



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2005 05-02

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Lost Cross-Country Skiers Found After Extensive Search

Grand Teton National Park rangers conducted an extensive search for two disoriented and lost cross-country skiers on Thursday evening, January 13, on the Teton Park Road between the Taggart Lake parking area and Timbered Island. Rangers finally located Hollis Webster, age 49, from Glen Ellyn, Illinois and her sister Lucinda Beier, age 53, from Normal, Illinois at 10:15 p.m. after a five hour search, involving more than a dozen park staff. The two women were cold, but otherwise in good condition.

Webster, Beier and two other sisters began their cross-country ski trip from the Taggart Lake parking area at 4:00 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. The four sisters intended to ski up the Teton Park Road and return by way of a ski trail on the west side of Cottonwood Creek which travels near the Climber's Ranch. The group split up shortly after beginning their ski when Leslie Mayer, age 43, of Glen Ellyn, Illinois and her sister decided to turn back. Webster and Beier continued to ski further, but eventually stopped to take shelter from high winds and blowing snow. When they resumed their ski, they became disoriented and traveled off route, inadvertently heading east across Baseline Flats toward the Snake River rather than west and south towards the Taggart Lake parking area. Daylight was fading and weather conditions at the time included ground blizzards, causing poor visibility.

Teton Interagency Dispatch received a cell phone call from Mayer at 5:30 p.m., requesting help in locating her two sisters. Webster and Beier had called Mayer from their cell phone to explain that they were lost and unsure about how to return to the parking area. Rangers responded and began an extensive search along and near the Teton Park Road. After initial search efforts failed to locate the two women, it became clear that the skiers were not where they intended to travel or thought they should be. The search was then expanded to include a broader area. Rangers were able to communicate with Webster and Beier until their cell phone lost power. During one conversation, Webster and Beier reported looking down on "flowing water" which prompted rangers to shift focus from the frozen Cottonwood Creek. Eventually, the skiers located some old buildings, took shelter and phoned again. Rangers instructed them to remain there and began searching areas where old buildings exist. The buildings turned out to be the old Bar BC dude ranch along the Snake River, a distance of two miles east of Climber's Ranch where they thought they were heading. Darkness and blizzard-like conditions made it difficult for searchers to find ski tracks or hear calls for help, hampering their efforts.

Park rangers caution winter visitors about beginning a ski or snowshoe trip late in the day, especially when adverse weather conditions such as blowing snow, poor visibility and low wind chill temperatures are occurring. In addition, winter recreationalists should always be prepared for the unexpected by carrying essential survival equipment in the event that an unexpected emergency requires spending more time than originally planned in the outdoors. Webster and Beier stayed relatively warm because they were wearing proper layered winter clothing with wind resistant shells.

This marks the first major search and rescue for 2005 in Grand Teton National Park.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2005 05-03

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail Within Grand Teton National Park Opens

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the portion of the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) that runs through Grand Teton National Park will open for the 2005 winter season on Sunday, January 16 at 8 a.m. Visitors using the CDST must stop at the Moran entrance station to show a valid park pass or purchase a snowmobile permit of \$15.00 for one day entry or \$20.00 for a week. Hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily.

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

The Temporary Winter Use Plan for Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks during the 2004-2005 winter season specifies that 50 snowmobiles per day may travel on the CDST in Grand Teton National Park. Snowmobile use within Grand Teton is prohibited **except** on the CDST or for access routes leading to adjacent national forest and private lands. In addition to the CDST quota, 50 snowmobiles may also travel daily on the Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Snowmobiles may also travel on the frozen surface of Jackson Lake for the purpose of fishing only.

All snowmobiles operating in Grand Teton on either the CDST or Jackson Lake must meet the NPS best available technology requirements. Approved snow machines are listed online at the following website: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/winter> .

The CDST will remain open dependent upon weather and snow conditions. Temporary trail closures can occur for safety or resource concerns, for snow grooming, snow removal operations, or as a result of deteriorating snow conditions. Trail conditions are available by calling a recorded information line at (307) 739-3614.

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Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 20, 2005 05-04

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Draft Transportation Plan Status

National Park Service staff from Grand Teton National Park and the Denver Service Center, along with consultants, continue to work together toward completion of a draft *Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. This draft plan will be available for a 60-day public review and comment in late spring of 2005, during which time the park will offer a public open house. Once the comment period ends, the park will analyze comments received, incorporate public input, and prepare a final *Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. Completion of the planning process is expected to be in the fall/winter of 2005, with first steps toward implementation in 2006.

Although completion of a draft plan is taking slightly longer than originally anticipated, additional time is necessary to more fully analyze the impacts of alternatives, especially those related to the Moose-Wilson Road corridor. Overall use on the Moose-Wilson Road is expected to increase and issues related to this roadway are both complex and inter-related to the park's total transportation plan. Furthermore, analysis of potential impacts associated with development of multi-use trails in resource sensitive areas of the park is a multifaceted and time consuming process.

The Transportation Plan will evaluate several alternatives for development of a system of multi-use pathways throughout the park. Alternatives will examine a mix of both road shoulder improvements and pathways that are separated from the roadways. The plan will also examine options for an initial level of transit service that could integrate the new pathways and analyze other options for visitors to reach trailheads and key destinations. In addition, the plan will evaluate alternatives for long-term management of the Moose-Wilson Road and provide the ability to test a variety of options over the next several years for dealing with congestion and increasing traffic volumes on this corridor.

Primary Goals of the Transportation Plan

- Create improved opportunities for visitors to safely enjoy the park by providing additional travel/recreational options, both motorized and non-motorized
- Reduce and control the level of traffic and parking congestion at key park locations
- Reduce and control adverse impacts to park resources attributable to human use
- Work cooperatively with gateway communities to achieve complementary transportation goals for the park and the communities
- Encourage alternative, sustainable transportation options that reduce consumption of non-renewable resources
- Expand transportation options for park and concession employees traveling within the park

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2005 05-05

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Dan Burgette Receives Wilderness Stewardship Award

Dan Burgette, long-time Grand Teton National Park ranger, now retired, received the *Wes Henry National Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Award* at a ceremony held in Missoula, Montana on Friday, January 21, 2005. National Park Service (NPS) colleagues nominated Burgette for this prestigious award to recognize his lengthy Park Service career, dedicated to the ideals of wilderness preservation.



Burgette Receives Plaque from Rick Potts

The *Wes Henry National Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Award* is an annual recognition given by the NPS to an outstanding wilderness champion. Its purpose is to reward persons and/or groups from within the agency who have made significant contributions towards the protection of wilderness resources within parks. These outstanding contributions can involve education and interpretation, management of natural, cultural and social resources, planning, protection, and/or maintenance operations. Recipients receive both a commemorative plaque and monetary award.

Throughout his 30-year NPS career, Burgette consistently shaped and promoted the standards and ethics for managing wilderness areas in several national parks where he worked. He helped to develop and expand a wilderness management plan for Grand Teton National Park and during the past 20 years, he took a leadership role in the park's wilderness program.

Burgette served as chairman of Grand Teton's Wilderness Committee and became the primary motivator for implementing a "minimum tool analysis" process for conducting all backcountry maintenance projects in the Teton Range. He developed the park's first backcountry campsite monitoring program in 1982 and expanded that work to include monitoring of overall human impacts throughout the backcountry. Data collected helped to direct work done by wilderness rehabilitation crews and led to a project involving the reseeding and transplanting of native alpine vegetation to restore heavily impacted areas at the 11,600 foot elevation on the Grand Teton. When high-altitude human waste management became a problem in the Teton Range, Burgette helped start a "pack-it-out" system to address this human health and wilderness protection issue.

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Burgette wrote and presented a paper titled, “Wilderness and Park Fire Policies and Programs: Vision of the Future” at a 1993 symposium on Fire in Wilderness and Park Management. He served as a panelist at the 1987 National Outdoor Leadership School’s conference on Wilderness Education. Over the past several years, he also worked on several wilderness projects with other federal agency personnel and members of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee. Recently, Burgette served on the Intermountain Region Wilderness Executive Committee and worked on a special project dealing with resource issues and impacts occurring along the Mexico-USA border at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona.

Burgette has continued to personally help people discover and define wilderness for themselves. Through serving as a wilderness educator at conferences, lectures, and committee meetings, he has expanded the wilderness vision and reminded participants that wilderness is necessary for many reasons. Burgette stated, “The challenge for managers is to balance wilderness idealism with pragmatic realities involving differing values, human impacts, the desire by large numbers of visitors to enjoy recreational experiences in natural areas, and the desire to leave opportunities for people a century from now to experience wildlands and escape from an artificial world, just as we can today.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2005 05-06

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Eight Grand Teton National Park Rangers Receive Department of the Interior Valor Awards

Dan Burgette, Chris Harder, Craig Holm, Leo Larson, Jack McConnell, George Montopoli, Jim Springer and Marty Vidak will each receive a Department of the Interior Valor Award at a special ceremony to be held on February 2, 2005 in Washington D.C. These eight Grand Teton National Park rangers, from the Jenny Lake rescue team, are being recognized for their heroic actions, courage, and professionalism in risking their personal safety to bring multiple injured climbers safely out of the Teton Range after lightning struck the mountaineers during an afternoon storm on July 26, 2003. Lives were saved as a safe evacuation of seriously injured climbers was executed through the collective efforts of these eight rangers and the exceptional skills and support of the rest of the Jenny Lake rescue team, numerous other Grand Teton National Park rangers, interagency dispatchers, two contact helicopter pilots, Bridger-Teton National Forest helitack crews, and Teton County and Idaho Air ambulance personnel.

A group of thirteen mountaineers from Idaho were climbing Grand Teton's Exum Ridge on July 26, 2003 when a passing thunderstorm produced a lightning bolt that struck eight members of the party at 3:45 p.m., injuring seven climbers – five of whom were seriously injured. As the group climbed at an elevation of 13,000 feet on a section called the Friction Pitch, Erica Summers took a direct hit and was instantly killed. Her husband, Clinton, sitting next to her on a rock ledge, was rendered unconscious from the lightning strike and sustained serious injuries. The force of the electrical charge knocked Rod Liberal off the rock wall where he was climbing just below the Summers, leaving him unconscious and hanging upside down in his climbing harness. Three other climbers standing on a narrow ledge at the base of the Friction Pitch were also knocked unconscious and tumbled down the cliff face until their rope became entangled in some rocks 100 feet below. Shortly after the lightning storm hit the group, Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a cell phone call for help, beginning a complicated rescue mission that lasted eight hours.

Several factors made the ensuing rescue extraordinarily difficult; the incident occurred at a high mountain elevation, the weather continued to be unsettled and cold, and it was late in the day, leaving minimal time for completing a rescue before darkness. An initial reconnaissance flight confirmed that multiple patients were scattered in various locations across the steep rock face. Liberal, who was hanging on a cliff, appeared near death until he slightly moved his head and one hand. Reaching him to provide critical medical care became the top priority.

The quickest way to place rescuers at the scene of a mountain accident is by helicopter using the short-haul technique. This system involves suspending a rescuer by a 100-foot long rope below a hovering helicopter and inserting (placing) that rescuer onto a cliff face or rock ledge near the patient. Although this technique is very efficient, it involves inherent risks that can include variable weather conditions and placement of a helicopter near mountainous terrain.

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To begin the rescue, rangers were first flown to the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton at an elevation of 11,600 feet to set up a rescue base and rig ropes for a short-haul operation. The first attempt to short-haul a rescuer to the scene had to be aborted due to clouds obscuring the peak. Consequently, two rangers were sent on foot from the Lower Saddle rescue base to the Friction Pitch. In order to reach the injured climbers as quickly as possible, these rangers climbed the steep ridge without being roped up.

When the clouds cleared, six other rangers were short-hauled from the Lower Saddle to a higher location where the injured were waiting. Over the next five hours on steep technical terrain, rangers set up climbing anchors, rappelled to the multiple patients, conducted medical assessments, rendered initial first aid and prepared patients for evacuation from the ledge.

Four of the injured climbers were short-haul air lifted from the Friction Pitch to the Lower Saddle where they were then placed inside a second helicopter and flown to waiting ground and air ambulances on the valley floor. Liberal, the fifth and most seriously injured climber, was placed in a basket-like device called a litter. Then rangers used ropes and pulleys to raise the litter containing Liberal to the top of the cliff where it was then attached to short-haul ropes for a helicopter flight to the valley floor. A park ranger was tethered to the litter carrying Liberal and suspended from the helicopter by short-haul ropes to accompany and medically attend the critically injured man during the flight out of the mountains to a waiting air ambulance. This final rescue maneuver was completed just 20 minutes before it became too dark to fly. Had rangers been unable to complete this final rescue mission, Liberal would have been forced to spend the night on the mountain, greatly reducing his chance of survival. As the rescue concluded, rangers climbed the remaining portions of the Exum Ridge route and descended from the Grand Teton in darkness. The entire rescue operation was not completed until midnight.

After being evacuated from the mountain, two patients were flown from Lupine Meadows by air ambulance directly to the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC) in Idaho Falls, Idaho. From EIRMC, Liberal was flown directly to the University of Utah Medical Center's Burn Unit in Salt Lake City, Utah. Three of the other seriously injured patients were transported for treatment to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming.

The Jenny Lake rescue team and support personnel intensively train each year, practicing short-haul maneuvers and other rescue techniques. This level of preparedness made it possible for the rescue team to execute a highly complex mission and safely evacuate five seriously injured people – two of whom may not have survived without the skills of the team.

This mass casualty incident is considered to be the most complex rescue ever conducted during the fifty-three year history of the park's Jenny Lake rescue team.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2005 05-72

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Winter Season Activities Begin in Grand Teton National Park

Activities for the 2005–06 winter season begin next week in Grand Teton National Park. On Wednesday, December 21, all park entrance gates and the Flagg Ranch Information Station in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway will reopen for winter operations. The Moose Visitor Center is open year-round with winter hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Both the Moose Visitor Center and Flagg Ranch Information Station will be closed on December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

A **Single Day Pass** is available to winter visitors at Grand Teton National Park's entrance stations. This winter-season permit allows a one-day entry into Grand Teton at a cost of \$5 per vehicle. The single day pass is valid **only** in Grand Teton and **cannot** be used for entry into Yellowstone. Winter visitors may choose to purchase one of the following entry pass options:

- \$50 National Parks Pass valid for one year entry to all national park units
- \$40 Parks Specific Pass valid for one year entry to Grand Teton and Yellowstone
- \$20 Seven-day Pass valid for snowmobile entry to Grand Teton and the JDR Parkway
- \$15 One-day Pass valid for snowmobile entry to Grand Teton and the JDR Parkway
- \$5 Single Day Pass valid only for Grand Teton National Park

Ranger-led snowshoe hikes will begin December 26 at the Moose Visitor Center. This free, 2-hour activity is offered at 2 p.m. every day except Wednesday. Previous experience is not necessary and snowshoes are provided for participants. Reservations are required; please phone (307) 739-3399.

Backcountry users and mountaineers planning to stay overnight in the backcountry must get a non-fee permit at the Moose Visitor Center before their trip. Permits are not required for day users. To obtain weather forecasts and avalanche hazard information, please stop at the Moose Visitor Center, visit the backcountry website www.jhavalanche.org, or call the avalanche hotline at (307) 733-2664.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular winter activities in the park. Trails are marked with orange flagging, but are not groomed. The Teton Park Road (TPR) is a designated winter trail, open to non-motorized use only. During the winter season, the unplowed TPR will be intermittently groomed for cross-country touring and skate skiing from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. Severe winter storms and/or park emergencies may occasionally preempt the trail grooming schedule. Snowshoers are reminded to walk adjacent to – and not on top of – cross-country ski tracks.

Skiers and snowshoers, though not restricted to marked trails, are required to observe winter closure areas for protection of wildlife. To obtain trail maps and area-closure locations, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grte/pphtml/maps.html, or the Moose Visitor Center.

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Winter wildlife closure locations include:

Snake River floodplain from Moran to Menors Ferry near Moose
Buffalo Fork River floodplain within the park
Kelly Hill and Uhl Hill
Willow Flats
Static Peak
Prospectors Mountain
Mount Hunt areas (see the park's cross-country ski brochure for descriptions)

Leashed pets are allowed on the park's plowed roads and turnouts, the unplowed Moose-Wilson Road, and the Grassy Lake Road. Pets are **not** allowed in the backcountry, which includes all other park areas beyond the defined roadways.

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

Mutt Mitt stations are in place at the TPR trailheads to dispense plastic bags for pet waste; trash receptacles are also available for disposal of used bags. Pet owners are **required** to clean up their pet's waste and **properly dispose** of the bags in the receptacles provided. If pet owners do not comply with these rules and regulations, it is possible that pets will be prohibited from the TPR in the future.

Dog sleds are not allowed on the Teton Park Road. However, dog sleds are allowed on Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.

Winter car camping is available only in the parking area at Colter Bay Visitor Center from December 1 through April 15. A \$5 nightly fee is charged and payable at a self-registration box located near the restrooms adjacent to the visitor center.

Snowmobilers may use the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) – which runs through both Grand Teton and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway – and the Grassy Lake Road in the JDR Parkway, when conditions permit. Snowmobile operation hours are from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The CDST will open once enough snow has accumulated to allow grooming for safe passage along the trail route. In addition, the CDST opens in coordination with the State of Wyoming's portion of the trail which provides access into the park through the Moran Entrance Station. Trail information is available through a recorded message by calling (307) 739-3683.

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

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

For further information about winter activities in Grand Teton National Park or the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, please visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grte and click on the winter information link located on the homepage.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2005 05-07

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Management of Park Campgrounds Transfers to Concessioners

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that two authorized park concessioners, Grand Teton Lodge Company and Signal Mountain Lodge, will take over the management of daily operations at five campgrounds within Grand Teton National Park beginning with the 2005 summer season.

Grand Teton Lodge Company will assume management of the Gros Ventre, Jenny Lake and Colter Bay campgrounds, while Signal Mountain Lodge will manage both the Signal Mountain and Lizard Creek campgrounds. Each concessioner plans to operate the five campgrounds in a manner similar to previous years when they were park-operated facilities. Concessioners will maintain comparable opening/closing dates, site capacities and campground rules/regulations.

At any one of the five concession-operated campgrounds, individual campsites will be occupied on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees for an individual campsite will cost \$15 per night (tax included) and fees for hiker/bicyclist camping will be \$5.00 per site. Group campsites will be offered through a reservation system with a cost of \$3.00 per person, per night. Reservations for group sites may be made by calling (307) 543-3100 or (800) 628-9988.

Under new contracts, concessioners will make general site improvements and establish ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible sites and restrooms. In addition, future plans include the building of new shower and laundry facilities at both the Gros Ventre and Signal Mountain campgrounds

For further information about Gros Ventre, Jenny Lake and Colter Bay campgrounds, contact Grand Teton Lodge Company at (307) 543-3100 or (800) 628-9988 or go to www.gtlc.com online. For additional information on Signal Mountain and Lizard Creek campgrounds, please call Signal Mountain Lodge at (307) 543-2831 or (800) 672-6012 or visit www.signalmountainlodge.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2005 05-08

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Finding of No Significant Impact Determined for White Grass Ranch Rehabilitation and Adaptive Use

The National Park Service (NPS) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a Grand Teton National Park environmental assessment/assessment of effect (EA/AEF) titled *White Grass Ranch Rehabilitation and Adaptive Use*. The FONSI was signed by NPS Intermountain Regional Director Stephen P. Martin on February 1, 2005.

The NPS has selected Alternative 3 – Phased Development (the preferred alternative) for implementation after a thorough review of the alternatives and their impacts on cultural, natural and social resources, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State Historic Preservation Office, and consideration of comments received during a public review in September 2004.

Topics of concern identified during the scoping process, and evaluated in the EA/AEF, included historic structures, cultural landscapes, archaeological resources, vegetation, wilderness, wildlife (including threatened, endangered, and special concern species), park operations and partnerships, and visitor use and experience. Mitigation measures described in the EA/AEF and FONSI will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts.

The NPS will rehabilitate and adaptively use White Grass Ranch as a Western Center for Preservation Training and Technology. The Center will be a small seasonal facility managed by the NPS as a part of Grand Teton National Park. The Center will address a critical need for rehabilitation and preservation of historic structures while affording opportunities for Grand Teton and other NPS employees, volunteers, contractors, students, and other federal agency staff to train in ways of preserving and rehabilitating historic structures throughout the Intermountain Region, beginning with Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks.

As part of the project, three historic buildings will be rehabilitated immediately and used as the training and technology facility. Initially, lodging will not be available; however, as trainees rehabilitate additional cabins, up to 15 overnight users and trainees could be accommodated on a seasonal basis between spring and fall. Eventually, all 13 buildings will be rehabilitated and adaptively used as part of the Center. The preferred alternative provides for full utilities and handicap accessibility. Once the historic Whitegrass Ranch buildings are all rehabilitated, much of the hands-on preservation training will be done at other locations, some outside of Grand Teton.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) is a partner in this project and will help raise funds for some of the preservation work. A general agreement was signed in October 2003 between the NPS and NTHP, which outlined a partnership to analyze opportunities for rehabilitating and adaptively using the White Grass Ranch. After a fundraising agreement is signed, the NTHP will raise up to \$1 million for this project.

The White Grass Ranch Rehabilitation and Adaptive Use FONSI is posted on the park's website at www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm. Copies are also available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the Reference Desk in the Teton County Library. For further information, call (307) 739-3390.

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Missing Snowboarder Found in Granite Canyon in Grand Teton National Park After Spending Night Alone in the Backcountry

A 25-year-old man, Jason Valento, of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, was found walking out of Granite Canyon on Sunday morning, February 13, after becoming separated from his three skiing companions on Saturday afternoon and spending the night alone in the backcountry of Grand Teton National Park.

For the previous two days, Valento snowboarded while his three companions, Mike Gisch, Tom Leslie and Ben Heyen, all from White Bear Lake, MN, skied in Rock Springs Canyon outside of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR) on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. After riding the JHMR Tram on Saturday afternoon, the four left the ski area boundary for the backcountry in limited visibility conditions. As the three skiers descended a ridge line, Valento became separated from the group. Valento stopped and waited for approximately 15 minutes hoping to see or hear his friends, but decided to continue his descent alone. Valento continued snowboarding and unknowingly turned right into Granite Canyon instead of left into Rock Springs Canyon, where the four had intended to ski and snowboard.

Valento's companions tried to find him and one friend hiked up to a ridge and skied back down looking for him. At approximately 4:45 pm, Valento's companions reported him missing to JHMR Ski Patrol. When it was clear that Valento had not made it out on his own, JHMR Ski Patrol notified Teton County Search & Rescue that a snowboarder was likely missing.

Teton County notified Grand Teton National Park that a snowboarder was missing in either Granite Canyon within the park or in Rock Springs Canyon on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Teton County Search & Rescue personnel and Grand Teton rangers gathered Saturday night to plan a coordinated search effort for early Sunday morning, including the intent to utilize the County's contract helicopter if weather conditions permitted.

Fortunately the weather cooperated just enough to allow some flying early Sunday morning, and shortly after 8:00 a.m., Valento was spotted walking in Granite Canyon by rescue personnel in the helicopter as it flew up the Granite Canyon drainage in Grand Teton.

Grand Teton rangers staged at the JHMR on Sunday morning to be ready to ski into Granite Canyon and look for Valento if he was not located by searchers in the helicopter. Once he was spotted by helicopter, Teton County Search & Rescue personnel gathered up additional gear and returned to land the helicopter in a temporary landing zone within Granite Canyon to be able to quickly reach Valento and evacuate him. With weather conditions deteriorating, Valento was flown from the canyon to the base of JHMR and evaluated by a physician there. Valento was in good condition and didn't require medical treatment.

(MORE)



Valento told park rangers that he had been following ski tracks when he began his descent Saturday afternoon, and due to limited visibility didn't realize until later that he had made a wrong turn. Instead of retracing his snowboard descent track and hiking back up, he chose to continue the descent into Granite Canyon, intermittently boarding and walking. Once it became dark he made a small snow cave type shelter and slept for a few hours. He woke up cold and decided to continue walking down the canyon, following Granite Creek. Unfortunately, the ice over the creek gave way and his feet and hands went into the creek. Since his feet and hands were now wet and cold, Valento decided he better keep moving and try and get out of the canyon. He continued to walk along side of Granite Creek and was about half-way down Granite Canyon when he was spotted Sunday morning.

Park rangers remind winter backcountry users to be prepared for changing weather conditions. Winter visitors should always check weather and avalanche forecasts before heading into the backcountry and consult a map if they are unfamiliar with the terrain. Additionally visitors heading into the backcountry should be prepared for the unexpected by carrying essential survival equipment - including extra warm clothing, water and food – in the event that an emergency requires spending more time than originally planned in the outdoors.

This marks the second major search and rescue for 2005 in Grand Teton National Park.

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2005 05-10

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Backcountry Skier Injured During Avalanche in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers assisted Jackson Hole Mountain Resort ski patrollers in rescuing a seriously injured backcountry skier from Granite Canyon just north of the ski resort on Monday afternoon, February 21. Eric Rohr, of Jackson, Wyoming, sustained leg and other injuries when he triggered an avalanche that carried him 2,000 vertical feet down a steep slope and over a rocky outcrop while attempting to ski the Mile Long Couloir in Granite Canyon.

Rohr and four companions accessed the backcountry of Grand Teton from the Teton Village ski area mid-day on Monday. Rohr, the first skier to enter Mile Long Couloir, set off a soft slab avalanche after making a couple of turns into the chute about 12:20 p.m. The avalanche left a 15 to 20-inch crown and ran the full length of the couloir on a layer of old sun crusted snow before coming to rest just 400 feet above Granite Creek in the bottom of the canyon. Another skier in the area at the time witnessed the snow slide carrying Rohr and used his cell phone to notify Jackson Hole Mountain Resort ski patrol staff, who in turn notified Teton Interagency Dispatch in the park at 12:22 p.m.

Rohr's companions quickly reached him at the bottom of the couloir and began to dig him out. Fortunately, he was not fully buried by the snow slide. Two ski patrollers immediately responded from the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and provided initial medical care to the injured Rohr, while three other ski patrollers brought additional medical and rescue equipment to the scene. At 2:20 p.m., two park rangers were flown by a Teton County contract helicopter to a landing zone within the canyon to supply rescue gear necessary for transporting the injured skier out of the mountains.

After receiving emergency medical care and being placed into the helicopter on a rescue platform, Rohr was flown to the base of the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort where he was then transported by a Teton County ambulance to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for treatment of his injuries.

According to the Bridger-Teton National Forest Avalanche Center, the avalanche advisory for Monday afternoon was listed as "moderate" for mid to low elevations and "considerable" at high elevations (9,000 – 10,500 feet); the top of Mile Long Couloir lies at an elevation of approximately 9,200 feet. A considerable rating advises that dangerous unstable slabs exist on steep terrain and that human triggered avalanches are probable, with natural avalanches possible.

Park rangers remind all backcountry users that they should consult area avalanche conditions before entering the backcountry, exercise caution in selecting locations in which to ski or snowboard, and avoid potentially unstable slopes. For daily conditions call the avalanche hotline at (307) 733-2664 or visit the web at www.jhavlanche.org.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2005 05-11

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail Within Grand Teton National Park To Close For The Season

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced that due to a lack of adequate snow cover, the portion of the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail (CDST) that runs from Moran Junction to the park's east boundary closed for the winter season today, Wednesday, March 2. The section of the CDST that stretches from Moran Junction to Flagg Ranch is scheduled to close at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, March 13; however, if conditions continue to deteriorate on this segment, it may close sooner.

An extremely thin snow pack along the length CDST within the park, combined with recent melting, has caused snow conditions to rapidly deteriorate, leaving large portions of the trail unsafe for snowmobile travel. Some sections of the trail have completely melted out, exposing rocks, mud holes and vegetation.

For further information on the CDST, please call a recorded message line at (307) 739-3614.

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 7, 2005 05-12

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Annual Snow Plowing to Begin on Teton Park Road

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced that cross-country skiing and snowshoeing along the Teton Park Road will end for the winter season as annual snow plowing begins on Sunday morning, March 13. The Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail running from Moran Junction to Flagg Ranch within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway is scheduled to close for the 2004/05 winter season on Sunday evening, March 13; however, if snow conditions continue to deteriorate, the snowmobile trail may closer sooner.

Plowing operations on the Teton Park Road will begin Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m. Although access to the roadway will no longer be available to winter recreation, park visitors may continue to use areas adjacent to the roadbed for skiing and snowshoeing. For safety reasons, visitors are requested **not to access** the Teton Park Road while rotary snow removal equipment and plows are working on the roadway and to **always** maintain a safe distance from any of this equipment whenever they in operation.

Depending on weather, snow conditions and plowing progress, portions of the roadway may become accessible to non-motorized activities such as hiking, biking, inline skating and dog walking before the annual April 1st opening date. Pet owners are reminded that leashed dogs are permitted **only** on the roadway and not allowed in areas off the roadbed. Pet owners must clean up their dog waste and a "mutt-mitt" station located near the road closure gate provides bags for this purpose. The Teton Park Road will open to vehicle traffic on Sunday, May 1, 2005.

The Flagg Ranch Visitor Information Station closes for the winter season on Sunday, March 13 at 5:00 p.m., while Flagg Ranch Resort services will close for the season on Monday, March 14. Winter car camping at the Colter Bay Visitor Center parking area will end on Friday, April 15.

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

Ranger-led snowshoe hikes originating from the Moose Visitor Center are scheduled to end on Tuesday, March 15, depending upon snow conditions. Throughout late winter and early spring, the Moose Visitor Center remains open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 7, 2005 05-13

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Backcountry Skier Seriously Injured in Avalanche in Grand Teton National Park

Park rangers assisted Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR) ski patrollers today, March 7, in rescuing an injured backcountry skier from Granite Canyon in Grand Teton National Park. Andy Bergin, age 24, of Jackson, Wyoming, received multiple serious injuries after he triggered an avalanche which swept him over rocks and carried him about 1,000 feet down slope in an area called the Northwest Passage. Bergin, an employee of the JHMR, was skiing with friends in the backcountry of Granite Canyon when the incident occurred.

Teton Interagency Dispatch was notified at 11:50 a.m. by a JHMR ski patrolman who reported a possible avalanche occurring in Granite Canyon that involved some backcountry skiers. Teton County dispatch called minutes later confirming that they had just received a 911 call by cell phone from Granite Canyon with the same information; dispatchers also stated that one skier was reported to be seriously injured. Park rangers immediately began to coordinate rescue efforts, contracted for the use of Teton County's rescue helicopter and flew ranger personnel with medical equipment and additional rescue gear to the scene.

Two JHMR ski patrollers reached the injured Bergin first and provided emergency medical care while other skiers in the area prepared a landing zone for the helicopter by packing down the snow with their skis. Once on the scene, park rangers provided additional medical evaluation and care. Rangers then placed Bergin into the helicopter about 2:00 p.m. and attended him during the flight to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming.

This marks the fourth major search and rescue in the park this winter and the third rescue conducted in Granite Canyon.

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NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, Colorado 80228**

05-13
For Immediate Release

February 22, 2005
Contacts: Laurie Shannon FWS (303) 236-4317
Joan Anzelmo NPS (307) 739-3415

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND INTERAGENCY PARTNERS CONTINUE WORK ON BISON - ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NATIONAL ELK REFUGE AND NEIGHBORING PARK LANDS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and their cooperating and partner agencies are making progress on the Bison/Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park and John D. Rockefeller Jr., Memorial Parkway in northwestern Wyoming.

The agencies have started the interagency review process, in which the agencies will work together to refine and revise the plan and the EIS. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service, along with the USDA Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Wyoming Fish and Game Department, hope to complete this process by spring, 2005, at which point a draft plan and EIS will be released to the public for comment. The final plan and EIS is expected to be completed by late 2006.

The bison/elk management planning process began in 1999 following earlier litigation over a bison management plan prepared by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Park Service for the refuge and the park and parkway. The court ordered that no destruction of bison could occur on refuge or park lands until the agencies analyzed bison management in combination with the winter feeding program on the refuge. The agencies ultimately broadened the scope of the analysis to include elk management in order to meet National Wildlife Refuge System planning requirements and to address the issues related to high animal concentrations and effects on habitat all at the same time.

The National Elk Refuge, a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, is located in northwestern Wyoming, just north of Jackson, Wyoming. The refuge consists of 25,000 acres, including nearly 1600 acres of open water, and provides winter range for more than 7,500 elk and habitat for 47 different mammals and 175 species of birds.

Grand Teton National Park, a unit of the National Park System, is located in northwestern Wyoming, just north and west of Jackson, Wyoming. The park consists of 309,995 acres of diverse habitats, ranging from sagebrush to the high mountain peaks of the Teton Range, and supports a variety of native wildlife, including elk and bison, as well as pronghorn antelope. Nearly 4 million people visit the park annually. The plan and EIS will also address bison and elk management issues on the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway, a 23,777-acre link between the park and Yellowstone National Park.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

- FWS -

For more information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
visit our home page at <http://www.fws.gov>



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2005 05-14

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail Closes Today And Snow Plowing Begins Soon on Teton Park Road

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announces that the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail running from Moran Junction to Flagg Ranch within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway is now closed as of today, March 10, because of deteriorated snow conditions along the length of the trail. Annual snow plowing of the Teton Park Road is scheduled to begin Sunday morning, March 13. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing along the road surface will end for the winter season at that time.

Plowing operations on the Teton Park Road will begin Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m. Although access to the roadway will no longer be available to winter recreation, park visitors may continue to use areas adjacent to the roadbed for skiing and snowshoeing. For safety reasons, visitors are requested **not to access** the Teton Park Road while rotary snow removal equipment and plows are working on the roadway and to **always** maintain a safe distance from any of this equipment whenever they in operation.

Depending on weather, snow conditions and plowing progress, portions of the roadway may become accessible to non-motorized activities such as hiking, biking, inline skating and dog walking well before the annual April 1st opening date. Pet owners are reminded that leashed dogs are permitted **only** on the roadway and not allowed in areas off the roadbed. Pet owners must clean up their dog waste and a “mutt-mitt” station located near the road closure gate provides bags for this purpose. The Teton Park Road will open to vehicle traffic on Sunday, May 1, 2005.

The Flagg Ranch Visitor Information Station closes for the winter season on Sunday, March 13 at 5:00 p.m., while Flagg Ranch Resort services will close for the season on Monday, March 14. Winter car camping at the Colter Bay Visitor Center parking area will end on Friday, April 15.

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

Ranger-led snowshoe hikes originating from the Moose Visitor Center are scheduled to end on Tuesday, March 15, depending upon snow conditions. Throughout late winter and early spring, the Moose Visitor Center remains open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2005 05-15

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Dead Wolf Found Along Roadside in Grand Teton National Park

Two park employees, who happened to be stopping at the Moran post office early Monday morning, were contacted by visitors to advise them that they had just seen what appeared to be a dead wolf on the roadway.

One of the employees, Mack McFarland, was in his National Park Service uniform and went to the location to verify the sighting of the wolf. McFarland confirmed that it was a wolf and notified park rangers.

Rangers went to the scene to begin an investigation. Rangers also contacted, Mike Jimenez, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Project Leader for the wolf recovery program in Wyoming. Jimenez joined park rangers at the scene a little later in the morning. Jimenez identified the wolf as sub-adult female from the Teton pack who weighed approximately 75 pounds. The wolf did not have a radio collar.

Rangers and Jimenez believe the wolf was struck by a vehicle while attempting to take down an elk with other wolves of the Teton Pack. Jimenez will send the carcass to a forensics lab in Ashland, Oregon to rule out any possibility of an intentional kill. Park rangers will continue the investigation and wait for results from the lab.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2005 05-15a

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Dead Wolf Found Along Roadside in Grand Teton National Park

Two Grand Teton National Park employees, who happened to be stopped at the Moran Post Office early Monday morning, were contacted by visitors with a report that they had just seen what appeared to be a dead wolf on the roadway about one mile east of Moran Junction.

One of the park employees, Mack McFarland, went to the location where the animal was sighted to identify the species. McFarland confirmed that it was indeed a wolf and consequently notified park rangers.

Rangers drove to the scene to begin an official investigation and also contacted, Mike Jimenez, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Project Leader for the wolf recovery program in Wyoming. Jimenez joined park rangers at the scene a little later in the morning and identified the wolf as a sub-adult female from the Teton pack, dark in color and weighing approximately 75 pounds. The wolf did not have a radio collar.

Rangers and Jimenez believe the wolf was struck by a vehicle while attempting to take down an elk with other members of the Teton wolf pack. Rangers found an injured elk on the south side of the roadway.

Jimenez will send the wolf carcass to an Ashland, Oregon forensics lab to rule out any possibility of an intentional kill. Park rangers will continue their investigation and wait for results from the Oregon lab.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2005 05-16

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

The Teton Park Road in Grand Teton National Park Opens for Annual Spring Activities

Due to a shallow snow pack that allowed for rapid progress during spring snow plowing operations, the Teton Park Road and Jenny Lake Scenic Loop in Grand Teton National Park are now open to hikers, bikers, inline skaters and other non-motorized activities from the Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. Patches of snow and ice may remain on the road surface until more melting occurs. **Non-motorized users need to be alert for administrative vehicles occasionally traveling the roadway.**

The annual springtime opening of the Teton Park Road is a much anticipated event for local residents and visitors alike. It allows for a unique and excellent opportunity to enjoy access to this park roadway before vehicle traffic begins for the coming summer season. Both the Teton Park Road and Moose-Wilson Road will open to vehicle traffic on May 1.

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

As a reminder, entrance stations are operating and collecting fees. Fee options are as follows:

- \$10 7-day Pass for bicycle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$20 7-day Pass for vehicle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$40 Annual Parks Pass valid for one-year entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone
- \$50 National Parks Pass valid for one-year entrance to all national park units
- \$ 5 Satellite Pass used in conjunction with either a National Parks or Annual Parks Pass to allow entry into **Grand Teton only** for family members traveling in a separate vehicle

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

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

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www.nps.gov/grte



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U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 2005 05-17

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Rangers to Lead Grouse Watching Trips During National Park Week

To help celebrate the upcoming National Park Week, park rangers will lead early-morning tours to observe strutting sage grouse as they perform their spring-time mating dance on a traditional lek (strutting arena) located just off the Antelope Flats Road near Mormon Row. Strutting grouse trips will be offered Sunday, April 10, and during both Saturday and Sunday of the following two weekends, April 16 – 17 and April 23 – 24.

Strutting grouse tours will begin from the Moose Visitor Center at 5:30 a.m. and reservations are required. To make a reservation and obtain information about what to wear and bring along on these ranger-led trips, phone the Moose Visitor Center at 739-3399.

Ranger-led excursions offer a unique opportunity to view this spring-time ritual, as sage grouse congregate to perform animated mating displays. Rangers will also provide information about the natural history of sage grouse and conservation efforts underway, as grouse populations are declining throughout much of the West.

National Park Week will be celebrated during the week of April 16 – 24. The theme for this year's observance is "National Parks: America's Gift to the World." The week-long celebration offers diverse opportunities for U.S. citizens and international visitors alike to explore and learn about America's exceptional natural, cultural, and recreational heritage. National Park Week also salutes the many individuals, groups and associations that help make the National Park System one of this Nation's greatest assets.

Additional information about National Park Week will be available in early April on the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov. For further information about the grouse watching tours, please call 739-3399.

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www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2005 05-18

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

Grand Teton National Park has implemented a temporary public closure to protect breeding sage grouse at the Moulton Ranch lek (a seasonal mating arena) off the Antelope Flats Road. From April 6 – May 15, 2005, a quarter-mile radius around the lek site will be posted as **closed to all public entry** to reduce human disturbance on sage grouse hens and males who traditionally use the area during their annual mating time. Observance of this seasonal wildlife closure will reduce unnecessary stress on grouse. Any violations of the closure may result in a citation.

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

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

Grand Teton National Park rangers use the established public viewing area near the Moulton Ranch as they lead early-morning trips to observe strutting sage grouse performing their springtime mating dance on this traditional lek. Strutting grouse tours will occur Saturdays and Sundays during the weekends of April 16-17 and April 23-24. Trips begin at 5:30 a.m. from the Moose Visitor Center and reservations are required. Call the Moose Visitor Center at 739-3399, to make reservations and obtain information about what to wear and bring along on the ranger-led excursions.

Sage grouse are declining throughout the West. The April ranger-led tours offer local residents and visitors an opportunity to see grouse and their unique mating ritual, while protecting the birds from undue disturbance.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2005 05-19

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Accepting Applications for Transportation Permits

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that applications are being accepted for transportation permits to operate in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Transportation permits authorize road-based interpretive wildlife and photography tours for small groups (up to 15 participants plus group leader). Transportation permits are only available to Teton County based businesses.

Transportation providers must apply for an Incidental Business Permit (IBP) and submit proof of insurance. There is a \$200 annual permit fee. Tour guides must possess current first aid and CPR certification.

To request more information and an application, interested parties should contact Laura Nelson in the Business Resources Division at 307-739-3416.

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www.nps.gov/grte



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2005 05-20

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Reminder of Spring Bear Activity in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott reminds local residents and visitors to be alert for signs of bear activity within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. This is the time of year when bears begin to emerge from their winter dens and appropriate precautions for traveling in bear country should be taken. Historically, adult male bears emerge from hibernation as early as mid March. Recently, bear tracks have been sighted in several areas throughout the park and parkway.

When bears come out of their winter dens, they begin to search for any food source that helps restore depleted fat reserves after hibernation. Winter-weakened animals and winter-killed wildlife carcasses provide an immediate source of protein and are vigorously defended by hungry bears. As snow banks recede, bears also dig up and eat burrowing rodents and spring wildflowers. Female bears, accompanied by their cubs, emerge later in the spring and are especially protective of their young. **Do not approach a bear under any circumstances.** This is particularly important for situations involving bears with cubs, or bears near a carcass.

When traveling in bear country, precautionary measures should include carrying pepper spray and keeping it easily accessible to use. Take time to become familiar with the proper handling of pepper spray and remember that it is not a substitute for being alert and exercising good judgment and safety practices, such as making noise and traveling in a group - not alone - while in the park's backcountry.

Visitors should report any bear sightings or signs to the nearest visitor center or ranger station as soon as possible. This timely information will assist park staff in keeping bears away from unnatural food sources. Access to human food habituates bears. Habituated animals often lose their fear of humans, which threatens the safety of both park visitors and the bears themselves. Park visitors are reminded to keep food, garbage and other odorous items unavailable to bears by storing attractants inside vehicles and disposing of garbage in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 19, 2005 05-21

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today the official opening dates for facilities and services in Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway for the 2005 season.

Roads

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

Teton Park Road
Moose-Wilson Road

Both the Antelope Flats Road and the Deadman's Bar Road were previously reopened to vehicle traffic. The Grassy Lake Road, in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, is scheduled to open June 1. Please drive cautiously and be aware that springtime repair work may be underway on any park roads. For current road information contact the park at (307) 739-3614.

Entrance Stations

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

- \$10 7-day Pass for bicycle or pedestrian entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$20 7-day Pass for vehicle entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone national parks
- \$40 Annual Parks Pass valid for one-year entry into Grand Teton & Yellowstone
- \$50 National Parks Pass valid for one-year entrance to all national park units
- \$ 5 Satellite Pass used in conjunction with either a National Parks or Annual Parks Pass to allow entry into **Grand Teton only** for family members traveling in a separate vehicle

Please be sure to bring personal identification to enter the park using a pass. A photo machine is in operation at the Moose Entrance Station for processing photos - free of charge - to be placed onto the Annual Parks Pass. This "photo pass" eliminates the need for other personal identification whenever entering the park using the Annual Park Pass. Entrance station staff will take photos upon request.

Visitor Centers

The Moose Visitor Center is open daily, year-round. The following other visitor centers open:

Colter Bay Visitor Center	May 7
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	May 21
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	June 6
Flagg Ranch Information Station	June 6

Ranger-led activities begin Monday, June 6. An activity schedule can be found in the park's newspaper, the *Teewinot*.

-MORE-

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Campgrounds

The following campgrounds will open:

Gros Ventre	May 1
Signal Mountain	May 7
Jenny Lake	May 15
Colter Bay	May 27
Colter Bay RV Park	May 27
Flagg Ranch RV Park	May 28
Lizard Creek	June 3

Fees for an individual campsite are \$15 per night, and hiker/bicyclist camping fees are \$5.00 per site, at any of the following concession-operated campgrounds within Grand Teton National Park – Colter Bay, Gros Ventre, Jenny Lake, Lizard Creek, and Signal Mountain. These campgrounds will operate on a first-come, first-served basis.

Group sites at Colter Bay and Gros Ventre campgrounds are available by reservation at a cost of \$3.00 per person, per night. Reservations may be made by calling either (307) 543-3100 or (800) 628-9988. Reservations can also be made for camping at either Colter Bay or Flagg Ranch RV Parks; additional fees are charged for RV campgrounds with hook-ups. Camping is also available outside the park in nearby forest areas and at other public and private facilities.

Backcountry campsite reservations may be made until May 15 with a \$15 non-refundable fee. Fax requests for reservations to (307) 739-3438 or mail to Grand Teton National Park, Backcountry Permits, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012. After May 15 all backcountry site permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Lodging

The following concessioner-operated facilities will open:

Signal Mountain Lodge	May 7
Flagg Ranch Resort	May 15
Jackson Lake Lodge	May 23
Colter Bay Cabins	May 27
Jenny Lake Lodge	June 3

For additional information about activities and services within Grand Teton National Park or the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, please visit the park's website www.nps.gov/grte, stop in at any visitor center and ranger station, or call (307) 739-3300.

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www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2005 05-22

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Annual Spring Clean-Up Scheduled for Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Grand Teton National Park staff and concession employees will join together on Wednesday, May 11, for the annual Park Clean-Up. During normal business hours, park employees will be out picking up litter and preparing roadways, turnouts and parking lots before summer visitors arrive. Anyone driving through Grand Teton on Wednesday should be alert for people walking along the roads. Slow moving and/or parked vehicles may also be encountered during clean-up hours.

"Each Spring, park and concession employees take time to remove litter and debris from park roadsides and turnouts before the summer season is in full swing," commented Superintendent Gibson Scott. "Grand Teton's staff thanks all the visitors and area residents who continually clean-up litter throughout the year. This relatively simple act is very much appreciated."

Anyone wishing to participate in the Park Clean-Up should meet at either the Moose or Colter Bay maintenance areas on May 11 at 8 a.m. The Moose and Colter Bay visitor centers and bookstores, interagency communication center, and law enforcement patrols will continue their normal operations while clean-up efforts are under way.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2005 05-23

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Celebrates International Migratory Bird Day

Grand Teton National Park will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) with a bird-watching caravan throughout the park on Saturday, May 14, 2005. This free activity begins at 8 a.m. in the Moose Visitor Center and finishes at 1 p.m. by Christian Pond near Jackson Lake Lodge. Anyone interested in birds is welcome to participate and reservations are **not** required.

Join Grand Teton National Park ranger naturalists, Andrew Langford and Pat Best, as they visit birding hotspots within the park to locate, watch, and count, birds as part of the North American Migration Count. Throughout the day, participants will take short walks at various locations. Those attending should wear comfortable shoes and bring a lunch, drinking water, warm clothing and rain gear. Bird field guides, binoculars and/or a spotting scope are also recommended.

Flight is a magnificent means of transportation; it allows bats, insects, birds, and even humans to travel great distances in a short period of time. For many birds, however, a journey across the skies may be a veritable obstacle course of hazards, many of which are human-related. For 2005, IMBD will examine obstacles birds may encounter in flight and explore the various ways we can minimize related impacts.

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

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

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

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

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2005 05-24

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Celebrates National Historic Landmark Designation for Jackson Lake Lodge

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott extends an invitation to visitors and area residents to join park staff and employees of Jackson Lake Lodge at a dedication event marking the recent designation of Jackson Lake Lodge as a National Historic Landmark. The dedication ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 28, on the lawn of the Lodge's west terrace with the Teton Range as a backdrop.

On July 31, 2003, Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton designated the building complex of Jackson Lake Lodge as a National Historic Landmark. The Jackson Lake Lodge district is significant for its association with historic events of national significance. For the past 50 years, the Lodge has served as host to U.S. presidents, foreign dignitaries and international summit meetings. In addition, the property was the first major building complex reflecting a modern architectural movement within the National Park System.

Nationally-renowned architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed the Lodge and its associated buildings for John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s Grand Teton Lodge and Transportation Company in the early 1950s. According to National Historic Landmark standards, Underwood represents the most prominent and influential architect in the history of the National Park System. Underwood also designed the Ahwahnee Lodge in Yosemite National Park and Grand Canyon National Park's north rim Grand Canyon Lodge, both of which were previously designated as National Historic Landmarks.

"This is a prestigious designation for Grand Teton Lodge Company and the park welcomes the opportunity to formally recognize such a national honor, and to celebrate Jackson Lake Lodge's 50th Anniversary," stated Superintendent Gibson Scott.

The dedication will include a brief ceremony, unveiling of the National Historic Register plaque, and light refreshments. For further information, please contact Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3399 or Grand Teton Lodge Company at (307) 543-2811.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2005 05-25

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

American Indian Guest Artists Program Begins in Grand Teton National Park

Each year, Grand Teton National Park sponsors a summer-long program for visiting Native American artists at the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum. For the past 30 years, guest artists from diverse tribes have been invited to demonstrate their traditional and contemporary art forms, providing visitors an opportunity to gain an understanding of, and appreciation for, American Indian art and culture. The 2005 guest artist program began on Monday, May 16.

Artists participating in the American Indian guest artist program represent several tribes from throughout the United States. Some of the art forms demonstrated include painting, weaving, beadwork, quillwork, decorative gourds and musical instruments, such as flutes and drums. Guest artists exhibit daily, Monday through Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the demonstration area on the lower level of the Colter Bay Indian Arts Museum and their finished items are available for purchase.

A complete schedule of American Indian artists with dates and type of artwork demonstrated follows:

May 16 – 22	Debbie & Willie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flintknapping
May 23 – 29	Debbie & Willie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flintknapping
May 30 – June 5	Charlie Rising Sun	Northern Cheyenne	Flutes & Indian Arts
June 6 – 12	Lila Jones	Shoshone	Beadwork
June 13 – 19	Guillermo Martinez	Tarascan-Apache	Drums & Flutes
June 20 – 26	Andrea Two Bulls	Ogallala Sioux	Painting & Beadwork
June 27 – July 3	Ted Moran	S'Klallan	Northwest Coastal Carving
July 4 – 10	DG House	Cherokee	Painting
July 11 – 17	Eddie Two Bulls	Ogallala Sioux	Painting
July 18 – 24	Dolly & Bonnie Woodie	Navajo	Weaving, Beadwork & Clothes
July 25 – 31	Debbie & Willie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flintknapping

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August 1 – 7	David Snooks	Washoe	Painted & Beaded Gourds
August 8 – 114	Aiona Anderson	Thompson	Painting & Pottery
August 15 – 21	Jola LaBeau	Shoshone	Beadwork
August 22 – 28	Paul Hacker	Choctaw	Flutes, Knives & Pottery
Aug. 29 – Sept. 4	Lela Teton	Shoshone-Bannock	Beadwork
Sept. 5 – 11	Clyde Hall & Nancy Naki	Shoshone	Beadwork & Quillwork
Sept. 12 – 18	Charlotte Tendoy	Shoshone	Beadwork

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2005 05-26

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Expands Temporary Area Closure for Denning Wolves in Elk Ranch Area

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a seasonal area closure has been expanded in the vicinity of the Elk Ranch reservoir to protect activities of the Teton Pack wolves while they occupy a nearby den site. While temporary area closures have been implemented annually since the Teton Pack first denned at this site in 1999, this enlarged closure includes a popular viewing area previously used for observing the wolves. This expanded closure will be in effect until July 1, 2005; the original closure area will remain in force after July 1st.

The closed area is being expanded to protect the Teton Pack during a time when young pups are particularly vulnerable to human presence and activities. The Teton Pack has recently exhibited signs of distress, potentially resulting from human disturbance. Observance of this expanded wildlife closure will reduce unnecessary stress on the Teton Pack during an especially sensitive time of year.

The 2005 area closure has been expanded by several hundred yards west of the historic closure boundaries and includes the observation knoll traditionally used to view the denning site. Area closures specifically **prohibit all human entry** by any means. Wildlife closure signs are posted, and violations of this closure may result in a citation and prosecution.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2005 05-27

Joan Anzelmo/Jenn Ladino
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Park Rangers Rescue Injured Climber near Icefloe Lake

Grand Teton National Park rangers evacuated an injured climber by helicopter, near the Icefloe Lake area (10,652 feet), on Tuesday evening, May 24. Justin Sobol, age 22, from Oakland Park, Florida, fell approximately 1,000 feet around 11:00 a.m. while descending the southwest couloir of the Middle Teton, after experiencing difficulties with his crampons and ice axe.

The accident occurred after Sobol's crampon bindings failed twice; he reattached them once, but the second time the crampons came off and slid downhill. Sobol began to glissade to retrieve the crampons, but lost control. He attempted to self arrest using his ice axe, but he lost the axe when the leash attaching the ice axe to his wrist either broke or came loose. Sobol tumbled about 1,000 feet over steep snow, ice and rock, coming to rest several hundred feet above Icefloe Lake, at an elevation of approximately 11,000 feet. Sobol was not wearing a helmet at the time.

Sobol's climbing partner, Nick Carter, age 23, from Gainesville, Florida, descended into Garnet Canyon, where he encountered Exum Guide Mark Newcomb above the Meadows. Newcomb placed a cell phone call at 2:30 p.m. to Teton Interagency Dispatch to report the accident.

Park rangers began to coordinate a rescue operation by gathering personnel. Due to the remote location and possible injuries to Sobol's head, neck or back, rangers also requested assistance from Classic Helicopters, based in Salt Lake City, Utah as well as Air Idaho, based out of Idaho Falls, Idaho. While four rangers who were working at the Lower Saddle descended to the accident scene and a fifth ranger ascended from the Meadows area to meet them, the Classic helicopter flew from Salt Lake City to Lupine Meadows to provide assistance. When the rangers reached Sobol, they provided emergency medical assistance, stabilized the patient, and lowered him using a series of belayed lowerings and snow anchors to a landing zone near Icefloe Lake.

The Air Idaho helicopter made contact with the rescue party at approximately 7:00 p.m. and transported Sobol directly to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson. The Classic helicopter assisted with transporting rangers and equipment back to Lupine Meadows. The rescue concluded around 8:00 p.m.

This marks the fifth major search and rescue in Grand Teton National Park this year and the first of the summer season.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2005 05-28

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Draft Transportation Plan for Grand Teton National Park Available for Public Review

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a *Grand Teton National Park Transportation Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* is now available for public review and comment. The park plans to host a public open house on the transportation plan in late June; details will be announced at a later time. Comments on the draft plan will be accepted through August 1, 2005

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to develop and implement a transportation plan for Grand Teton that includes roadway shoulder improvements, separated multi-use pathways, traveler information systems, and a limited pilot transit program. The NPS will also test several management strategies on the Moose-Wilson Road in order to gather information about the best way to maintain the existing character of this corridor – including sensitivity for wildlife and scenic values. In addition, opportunities to integrate the park's transportation network with those of neighboring communities would be enhanced.

The draft preferred alternative – Alternative 3 – is the environmentally preferred alternative. It proposes a system of multi-use pathways and shoulder improvements/widening to provide enhanced, and safer, experiences for bicyclists and pedestrians. A pilot program for transit service from Jackson to Colter Bay, and for service along the Moose-Wilson Road, would provide opportunities to evaluate growing levels of ridership and public acceptance of transit options. Selected social trails in high-use developed areas would be improved and delineated.

The *Grand Teton National Park Transportation Plan/Draft EIS* can be found on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or use the link on the park's website, www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm. Electronic comments may be made directly on the PEPC website. To receive either a hard copy or CD-ROM version of the draft EIS, please phone Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3410. Copies of the document are available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the reference desk in the Teton County Library. Written comments may be mailed to Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, c/o Transportation Plan Draft EIS, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012.

Individual respondents may request that their name and home address be withheld from the record; such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Submissions offered from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as the representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2005 05-29

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

National Park Service Issues Prospectus For Concession Contract in Grand Teton National Park

The National Park Service (NPS) will issue a prospectus on June 1, 2005, soliciting competitive proposals for a new concession contract in Grand Teton National Park. The NPS is requesting proposals to provide lodging, food and beverage, retail, camping and other visitor services at the Jenny Lake Area, Jackson Lake Lodge, Colter Bay Village and Gros Ventre Campground.

These visitor services are being provided by Grand Teton Lodge Company; however, the current contract expires December 31, 2005. In order to ensure uninterrupted visitor services, the existing contract will be extended until a new contract is executed.

Copies of the prospectus describing this business opportunity and soliciting proposals for a new contract are available by mail for \$75, or in-person for \$65. To obtain a copy, please contact Tom Williamson, Acting Chief of Concessions, at the NPS Intermountain Regional Office in Denver at (303) 969-2582. The prospectus will also be posted on the Grand Teton National Park website at <http://www.nps.gov/grte> .

A formal site visit will not be conducted subsequent to the release of the prospectus. However, prospective offerors may contact Rebecca Rhea, Chief of Business Resources, Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3434 to schedule a site visit within 60 days of the prospectus release.

Proposals must be received by the Intermountain Regional Office no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 28, 2005.

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www.nps.gov/grte



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U.S. Department of the Interior

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2005 05-30

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Cattleman's Bridge Road in Grand Teton National Park Closed to Protect Nesting Bald Eagles

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced that a temporary area closure has been established for the Cattleman's Bridge Road on the west side of the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River. This road has been posted as closed to all public entry in order to protect a nesting pair of bald eagles. The temporary area closure will remain in effect until eaglets fledge from the nest in early August.

The Cattleman's Bridge Road closure includes the entire length of the dirt road from its junction with Highway 26/287 to the site of the old bridge crossing. River users will not have access to the launch site at road's end. Boaters launching at Jackson Lake dam will be allowed to float by the eagle nest, but not allowed to stop or land on either riverbank in the vicinity of the nest. This temporary closure will reduce human disturbance to bald eagles while still allowing boaters to experience the river.

The pair of eagles currently nesting at Cattleman's Bridge is likely a mated pair that has repeatedly nested in the Oxbow Bend area with little success. Over several years, their reproductive rate has been low, and they have only fledged three young. They currently have two recently hatched eaglets in this new nest.

Bald eagles mate for life and can live to age 30 in the wild. After breeding in late February, they lay from one to three eggs that hatch between late April and early June. Young eaglets begin to disperse from their nest site in late summer.

The bald eagle is protected by the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Lacey Act. Bald eagles were placed on the Threatened and Endangered Species list in 1978 as an endangered species, after their numbers dropped to fewer than 500 pairs. In 1995, they were upgraded to threatened status, as populations recovered from the brink of extinction.

Bald eagles are sensitive to a variety of human activities and may avoid areas where they encounter humans. They sometimes move away from people or even abandon nest areas, resulting in reproductive failure or the death of newly hatched eaglets. Even the cumulative effects of many seemingly insignificant activities may result in disruption of normal eagle behavior.

Although the bald eagle is making a gradual comeback, it is imperative that visitors give this rare and sensitive species the space it needs to survive. Local residents and park visitors can help reduce negative impacts to these nesting eagles by respecting the posted area closure. Violators of the temporary closure may be cited and fined.

The closure will be lifted by early to mid August, after the young eaglets fledge and are no longer dependent upon the nest area.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2005 05-31

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Temporary Road and Bridge Closures Scheduled in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that temporary road closures are scheduled for three bridge locations within Grand Teton National Park on Tuesday, June 14. Temporary road closures will occur **weather permitting**, and be in effect for a period of two to three hours at each of the three areas, while paving work is done on park bridges that were replaced during the fall of 2004 and spring of 2005. Lake Creek Bridge on the Moose-Wilson Road will be closed from 9 a.m. until approximately 12 noon; Climber's Ranch Bridge near the Highlands housing area will be closed from about 12 noon to 3 p.m.; the Lupine Meadows Bridge, with access to Lupine Meadows trailhead, will be closed from about 4 to 7 p.m.

The Lake Creek Bridge on the Moose-Wilson Road will be closed to all traffic on Tuesday morning beginning at 9 a.m.; **no through traffic** will be possible until approximately 12 noon. Motorists will not be able to travel north of the JY Ranch main entrance or south of the Death Canyon trailhead during this road closure period. The Climber's Ranch Road will be closed following work on the Lake Creek Bridge, at approximately noon or 1 p.m. Backcountry users who plan to access the Lupine Meadows trailhead by vehicle will be unable to drive across the bridge for two hours beginning about 4 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon.

All efforts will be made to minimize any inconvenience to motorists wishing to access these park roadways. The temporary closures are necessary to pave bridge decks during a one-day period before the heaviest summer traffic.

Local residents and park visitors are requested to exercise patience and arrange their travel plans accordingly.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2005 05-32

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Groundbreaking Ceremony Planned for New Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott and the Grand Teton National Park Foundation Board invite the public to join in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center on Saturday, June 25, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. in Moose, Wyoming. Senator Craig Thomas will be the keynote speaker for this event.

The National Park Service along with partners, the Grand Teton National Park Foundation and Grand Teton Natural History Association, will begin construction of a new discovery and learning center in the Moose Village area of the park. The Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center will become a gathering place to welcome and inspire visitors, while providing park orientation and educational experiences that enhance appreciation and understanding of the park.

The current Moose Visitor Center was built in 1961, when park visitation averaged 1.5 million visitors per year. Today, recreational visits number almost three million, and the existing visitor center is overcrowded, noisy and woefully inadequate, offering only minimal interpretive exhibits. In addition, the current facility does not meet current seismic standards.

In 2002, the NPS completed an environmental assessment for this construction project and selected a site southeast of the previous Moose Post Office location. This groundbreaking ceremony marks the start of a two-year construction phase, realizing a plan to build a year-round visitor center that provides exceptional exhibits in an architecturally captivating facility.

Members of the public who wish to attend the June 25th ceremony should park their vehicles at the current visitor center parking lot and walk south across the road to reach the new site. Uniformed park staff will be on hand to direct those attending the ceremony to the groundbreaking location.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2005 05-33

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Yearling Grizzly Killed by Vehicle in Grand Teton National Park

A 60-pound yearling male grizzly was hit and killed by a vehicle about 11 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, on Highway 26/89/191 just south of Moran Junction in Grand Teton National Park. A motorist driving southbound from Moran Junction caught sight of a sow grizzly with two cubs crossing the roadway. As he swerved to miss the bears, his vehicle bumper just “grazed” one cub. At the same time, a northbound motorist driving at a high rate of speed, approached the area and struck the same cub head on, killing it. The northbound driver kept going and did not slow down or stop to check on the animal’s condition.

In addition to the accident on Saturday, park visitors reported that they had lightly hit a bear cub with their vehicle while driving near Lizard Creek campground on Friday, June 10, at 5:45 in the afternoon. The cub fled the scene, apparently uninjured; however, animals often flee an accident scene after sustaining injuries that lead to their death at a later time.

These recent encounters between vehicles and park bears – among other wildlife incidents – serve as a reminder that wildlife are actively crossing and using park roads. Motorists are advised to be especially alert for wildlife and to drive with extra caution.

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

In addition to bears, elk may travel on and alongside park roadways. They often move in large groups during low light conditions and are usually most active between dawn and dusk. Moose, bison, deer, pronghorn antelope, coyotes, and other animals may also be encountered on or near all roads in Grand Teton.

Approximately two to three black bears are involved in vehicle accidents each year in the park. This incident marks the first time a grizzly bear has died as a result of a vehicle collision in Grand Teton National Park.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 2005 05-34

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship Awarded

Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Natural History Association are pleased to announce that Florence M. Gardipee, a Ph.D. graduate student at the University of Montana in Missoula, received a Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship on June 6, 2005. Gardipee is the first recipient of an Evison Fellowship. She plans to use her award to initiate a new research study on American bison in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

The Evison Fellowship was established in memory of Boyd Evison after his death in October, 2002. Evison retired in 1994 from an exemplary 42-year career with the National Park Service (NPS) and soon after began a second career as executive director for the Grand Teton Natural History Association (GTNHA), a non-profit – and primary – park partner dedicated to aiding interpretive, educational, and research programs for Grand Teton National Park.

The Evison Fellowship was created to honor Boyd's extensive and dedicated service to both the NPS and GTNHA. The goal of the fellowship is to encourage scientific and conservation-related research in national parks. It invites highly motivated, graduate students to conduct thesis research within Grand Teton and the Greater Yellowstone Area, and supports study leading to a master's or Ph.D. degree in the biosciences, geosciences, or social sciences.

In her project application, Gardipee notes that, "Yellowstone bison are the only free ranging, wild bison herd in the United States descended, in part, from a continuously wild herd, with historic and cultural ties to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem." Gardipee plans to use DNA samples and data gathered from bison feces to document the genetic diversity of this herd, and subsequently discover how genetic diversity, or lack of, affects susceptibility to infectious diseases such as brucellosis in the parks' wild bison populations. Gardipee will use a non-invasive technique in gathering the necessary DNA samples. If successful, this technique could be used throughout the Greater Yellowstone Area, and elsewhere, to increase understanding of bison population dynamics and the relationship between infectious diseases, genetic variation, and bison behavior.

Evison Fellowships are awarded for one year, with a second consecutive year offered if scholars maintain satisfactory academic performance. A maximum two years funding includes tuition assistance and a yearly stipend to cover travel and field research costs. Grand Teton provides housing and office space for students during the field sessions. Upon program completion, the Evison Fellow will provide a copy of his/her thesis to the Grand Teton Natural History Association.

To inquire about applying for a Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship, or to donate funds toward this program, please contact Jan Lynch, executive director, Grand Teton Natural History Association at P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming, 83012.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2005 05-35

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Horseback Rider Injured in Fall

Park rangers responded to a horseback riding accident on Friday afternoon, June 17, after Elaine Infanger, a 54-year-old resident of Jackson, Wyoming, fell from her horse at about 2:30 p.m. while riding on the Taggart Lake trail in Grand Teton National Park with her husband, Joe. Elaine sustained injuries to her back during the fall and required assistance from park rangers for a medical evacuation.

Infanger was approximately two miles west of the Taggart Lake trailhead when the fall occurred, and her husband used his cell phone to report the incident. Park rangers responded to the scene and provided an emergency medical assessment of her injuries. The park's medical director, Dr. Will Smith of Teton County Search and Rescue, who was in the park, also reported to the scene to help assess Infanger's injuries. Rangers used a wheeled litter to transport Infanger to the parking lot, where an ambulance was waiting to drive her to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further medical evaluation. The rescue concluded by 5:00 p.m.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2005 05-36

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Public Open House Planned for Draft Transportation Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a public open house for the *Grand Teton National Park Transportation Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* is scheduled for June 28 from 5 – 8 p.m. in the auxiliary gym of the Jackson Hole Middle School. The public comment period for the draft transportation plan began May 27 and extends through August 1, 2005. During the open house, park staff will be available to provide information and answer questions about the transportation plan alternatives, biological and cultural resource impacts, and social resource impacts. Participants attending the open house may also submit their written comments for the public record at that time.

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to develop and implement a transportation plan for Grand Teton that includes roadway shoulder improvements, separated multi-use pathways, traveler information systems, and a limited pilot transit program. The NPS will also test several management strategies on the Moose-Wilson Road in order to gather information about the best way to maintain the existing character of this corridor – including sensitivity for wildlife and scenic values. In addition, opportunities to integrate the park's transportation network with those of neighboring communities would be enhanced.

The *Grand Teton National Park Transportation Plan/Draft EIS* can be found on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or use the link on the park's website, www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm. Electronic comments may be made directly on the PEPC website. To receive either a hard copy or CD-ROM version of the draft EIS, please phone Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3410. Copies of the document are also available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the reference desk in the Teton County Library. Written comments made outside of the public open house may be mailed to Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, c/o Transportation Plan Draft EIS, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012.

Individual respondents may request that their name and home address be withheld from the record; such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish to have your name and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Submissions offered from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as the representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For questions about the upcoming open house, please call Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3410.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2005 05-37

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Scoping Period Begins on Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment

The National Park Service (NPS) plans to rehabilitate the Gros Ventre Campground in Grand Teton National Park. A public scoping process on the *Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment* (EA) has been initiated and public comments on issues, alternatives, concerns and other considerations regarding the proposal will be accepted through July 31, 2005.

Gros Ventre Campground, the largest of six campgrounds within Grand Teton National Park, is situated in the southeastern corner of the park, bordering the National Elk Refuge. The concessioner-operated campground is open from early-May through mid-October and contains 379 sites scattered throughout eight loops. The campground also has 14 restrooms, an RV dump station, an amphitheater, and a small NPS administrative area.

The proposed project is needed to address a backlog of maintenance and infrastructure deficiencies, and to provide visitor services not currently available at the Gros Ventre Campground. Proposed actions to be analyzed in the *Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation EA* include Americans with Disability Act modifications; rehabilitation of the restrooms; upgrades and/or replacement of all utilities; installation of full utility hook ups (electricity, water and sewer) at approximately 80 sites; construction of one or two shower and laundry facilities; and other necessary improvements. Additionally, one campground loop may be rehabilitated to accommodate seasonal RV sites for NPS and concession employees, park volunteers and contractors.

A decision resulting from the EA will provide the framework for the NPS and concessioner to conduct rehabilitation work aimed at improving overall campground's services and facilities. Concessioner funding will assist the NPS in the implementation of maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

A scoping notice is now available with information about the project background, purpose and need, preliminary alternatives and resource considerations, as well as a proposed timeline for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The scoping notice may be found on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) System website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, or link from www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm. Electronic comments may be made directly on the PEPC website.

To receive a hard copy of the scoping notice for the *Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation EA*, please call Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3390. Copies are also available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the reference desk in the Teton County Library. Written comments may be mailed to Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation EA, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2005 05-38

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Bison Euthanized After Vehicle Collision

Park rangers euthanized an 1100-pound bison on Saturday evening, June 18, after it was struck by a vehicle at approximately 10:15 p.m. on Highway 26/89/191, south of Elk Ranch Flats Road in Grand Teton National Park. While the vehicle received significant damage, and was recorded as a total loss, the two passengers suffered only minor injuries and declined medical treatment. Although the bison survived the initial impact, its hind legs were so severely injured that rangers were forced to euthanize the animal.

This accident is one of several unfortunate encounters between vehicles and wildlife that have recently taken place in Grand Teton. It serves as a reminder that drivers need to exercise extra caution while driving on park roads, especially after dark, or in conditions of low visibility. Collisions between motor vehicles and wildlife are often dangerous for both people and wildlife. Impacts may result in severe damage to a vehicle, serious or fatal injuries to the occupants of that vehicle, and/or death to the animals involved.

Many wildlife species travel alongside and across park roadways. Elk and other wildlife species often travel in a herd of several animals. Drivers should anticipate encountering more than one animal and be extra cautious whenever they see a solitary creature. At the time of Saturday's accident, for example, there were four bison on the roadway. Since animals are especially active between dawn and dusk, motorists are advised to use extreme caution during these times.

It is imperative that motorists drive defensively and cautiously while traveling park roads. Drivers need to be alert for wildlife and, when necessary, be ready to slow down or suddenly stop for wildlife alongside—or directly on—park roads. Driving the posted speed limits is essential, and driving slower than indicated speed limits, especially at night, can increase the margin of safety for both people and wildlife.

Approximately 100 animals are struck by vehicles each year in Grand Teton; many of those are bison, elk and moose. So far this year, there have been thirteen large animals struck by vehicles; three of those animals have died (a bison, grizzly bear and elk). Last year, 38 large animals were struck by vehicles, including: one owl; six bison; five moose (two died); thirteen elk (six died); twelve mule deer (two died); and one bear. These numbers only represent confirmed deaths by motor vehicles and do not account for carcasses along the road that may or may not have been killed by cars, or wildlife that flee an accident scene and die later as a result of injuries received during a collision.

Drivers who are involved in any motor vehicle accident, including a collision with an animal, are required to report the incident to a ranger station or to park dispatch at (307) 739-3300.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2005 05-39

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Local Pilot Dies in Plane Crash in Grand Teton National Park

John T. Walton, age 58, of Jackson, Wyoming, died when his home-built, lightweight aircraft crashed in Grand Teton National Park on Monday, June 27, about 12:20 p.m. (MDT), shortly after take-off from the Jackson Hole Airport. The plane crashed for reasons yet unknown. Walton, the pilot and sole occupant of the aircraft, died on impact and was later pronounced dead at the scene by Teton County Coroner, Bob Campbell.

Teton Interagency Dispatch received a call from the Teton County Sheriff's office relaying reports from several people who witnessed an aircraft go down near the northern end of the Jackson Hole Airport. Park rangers and emergency medical technicians immediately responded to the accident scene, followed by a park ambulance and interagency fire engines.

The plane is described as an experimental class of ultralight aircraft with a small, gas-powered engine. The aircraft's frame is aluminum and the wings are wrapped in fabric similar to heavy-duty sail cloth. These types of aircraft weigh approximately 400 to 500 pounds.

Following protocol for aircraft accidents, Grand Teton National Park notified both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Neither agency conducts investigations of experimental aircraft accidents; therefore, park rangers will conduct the formal accident investigation.

The most recent aircraft-related fatality in Grand Teton National Park occurred in July 2002, when David Ryhti's ultralight glider crashed near the north face of the Grand Teton. Ryhti, a Minnesotan, was circling the mountain during a scenic flight which originated from the Driggs, Idaho airport, when the accident occurred. Prior to the 2002 glider accident, two fatal crashes involving fixed-wing, small-engine aircraft occurred in 1995 and 1988.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2005 05-40

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Climber Takes Fatal Fall on East Ridge of Cloudveil Dome in Grand Teton National Park

Heather L. Paul, age 34, of Jackson, Wyoming, died Friday afternoon, July 1, after taking a fall while climbing a 12,026-foot peak called Cloudveil Dome in Grand Teton National Park. Paul and climbing partner, Susie Schenk, age 38, also of Jackson, were descending the east ridge of Cloudveil Dome when Paul fell about 300 feet, landing at an elevation of 10,900 feet on the north face of the peak. Paul and Schenk were down-climbing off the east ridge when the accident occurred. Paul died from traumatic injuries sustained in the fall.

After receiving an emergency cell phone call from Schenk at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, park rangers immediately began coordinating a search and rescue operation. Two rangers flew aboard the Teton interagency contract helicopter to conduct a reconnaissance flight and locate both the fallen climber, Paul, and her partner, Schenk, who remained on a rock ledge above her friend.

Two park rangers, who were on a routine backcountry patrol in the meadows area of Garnet Canyon, quickly made their way to Schenk's location. The rangers reached Schenk at approximately 4:50 p.m. and assisted her in climbing down the remainder of the route to reach an area in the South Fork of Garnet Canyon where she could then be flown out of the canyon by helicopter.

Another group of four rangers were flown to the South Fork of Garnet Canyon. They climbed to Paul's location and using the helicopter, flew her to Lupine Meadows where the Teton County coroner was waiting to transport her to Jackson.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 6, 2005 05-41

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Intermittent Delays Expected on Moose-Wilson Road From July Through September

Motorists are advised to expect intermittent delays of 30 minutes along the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park during coming weeks of July, August, and September. These intermittent delays will take place between the Granite Canyon Entrance Station and the junction with the Teton Park Road near the Moose Visitor Center. Delays will occur on weekdays only, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., while various buildings are moved from the JY Ranch to other locations.

Those drivers, whose schedules will not allow a wait of up to 30 minutes, should consider using Highway 26/89/191 as an alternate route of travel throughout the next few months. Road signs will be posted, alerting motorists of possible delays.

Efforts will be made to minimize any inconvenience to drivers using the Moose-Wilson Road; however, through traffic will be held up for short periods of time on various days of each week as buildings are transported aboard flat-bed trailers along this narrow road corridor.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 8, 2005 05-42

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Black Bear Euthanized After Vehicle Collision in Grand Teton National Park

An adult male black bear was struck and seriously injured by a southbound vehicle at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, just east of Moran Junction on Highway 26/287 in Grand Teton National Park. Due to the severity of injuries, park rangers were forced to euthanize the animal.

This marks the second bear fatality resulting from a vehicle collision this year in Grand Teton. On June 11, a yearling male grizzly bear was hit and killed by a vehicle just south of Moran Junction. Additionally, two black bears were struck by vehicles, but both animals fled the scene; on June 10, a bear cub was “lightly” struck near Lizard Creek campground, and an injured black bear wandered into nearby vegetation after being hit by a vehicle on June 26. Although these animals ran away from the roadway after being hit, wildlife often flee an accident scene after sustaining serious injuries that lead to their death at a later time. In the past month alone, 13 large animals (bison, moose, elk, deer, and bears) have been hit and killed by motorists on roads in Grand Teton National Park.

These encounters between vehicles and wildlife serve as a reminder that animals are actively crossing and using park roads. Motorists are advised to be especially alert for wildlife, and to drive with extra caution.

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

Bears, bison, moose, elk, deer, pronghorn antelope, coyotes, and other animals travel on and alongside park roadways. They are often most active between dawn and dusk; motorists need to keep a careful eye on the road at all times, especially during low light conditions.

Each year, approximately 100 or more large animals are killed in vehicle collisions on park roadways. Approximately two to three black bears are involved in vehicle accidents per year. This marks the first time this year that a black bear has died as a result of a vehicle collision in Grand Teton National Park.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 11, 2005 05-43

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Mallory Smith Named Chief of Business Resources for Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that Mallory Smith was selected as the new Chief of Business Resources for Grand Teton National Park. For the past two years, Smith has served as a business resource analyst at Grand Teton. She begins her new assignment on July 24 with the departure of Rebecca Rhea, who is relocating to Grand Canyon National Park as Chief of Concessions Management.

Smith brings an extensive background in overall park management and operations to her new position. She began a career with the National Park Service (NPS) in 1980 as a ranger naturalist at Yosemite National Park. She accepted her first permanent NPS position at Yosemite as a visitor center supervisor and later public information office supervisor. While in Yosemite, she also worked extensively with emergency operations management, including search, rescue and fire.

Smith subsequently worked as the Public Affairs Officer at the NPS Western Regional Office in San Francisco, California, and served as information officer for the Western Region's incident management team. During her time in the regional office, she carried out special assignments in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and at the Presidio of San Francisco during the management transition from United States Army to the NPS.

Prior to her current position at Grand Teton, Smith served for eight years as a management assistant for Grand Canyon National Park's superintendent. In that position, she was a key member of the park management team and provided leadership and strategic direction for legislative and congressional affairs, partnership programs, special park uses, and the park's complex internal and external communications program.

Smith graduated with a degree in zoology from University of California at Davis in 1981, and is a recent graduate of the Northern Arizona University Hospitality Certification Program, an intense 2-year program in concessions management.



Smith is married to Patrick Hattaway, who is currently the North District ranger at Grand Teton.

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July 12, 2005 05-44

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Improvement Projects Begin on Moose-Wilson and Death Canyon Roads

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that several road improvement projects are scheduled to take place on the Moose-Wilson and Death Canyon roads starting Wednesday, July 13 and proceeding through Tuesday, August 2. The roadwork is necessary to improve safety conditions, as well as provide maintenance, on these two park roads for the many vehicles that use them each year.

On Wednesday afternoon, July 13, road crews will begin work on roadside ditches along the Death Canyon road corridor – including access to the Death Canyon trailhead parking – just west of the Moose-Wilson Road. Roadwork is scheduled to continue through Thursday, July 21. Although the road will be open to motorists, there will be significant delays. Flaggers will control traffic through the work zone.

From Monday, July 25 through Tuesday, August 2, the paved section of the Death Canyon Road, approximately 1 mile, is scheduled to receive an asphalt overlay. This work will be done, weather permitting. Delays should be expected, and once again, flaggers will direct traffic through the work zone.

For three days, Tuesday, July 19 through Thursday, July 21, the unpaved section of the Moose-Wilson Road in the park, from Granite Canyon trailhead to the JY Ranch entrance, will be treated with dust abatement material. While this work is being done, traffic speeds will be greatly **reduced** to a very **slow pace**. Motorists who have time constraints are discouraged from using the Moose-Wilson Road during these dates.

In addition to these road improvement projects, motorists are reminded to expect intermittent delays of about 30 minutes along the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park on several days during the months of July, August, and September. These intermittent delays will occur between Granite Canyon Entrance Station and the junction with the Teton Park Road near the Moose Visitor Center. Delays will occur on weekdays only, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., while various buildings are moved from the JY Ranch to other locations.

Drivers whose schedules will not allow a wait of up to 30 minutes should consider using Highway 26/89/191 as an alternate route of travel throughout the next few months. Road signs will be posted, alerting motorists of possible delays.

Efforts will be made to minimize any inconvenience to drivers using the Moose-Wilson and Death Canyon roads; however, through traffic will be held up for short periods of time as road improvement work is underway and/or buildings are being relocated along these two narrow road corridors within the park.

Roadwork schedules may change or be delayed due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. For daily road updates, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grte or call the park's recorded information line on road conditions at (307) 739-3682.

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July 15, 2005 05-45

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Lighting Fire on Mount Moran Managed For Resource Benefits

Teton interagency fire personnel are monitoring a lightning-ignited fire, called the West Horn Fire, which began Wednesday evening, July 13, near treeline on the southeast slope of Mount Moran as a fast moving thunderstorm swept across the Teton Range. This fire is being managed for resource benefits according to Grand Teton National Park's fire management plan.

The West Horn Fire has burned one tenth of an acre in whitebark pine and mixed conifer trees scattered across a steep rocky slope near Falling Ice Glacier. After visible fire activity during Wednesday evening, the fire is currently smoldering in ground cover. Whitebark pine is a fire-dependent tree whose seeds sprout more effectively in burned soils.

The West Horn Fire was evaluated according to park and national fire policy and approved for wildland fire use. Such fires are closely monitored to ensure public and firefighter safety while allowing natural processes to function within a designated wildland fire use zone.

The fire lies at an elevation of 9,200 feet, just below the West Horn on Mount Moran and due south of the CMC Camp. No closures are in effect; however, climbers and backpackers in the area should be aware of potential fire activity.

This marks the second wildland fire in Grand Teton National Park this year. On the afternoon of June 16, lightning ignited a small spot-sized fire on the north side of Ditch Creek in the eastern portion of the park. Teton interagency fire personnel and a fire engine responded and suppressed the Science Fire due to its close proximity to the Teton Science School.

The current fire danger rating for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest is Moderate. To report a fire in either area, please call (307) 739-3630. To view up-to-date fire information for the park and forest, visit the Web at www.tetonfires.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2005 05-46

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Teresa Austin Selected as Administrative Officer for Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that Teresa (Teri) Austin was recently selected as the new Administrative Officer for Grand Teton National Park. Austin began her current assignment at the park on May 1, 2005.

Austin brings an extensive background in finance and customer service to this, her first position with the National Park Service (NPS). As administrative officer, Austin manages and oversees park administrative services that include human resources, budget and finance, property and procurement, and information technology.

Prior to accepting employment with the NPS, Austin worked for six years with several private-sector businesses and hotel resorts in Utah. After moving to Salt Lake City in 1999, Austin began studies toward a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree at Westminster College. She received her MBA in June 2005, and is currently working on a Graduate Accounting Certificate.

While living in Utah, Austin worked as a consultant in developing accounting software, as a controller for the Grand Summit Resort at the Canyons in Park City, Utah, as a corporate financial analyst at Gemstone Resorts in Park City, and as a controller at the Marriott City Center in downtown Salt Lake City.

After graduating from Northern Arizona University in 1986 with a degree in psychology and political science, Austin accepted a seasonal position with the Grand Teton Lodge Company. She intended to enjoy the summer before heading back to her hometown of Boulder, Colorado for graduate school; that one summer lasted twelve years, during which time she worked as an income auditor, assistant resident manager at Jackson Lake Lodge, and assistant controller for all Grand Teton Lodge Company properties.

Teri and her husband, Michael, are pleased to make northwestern Wyoming their home. They are avid outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy skiing, hiking, biking and running.



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July 20, 2005 05-47

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Volunteer Groups Help Preserve Historic Structures in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that two separate volunteer groups — the Michigan Volunteers and the Wisconsin Teacher Restoration Corps — will be working on projects to stabilize and preserve historic structures within the park during late July and early August.

For the eleventh year in a row, the Michigan Volunteers will be working on preservation projects in Grand Teton. From July 19 through August 1, the nine-member volunteer group will be re-roofing two buildings at the Hunter Hereford Ranch, replacing deteriorated logs on an old dance hall at the Bar BC Dude Ranch, and reconstructing the hay derrick at Mormon Row. During their many years of service, the Michigan Volunteers have contributed to the stabilization of more than 30 historic structures in the park. In 2003, this volunteer group garnered the prestigious National Preservation Honor Award—one of only fifteen such awards given that year—for their preservation work on Mormon Row. The award was presented to them by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on October 2, 2003 at a ceremony in Denver, Colorado.

The Wisconsin Teacher Restoration Corps is in Grand Teton for the second consecutive summer; this group of thirty volunteers will be working from July 31 through August 5 at the Lucas/Fabian historic site to stabilize buildings in that complex. Harrison Goodall, a nationally renowned historic building preservationist, will lead and train the volunteers. This summer, the group plans to replace deteriorated logs, replace old roofing, repair exterior walls, chink the cabins, and perform other exterior repairs on several buildings at Lucas/Fabian. Last summer, the Wisconsin group did similar work on these buildings, and their efforts this year will help to prevent further deterioration.

Grand Teton National Park currently has 318 historic structures eligible for, or listed on, the National Register of Historic Places. The work these volunteer groups do for the park helps to preserve important historic structures that are a crucial component of our American heritage.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2005 05-48

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Flown by Helicopter From Lower Saddle of Grand Teton

Grand Teton National Park rangers evacuated an injured climber from the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton by helicopter early Monday morning, July 25. Anthony Brandon, age 27, from Dubuque, Iowa, slipped on snow and fell approximately 65 feet while descending the Grand Teton late Sunday afternoon, July 24. Brandon and three climbing partners reached the summit of the Grand via the Petzoldt Ridge and were descending the standard route from the 13,160-foot Upper Saddle when Brandon fell, suffering injuries to his head and other extremities.

Park rangers received a cell phone call from Exum Mountain Guide Nat Partridge on Sunday evening at 9:00 p.m. Partridge encountered the injured climber at the Lower Saddle, and after assessing his injuries, suggested contacting park rangers for medical assistance.

Two rangers hiked to the 11,600-foot Lower Saddle from the Lupine Meadows trailhead on the valley floor, arriving on scene around 2:00 a.m. After assessing the type and extent of Brandon's injuries, rangers consulted with the park's medical coordinator and made the decision to evacuate Brandon by a Teton interagency contract helicopter at first light on Monday morning. The interagency helicopter landed on the Lower Saddle at 6:30 a.m. and transported Brandon to the Lupine Meadows rescue cache where a park ambulance was waiting to drive the injured climber to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for additional medical care.

Brandon was wearing a helmet and carrying an ice axe at the time of the fall; however, he was unable to self-arrest before plummeting head-first into a boulder field below the snowfield.

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

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 26, 2005 05-49

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Public Comment Period Extended for Draft Transportation Plan Environmental Impact Statement

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the public comment period for the *Grand Teton National Park Transportation Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)* has been extended to August 25, 2005. The public comment period for the draft transportation plan was previously open from May 27 through August 1, 2005. This extension provides the public with additional time for submitting comments on the draft transportation plan.

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to develop and implement a transportation plan for Grand Teton that includes roadway shoulder improvements, separated multi-use pathways, traveler information systems, and a limited pilot transit program. The NPS will also test several management strategies on the Moose-Wilson Road in order to gather information about the best way to maintain the existing character of this corridor – including sensitivity for wildlife and scenic values. In addition, opportunities for integrating the park's transportation network with those of neighboring communities would be enhanced.

The *Grand Teton National Park Transportation Plan/Draft EIS* may be found on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> or by using a link on the park's website, www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm. Electronic comments may be made directly on the PEPC website. Comments may also be mailed directly to Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, c/o Transportation Plan Draft EIS, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012.

To receive either a hard copy or CD-ROM version of the draft EIS, please phone (307) 739-3410. Copies of the document are also available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the reference desk in the Teton County Library.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2005 05-50

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Chip Seal Work Scheduled for Gros Ventre Road in Grand Teton National Park

A chip seal project is scheduled to be underway, weather depending, on the full length of the Gros Ventre Road in Grand Teton National Park. Roadwork will begin Monday, August 1, and run through Friday, August 5. The project will start at the junction of North Spring Gulch Road and Sagebrush Drive near the northeast corner of the Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis estates. Chip sealing will then proceed eastward through the junction with Highway 26/89/191 and continue past the town of Kelly to Kelly Warm Springs and the park's east boundary with Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Motorists should expect 15 minute delays from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily, while chip seal work is being done. A pilot car will escort traffic through the work zone.

Stripes will be applied to the new road surface during the week of August 8; however, the striping project should not cause significant traffic delays.

Roadwork schedules may change or be delayed due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. For road updates, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grte or call the park's recorded information line on road conditions at (307) 739-3682.

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PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2005 05-51

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Lightning-Caused Fire Near Lizard Creek Managed for Resource Benefits

Teton interagency fire personnel will monitor a lightning-ignited fire, the Lizard Fire, and manage it for resource benefits according to Grand Teton National Park's fire management plan. The Lizard Fire is located on the northwest slope of Mount Reid, just northeast of Jackson Lake near the boundary between Grand Teton National Park and the Teton Wilderness area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

One of several fires ignited by widespread thunderstorms which passed through Jackson Hole on Saturday, July 23, the Lizard Fire smoldered beneath tree roots until it was discovered on Thursday evening, July 28. The fire is currently 1/3 acre in size and burning within a mixed-conifer forest, approximately one mile east of Lizard Creek campground.

The Lizard Fire was evaluated according to park and national fire policy procedures and approved for wildland fire use by an interagency fire management committee. Such naturally ignited fires are closely monitored to ensure public and firefighter safety while allowing natural processes to function within a designated wildland fire use zone. Fire monitors will patrol the area regularly to survey the fire's activity and growth.

A forecasted flow of monsoonal moisture may limit fire activity this week. However, as conditions change and warmer, drier weather returns, fire activity may require additional planning to ensure that resource objectives are met with no risk to public safety.

No fire closures are in effect at this time, though hikers should be aware of ongoing fire activity.

The current fire danger rating for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest is Moderate. To report a fire in either area, please call (307) 739-3630. To view up-to-date fire information for the park and forest, visit the Web at www.tetonfires.com.

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www.nps.gov/grte



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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2005 05-52

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Draft Transportation Plan Update

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott wishes to thank the public for their interest and active participation in the public comment process for the *Grand Teton National Park Transportation Plan/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*. Because the draft plan EIS has generated a high level of interest, the deadline for comments was extended to August 25, 2005, which provides a 90-day public comment period.

The National Park Service's draft plan EIS includes four alternatives, which are detailed below. Among the four alternatives, the National Park Service has identified **Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative**.

- Alternative 1 – a no action alternative, would allow for current conditions and the current transportation system to be carried forward for the next five to ten years.
- Alternative 2 – a minimal action alternative, would improve the park's ability to proactively address transportation issues and enhance visitor experiences with little or no construction of new highway or parking facilities, and no new transit services. In order to enhance safety and visitor experiences, widened roadway shoulders would be provided in a heavily used area along Teton Park Road between Moose Junction and Signal Mountain Lodge.
- **Alternative 3 – preferred alternative**, proposes a system of 23 miles of separated, multi-use pathways – plus 16 miles of shoulder widening (4.5 foot lane for multi use, non-vehicular travel) from North Jenny Lake to Colter Bay Village – to provide enhanced and safer experiences for bicyclists and pedestrians. It offers benefits to the quality of visitor movement within the park and provides the ability to experience primary park resources and natural settings through multiple travel mode choices. In addition, a pilot transit program would be tested, and a visitor information system would be expanded and enhanced.
- Alternative 4 – extended pathway alternative, proposes a more extensive system of 41 miles of separated, multi-use pathways. This alternative includes all of the separated, multi-use pathways described in Alternative 3 – and additionally continues separated pathways from the North Jenny Lake junction to Colter Bay Village. It also extends separated pathways along the full length of the Moose-Wilson Road. A pilot transit program would be tested, and a visitor information system would be expanded and enhanced.
- Moose-Wilson Road Corridor – common to all alternatives, would test a number of different strategies for managing traffic, as well as pedestrian and bicycle use. Strategies could include such measures as making the road one-way, scheduling motorized use to allow for pedestrian and bicycle use, implementing a pilot transit program, limiting traffic on a segment so that the road would not serve as a through road (except for public transit), or some combination of all these methods. These strategies would be seasonal or temporary, and would provide information to the National Park Service for developing a long-term solution in conjunction with a future General Management Plan effort.

-More-

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The public is invited to visit the official National Park Service website to review the draft plan EIS and four alternatives. This website includes streamlined graphics and comparison charts that delineate differences among the four alternatives. This website also includes a section for submitting public comments. To access the official National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>; or, use the park's website link from www.nps.gov/grte/. Written comments may be mailed directly to Grand Teton National Park, c/o Transportation Plan Draft EIS, P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming 83012.

Copies of the document are available at the Moose Visitor Center in the park and at the reference desk in the Teton County Library. Additionally, a hard copy or CD-ROM version of the draft EIS may be requested by calling Grand Teton National Park at (307) 739-3410.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2005 05-53

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Construction Contract Awarded for New Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Intermountain Construction, Inc. of Idaho Falls, Idaho, was awarded the construction contract for the new Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center to be located near park headquarters at Moose, Wyoming in Grand Teton National Park. Construction will begin in late summer 2005 and is expected to be completed by the spring of 2007.

Intermountain Construction, Inc. will be responsible for constructing the new visitor center building, as well as completing all site improvements involving utility systems, parking areas, and landscaping. A contract for the interior exhibits will be awarded at a later time. During the construction phase, Intermountain Construction, Inc. will be incorporating the support infrastructure for the interior exhibits.

Intermountain Construction, Inc. has completed contracts for several government agencies including the General Service Administration (GSA), United States Navy, Army Corps of Engineers, and other National Park Service areas. The company has also completed several multi-million dollar projects, such as ski lodges at Sun Valley, Idaho and Snowbasin, Utah.

Intermountain Construction, Inc. has earned several prestigious awards including: a Motorola Build American Award (1988) for historic renovation at the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park; a GSA Partnering Recognition Award (1998) for Richland, Washington's federal building; a GSA National Construction Excellence Award (2000) for a point of entry border station at Blaine, Washington; and a GSA Special Achievement Award (2003) for Oroville/Osoyoos Border Station, a joint United States-Canada project.

The overall project cost for the 21,700-square foot Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center is estimated at 18 million dollars, which includes planning, design, construction, exhibit design, and exhibit fabrication. The construction bid by Intermountain Construction, Inc. is 11.64 million dollars of the total project cost.

Through a congressional appropriation sponsored by Wyoming's U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, chairman of the National Park Subcommittee, a total of \$8 million has been authorized as the federal contribution for this public-private partnership project. The Grand Teton National Park Foundation, the park's primary partner with this project, is raising \$8.5 million through private donations and an additional \$4 million as a building reserve fund. Additionally, the Grand Teton Natural History Association, the park's cooperating association, will contribute \$1.5 million towards the project.

According to Senator Thomas, "Visitors to Grand Teton deserve a top-notch facility where they can become inspired and learn about the park's many treasures before beginning their journey. The Grand Teton Discovery and Visitor Center will be a shining example of what visitors can expect from one of the crown jewels of the National Park System."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2005 05-54

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Conduct Three Separate Rescues in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to three backcountry emergencies on Saturday, August 6. With the assistance of the Teton interagency contract helicopter, rangers flew a severely ill backpacker from Upper Paintbrush Canyon Saturday morning at 8:20 a.m. Almost three hours later, at approximately 11:15 a.m., rangers evacuated an injured climber from Mount Moran, also by helicopter. Saturday evening, beginning around 5:00 p.m., rangers conducted another rescue—this time using a wheeled litter—near the Phelps Lake Overlook, in Death Canyon.

The Paintbrush Canyon rescue began Friday night, August 5, and concluded Saturday morning. Sarah Wedge, age 21, from Baltimore, Maryland, became extremely ill due to the combined effects of altitude, heat and severe dehydration while backpacking with three companions in Upper Paintbrush Canyon. One of these companions, Carolyn Hopkins, a Grand Teton Lodge Company employee, contacted Teton Interagency Dispatch at about 10:00 p.m. on Friday night after Wedge's condition deteriorated to a point where she was too weak and ill to continue. Rangers advised the party of first aid techniques they could perform to re-hydrate Wedge; however, her condition became steadily worse. Two rangers hiked to her location late that night and provided advanced emergency medical assistance. When Wedge's condition did not improve substantially by morning, rangers requested the Teton interagency contract helicopter to fly her to the valley. The helicopter arrived on-scene, at a temporary staging area near Holly Lake, around 8:00 a.m., and rangers situated Wedge inside for evacuation. A park ambulance met the helicopter at Lupine Meadows and transported Wedge to St. John's Medical Center.

Later Saturday morning, 49-year-old Jerry Painter, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and three other climbers were ascending the CMC Route—a popular climbing route on the east face of Mount Moran, rated 5.5—when Painter was struck on the head by a sizable rock that was dislodged by climbers above. The rockfall broke Painter's helmet, and he sustained injuries to his head and neck. The party was on the first pitch of the climb and had reached an elevation of about 11,500 feet when the accident occurred. Steve Bohrer, also from Idaho Falls and one of Painter's climbing partners, called for help via cell phone at 9:15 a.m. Rangers immediately began to coordinate a rescue, while the group of climbers moved Painter to a more secure area, out of the way of further rockfall, until rangers could reach them.

Due to the nature of Painter's injuries, his disoriented state of consciousness and the group's remote location, rangers requested the assistance of the interagency helicopter. The helicopter flew four rangers to a staging area on the Falling Ice Glacier, then inserted one of these rangers

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to Painter's location using the short-haul method—a method by which rangers fly, individually or in pairs, suspended from the helicopter on a double rope system. This ranger loaded Painter into an evacuation suit and attended him while the two were short-hauled back to the staging area at the glacier. Rescue personnel at the glacier moved Painter inside the helicopter for the flight to Lupine Meadows, where a park ambulance was waiting to transport him to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson. From there, Painter was flown by air ambulance to Idaho Falls for treatment of his head injuries. While Painter did sustain serious injuries, his use of a helmet—combined with a rapid evacuation—likely saved his life.

At 5:10 p.m. rangers received another call for assistance, this time from Death Canyon, near the Phelps Lake Overlook. 55-year-old James Mackey, from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, was suffering from heat-related illness and dehydration; he was experiencing intense cramping on the switchbacks about 200 yards below the overlook. Mackey's symptoms were so severe that he was unable to walk on his own. A backcountry ranger on routine patrol in Death Canyon encountered Mackey and called for assistance. Two rangers drove the ambulance to the trailhead and ran to Mackey's location to provide emergency medical assistance. Dr. Will Smith of Jackson, Wyoming, the park's medical director, supplied advice and consultation by phone, as he had during the previous two rescues. Three more rangers were immediately dispatched to the trailhead; they quickly reached Mackey and transported him to the trailhead using a wheeled litter. The waiting park ambulance took Mackey to St. John's Medical Center at 6:50 p.m.

The two helicopter evacuations mark the eleventh and twelfth major search and rescues in Grand Teton National Park this year.

Park rangers remind hikers and climbers to take the extra time to pause and remember key safety considerations. Climbers should always wear a helmet and be constantly attentive to the potential for rockfall, especially during the busy summer season. Climbers should also use extra caution when parties are on a route above them; at the same time, climbers need to be aware of people below them and try to avoid dislodging rocks.

When undertaking strenuous outdoor activities, it is imperative to take in enough food and water to remain hydrated and replenish vital energy reserves. It is extremely important to maintain a constant intake of fluids and food to minimize the risk of acute altitude sickness, especially during hot summer weather and at high altitudes.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2005 05-55

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Evacuate Injured Climber from the Lower Saddle in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers evacuated an injured climber by helicopter from the Lower Saddle between the Middle Teton and Grand Teton, on Tuesday afternoon, August 9, around 2:30 p.m. Lynette Sjol, age 47, from Jackson, Wyoming tumbled approximately 15-20 feet while descending the Grand Teton, and sustained injuries to her knee and ankle.

Sjol was part of a guided group climbing with Exum Mountain Guides; the group was at a point on the route known as “the Needle,” about 12,000 feet in elevation, when Sjol fell, at approximately 11:00 a.m. Sjol was wearing a helmet at the time and sustained only minor head injuries, in addition to her leg injuries.

The Exum guide who was leading the group contacted Teton Interagency Dispatch via cell phone to report the accident and request assistance. The group continued its descent to the Lower Saddle, while two rangers who were doing a routine patrol on the Grand Teton also descended to the Lower Saddle to provide assistance to Sjol.

Rangers reached Sjol at 12:30 p.m., assessed her injuries, provided emergency medical assistance and consulted with Dr. Will Smith, the park’s medical director. Together, they determined that the extent of Sjol’s injuries combined with the distance to the valley warranted the use of the Teton interagency contract helicopter for evacuation.

The helicopter arrived at the Lower Saddle landing zone around 2:00 p.m., and rangers secured Sjol inside for the flight down to Lupine Meadows. Once they arrived back on the valley floor, a park ambulance transported the injured Sjol to St. John’s Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2005 05-56

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Black Bear Killed by Vehicle in Grand Teton National Park

A three-year-old male black bear was struck and killed by a northbound vehicle around 1:50 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon, August 9, just north of the Snake River Overlook on Highway 26/89/191 in Grand Teton National Park. The motorist who struck the bear did not stop or report the accident. However, park rangers were able to locate the driver in Yellowstone National Park because his vehicle license plate was torn off during the collision and remained at the scene.

This marks the fourth bear fatality resulting from a vehicle collision this year in Grand Teton. A yearling male grizzly bear was hit and killed by a vehicle on June 11 south of Moran Junction; a black bear struck by a vehicle on June 26 near Pacific Creek Bridge was discovered dead the following day from injuries received in the accident; and park rangers euthanized an adult male black bear on July 5 after it was severely injured in a collision with a van east of Moran Junction.

In the past five weeks, 33 large animals (bison, moose, elk, deer, pronghorn and bears) have been hit and killed by motorists on roads within Grand Teton National Park. These encounters between vehicles and wildlife serve as an important reminder that animals are actively crossing and using park roads, and motorists need to drive with extra caution while being especially alert for wildlife during low light conditions at night, dawn or dusk.

Motorists must drive posted speed limits at all times and be prepared to stop suddenly for wildlife along, or on, park roadways. Driving slower than indicated speed limits – especially at night – may increase the margin of safety for people and wildlife. Collisions between vehicles and wildlife may result in severe damage to a vehicle, serious or fatal injuries to the occupants of that vehicle, and/or death for the animal involved.

Visitors are reminded to report all motor vehicle accidents, including those that involve wildlife, to park rangers. According to the Code of Federal Regulations 36, a motor vehicle operator is required to report an accident involving property damage, personal injury, or death.

Each year, approximately 100 or more animals are killed in vehicle collisions on Grand Teton roadways. On average, two to three black bears are involved in vehicle accidents per year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 22, 2005 05-57

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Improvement Project Begins Near Moose Junction in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a road improvement project is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 29, along Highway 26/89/191 north of Moose Junction in Grand Teton National Park. The project will also include roadwork west of Moose Junction to the Snake River Bridge on the Teton Park Road. This road project will be underway through September 23, weather depending.

The road project will begin with removal of the guardrails along the Ditch Creek Bridge near Antelope Flats Road junction. During this time, traffic delays of up to 15 minutes may occur.

Application of an asphalt overlay will be placed along a segment of road from Moose Junction to three miles north of Antelope Flats Road junction. In addition, an overlay of asphalt will be placed on the roadway from Moose Junction for one half mile west to the Snake River Bridge.

Road improvement work will be underway from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday of each week. No weekend work is planned at this time. Motorists should expect delays of up to 30 minutes while paving operations are in progress.

This road project is subject to change depending on weather conditions.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 22, 2005 05-58

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Celebrates Founder's Day—the 89th Anniversary of the Creation of the National Park Service

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that Grand Teton National Park will celebrate the 89th anniversary of the creation of the National Park Service on Thursday, August 25. This historic date, known as Founder's Day, marks the formal establishment by Congress of the National Park Service within the Department of the Interior.

In recognition of Founder's Day, traditional anniversary cake will be served at park visitor centers, including the Moose, Colter Bay and Jenny Lake visitor centers and the Flagg Information Station. Other activities planned for the 2005 celebration include an author signing, hosted by the Grand Teton Natural History Association (GTNHA). Approximately 15 local authors will be on hand at the Moose Visitor Center to autograph books on Thursday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m.

The GTNHA will also observe Founder's Day by offering a 10% discount on all books and bookstore items, with GTNHA members eligible for additional discounts. To take advantage of this special offer, visit any GTNHA bookstore located at park visitor centers, the Jackson Hole Airport, or the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, located on North Cache in Jackson, Wyoming.

The founding of the National Park Service on August 25, 1916, consolidated management of national parks and national monuments within a single government agency. The legislation that gave birth to the National Park Service, called "The Organic Act," defines the agency's mission: to conserve—unimpaired, for the enjoyment of future generations—the scenery, wildlife and the natural, cultural and historic features of the nation's unique and significant resources. Today's park service continues to honor this 89-year-old legacy of valuing both preservation and democratic access to America's treasured natural and historic areas.

On behalf of all Grand Teton employees, Superintendent Scott extends a special invitation to local residents and the visiting public to join in the annual celebration of Founder's Day. "The formation of the NPS was a seminal event in our nation's history," Scott said. "Please join us in honoring the National Park System by enjoying anniversary events held in the park on August 25th."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2005 05-59

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

26-Year-Old-Man Found Deceased near Hermitage Point in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers found the body of 26-year-old Micah Burns, of Austin, Texas, at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 27, after a large-scale search effort. Burns, who was working as a seasonal employee at the Grand Teton Lodge Company, was located about 500 yards north of the group campsite on Hermitage Point, near the shore of Jackson Lake, four miles from the trailhead at Colter Bay.

The Grand Teton Lodge Company notified park rangers on Tuesday, August 23 that Burns had not shown up for work Monday morning, August 22. Based on information about where Burns had possibly gone hiking, rangers launched an extensive search involving ten park personnel, including rangers on boats, rangers with search dogs and rangers on foot. The search parties scoured the Hermitage Point peninsula, but turned up no sign of Burns.

In the ensuing days, rangers continued their investigation and search efforts. Rangers interviewed friends of Burns as well as his employer and family members to see if Burns had contacted anyone or shown up in another part of the country. Information from these interviews led rangers to search other locations in the park where Burns might have gone camping. However, by Friday evening, Burns still remained missing.

On Saturday morning, rangers mounted a large-scale search effort. 20 interagency personnel—including teams with search dogs from Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue, an interagency contract helicopter, two teams of rangers on horseback, two teams of rangers patrolling by boat on Jackson Lake, and several teams of rangers on foot, including rangers from both Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks—again searched the Hermitage Point peninsula and trail network for any sign of Burns. At about 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning, rangers spotted Burns' body from their patrol boat on Jackson Lake.

Teton County Coroner Bob Campbell transported Burns' body to Valley Mortuary in Jackson. The cause of death has not yet been determined; however, there is no evidence of foul play.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2005 05-60

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Human-Caused Fire Ignited near Signal Mountain Lodge in Grand Teton National Park

Interagency fire crews responded to reports of smoke south of Signal Mountain Lodge on Sunday, August 28, at approximately 1:00 p.m. Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received several phone calls from hikers along the lakeshore trail who reported a fire about one quarter mile south of the Signal Mountain boat launch area.

Fire personnel responded to the call immediately, sending an engine crew and three rangers to the scene to scout the fire and secure the area. Four crew members hiked in the quarter mile from the Signal Mountain boat launch and reached the fire at 1:45 p.m. They found that the Signal Fire was approximately one-half acre in size and was burning in grass and lodgepole pines, adjacent to the shore of Jackson Lake. This fire was ignited in a suppression zone, which was designated as such due to its proximity to Signal Mountain Lodge and other human structures. Fires that start in suppression zones are automatically suppressed, according to Grand Teton National Park's fire management plan. The plan also mandates that all human-ignited fires are suppressed.

After fire personnel conducted their initial size-up of the fire, they determined that the location, the current fire behavior and the potential for rapid spread warranted requesting assistance from a second wildland fire engine as well as a Teton interagency contract helicopter to begin suppression tactics on the fire. The incident commander was able to stand down the helicopter after the fire died down somewhat and it became clear that the engine crews and other on-site resources were sufficient. To ensure public safety, fire personnel closed the lakeshore trail for about an hour; they were able to reopen it as fire behavior stabilized.

Fire crews are using Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) to manage this fire. MIST tactics, which are commonly used in national parks, prioritize techniques with the least possible impact to the environment and take advantage of natural geographic features to suppress a fire in order to minimize damage to natural resources. In the case of the Signal Fire, crews are using water from Jackson Lake rather than digging line around the fire with hand tools. Crews are using a portable pump to draw water from the lake.

The Signal Fire is currently 90% contained, and crews expect to have it fully controlled later Sunday evening. The fire appears to be human-caused, and it is currently under investigation. The Signal Fire is the fourth fire in Grand Teton National Park this year; the other three were ignited by lightning and were controlled at less than one acre.

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

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 29, 2005 05-61

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Signal Fire Controlled

The Signal Fire, located south of Signal Mountain Lodge in Grand Teton National Park, was declared controlled at 7:30 on Sunday evening, August 28. Interagency fire personnel began suppressing this fire on Saturday afternoon, August 27, after receiving reports from park visitors hiking in the area. Today, August 29, fire crews will continue to do mop-up work and patrol for any remaining hot spots. The Signal Fire was controlled at about one-half acre in size, and fire officials expect to be able to declare it out later this evening.

After conducting an investigation, park rangers determined that the Signal Fire was ignited by an out-of-bounds camper who started a fire to warm himself on Thursday night, August 25. Ryan Dobbs, age 20, from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, has been charged with four misdemeanor offenses under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations: illegal camping, an illegal fire, illegal possession of alcohol, and possession of illegal drugs. All four misdemeanor offenses are subject to heavy fines, and the drug possession and illegal fire charges require a mandatory court appearance. Dobbs will appear at a later date before the U.S. Magistrate's Court in Jackson, Wyoming.

Park visitors are reminded that campfires are only allowed in fire grates within front-country park campgrounds and in established fire rings at some designated backcountry lakeshore campsites. A warm, dry summer and an extended drought have led to dry conditions in Grand Teton National Park, and unattended or abandoned campfires can quickly escalate into wildland fires. It is extremely important that all campfires are completely extinguished and cold to the touch before campers leave the site, and campfires should never be left unattended.

The fire danger rating for Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest is Moderate. Consult www.tetonfires.com to find the most up-to-date fire information for these areas. To report a fire in either area, please call (307) 739-3630.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 29, 2005 05-62

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Wolf Euthanized in Grand Teton National Park

An injured wolf, located near the Elk Ranch reservoir in the northeast portion of Grand Teton National Park, was euthanized Monday morning, August 29. Park staff were notified of the injured wolf by a park employee, who was working in the area. The wolf was dragging its hind legs and appeared to be struggling to move. Due to the wolf's extremely debilitated condition and apparent suffering, Mike Jimenez, U.S. Fish & Wildlife project leader for the Wolf Recovery Program in Wyoming, made the decision to euthanize the animal.

After rangers arrived at the wolf's location and assessed its condition, they contacted Jimenez, who joined park staff at the scene and identified the wolf as an older male, grey in color, and emaciated, with worn teeth. The wolf did not have a radio collar, and it has not been determined whether it was a member of the Teton pack.

Jimenez will send the wolf carcass to an Ashland, Oregon forensics lab to determine a cause of death and rule out any possibility of an intentional kill.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2005 05-63

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Improvement Project Begins Near Moose Junction in Grand Teton National Park

A road improvement project, which began on Monday, August 29, along Highway 26/89/191 north of Moose Junction in Grand Teton National Park, will be underway through September 23, weather permitting. This project will also include roadwork on the Teton Park Road, west of Moose Junction to the Snake River Bridge.

The road project will begin with removal of the guardrails along the Ditch Creek bridge near Antelope Flats Road junction during the week of August 29 through September 2. During this time, traffic delays of up to 15 minutes may occur.

Application of an asphalt overlay along a segment of road from Moose Junction to three miles north of Antelope Flats Road junction begins on September 7, after the Labor Day weekend. In addition, an overlay of asphalt will be placed on the roadway from Moose Junction for one-half mile west to the Snake River Bridge. Motorists should expect delays of up to 30 minutes while paving operations are in progress.

Road improvement work will be underway from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday of each week. Weekend work is currently planned for September 10 and 11, and may also occur on subsequent weekends.

This road project is subject to change depending on weather conditions. For current information on road construction projects in the park, please call a recorded message line at (307) 739-3614.

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PO Box 170
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2005 05-64

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rangers Conduct Two Mountain Rescues in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers and an interagency contract helicopter responded to two separate climbing accidents, one on Friday, September 2 and another on Saturday, September 3. Friday's rescue occurred on Mt. Owen's Serendipity Arête, a technical climbing route on the west face of Mount Owen, and Saturday's rescue took place on the Lower Exum Ridge of the Grand Teton, another technical climb. Both accidents involved climbers who took leader falls and sustained serious injuries, and both incidents required helicopter evacuations.

The first rescue occurred Friday afternoon. Peter Ericson, age 23 from Salt Lake City, Utah and Josh Orintas, age 23, from Breckenridge, Colorado were climbing the Serendipity Arête (elevation 12,000 feet)—a climb rated 5.7 on the Yosemite decimal scale—when Ericson pulled off a loose rock and fell about 20-30 feet, sustaining serious injuries to his leg and arm. Orintas placed a 911 cell phone call to the sheriff's office in Rigby, Idaho, who notified Teton interagency dispatch of the accident at approximately 12:30 p.m. Park rangers immediately began to coordinate a rescue response. Due to the climbers' remote location, the difficult terrain, and the extent of Ericson's injuries, rangers requested the assistance of the interagency contract helicopter.

The helicopter ferried three rangers and rescue equipment to a landing zone in Valhalla Canyon, at the base of Mount Owen, then inserted one ranger to the scene via the short-haul method—a technique by which rangers fly, individually or in pairs, suspended from the helicopter on a double rope system. This ranger provided emergency medical assistance to Ericson and prepared him for transport by placing him in an evacuation suit. After being temporarily grounded due to a severe storm cell in the area, the helicopter was able to short-haul both Ericson and the ranger on-scene—who flew alongside Ericson and attended him—to the Lupine Meadows Rescue Cache at 4:30 p.m. Ericson was then transferred to a park ambulance for transport to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming, where he was treated and released. Both Ericson and Orintas are seasonal concessions employees in Grand Teton National Park this summer.

On Saturday, September 3, rangers received another call for assistance after 24-year-old Leah Sandberg, of Jackson, Wyoming fell approximately 20-30 feet while ascending the second pitch of the Lower Exum Ridge (elevation 12,500 feet) on the Grand Teton—another 5.7 climb. Alex Hamlin, age 24 and also from Jackson, used his cell phone to call for help when Sandberg fell, at approximately 1:15 p.m. As with Friday's rescue, the location, terrain and severity of Sandberg's injuries necessitated the use of the interagency contract helicopter to shuttle rangers to the scene and to evacuate the injured climber.

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Rangers coordinated another rescue, using the helicopter to bring rangers and equipment to a landing zone at the Lower Saddle. An Exum Guide who was climbing in the area provided assistance to Sandberg until rangers could arrive at the scene. From the Lower Saddle, the helicopter short-hauled two rangers to the location on the Exum Ridge at approximately 3:00 p.m., where they assessed Sandberg's condition and provided emergency medical assistance. The helicopter then transported two more rangers to the Saddle and brought an evacuation litter to Sandberg's location. Rangers situated Sandberg on the litter and short-hauled her to the Lower Saddle. From there, they placed Sandberg inside the helicopter and flew her down to Lupine Meadows, where a park ambulance transported her to St. John's Medical Center.

Both Ericson and Sandberg were wearing a helmet at the time of each accident.

These two rescues constitute the fifteenth and sixteenth major search and rescue operations this year in Grand Teton National Park.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2005 05-65

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Fall Programs Begin in Grand Teton National Park

Several ranger-naturalist programs are planned for the fall season at various park locations, including the Moose and Colter Bay visitor centers. Area residents and visitors are invited to experience the park during autumn when colorful foliage and seasonal wildlife behavior reach their peak. Beginning September 6, the fall schedule includes:

- **Inspiration Point Hike**, a 2.5-hour hike to Hidden Falls and view above Jenny Lake, 9:30 a.m. daily. Obtain tokens at Jenny Lake Visitor Center and meet at the flagpole.
- **Lakeshore Stroll**, a 1-hour geology walk along Jackson Lake, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 9 a.m. from the Colter Bay Visitor Center.
- **Walk Into the Past**, a 30-minute walk around Menor's Ferry area near the Moose Visitor Center, 2 p.m. daily from Menor's Ferry General Store.
- **Teton Profiles**, a 20-minute Teton orientation, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily at the Moose Visitor Center.
- **Teton Highlights**, a 30-minute travel planner, 11 a.m. daily in Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Jenny Lake Overlook**, enjoy casual conversation with a ranger, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. daily, south of Jenny Lake Lodge along the shoreline of Jenny Lake.
- **Indian Art and Culture**, a 45-minute program on Native American cultures in the Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium. 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Museum Grand Tour**, a 45-minute tour of the David T. Vernon Indian Arts Exhibit, 3 p.m. daily in the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum.
- **Swan Lake Hike**, a 3-hour hike, 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday from Colter Bay Visitor Center.
- **Wildlife Caravan**, a 3-hour wildlife auto-tour each evening at 5 p.m. from the Moose Visitor Center. Limited to 10 vehicles, **reservations are required**. Reserve a space at the Moose Visitor Center or call 739-3399. Ride sharing encouraged. Dress warmly and bring binoculars or spotting scopes.
- **Oxbow Bend Wildlife Watch**, a 90-minute wildlife watch offered each evening at 6 p.m. at Oxbow Bend Scenic Turnout. Bring binoculars, cameras and questions. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Featured Creature**, a 45-minute close-up look into the habits of park wildlife, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the Colter Bay amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Evening Slide-Illustrated Programs**, presented 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at the Signal Mountain campground amphitheater, and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Colter Bay amphitheater. Dress warmly. Wheelchair accessible.

The fall schedule is subject to change. For weekly updates on program changes or further information on any of the listed activities, call the Moose Visitor Center at (307) 739-3399 or Colter Bay Visitor Center at (307) 739-3594. Fall programs will be offered through September 30 and park visitor centers (Moose and Colter Bay) are open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., while Jenny Lake is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Jenny Lake Visitor Center closes for the season on Friday, September 30, while the Colter Bay Visitor Center will close Monday, October 10. The Moose Visitor Center is open year-round.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2005 05-66

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Wolf Pup Killed by Vehicle in Grand Teton National Park

A female wolf pup was hit and killed by an unknown vehicle about 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14, along Highway 26/89/191 near the south boundary of Grand Teton National Park. This young wolf was not radio-collared, and it has not yet been determined which pack may have been its family group.

A passing motorist notified park staff about the dead wolf early Wednesday morning. Park biologists drove to the accident site and picked up the carcass, which was subsequently turned over to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The wolf carcass will be examined to gather genetic information that will identify its pack affiliation.

Numerous animals, large and small, have died in collisions with vehicles on park roads this year. To date, more than 110 animals have been killed by motorists; this number includes two wolves, five bears, five moose, eight bison, and thirty-eight elk, among others. These fatal encounters – between park wildlife and vehicles – serve as a reminder that motorists must drive with extra caution and be especially alert for wildlife.

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

Ironically, this wolf pup was hit and killed near a newly posted caution sign advising motorists of the presence of wildlife on park roads.

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PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2005 05-67

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks Observe National Public Lands Day

Visitors entering Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks on Saturday, September 24, 2005 will have their entrance fees waived in recognition of National Public Lands Day. To observe the twelfth anniversary of National Public Lands Day, all park entrance fees, including transportation and commercial tour entrance fees, will be waived for the day. Normally, an entry permit for Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks costs \$20 per private, non-commercial vehicle.

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

Visitors are encouraged to take advantage of this free entry day in Grand Teton and Yellowstone. The observance of Public Lands Day in September offers visitors an excellent opportunity to find solitude, catch the fall color display, and experience exceptional wildlife viewing.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 2005 05-68

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Entrance Fees to Increase in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks

The National Park Service announced that on May 1, 2006, both Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park will begin charging slightly higher fees for certain entrance permits. Fee increases will apply to both the per-person and single, private vehicle permits.

Entrance fees will include the following options:

- \$12 Per-person entry (non-motorized) – good for 7 days for both Grand Teton and Yellowstone
- \$20 Motorcycle entry – good for 7 days into both parks*
- \$25 Single, private vehicle entry – good for 7 days into both parks
- \$40 Annual Parks Pass – valid for one year entry into both Grand Teton and Yellowstone
- \$50 National Parks Pass – valid for one year entry to all national park units

**The fee for an individual snowmobile will remain at \$15 for both parks at this time. A final winter use plan and Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be completed and implemented by the 2007/08 winter, and a fee increase may be considered at that time.*

Entrance fees for Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks have not increased since December 1996, when Congress authorized and implemented the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Monies from this federally approved program were used to address backlogs in national parks' infrastructure. Some projects funded under the Fee Demo Program included improved handicapped accessibility; protection of cultural and natural resources; habitat restoration; rehabilitation of trails and overlooks; and control of exotic species.

The Fee Demonstration Program was recently replaced by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). Under the authority of the FLREA, parks are allowed to retain up to 80 percent of the recreation fees collected. The program calls for using entrance fees collected by the parks to continue addressing the deferred maintenance backlog, with a strong emphasis toward projects that will enhance visitor health and safety, access, and enjoyment.

Under the new FLREA fee system, Yellowstone anticipates an estimated \$1 million each year in additional revenue, and Grand Teton anticipates an estimated \$500,000 in additional revenue each year.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
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PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2005 05-69

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Seasonal Closures Scheduled For Park Roads

Jackson Hole residents and park visitors are reminded that interior roads within Grand Teton National Park will close to vehicular traffic for the winter season on Monday, October 31, 2005. Seasonal road closures begin at 8 p.m., Monday evening. These road closures span the length of the Teton Park Road between Taggart Lake parking area and the Signal Mountain Lodge parking lot, and the Moose-Wilson Road between Granite Canyon and Death Canyon trailheads. The Moose, Moran and Granite Canyon entrance stations will be temporarily closed during November and early December; they will reopen for the winter season on Wednesday, December 21.

The Teton Park Road will not be plowed after November 1, allowing for snow to accumulate on the roadbed for non-motorized, winter season activities such as cross-country skiing, skate skiing and snow-shoeing. During the time that the Teton Park Road remains free of snow, visitors are welcome to use the roadway for non-motorized recreation such as hiking, bicycling and in-line skating.

Pets are permitted on the roadway; however, pet owners are reminded that **dogs must be leashed** and under physical restraint at all times. Dog owners are requested to clean-up their pet's waste.

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 28, 2005 05-70

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Reward Offered for Bull Moose Poached in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for any information leading to the apprehension of an individual or individuals responsible for illegally shooting and killing a bull moose off the Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, just north of Grand Teton National Park, on or about September 20, 2005.

Funding for this reward is being made available through a cooperative effort between the Jackson Hole Crime Stoppers and Grand Teton National Park. Anyone with information about this poaching incident should contact Grand Teton National Park at **307-739-3330**.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2005 05-71

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Scoping Period Initiated for Review of Jackson Hole Airport Use Agreement Extension

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the National Park Service is reviewing a proposal by the Jackson Hole Airport Board to extend the current airport use agreement for two additional 10-year terms. The Jackson Hole Airport is located in Grand Teton National Park on 533 acres under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Public comments on this proposal will be accepted from November 18 through January 9, 2006.

The Jackson Hole Airport currently operates under the terms and conditions of a 50-year use agreement between the Jackson Hole Airport Board and the Department of the Interior; this agreement authorizes Jackson Hole Airport operations until April 27, 2033. However, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires that an airport have more than 20 years remaining on its lease or agreement in order to be eligible for Airport Improvement Program funds. To meet the 20-year threshold and ensure that the Jackson Hole Airport Board remains eligible for FAA funding beyond the year 2013, the existing airport use agreement must be extended. The current airport development footprint would be retained under this proposal.

Once the public scoping period ends, an environmental assessment will be prepared and available for a 30-day public review during the summer of 2006.

Please visit the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> to review this proposal and provide comments. Public comments may also be mailed to Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, Attn: Airport EA, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, Wyoming, 83012.

In addition to the PEPC website, copies of the scoping notice are also available on the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm> , and at the Moose Visitor Center, or the reference desk of the Teton County Library.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 22, 2005 05-73

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

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Coyote Shot and Killed Near Gros Ventre Junction in Grand Teton National Park

A coyote was shot and killed one mile east of Gros Ventre Junction this morning, December 22, about 9 a.m. A 31-year-old Kaysville, Utah man shot the animal from the road and was in the process of putting the carcass in his van when a passerby took notice of the unusual situation and called the park's dispatch by cell phone to report the incident.

The witness, who reported the suspicious activity, followed the Utah van to obtain a thorough description and license number. As a result of the tailing vehicle, the man eventually drove to the Wyoming Game and Fish office in Jackson, Wyoming. A park ranger was able to meet him at the Jackson office and further question him about the incident.

The Utah resident, who has been working in Jackson for the past two months, was cited and issued a mandatory court appearance for the illegal taking of wildlife in a national park.

Although coyotes are considered varmints throughout the State of Wyoming, they are protected within the borders of a national park. Park boundaries are clearly signed, and residents and non-residents alike need to be responsible for knowing their location before engaging in any activity that may be prohibited.

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