



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Moose Charges Visitors near Colter Bay Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a report on Tuesday, June 6, that a 16-year-old visitor from South Korea had been charged and injured by a female moose, who was in the vicinity of the Colter Bay Visitor Center with her two newborn calves. Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a radio call reporting the incident at 3:05 p.m.; rangers in the area were immediately on-scene and provided emergency medical assistance. A park ambulance transported the injured youth to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

The youth, whose name will not be released since he is a minor, began running away when the moose charged him; the moose reached him quickly and kicked him in the head. The youth had been taking photographs of the animals, and he had gotten far too close – within ten feet of the animal and her newborn calves.

Earlier Tuesday afternoon, at 2:15 p.m., the Colter Bay Visitor Center called Teton Interagency Dispatch Center to relay that a woman with two children had been hiking the Lakeshore Trail, and the same moose had charged them. Due to these incidents, rangers instituted a temporary closure of a paved section of the Lakeshore Trail, just beyond the Colter Bay Amphitheater. At 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, the moose was still in the area. On Wednesday morning, after seeing no sign of the moose, rangers were able to reopen the area to the public. Rangers are monitoring the area, and there may continue to be intermittent closures.

Wild animals actively use all areas of this park – whether front or backcountry, crowded or isolated, paved or unpaved – making it an excellent park for viewing wildlife. However, visitors should be aware that park animals are wild and should never be approached. This time of year, many female animals are with their young, making them extremely protective and sensitive to any encroachment on their space. Visitors should exercise extreme caution when attempting to photograph an animal, and always maintain a distance of at least 100 yards (about the length of a football field) from bears, and about 30 yards (about the length of two buses) from other large animals, such as elk, bison and moose. Avoid coming between an adult and its young. Please do not feed or harass wildlife.

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