people and get a glimpse of 19th-century Native American life. Native American and wildlife videotapes and a park orientation slide program are shown throughout the day.

Signal Mountain Summit Road
This 5-mile drive starts one mile south of Signal Mountain Lodge and Campground. The road winds to the top of Signal Mountain, 800 feet above the valley. Summit overlooks provide a panoramic view of the entire Teton Range, Jackson Lake, and most of Jackson Hole. The road is narrow and parking at overlooks is limited. Trailers or large motor homes are not permitted.

Menor's Ferry/Chapel of the Transfiguration
Turn off the Teton Park Road ½-mile north of Moose. The Menor's Ferry Trail, less than ½-mile long, affords a look at homesteading and pioneer life in Jackson Hole. Visit Bill Menor's cabin and country store. Ride a replica of the ferry that crossed the Snake River at the turn of the century. The altar window of the Chapel of the Transfiguration frames the tallest Teton peaks. Please be respectful; the chapel is a house of worship.

Mule Deer

Willow Flats
Stop at the Willow Flats Turnout, 6 miles south of Colter Bay for a view of an extensive wetlands that provides excellent habitat for birds, beavers, and moose. Jackson Lake and the Teton Range form the backdrop.

Oxbow Bend
Located one mile east of Jackson Lake Junction, this cut-off meander of the Snake River attracts a wide variety of wildlife. Mt. Moran, the most massive peak in the Teton Range, dominates the background.

Jackson Lake Dam Overlook
Jackson Lake Dam, one mile west of Jackson Lake Junction on the Teton Park Road, raises the level of Jackson Lake a maximum of 39 feet. In addition to being a reservoir, Jackson Lake is also a natural lake formed by an immense glacier that once flowed from the Yellowstone plateau. Park on the southwest side of the dam and take a short walk for a peaceful view of Jackson Lake and Mt. Moran.

Antelope Flats/Kelly Loop
At Gros Ventre Junction, 5 miles south of Moose Junction on Highway 26-89-191, turn east. Follow the road to the small town of Kelly. To see the Gros Ventre Slide, turn at the sign marked "National Forest Access." The Gros Ventre Slide occurred in 1925 when earthquakes and rain caused the north end of Sheep Mountain to slide and dam the Gros Ventre River, forming Lower Slide Lake. Follow the Antelope Flats Road along abandoned hayfields and ranches to rejoin Highway 26-89-191.

Ranger-Led Activities
During summer, join a ranger for a visitor center talk, museum tour, stroll, hike, or evening program. Attend these activities to learn more about the natural and human history of the park and parkway.

Take a Hike
Over 250 miles of hiking trails in the park and parkway range from level and easy trails on the valley floor to steep, arduous trails into the mountains. At visitor centers, ask a ranger for recommended hikes and look at, or purchase, maps and trail guides.

Raft Trips on the Snake River
Park and parkway concessioners operate trips on the Snake River daily in summer. Watch for moose along the banks and bald eagles and American white pelicans soaring above.

Ride a Bike
The Jenny Lake Scenic Drive has wide shoulders and superb views of the Tetons. The Antelope Flats – Kelly Loop provides riding opportunities on secondary roads. Wear helmets and use caution. Ride bicycles only where cars can legally go; bicycles are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry.

Horseback Riding
Park concessioners offer horseback rides at Colter Bay, Jackson Lake Lodge, and Flagg Ranch.

Camping in the Park

Grand Teton National Park operates five campgrounds. The fee is $12 per night per site and $6 for Golden Age/Golden Access cardholders. Hiker/biker sites at Jenny Lake and Colter Bay are $5 per night. Jenny Lake Campground is open to tents only. Other campgrounds will accommodate tents, trailers, and recreational vehicles. All campgrounds have modern comfort stations, but do not have utility hookups. The maximum length of stay is 7 days at Jenny Lake and 14 days at all other park operated campgrounds – no more than 30 days in the park per year.

NPS campgrounds operate on a first-come, first-served basis and advance reservations are NOT accepted. Campgrounds fill during July and August. Approximate filling times are listed. For status of campgrounds, contact entrance stations or visitor centers. Additional camping facilities are available in nearby national forests and other areas outside the park.

Camping is not permitted along roadsides, in overlooks, or in parking areas. Doubling-up in campsites is not permitted and there are no overflow facilities.

GROUP CAMPING

Reservations are available for group camping. Group sites are located at Colter Bay and Gros Ventre campgrounds only. Group site capacities range from 10 to 100 people. The nightly use fee is $3.00 per person plus a $15 nonrefundable reservation fee. Organized groups such as youth, religious, and educational groups may use the group campsites. Advance reservations are required. Make requests for reservations starting on January 1 by writing to: Campground Reservations, Grand Teton National Park, Moose, WY 83012, or fax to (307) 739-3438.

TRAILER VILLAGES

Colter Bay and Flagg Ranch trailer villages are concessioner-operated trailer facilities with full hook-ups, showers, and laundry. Colter Bay has 112 sites. Flagg Ranch has 100 trailer and 75 tent sites. Advance reservations are advisable. See page 2 for details. Ask at a visitor center for additional trailer parks located outside the park and parkway.

Campgrounds

NPS Campground	Open	Filling Time
Gros Ventre 372 Sites, trailer dumping station.	May 1 – Oct. 18	Evening or may not fill
Jenny Lake 51 sites, restricted to tents.	May 14 – Sept. 27	8:00 a.m.
Signal Mountain 86 sites, 30-foot vehicle max, trailer dumping station	May 7 – Oct. 18	10:00 a.m.
Colter Bay 350 sites, trailer dumping station, propane available, laundry and showers nearby	May 28 – Sept. 27	Noon
Lizard Creek 60 sites, 30-foot vehicle max	June 4 – Sept. 7	2:00 p.m.

Water Warning

Cool, crystal clear stream water looks tempting to drink. As more and more people camp and hike in the backcountry, the incidence of intestinal infection from drinking untreated water has increased throughout the West. Giardia, campylobacter, and other harmful bacteria may be transmitted through untreated water. Drinking untreated water can make you ill. Carry sufficient water from approved sources, such as water spigots and drinking fountains in the park and parkway, when hiking or enjoying any outdoor activity. If you must use water from lakes or streams, boil water 3-5 minutes to kill harmful microorganisms or filter with an approved device.

Backcountry Comfort

Pit toilets are provided at many trailheads, but there are no toilets in the backcountry. Be sure to urinate at least 200 feet from streams and lakes. To prevent contamination of waterways, bury feces in a hole 6-8 inches deep at least 200 feet from streams and lakes. Pack out used toilet paper, tampons, sanitary napkins, and diapers in sealed plastic bags. Do not bury or burn them.

Entrance Fees 2004

Costs for achieving National Park Service goals in Grand Teton and other national parks have skyrocketed in recent years, while funding has not matched those ascending needs. All Americans support our national parks through tax dollars. Congress allocates some of those dollars to each park area.

Unfortunately, the dollars available through the appropriation process are only sufficient to conduct the yearly operation of the park. Money is not available for roads, trails, facilities, and infrastructure needs. In 1997, Congress authorized the Fee Demonstration Program, which allowed selected national parks, including Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, and other federal sites to increase entrance and other fees. The parks were authorized to keep 80% of the fees collected in the park to address the backlog of these needs as part of this experimental program. In 2004, money generated because of increased entrance fees will be used for:

- Rehabilitation, at Gros Ventre Campground, of wastewater treatment facilities, a trailer dump station, comfort stations, and sites.
- Rehabilitation and improvements to wastewater treatment facilities in Colter Bay, Beaver Creek, and Flagg Ranch.
- Resurfacing roads in the north district of the park, including roads between Colter Bay and the south entrance of Yellowstone, and the Pacific Creek road.
- Replacement panels for interpretive exhibits.

The National Park Service appreciates your support of ongoing efforts to improve protection of natural and cultural features.

Fee Schedule for Grand Teton National Park

Entrance Fee
$20 per vehicle • $10 per person (single hiker or bicyclist) **• $15 per motorcycle**
Allows entrance to Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks for 7 days.

Golden Eagle Passport $65
Allows entrance to most national park areas and some other federal fee areas for 12 months from purchase; non-transferable.

National Parks Pass $50
Allows entrance to most national park areas for 12 months from purchase; non-transferable.

Parks Specific Pass $40
Allows entrance to Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks for 12 months from purchase; non-transferable.

Golden Age Passport $10 (one-time fee)
Allows lifetime entrance to all National Park System areas to American citizens 62 years old or older; non-transferable.

Golden Access Passport - Free
Allows lifetime entrance to all National Park System areas to American citizens who can provide proof of permanent disability; non-transferable.

Park Partners

GRAND TETON NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
PO Box 170
Moose, WY 83012
(307) 739-3403
www.grandtetonpark.org

Grand Teton Natural History Association was established in 1937 as the park's primary partner to increase public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of Grand Teton National Park and the Greater Yellowstone area. Since that time, the Association has been aiding the interpretive, educational, and research programs of Grand Teton National Park.

The Association has grown to operate interpretive and educational bookstores in five outlets in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and several outlets in Bridger-Teton National Forest, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and National Elk Refuge information facilities. When you make a purchase at an Association bookstore, profits are returned to the park in the form of donations to support park programs. Your purchase also supports the publication of this newspaper, books, and the free educational handouts available at visitor centers and entrance stations.

Be sure to check out the on-line bookstore at www.grandtetonpark.org for all your trip-planning needs and complete the coupon below to become a member.

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION
PO Box 249
Moose, WY 83012
(307) 732-0629
www.gtnpf.org

The Grand Teton National Park Foundation was established in 1997 as the only private, nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to raising money for projects that protect, preserve, and enhance Grand Teton National Park. The foundation receives no government support and relies solely on the generous contributions of private individuals, foundations, and corporations. Philanthropy in the cause of national parks is not new. The John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway reminds us that we have the Rockefeller family to thank for a generous 32,000-acre land donation that led to today's Grand Teton National Park.

A major fundraising effort is underway to build the new Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose that will replace the woefully small visitor center in use since 1961. Schematic design for the new facility has been completed and planning for construction is underway. The Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center will offer unparalleled opportunities for information, orientation, and education about Grand Teton National Park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

If you would like to become a member of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, or join us in the fundraising effort for the new visitor center, please fill out the coupon below and return it with your donation.

TETON SCIENCE SCHOOL
P.O. Box 68
Kelly, WY 83011
(307) 733-4765
www.tetonscience.org

The Teton Science School, founded in 1967, provides and encourages experiential education in natural sciences and ecology while fostering an appreciation for conservation ethics and practices. The secluded campus, operated in cooperation with Grand Teton National Park, is located on a historic dude ranch in the park. The Greater Yellowstone region serves as the school's outdoor classroom and model for year-round programs that offer academic, professional, and personal benefits to students of all ages.

Summer programs include two- to five-week residential field ecology and field natural history courses for high school and junior high students, and weeklong, nonresidential programs for third through eighth grades. A one-year, masters-level graduate program in environmental education and natural science is also available. This summer the Teton Science School is offering 37 field seminars for adults and seven seminars for families. Workshops and seminars for teachers and other professionals are also offered.

THE MURIE CENTER
PO Box 399
Moose, WY 83012
(307) 739-2246
www.muriecenter.org

The Murie Center is a nonprofit organization located on the historic Murie Ranch, home of famed conservationist Mardy Murie. The Murie Center's mission is to develop new constituencies for wilderness, emphasizing the importance of human connections with nature. The center is funded entirely through the generosity of individuals and the commitment of foundations. Please call if you are interested in visiting the center or attending a seminar.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESEARCH CENTER
PO Box 3166 • Laramie, WY 82071-3166
www.uwyo.edu

The AMK Research Station is a field operation of the University of Wyoming based at the historic AMK Ranch in Grand Teton National Park. The research station facilitates research in the diverse aquatic and terrestrial environments of Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks and the Bridger-Teton and Caribou-Targhee national forests.

We invite you to become an annual member-at-large entitled to a 15% discount on purchases at all GTNHA

visitor center outlets, as well as on catalog and website orders. Many cooperating association stores nationwide offer reciprocal discounts. I would like to become a:

☐ **$25 Individual Annual Member with discount privileges**

☐ **$50 Associate Annual Member with discount privileges and commemorative Grand Teton canvas bookbag**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Date of Application _____ Paid By ☐ Cash ☐ Check

☐ Credit Card _____ Exp.: _____

Grand Teton National History Association • PO Box 170 • Moose, WY 83012
(307) 739-3403 • www.grandtetonpark.org

Yes! I would like to be a part of the future of Grand Teton National Park.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please include your check made out to the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, or supply the following credit card information.

Credit Card Type ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number _____ Exp.: _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

Grand Teton National Park Foundation • PO Box 249 • Moose, WY 83012
(307) 732-0629 • www.gtnpf.org

Managing Fire in Grand Teton National Park

Today, federal fire management policy reflects both a commitment to public safety and an understanding that fire—a dynamic and natural process—is important to the health of the ecosystem. Grand Teton National Park's comprehensive fire management program balances the preservation of natural and cultural resources with concerns for public health and safety by using the latest science, technology, and a highly trained workforce to evaluate conditions and consider management options. Through fire effects monitoring, vegetation mapping, and GIS data collection, fire managers have a range of modern tools to assist them in making decisions.

Some lightning-ignited fires, when they meet agency criteria, can be managed for resource benefits. These fires are carefully managed to ensure they stay within pre-determined geographic areas and weather and fire effects guidelines. This action, referred to as wildland fire use, is critical to fire-adapted plants that rely on natural fire cycles to resprout from roots or open cones for seed dispersal.

Fire can be applied to the landscape to promote natural conditions and reduce buildup of dead wood and brush. A prescribed fire targets specific objectives like restoring early successional vegetation, creating diverse habitats for plants and animals, while minimizing risks to developments and cultural resources.

Grand Teton National Park manages fire to protect human lives, personal property, and irreplaceable natural and cultural resources. Fire suppression is a key component of the fire management plan. Specific park areas are identified where fire suppression is critical to visitor and resource protection.

Park fire crews mechanically reduce vegetation in developed areas. Fuels around buildings are reduced by thinning trees and removing dead wood and brush from the forest floor. This debris, called slash, is piled and dried for at least a year, then burned during wet weather in spring or late fall. Piles of brush and logs waiting to be burned should be left undisturbed. These piles contain mostly green branches that do not make good firewood.

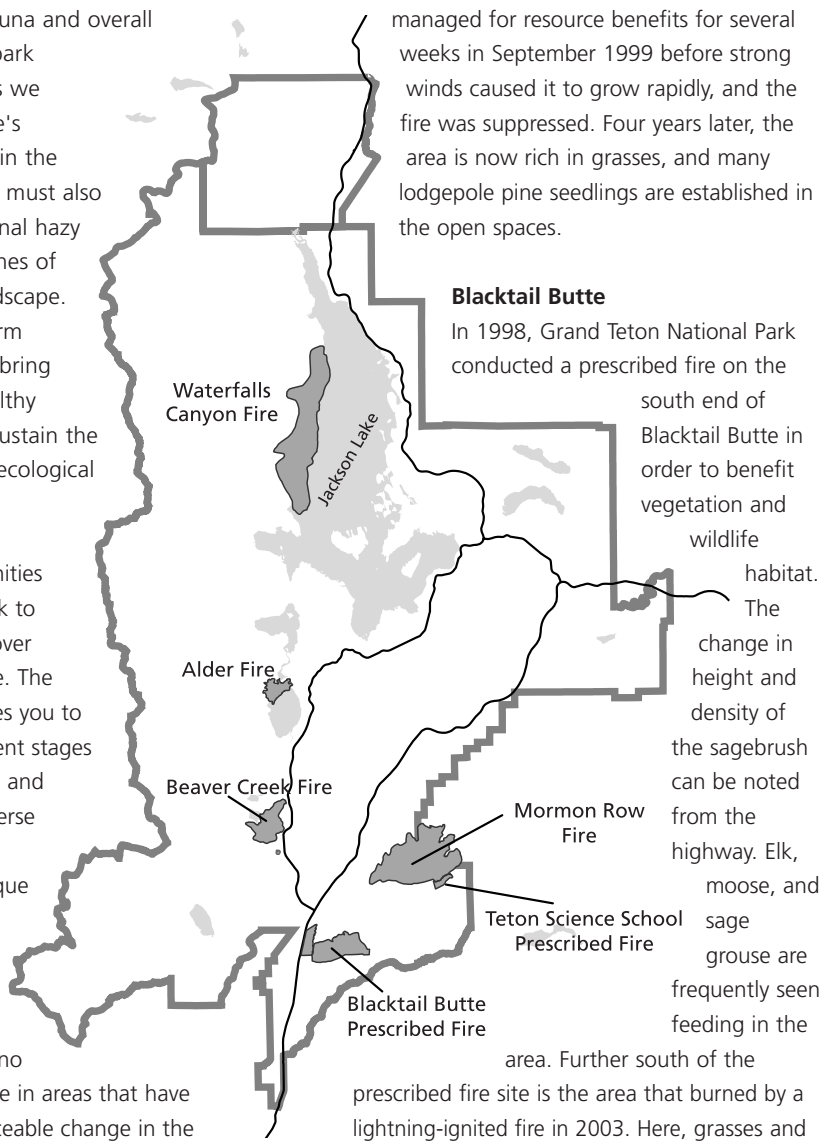
For more information about fire management in Grand Teton National Park, visit www.nps.gov/grte/fire/fire.htm.

The story of fire can be confusing. While the public is asked to prevent wildfires, fire managers sometimes conduct prescribed fires and manage lightning-caused fires for resource benefits. Fire specialists carefully plan the size and timing of these fires, allowing for a natural restoration of the ecosystem while providing for public and firefighter safety.

Take A Look Around

Fire has been an essential and natural part of the Grand Teton National Park ecosystem for thousands of years. The presence of fire within the park is one of the significant factors contributing to the diversity of flora and fauna and overall health of the park ecosystems. As we understand fire's necessary role in the ecosystem, we must also accept occasional hazy skies and patches of blackened landscape. These short-term consequences bring with them healthy changes that sustain the area's natural ecological balance.

Many opportunities exist in the park to view changes over time after a fire. The park staff invites you to view the different stages of revegetation and explore the diverse fire-adapted vegetation unique to this landscape. Though charred trees or shrubs may no longer be visible in areas that have burned, a noticeable change in the height, density, or type of vegetation can be a clue that fire was present.



Teton Science School
A prescribed fire was completed west of the Teton Science School in 2001. The fire has increased the amount of native grasses and forbs in the area and provides important habitat and forage for a number of species.

North Jenny Lake
The lightning-caused Alder Fire was managed for resource benefits for several weeks in September 1999 before strong winds caused it to grow rapidly, and the fire was suppressed. Four years later, the area is now rich in grasses, and many lodgepole pine seedlings are established in the open spaces.

Blacktail Butte
In 1998, Grand Teton National Park conducted a prescribed fire on the south end of Blacktail Butte in order to benefit vegetation and wildlife habitat. The change in height and density of the sagebrush can be noted from the highway. Elk, moose, and sage grouse are frequently seen feeding in the area. Further south of the prescribed fire site is the area that burned by a lightning-ignited fire in 2003. Here, grasses and forbs are returning to the area.

Antelope Flats
A lightning strike on the sagebrush flats near Mormon Row in 1994 has allowed grasses and wildflowers to again populate the area. Even ten years later, bison, pronghorn, and elk are still drawn to this part of the valley floor. Near the fire's northeast end, a large area of aspen trees has vigorously resprouted.

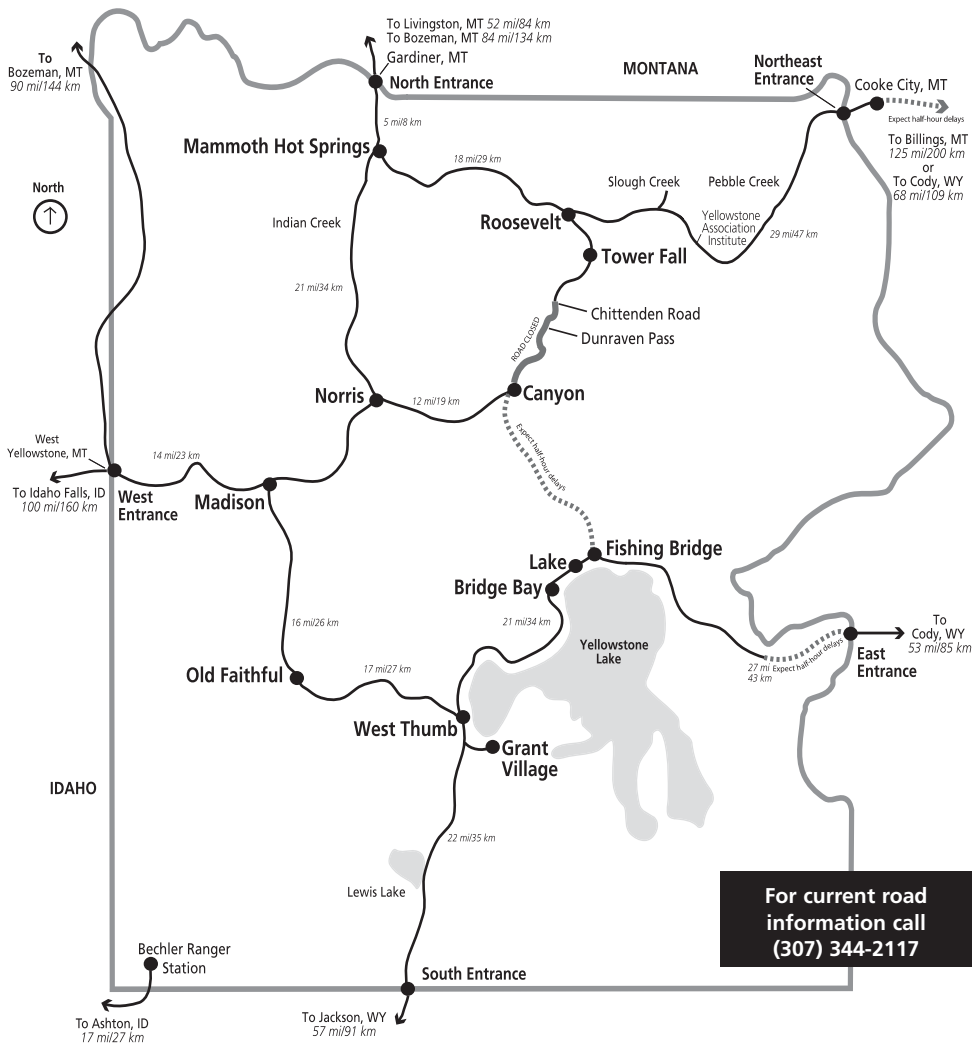
Beaver Creek
Stimulated by a 1985 fire in mixed conifers, the area near Taggart Lake is now rich in young lodgepole pines, aspen trees, and snowbrush ceanothus. The Taggart Lake Trail winds through stands of young lodgepole pine.

Waterfalls Canyon
This fire, along the west shore of Jackson Lake, burned in 1974. Only a few burned trees remain standing. Thirty years later, many shrubs and trees are well established. In 2000, two separate wildland fires naturally burned into the 1974 fire area and fire behavior moderated, aiding control efforts.standing. Almost 30 years later, many shrubs and trees are well established. In 2000, two separate wildland fires naturally burned into the 1974 fire area and fire behavior moderated, aiding control efforts.

Please do your part to prevent human-caused fires:

- Build campfires only in designated areas, monitor them, and make sure they are properly extinguished.
- Smoke safely. Grind out cigarettes, cigars, or pipe tobacco, then properly dispose of them. Ashtrays should be used while smokers are in a vehicle and should never be emptied on the ground.
- Do not use fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices. They are prohibited at all times within the park.
- Obey posted restrictions. Restrictions may change during dry summer conditions.

Fire can be an effective disturbance that rejuvenates vegetation and is critical in maintaining the natural sequence of plant communities known as succession. During a fire, competing trees are removed, allowing new seedlings to thrive.



Morning Glory Pool

Camping in Yellowstone

FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED CAMPSITES

There are eleven campgrounds and one RV park in Yellowstone National Park. Seven campgrounds are operated by the National Park Service: Mammoth, Tower Fall, Indian Creek, Pebble Creek, Lewis Lake, Norris, and Slough Creek Campgrounds. Sites at these seven campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

RESERVABLE CAMPSITES

Reservations for campgrounds at Canyon, Grant Village, Bridge Bay and Madison campgrounds and Fishing Bridge RV Park may be made by contacting (307) 344-7311. Fishing Bridge RV Park is the only campground with water, sewer, and electrical hookups, and is for hard-sided vehicles only, no tents or tent trailers. Please make your reservations early and/or plan on securing your campsite as early in the day as possible. Campgrounds may fill early in the day, especially during July and August.

Camping or overnight vehicle parking in pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas or any place other than a designated campground is prohibited; there are no overflow camping facilities. All camping is limited to 14 days between June 15 and September 15 and to 30 days during the rest of the year. Check out time for all campgrounds is 10:00 a.m.

GROUP CAMPING

Group camping areas are available for large organized groups with a designated leader such as youth groups, etc. Fees range from $47–77 per night depending on the size of the group. Advance reservations are required and can be made year-round by writing to Xanterra Parks & Resorts, P.O. Box 165, Yellowstone Park, WY 82190 or by calling (307) 344-7311.

Yellowstone Campgrounds
First-come, first-served

NPS Campground	Open	Sites	Fee
Indian Creek	June 11 - Sept. 20	75	$12
Lewis Lake	June 18 - Nov. 7	85	$12
Mammoth	Year-round	85	$14
Norris	May 21 - Sept. 27	116	$14
Pebble Creek	June 4 - Sept. 27	32	$12
Slough Creek	May 28 - Oct. 31	29	$12
Tower Fall	May 21 - Sept. 27	32	$12

Xanterra Parks & Resorts Campgrounds
Reservations available, call (307) 344-7311

Campground	Open	Sites	Fee*
Bridge Bay	May 28 - Sept. 19	43	$18
Canyon	June 11 - Sept. 12	272	$18
Fishing Bridge RV	May 21 - Oct. 3	346	$32
Grant Village	June 21 - Oct. 3	425	$18
Madison	May 7 - Oct. 31	280	$18

*plus tax

Important Yellowstone Phone Numbers

Emergencies
Yellowstone National Park.....911
Yellowstone National Park
Information .....(307) 344-7381
Yellowstone National Park,
TDD.....(307) 344-2386
Xanterra Parks and Resorts
Lodging and camping reservations
and information.....(307) 344-7311
Xanterra Parks and Resorts,
TDD.....(307) 344-5395
Road updates.....(307) 344-2117
More information is in *Yellowstone Today*, the park newspaper, available at Yellowstone National Park entrance stations and visitor centers.

SERVICES

Accommodations

Old Faithful Inn .....May 7 – Oct. 15
Old Faithful Snow Lodge .....May 14 – Oct. 17
Old Faithful Lodge .....May 21 – Sept. 19
Grant Village .....May 28 – Oct. 3
Lake Yellowstone Hotel .....May 21 – Oct. 11
Lake Lodge.....June 10 – Sept. 26
Canyon Lodge.....June 4 – Sept. 19
Roosevelt Lodge .....June 11 – Sept. 6
Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel..May 14 – Oct. 11

Restaurants, General Stores and Service Stations

The following locations have restaurants or cafeterias, general stores and service stations: Old Faithful, Canyon, Grant Village, Lake, Tower-Roosevelt, Mammoth Hot Springs, and Fishing Bridge.

Public Showers

Showers are available to the public (fee charged) at Old Faithful Lodge, Grant Village Campground, Fishing Bridge RV Park, Canyon Campground and Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel during the summer season.

YELLOWSTONE VISITOR SERVICES

Visitor Centers and Museums

Information, publications, exhibits, movies/videos, and ranger programs are available. For details visit www.nps.gov/yell or www.travelyellowstone.com.

Albright Visitor Center, Mammoth Hot Springs
Open year-round, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. in summer.
(307) 344-2263

Canyon Visitor Center
Opens May 29, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
(307) 242-2550

Fishing Bridge Visitor Center
Opens May 29, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. (307) 242-2450

Grant Village Visitor Center
Opens May 29, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. (307) 242-2650

Madison Information Station
Opens June 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (307) 344-2821

Museum of the National Park Ranger, Norris
Opens May 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Norris Geyser Basin Museum
Opens May 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (307) 344-2812

Old Faithful Visitor Center
Opens April 16, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. in summer
(307) 545-2750

West Thumb Information Station
Opens May 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (307) 242-2652

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce/Public Lands Desk
(406) 646-4403
Opens April 16, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. in summer

YELLOWSTONE ROADS

Spring 2004 Opening Schedule

Spring weather is unpredictable; roads may be closed temporarily by snow or other weather conditions. Snow tires or chains may be required. Weather and snow conditions permitting, tentative road opening dates for automobiles are:

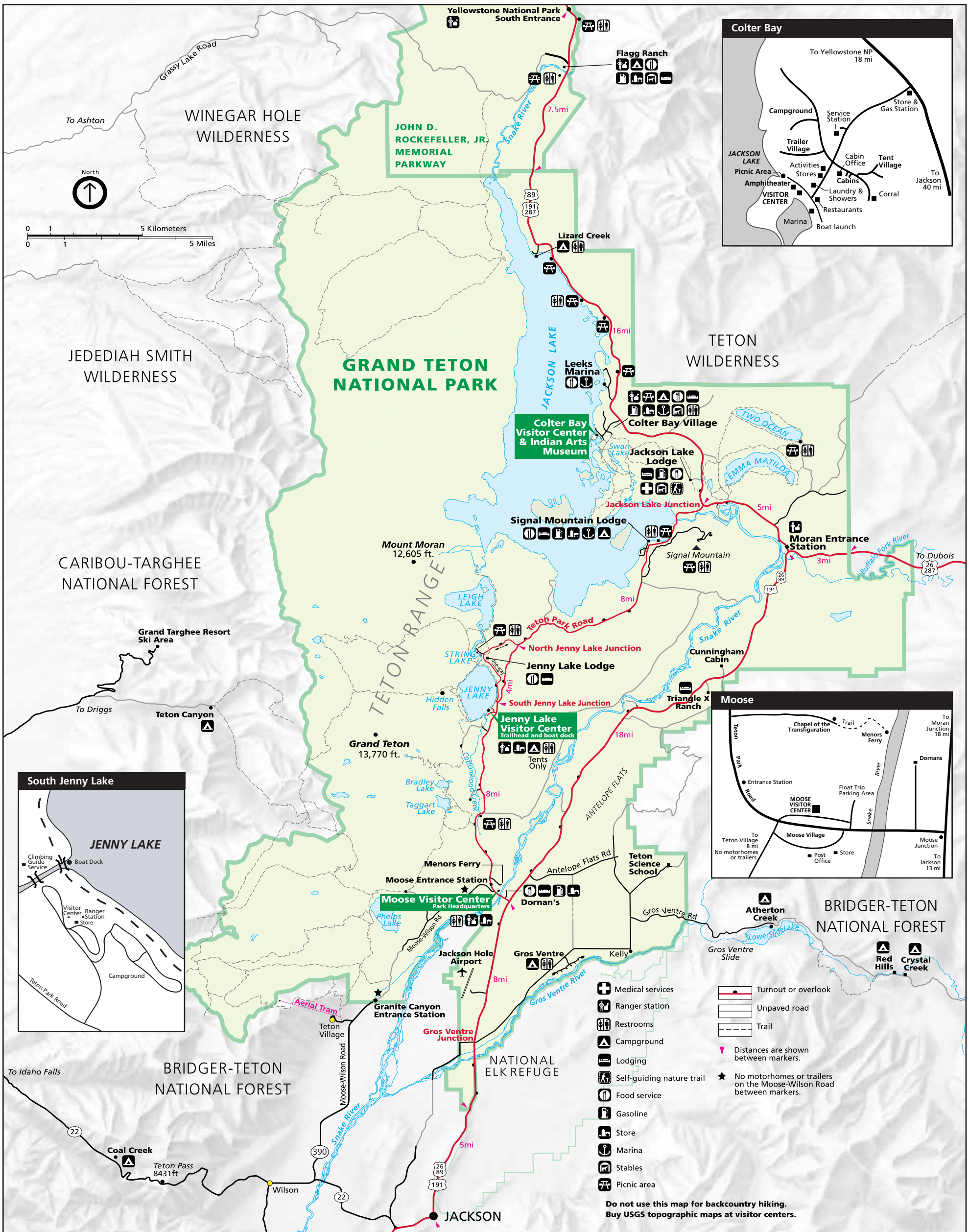
April 16: Mammoth to Old Faithful; West Entrance to Old Faithful
April 23: Norris to Canyon
May 7: Canyon to Lake to East Entrance
May 14: Tower-Roosevelt to Tower Fall
May 14: Cooke City to Chief Joseph Highway (if conditions allow)
May 14: Old Faithful to South Entrance; Lake to West Thumb (earlier if conditions allow)
May 28: Beartooth Pass (outside the northeast entrance)

Closed this year: Dunraven Pass
Nightly closures during summer: Sylvan Pass to East Entrance

Autumn 2004 Closing Schedule

The only park road that remains open to wheeled vehicles all winter is the road from Gardiner, MT at the North Park Entrance to Silver Gate and Cooke City near the Northeast Park Entrance. All other park roads close at 8:00 a.m. on November 8.

All opening and closing dates and hours of operation listed are subject to change due to weather and other variables. Check at park entrance stations and visitor centers for updated information.



Road Information

Road Work Delays
Road improvements will take place in Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks throughout the 2004 summer season. Summer is the only time for roadwork because warm and dry conditions are essential for repairing and resurfacing roads. For the most up-to-date information:

- Grand Teton road information call (307) 739-3614 or visit www.nps.gov/grte
- Yellowstone road information call (307) 344-2117 or visit www.nps.gov/yell

Please refer to the article on page 1 for more road construction information.

Move Over and Slow Down
A new state law requires motorists in Wyoming to move over and slow down when passing stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights. The law aims to reduce the danger of these vehicles getting hit by passing vehicles. In the last five years, stopped Wyoming Highway Patrol cars were struck on 27 different occasions.

Under the law, motorists on Wyoming interstates must move over to the travel lane farthest away from a stopped emergency vehicle before they pass. On two-lane highways, passing motorists must slow to 20 mph below the speed limit. These actions are required unless a law enforcement officer otherwise directs motorists. Violations can result in fines of up to $200, jail terms of up to 20 days, or both.