



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

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Craighead Beringia South

Howard Quigley
307-732-0188



Wyoming Game & Fish
State of Wyoming
Jackson District

Mark Gocke
307.733.2383 ext 231

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2008

JACKSON- An ongoing mountain lion research project suffered a setback last Friday, January 25, when a lion kitten was killed during a routine capture operation in Grand Teton National Park. A local veterinarian and biologists from Craighead Beringia South, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and Grand Teton National Park were attempting to capture the 7-month old kitten of a radio-collared adult female mountain lion, when tracking hounds caught and killed the young cougar.

Lion researchers routinely use hounds to safely track and tree the cats so that they can be tranquilized, collared and released. Unfortunately, in this case the kitten involved was in such poor health that it was unable to climb a tree and escape the dogs.

“We’re obviously devastated by the loss of the kitten,” said Teton Cougar Project leader, Howard Quigley. “We have captured a number of cats this age, and even younger, and they’ve always treed well ahead of the dogs. This kitten was so emaciated it likely couldn’t climb a tree. There were dozens available.” A necropsy performed by the crew’s veterinarian, reported ‘very little body fat’ and ‘marked muscle atrophy.’ Officials believed the young cat probably would not have survived the winter.

The kitten’s mother, known as F101, has been the most productive breeding female in the history of the project, but is now old and possibly quickly losing her ability to provide for her young. Based on tracks of F101 and her family, researchers documented the loss of two other kittens from this litter in recent weeks.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel became involved when they were notified by Quigley that a collared cat and its kitten were frequenting a private ranch within Grand Teton National Park where horses are kept. It was collectively decided that an attempt needed to be made to haze the cats away from the private residence, but that it could be accomplished in conjunction with a capture effort to radio-collar the kitten for research purposes. The two cats were adjacent to the ranch in Grand Teton National Park the day of the attempted capture.

“There are always risks associated with capturing and handling wildlife,” said Steve Cain, Grand Teton’s senior wildlife biologist. “It doesn’t matter if tranquilizer darts, net-guns, or baited traps are being used, losing an animal is a possibility that we take very seriously and go to extreme efforts to mitigate. By carefully evaluating the need for science, the risk of research to wildlife, and the qualifications of animal handlers, we help ensure that research-related animal deaths remain rare events.”

The Wyoming Game and Fish and Grand Teton National Park support the research being done by Craighead Beringia South and commend them for their professionalism and vital research data. “While we’re all disappointed in the loss of this kitten, we will continue to support the work of the Teton Cougar Project,” said Tim Fuchs, Jackson District Supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish. “This research has provided us with valuable information with regard to lion distribution, recruitment, survival and predation.”

Game and Fish officials said they will continue to work cooperatively with researchers of the Teton Cougar Project to monitor the location of the collared female cat.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 2008 08-02

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Recruits for 2008 Youth Conservation Program

Grand Teton National Park is now recruiting participants for the 2008 Youth Conservation Program (YCP). Thanks to generous donations made by several donors through the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, this marks the third year that the park has offered this youth employment opportunity. Grand Teton plans to recruit 15 short-term positions. **Applications must be postmarked by March 21, 2008.**

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

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

The 2008 YCP program will run for ten weeks from June 11 through August 16. Participants must be at least 16 years of age by June 11, and live locally as housing is not provided. Applicants must also be United States citizens and students in good standing. Other qualifications include good team skills, a willingness to learn about Grand Teton National Park and its trail system, and the ability to work at a physically demanding job which may involve lifting 30-40 pounds. The program includes three work crews with five to six YCP trail members, and wages are set at \$10.20 per hour.

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

To obtain an application or get further information about the 2008 YCP, please call Brian Bergsma in Grand Teton National Park at 307.739.3364, or write to YCP Program, GTNP, Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012. Applications are also available online at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/misc/ycp.htm>.

-NPS-
www.nps.gov/grte



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

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393



National Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Bridger-Teton National Forest
Mary Cernicek
307.739.5564

Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Patty Kraayenbrink
208-524-7639



Wyoming Game & Fish
State of Wyoming
Jackson District

Mark Gocke
307.733.2383 ext 231

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

February 25, 2008

Twenty Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Radio Collared for Study

Twenty female bighorn sheep were successfully netted from a helicopter, captured and fitted with GPS (Global Positioning System) radio collars on Thursday, February 14 and Friday, February 15 at various locations in the Teton Range; the capture operation occurred without any injury to either the bighorn sheep or the wildlife capture professionals. The capture operation launches an interagency study intended to gather valuable information about the health and future of the bighorn herd that occupies high elevation habitat spanning federal lands in the Tetons. Interagency partners for the study include Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Winter-time offers some distinct advantages for capturing bighorn sheep: animals tend to be concentrated in a relatively small area and are therefore easy to locate; the snow pack helps to slow down the pace of an animal before the net is deployed from the helicopter; and snow can cushion the fall of a netted animal, reducing the chance of injury.

The GPS collars are programmed to periodically record vital location data as bighorn sheep move across their range throughout the year. After two years, the collars will automatically drop off and biologists will then recover the collars via radio-telemetry to download the data onto computers, providing detailed information about habitat selection, travel routes and other factors (i.e. lamb production and survival) that are critical to ensuring the long-term survival of this bighorn population.

The Teton Range bighorn sheep population is Wyoming's smallest and most isolated native herd, numbering just 100-125 animals. Federal and state biologists have been concerned for many years about the long-term survival of this particular herd. Due to a loss of historic low-elevation winter range, the herd now lives year-round at high elevation in the Teton Range, where because of their small population they are vulnerable to a single event—disease, harsh winter weather or avalanches—that could quickly reduce their numbers and lead to potential extirpation of the herd. Although broad scale information is available about bighorn sheep seasonal distributions, further detailed information on habitat selection, travel routes and movements is urgently needed and critical to the herd's long-term persistence.

Growing recognition of the questionable future for this bighorn sheep population led to the formation of a Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Working Group in 1990—a group comprised of representatives from Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bridger-Teton and Caribou-Targhee national forests, and Grand Teton National Park, as well as several individuals with expertise in bighorn ecology who are affiliated with non-governmental organizations.

Previous efforts to improve the Teton Range herd's survival included seasonal closures of sheep winter ranges to reduce disturbance impacts during an especially stressful time of year, and the retirement of domestic sheep allotments in forest locations on the western slopes of the Teton Range. Although progress has been made in reducing some of the threats to the long-term survival of Teton Range herd, uncertainties still remain regarding their current distribution, and whether bighorn sheep avoid areas of human activity. Consequently, there is a critical need to further assess habitat selection patterns and general population status of this isolated sheep herd.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2008 08-04

Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393/ 739-3415

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Bronze Sculpture on Display at Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the National Museum of Wildlife Art has graciously loaned a life-sized bronze sculpture to Grand Teton National Park for display in the Art Gallery room of the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming. Created in 2000 by Cheyenne-born wildlife sculptor, Dan Ostermiller, the eye-catching sculpture titled “Tres Osos” (Three Bears) depicts a mother grizzly and her two cubs.

Dan Ostermiller, a professionally and publicly recognized artist, is a fellow of the National Sculpture Society and a member of the Society of Animal Artists. Ostermiller’s art is represented by galleries in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Vail, Colorado, New York City, and Houston, Texas. More than 40 of his monumental pieces have gone to public and private collections in over 16 states since his first show was held in 1980. Ostermiller’s sculpture goes beyond a straightforward rendering of form. His artistry excels in capturing a moment to tell a story and depict a mood. “Tres Osos” depicts an adult grizzly bear with her two cubs: one cub is lying flat on its belly, head extended and foreleg hanging over the sculpture base, while another cub is relaxed and leaning against its mother, who appears to be watching over her youngsters.

The loan of this artistic sculpture is made possible through a partnership agreement between the National Museum of Wildlife Art and Grand Teton National Park. This agreement enables the museum to share art work with park visitors, while providing a sense of the unique relationship between park wildlife and artistic renditions of wildlife. Ostermiller’s “Tres Osos” joins several paintings in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center’s Art Gallery already on loan from the museum.

According to Adam Duncan Harris, curator of art at the museum, the work is a great example of the contemporary side of their holdings—one with a slight sense of whimsy that families, in particular, might enjoy.



—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2008 08-05

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Annual Snow Plowing to Begin on Teton Park Road

Weather depending, the annual snow plowing of the Teton Park Road in Grand Teton National Park may begin as early as Monday, March 10. Consequently, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing along this designated winter use trail will cease for the 2007/08 winter season. Although winter recreation on the unplowed portion of the Teton Park Road comes to an end as plowing operations get underway, park visitors may continue to use other winter trails—and/or areas adjacent to the Teton Park Road—for cross-country skiing, skate skiing, and snowshoeing.

For safety reasons, visitors may not access the Teton Park Road while rotary snow removal equipment and plows are working; the road is closed to ALL users during this time. Skiers and snowshoers using trails adjacent to the Teton Park Road are cautioned to avoid the arc of snow being blown from the rotary equipment because pieces of ice and gravel may be mixed in with this spray of snow. Park rangers will enforce the temporary road closure to ensure safe conditions for plow operators and park visitors alike.

Depending on weather, snow conditions and plowing progress, the roadway should become accessible to traditional springtime, non-motorized activities by April 1st.

Pet owners are reminded that dogs are not allowed in the park's backcountry, which includes all areas 50 feet away from park roadways and turnouts. Pet owners are required to have their dogs leashed whenever they are outside of a private vehicle. Pet owners must also clean up their dog waste. A "mutt-mitt" station is conveniently located near the road closure gate, providing bags for this purpose.

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 winter season on Sunday evening, March 9, at 9 p.m. The Grassy Lake Road in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway also closes to snowmobile use on Sunday evening, March 9, in conjunction with other winter closures in nearby Yellowstone National Park. This road will remain closed to all motorized vehicles from April 1 to May 31, due to springtime grizzly bear activity.

Depending upon snow conditions, ranger-led snowshoe hikes originating from the new Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming are scheduled to end on Saturday, March 15. To make a reservation for this activity, or to inquire whether snowshoe hikes are still being offered, please phone 307.739.3399. The Discovery Center will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout March, April and May.

The opening of the Teton Park Road to bikers, hikers and inline skaters will be announced once the road has been plowed and snow removal equipment is no longer operating. **The Teton Park Road will open to vehicle traffic for the 2008 summer season on Thursday, May 1.**

—NPS—
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
March 10, 2008 08-06

Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393/ 739-3415

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Bear-Proof Food Canisters Required for Backcountry Camping in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that all persons camping below 10,000 feet in the park's backcountry will be required to use approved, portable bear-proof canisters for food storage—except at certain designated backcountry campsites where food storage facilities are provided. Hard plastic bear-proof canisters of the type approved by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee will be required beginning March 15, 2008. Although food canisters are not required for areas above 10,000 feet, proper food storage will still be compulsory in those locations.

The new requirement is being implemented to prevent bears from learning to associate humans and their activities with easily-obtainable food. By reducing the potential for property damage—and/or injury to visitors from bears aggressively seeking human foods—the new mandate will increase visitor safety and reduce the number of adverse actions required to manage food-conditioned bears.

Approved bear-proof canisters will be loaned without charge at three park locations: the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, Jenny Lake Ranger Station, and Colter Bay Visitor Center. Backcountry campers may use their own canisters as long as they are approved units. The following are currently authorized for use: Backpacker Model 812-C, BearVault BV350 and BV400, The Bear Keg, and The Bare Boxer Contender. For additional information on bears and food storage canisters, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/bearsafety.htm>.

Currently, bear-proof canisters are mandatory in Alaska's Glacier Bay and Katmai national parks, California's Yosemite National Park, the BLM-managed King Range National Conservation Area in northwestern California, and other federally-managed land areas. Mandatory canister use has been found to be a key element in achieving a successful bear management program. The counter-balance method for storing food out of a bear's reach does not always effectively keep bears from obtaining human foods. Many areas lack suitable trees for proper counterbalancing, and some bears have chewed through branches or otherwise acquired counterbalanced food. Once bears discover human food, they frequently alter their wild behavior and foraging habits in order to continue getting those foods. As a result, management actions—including the destruction of bears—are often necessary. Mandatory canister use helps prevent unnatural bear behavior and consequently reduces the loss of bears from associated management actions.

Last summer many bear/human conflicts occurred in the Jackson Hole area. Some bears have already learned to associate humans with easily-obtainable foods, and they may continue their pursuit of those foods, setting the stage for further conflicts. Proper food storage at all park locations—front country and backcountry—will be critical in minimizing such encounters.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2008 08-07

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Fire Management Officer Lisa Elenz Receives Award for Excellence

Lisa Elenz, fire management officer (FMO) for Grand Teton National Park, was recently recognized for her outstanding contributions to the National Park Service (NPS) fire program during a combined meeting between the NPS Pacific West and Intermountain regions held in Portland, Oregon. Intermountain Region Fire Management Officer Len Dems presented the 2007 Intermountain Region fire management awards to one national park unit and nine individuals who have demonstrated high performance in the field of fire management.

Elenz was awarded the “Excellence in Wildland Fire Management Award” for her regular and consistently exceptional work in support of area national parks and the NPS fire program at the local, regional, and national level. In addition to her responsibilities for supervising wildland fire operations for Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, Elenz also oversees fire management for three other parks—Fossil Butte National Monument, Fort Laramie National Historic Site, and Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area. Elenz is one of only a handful of women who work as fire management officers in large national parks.

“Lisa is an exemplary fire management officer who manages a complex and comprehensive fire program for Grand Teton and other national parks in Wyoming. We are so pleased that she was recognized for her exceptional work,” stated Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. “Lisa’s training, expertise and dedication to her profession make her an inspiration to other fire managers across the National Park System.”

Elenz works on long-term fire behavior analysis projects and instructs national level courses on long-term risk assessment and fire behavior analyses. She coordinates local firefighting operations through an interagency fire management team, which includes fire management staff from Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Jackson Hole Fire/EMS.

Elenz initially came to Grand Teton in 1998 as the assistant FMO. In 1999, Elenz directed the Alder Fire initial attack operation and functioned as lead for the Teton interagency firefighting efforts, which ultimately saved the historic Jenny Lake Lodge. Elenz served on a special assignment as the acting FMO for Bandelier National Monument during the critical months immediately following the 2000 Cerro Grande wildland fire. In 2001, while serving as the acting FMO for Grand Teton, Elenz played a leadership role during the Green Knoll Fire. She coordinated interagency firefighting efforts during the initial attack phase and remained directly involved throughout the extended firefighting period.

Prior to her positions at Grand Teton, Elenz spent two years as an FMO trainee and seven years as a Fire Station Captain in the Wawona district of Yosemite National Park. While working as fire station captain, she supervised wildland and structural fire operations for the district and planned and implemented prescribed fire and hazard fuel reduction programs within the urban interface of Yosemite.

Elenz started her NPS career by working as a fee collector on Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim, after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Northern Arizona University in 1988.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2008 08-08

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

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 March 31 to May 15, 2008, a quarter-mile radius around the lek site will be posted as **closed to all public entry** to reduce human disturbance on grouse hens and males who traditionally use the area during their annual mating time. Observance of this temporary, seasonal wildlife closure will reduce unnecessary stress on the grouse. 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 viewing area is located just east of this road. Visitors must observe the wildlife closure signs, stay within the 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 lek sites. To reduce 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 display. Visitors should remain as quiet as possible and refrain from talking until away from the viewing area.

Grand Teton National Park rangers will lead early-morning trips to observe the strutting sage grouse as they perform their springtime mating dance on this traditional lek. Strutting grouse tours are scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays during the weekends of April 12-13, April 19-20, and April 26-27. Trips begin at 5:30 a.m. from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, and reservations are required. Call the Discovery Center at 739.3399 to make reservations and obtain information about what to wear and bring along on these ranger-led excursions.

Sage grouse populations appear to be in decline throughout much of the West. The April weekend ranger-led tours offer local residents and park visitors a unique opportunity to see grouse as they perform their intriguing, seasonal mating dance.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2008 08-09

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Teton Park Road Opens for Annual Spring-time Activities

The Teton Park Road in Grand Teton National Park has been plowed and may be used for non-motorized activities such as hiking, biking, and inline skating from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. While the road is mainly clear of snow from Taggart Lake to Jenny Lake, areas north of South Jenny Lake junction have received additional snow from recent storms, and snow removal by rotary equipment and plows is currently underway to clear newly-formed drifts. For safety reasons, visitors should exercise caution whenever approaching snow removal equipment on the Teton Park Road. Visitors should also be alert for park vehicles that may occasionally travel the road for administrative purposes.

The Moose-Wilson Road has also been plowed and opened for non-motorized use.

Leashed dogs are permitted on the Teton Park, Antelope Flats, and Moose-Wilson roads, as well as other park roadways. Dogs are restricted to roads and turnouts—they are not permitted to travel beyond fifty feet from roadbeds or into the park's backcountry. Owners failing to keep pets on a leash (six foot maximum length) may cause the future prohibition of dogs on park roads.

Mutt Mitt stations are in place at the Taggart Lake parking area and pet owners are required to use waste disposal bags to pick up after their dogs.

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

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

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

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

The annual springtime opening of the Teton Park Road is a much anticipated event because it provides a unique and excellent opportunity to access the roadway before regular vehicle traffic begins for the summer. Both the Teton Park and Moose-Wilson roads will open to vehicle traffic for the full summer season on Thursday, May 1, 2008.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2008 08-10

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Ranger-led Activities Scheduled for April

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

A rite of spring annually celebrated in Grand Teton involves viewing sage grouse as they display and perform their yearly mating dance. Park rangers will lead early-morning tours to observe strutting sage grouse on a traditional lek (mating arena) located just off the Antelope Flats Road near Mormon Row. These ranger-led excursions offer a unique opportunity to view a spring-time ritual, as sage grouse congregate to perform animated displays. Rangers will also provide information about the natural history of sage grouse and conservation efforts underway to protect grouse populations throughout the West.

Strutting Grouse Tours begin from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming, and visitors can join these excursions on several consecutive April weekends. Tours start at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Depending upon snow conditions, the first one is tentatively scheduled for April 12-13. Other tours will be held on April 19-20, and April 26-27. Reservations are required. Please call the Discovery Center at 739.3399 to make a reservation and confirm that a tour will be held on a particular day. The Discovery Center will also provide information about what to wear and bring along on these ranger-led trips.

National Park Week will be observed across the country during the week of April 19–27. The week-long celebration offers diverse opportunities for U.S. citizens and international visitors to explore and learn about America’s exceptional natural, cultural, and recreational heritage. National Park Week also salutes the many individuals, groups and associations that help to make the National Park System one of this Nation’s greatest assets. Additional information about National Park Week is available on the National Park Service Web site at www.nps.gov.

Junior Ranger Day will be celebrated on April 26, 2008. To encourage young people to learn more about national parks across America and make a personal connection to their national heritage, Grand Teton park rangers will conduct special activities at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Participants will embark on a journey of discovery to learn about animals, wildlife habitat, and other park features. At the conclusion of the activities, the children will earn their Junior Ranger designation and receive a Junior Ranger patch.

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

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

—NPS—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2008 08-11

Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3415

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Bears Emerge From Hibernation in Grand Teton National Park

Bears are emerging from their winter dens; consequently, local residents and park visitors need to be alert for the presence of bears within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. As bears once again become active, appropriate precautions for traveling in bear country must be taken. Recently, bears were observed near Moran, Jackson Lake Lodge, and the Oxbow Bend. Tracks were seen along the Teton Park Road.

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

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

When traveling in bear country, precautionary measures include carrying bear pepper spray and keeping it easily accessible for ready use. Please take the time to learn how to properly handle bear pepper spray and remember that having it with you is not a substitute for being alert. While enjoying the park's backcountry, hikers should exercise good judgment and follow recommended safety precautions, such as making noise and traveling in a group.

Visitors should report any bear sightings or signs of their activity to the nearest visitor center or ranger station as soon as possible. This timely information will assist park staff in keeping visitors informed about recent bear activity, and in keeping bears away from unnatural food sources. Access to human food habituates bears. Habituated animals can 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 either storing attractants inside vehicles or disposing of garbage in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster.

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2008 08-12

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Essential Precautions for Safety of Visitors and Bears in Grand Teton National Park

Bears have recently emerged from hibernation in and around Grand Teton National Park, and once again, park visitors and local residents have the unique opportunity to witness the natural activities of grizzly bears and black bears throughout the park. Home ranges for some bears include roadside areas of Grand Teton, bringing them in close proximity to people. Consequently, safety precautions must be exercised to secure the continued health and welfare of bears throughout the park, and to ensure the safety of visitors. During the next few months, a cadre of park employees will be monitoring and managing roadside wildlife watching in an effort to make sure that people maintain a safe distance not only from bears, but also from other animals such as bison, moose, and elk.

Among the grizzly bears that make their home in Grand Teton is a family that includes bear #399, a twelve-year-old female, and her three two-year-old cubs. This foursome became a highly-visible attraction along park roadsides and developed areas during the 2006 and 2007 seasons with hundreds of admirers regularly stopping to photograph and observe them at close range. Over her lifetime, #399 has become comfortable using habitat in close proximity to roads and other developments, and is now habituated to humans. Nonetheless, she and her cubs remain wild, naturally foraging bears that are potentially dangerous. Because grizzlies usually wean their young after two full years, grizzly #399's cubs are expected to be on their own and fending for themselves sometime this spring or summer. They may continue to roam near people and park roads in the absence of their mother, making them more vulnerable to humans and their activities. One or more may also venture outside the park in search of new home ranges.

Park biologists and Wyoming Game and Fish biologists (who have responsibility for bears outside the park) want to ensure that the cubs remain wild and reliant upon natural food sources only. The fate of these and other bears could easily be influenced by careless park visitors or local residents who approach the bears too closely, or store food and other bear attractants (such as bird feeders) inappropriately. Inside the park, food storage regulations are in force and must be complied with at all times. Visitors are also required to keep a safe distance from bears at all times; the recommended distance to maintain from any bear (black or grizzly) is 100 yards—the length of a football field.

Wildlife managers want to avoid the need for management action on these and other bears and are requesting the public's help to ensure that they do not come into contact with artificial food sources. When bears become conditioned to human foods or threaten human safety, relocating them to remote areas or in extreme situations removing them from the population sometimes becomes necessary.

A temporary wildlife closure will be implemented from May 15 through July 15 in the Willow Flats area below Jackson Lake Lodge, in order to prevent human-bear encounters in an area where elk calving annually occurs, and bears actively pursue this abundant food source. Signs will be posted to alert visitors of the closure area and inform them of associated safety concerns.

To keep all grizzly bears and black bears wild and free, people must practice good "bear aware" etiquette and be responsible while recreating in Grand Teton National Park. For further information about being "bear aware," please consult the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, visit the park's Web site at www.nps.gov/grte, or stop by any park visitor center.

—NPS—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2008 08-13

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Purchases Green Power from Lower Valley Energy

In recognition of Earth Day 2008, Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Grand Teton National Park will purchase 100% green power through Lower Valley Energy's Green Power Program. The decision to purchase green energy to provide electricity for all of the park's visitor and operational facilities was made for multiple reasons: to reduce Grand Teton National Park's carbon footprint, to support the development and growth of renewable energy technologies, and to protect the environment. The renewable energy resources used to produce green power—such as wind, solar and water—are clean sources of energy that minimize negative environmental impacts in comparison to conventional energy technologies produced by burning fossil fuels—such as coal, oil and natural gas.

By purchasing 100% green power, Grand Teton National Park joins other local and regional organizations, businesses and individuals who support greater reliance on renewable resources. Renewable energy technologies can also encourage local economic development, provide a potential source of domestic jobs, and promote better national energy security.

“The National Park Service's commitment toward conservation and preservation of our natural resources has always been paramount,” stated Superintendent Scott. “Therefore, the decision to redirect Grand Teton's energy use toward appropriate renewable sources through Lower Valley Energy's Green Power Program is in keeping with both the NPS philosophy and mission. We appreciate the opportunity to select power from these alternative energy sources, and we commend Lower Valley Energy for their efforts in making this possible.”

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2008 08-14

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

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 2008 season.

Roads

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

Teton Park Road
Moose-Wilson Road

The Antelope Flats Road reopened to vehicle traffic in mid April. 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 wildlife are migrating throughout the park and crossing park roads, especially during dawn and dusk. In addition, springtime repair work may be underway on any park roads. The Moose-Wilson Road is currently scheduled to be closed from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 9 so that dust abatement work can be performed on the unpaved portion of the roadway. 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 include:

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

Personal checks may not be used for payment at park entrance stations, and personal identification is required for entering the park with any pass that requires a signature. **A photo machine is in operation at the Moose Entrance Station for processing photos—free of charge—to be placed onto the Annual Pass for Grand Teton and Yellowstone. This "photo pass" eliminates the need for other personal identification whenever entering the park using this particular pass. Entrance station staff will take photos upon request. (do not include in 2009 release, no longer in operation)**

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

Visitor Centers

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

Colter Bay Visitor Center	May 10
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	May 10
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	May 17
Flagg Ranch Information Station	June 2
Laurance S. Rockefeller Interpretive Center	June 22

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Ranger-led activities begin Monday, June 2. An activity schedule can be found in the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, or online at www.nps.gov/grte.

Campgrounds

The following campgrounds will open:

Gros Ventre	May 9
Signal Mountain	May 9
Jenny Lake	May 12
Colter Bay	May 23
Colter Bay RV & Trailer Park	May 23
Flagg Ranch RV Park	May 23
Lizard Creek	June 6

Fees for an individual campsite are \$18 per night, and hiker/bicyclist camping fees are \$7.00 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 operate on a first-come, first-served basis.

Group sites at Colter Bay and Gros Ventre campgrounds are available by reservation at a cost of \$5.00 per person, per night. Reservations may be made by calling either 307.543.3100 or 800.628.9988.

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 \$25 non-refundable fee. Reservations can be made online at www.nps.gov/grte/, by fax at 307.739.3438, or by mail to Grand Teton National Park, Backcountry Permits, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012. After May 15, all backcountry site permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Lodging

The following concessioner-operated facilities will open:

Signal Mountain Lodge	May 9
Flagg Ranch Resort	May 12
Jackson Lake Lodge	May 19
Colter Bay Cabins	May 23
Jenny Lake Lodge	May 30

For additional information about activities and services within Grand Teton National Park or the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, please visit the park's Web site www.nps.gov/grte, stop by any visitor center and ranger station, or call 307.739.3300.



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

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393



Wyoming Game & Fish
State of Wyoming
Jackson District

Mark Gocke
307.733.2383 ext 231

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2008

Caution Advised for Bears Actively Seeking Food Throughout Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park

Local residents living in the greater Jackson Hole area are cautioned that bears—including grizzly bears—are actively seeking food and have recently visited residences where attractants such as bird feeders, composting bins, garbage, and pet foods have been stored outside during the winter months. Since bears are out of their winter dens, these attractants must be cleaned up immediately and stored out of reach of bears to prevent them from obtaining food rewards. Access to human food habituates bears, and habituated animals can lose their fear of humans—which in turn threatens the safety of both people and the bears themselves. Responsible residents of Jackson Hole should annually secure all food, garbage and other odorous items during early spring when hungry bears have emerged from hibernation.

As bears leave their winter dens, they search for any food source that will help restore fat reserves lost during hibernation. Winter-weakened animals and winter-killed wildlife carcasses generally provide immediate sources of protein. When these carcasses are not readily available to bears, they may search for other foods, including easily obtained human-foods. After snow banks recede, bears also dig up and eat burrowing rodents and spring wildflowers; however, with a significant snowpack remaining from the rigorous winter, access to these food sources may be limited.

As bears have once again become active, appropriate precautions for traveling in bear country must be taken. **Do not approach a bear under any circumstances.** This is particularly important for situations involving bears with cubs, and bears near a carcass or other food source. Be especially alert for the possibility of bears scavenging on a winter-killed animal carcass. If fresh bear sign or scavenger birds (ravens, magpies, and eagles) are present, leave the area and take an alternate route of travel to avoid a potential encounter with bears that may be feeding at that location.

When traveling in bear country, precautionary measures should be exercised, including carrying bear pepper spray and keeping it easily accessible for ready use. Please take the time to learn how to properly handle bear pepper spray and remember that having it with you is not a substitute for being alert. While enjoying the Jackson Hole backcountry, hikers should exercise good judgment and follow recommended safety precautions, such as making noise and traveling in a group.

Local residents and park visitors are requested to report any sightings of bears—or signs of their activities—near developed areas. Reports should be made as soon as possible to the nearest park visitor center, ranger station, or the Wyoming Game and Fish Department office. This timely information will assist wildlife officials in keeping the public informed about recent bear activity, and in keeping bears away from unnatural food sources.

—XXX—



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

Jackie Skaggs
307/739-3393

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



Mary Cernicek
307/739-5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2008

Bridger-Teton and Grand Teton Fire Managers Plan Spring-time Prescribed Fires

Teton interagency fire managers plan to conduct several prescribed fires this spring to treat more than 2,900 acres of wildland fuels. Projects are scheduled for locations in Kemmerer, Pinedale and Jackson Hole, and include: the Granite Creek area in Grand Teton National Park; the Lava Creek area east of Moran Junction; Hoback Ranches on the Bridger-Teton National Forest; and the Chicken Creek area on the south end of the Wind River mountains. In addition, the Kemmerer district will be burning piles in the Fontenelle Basin. If weather conditions are conducive, firefighters will burn these proposed units during the next few weeks of May.

“Prescribed fires in the spring create a mosaic of burned and unburned fuels, resulting in diverse wildlife habitat and vigorous plant regrowth,” said Interagency Fuels Specialist Mack McFarland. “However, prolonged winter weather conditions have pushed back our normal spring burning by as much as two weeks. These conditions have also created a short window of opportunity between snow off and green up when prescribed fires can be effectively used to treat target acres.”

North Zone Projects:

- **Lava Creek** – This prescribed fire, which is primarily on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, includes two units totaling 182-acres in the Buffalo Valley defensible space fuels reduction project. The project area contains primarily sagebrush and grass fuels with intermixed aspen and conifer-encroached aspen stands. The prescribed fire will help break up the continuity of brush fields while maintaining or increasing the coverage of aspen stands to reduce the potential for high-intensity fires.
- **Granite Creek** – This prescribed fire includes 92 acres of sagebrush and grass near Poker Flats at Grand Teton National Park’s southern boundary. Along with reintroducing fire to create a mosaic of burned and unburned areas to enhance habitat, this project will modify fuel loading to reduce fire behavior in the event of a wildfire in an area that borders private residences and lands, and includes park buildings and other facilities.

Both projects focus on creating defensible space around park and forest developed areas, and target accumulations of flammable fuels to minimize risk of future high-intensity wildland fires.

East Zone Projects:

- **Hoback Ranches Pile Burn** – This prescribed fire on the Bridger-Teton National Forest includes 10 units and a total of 250 acres of piles near the community of Hoback Ranches. Burning of these piles is a follow up treatment to the Hoback Ranches wildland urban interface thinning that was completed in 2005 and 2006.

--MORE--

- **Chicken Creek** – This project is a landscape burn in sagebrush, grass, and aspen fuel types. The purpose of the project is to increase habitat diversity and structure to improve the vegetative quality and quantity in deer and elk transition range in the Chicken Creek and Squaw Creek areas of the Pinedale Ranger District. The prescribed fire area includes 2,310 acres.

“Even though April has provided colder than normal temperatures, and delayed our spring burning, I am hopeful that we will still have a burn window to accomplish some fuels and wildlife related objectives,” said Bridger-Teton’s East Zone Fuels Asst. Fire Management Officer Mark Randall.

Fire managers will proceed with prescribed fire ignitions when favorable weather and fire behavior conditions are met. Smoke will be visible the day of the burn, and may persist for several days, especially in mountain valleys during early mornings and evenings. Please use caution in the vicinity of the fires and be aware that minimal traffic restrictions may be implemented to allow for public and firefighter safety and fire equipment access.

For more information about prescribed fires, please call 307-739-3692 for park information or 307-739-5500 for forest information.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 2008 08-17

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Delayed Opening of Facilities in Grand Teton National Park and Temporary Closure Scheduled for Moose-Wilson Road

All facilities at south Jenny Lake—including the Jenny Lake visitor center, ranger station, public comfort station, store, campground, and Jenny Lake boating facilities—will not open until Thursday, May 22, 2008. This change from the previously announced schedule is due to a lingering, substantial snowpack (three to four feet deep) as well as freezing overnight temperatures that may affect water pipes. All trails in the south Jenny Lake area are snow-covered and icy, including pathways to and from the lakeshore and around the buildings. Trails on the west shore of Jenny Lake are buried under eight to ten feet of snow. Foot travel will be difficult, so hiking is not recommended at this time.

Public campsites will be available at Gros Ventre and Signal Mountain campgrounds starting Friday, May 9; however, due to considerable snow cover, Signal Mountain campground is limited to self-contained RV sites only—tent sites, grills and picnic tables are still buried under several feet of snow. The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is open year-round; the Colter Bay Visitor Center will open on Saturday, May 10 as planned.

The gravel parking lot for the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve is partially snow-covered and saturated with moisture; therefore, use of the parking lot will not be possible until the surface is clear of snow, dries, and hardens enough to support vehicles without being damaged. Weather conditions will determine the length of time required for this temporary restriction.

Although Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park opened to vehicular traffic for the 2008 summer season on Thursday, May 1, motorists are advised to plan for a temporary travel closure on this road from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 23. The closure is necessary to prepare for and apply a dust abatement product to the gravel portion of the road from the Granite Canyon trailhead parking area for a distance of 1.5 miles north. This temporary closure precludes the ability to make a “through trip” on the Moose-Wilson Road. The roadwork schedule and closure may change or be delayed due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

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

Local residents and park visitors are advised to make travel plans accordingly and detour away from the Moose-Wilson Road during the closure on Friday, May 23rd.

—NPS—
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 6, 2008 08-18

Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393/739-3415

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 on Sunday, May 11, 2008. Park ranger naturalist Andrew Langford will visit birding hotspots throughout the park to locate, identify, and count birds as part of the North American Migration Count. The free activity begins at 8 a.m. in the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming and finishes by 4 p.m. at Christian Pond near Jackson Lake Lodge. Park entrance stations are open and collecting fees; participants will need to present a park pass when passing through these stations.

Observed each year in May to celebrate and support bird conservation, IMBD serves as the hallmark outreach event for Partners in Flight—an international conservation program whose goal is to reverse declining populations of migratory birds by bringing attention to factors that may contribute to worldwide declines. Anyone interested in birds is welcome to participate in Grand Teton's IMBD celebration and annual bird count. Reservations are not required. Throughout the day, participants will take short walks at various locations, so those attending should wear comfortable shoes and bring a lunch, drinking water, warm clothing and rain gear. Bird field guides, binoculars and spotting scopes are also recommended.

According to the IMBD Web site, the theme for 2008 is "Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitat and People." This theme focuses on the long distances that migratory birds travel between breeding and non-breeding sites throughout the Western Hemisphere. It also highlights the birds that make these fantastic journeys, and explores the habitats on which they depend and what those habitats provide. Additionally, the 2008 theme draws attention to the people who are important to conservation of birds and their habitats.

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

For more information about International Migratory Bird Day and the North American Migration Count, please call the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399.

—NPS—
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 12, 2008 08-19

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship Awarded for 2008

Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Association (GTA) are pleased to announce that Emilene Ostlind has received the Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship for 2008. Ostlind, the fourth recipient of an Evison Fellowship, is currently pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts degree at the University of Wyoming in Laramie in the disciplines of creative writing, and environment and natural resources. She plans to use her fellowship award to produce a series of nonfiction essays about the pronghorn antelope herd that summers in Grand Teton National Park and winters in the Upper Green River Basin as a means to promote designation of a national migration corridor for their protection.

Ostlind graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from the University of Wyoming in 2004. She earned multiple undergraduate degrees: a B.A. in environment and natural resources, a B.A. in humanities/fine arts, and a B.A. in Spanish. Ostlind has also received numerous awards and honors during her academic career, including becoming a Wyoming candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship in 2004.

In her application for the Evison Fellowship, Ostlind states, “While scientific studies, resource management planning and even political lobbying play crucial roles in the conservation of habitat and wild places, I would propose that creative arts most strongly influence public attitudes about how to prioritize land use.” Ostlind also states that, “Throughout the history of American conservation, each landmark event or movement has been preceded by literature that compelled general audiences and connected them to landscapes, flora, fauna, and other ecosystem elements—often those in imminent danger.” As part of her project, Ostlind plans to hike the length of the pronghorn migration path from the Red Desert south of Pinedale to Grand Teton National Park. She will also spend the summer interacting with scientists and conservationist groups who are trying to bring attention to the pronghorn migratory path and the establishment of a national migration corridor.

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

Evison Fellowships provide tuition assistance and a yearly stipend to cover travel and field research costs; Grand Teton offers housing and office space for students during field sessions. The goal of the fellowship is to encourage scientific and conservation-related research in national parks. It invites highly motivated, graduate students to conduct research within Grand Teton and the greater Yellowstone area; and it supports study leading to a master’s or Ph.D. degree in the biosciences, geosciences or social sciences. Upon program completion, the Evison Fellow provides a copy of his/her thesis to the GTA.

To inquire about applying for a Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship, or to donate funds toward this worthy program, please contact Jan Lynch, executive director, Grand Teton Association at P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming, 83012, or call 307.739.3406.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2008 08-20

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Rangers Receive Interior Department Valor Awards

Renny Jackson, Chris Harder, Jack McConnell, Dave Bywater, Ed Visnovske, and Steve Rickert received a Department of the Interior Valor Award from Secretary Dirk Kempthorne at a special ceremony held on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in Washington D.C. Five of the valor award recipients are rangers at Grand Teton National Park who serve on the mountain rescue team based at Jenny Lake; Rickert, who worked as a seasonal ranger during the 1980s and 1990s, is a registered nurse at St. John's Medical Center in Jackson, Wyoming. Visnovske was recognized for unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk during a 2002 rescue on Middle Cathedral Rock in Yosemite Valley at Yosemite National Park. Jackson, Harder, McConnell, Bywater and Rickert received their awards for heroic actions during a life-saving mountain rescue operation in 2004 on Mt. McKinley in Denali National Park. In both rescue incidents, lives were saved by the professionalism, skill and courage of these six men.

Denali National Park Chief Ranger Pete Armington recommended valor awards for Jackson, Harder, McConnell, Bywater and Rickert, and submitted the following account of the Mt. McKinley rescue: On May 20, 2004, Korean climber Ho Cho sustained severe head injuries in a fall on Mt. McKinley's West Buttress. While his climbing partner descended for help, Cho endured an exposed night at 18,200 feet. Extreme weather turned back two rescue attempts by Cho's teammates. Alerted by radio, park rangers at the 14,200-foot camp mobilized a rescue team consisting of NPS employees Bywater, Harder, Jackson, McConnell, and Rickert, as well as two British volunteers. They reached the 17,200-foot high camp in just over three hours, a remarkable demonstration of strength and stamina given the elevation, technical terrain, and whiteout conditions. Rickert and Bywater initially remained to erect dome tents and construct snow walls for protection from high winds, an effort that later proved critical to the survival of both Cho and the rescuers. Meanwhile, their teammates began the climb to Denali Pass to locate Cho on the Harper Glacier, 800 feet below the Pass. Semi-conscious and severely frostbitten, Cho was packaged in a rescue sled and dragged back up to the Pass.

The team then faced a series of time-consuming technical rope lowerings to the 17,200-foot camp in gale-force winds, arctic temperatures, and driving snow. With time of the essence, Jackson placed a single ice axe as an initial anchor. Harder and McConnell attended the litter while the British volunteers established the next anchor system. The patient was carefully lowered down the steep, treacherous terrain, and then transferred to the next system, a leap-frogging method repeatedly employed for several hours. Soon after the lowering started, Bywater and Rickert rejoined the team, providing crucial relief for their exhausted teammates. Visibility at this time was often less than 100 feet, and the avalanche hazard steadily increased. The entire rescue team finally reached the temporary safety of the high camp shelter after 18 hours of grueling and dangerous work. During the night, Rickert and Harder provided constant medical care to the patient. Continuing bad weather the following day forced the team to complete a 3,000-foot technical rope lowering (with Rickert attending the rescue litter) to the 14,200-foot camp, from where Cho was evacuated a day later. Without this team's selfless efforts, there is no doubt Cho would have perished.

Denali Chief Ranger Armington stated, "Over the last 35 years, I have seen NPS rangers execute many remarkable rescues—in Yosemite, Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton and Denali. Few, if any, of these rescues required the sheer physical team effort and endurance that this one did. What the Grand Teton patrol accomplished, without any air support and under the most extreme environmental conditions, stands out as a truly amazing and astounding life-saving achievement. They are heroes!"

—More—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Yosemite National Park Emergency Services Manager Keith Lober recommended the valor award for Visnovske, and submitted the following account of the rescue operation on Middle Cathedral Rock: On June 2, 2002, just before nightfall, Yosemite Valley rangers received a report of a significant rock fall followed by calls for help coming from the Direct North Buttress route on Middle Cathedral Rock. Using a spotting scope and public address system, rangers determined that 33-year old John Kurth of Durango, Colorado, had been caught in a rock fall that swept over him, injuring his neck, his shoulder, and fracturing his elbow. Due to nightfall and the difficult position of the climbing party—1,700 feet above the valley floor at the base of a long chimney system laden with loose rock—it was decided that it would be necessary to wait until morning to conduct the rescue effort. Kurth’s climbing partner held Kurth’s arm in traction as they huddled all night on a tiny sloping ledge. Early the next morning, rangers John Dill, Dave Horne, Greg Lawler and Ed Visnovske, and firefighters Dan Gleason and Shawn Walters, rappelled from the park’s helicopter to a small ledge 300 feet above the injured climber. From this dangerous, small ledge, the rescue team worked together to build a technical rope rigging system and then lowered Ranger Dave Horne three hundred feet down the loose rock in the chimney system to Kurth’s location. The entire area remained very much at risk of continued rock fall throughout the rescue operation. The rescue team handling the technical rope system at the top of the long chimney had to be vigilant of rock fall hitting them from above, and also had to be cautious about accidentally initiating a rock fall onto the victim and rescuers below in the vertical chimney. Once with the patient, Ranger Horne packaged Kurth into a rescue litter with the assistance of Kurth’s climbing partner. The rescue team then reversed their rope system and cautiously hauled Ranger Horne and Kurth to the top of the chimney where they were short-hauled by long line under the park helicopter to El Capitan Meadow and a waiting ambulance. The rest of the rescue team, Dill, Lawler, Visnovske, Walters and Gleason were then short-hauled by the helicopter to El Capitan Meadow. For his heroic actions, courage, teamwork, and professionalism, Edward Visnovske is granted the Valor Award of the Department of the Interior.

Yosemite EMS Manager Lober stated, “This was a difficult, technical rescue that demanded a high-level of skill, caution and proficiency to execute. Ed was instrumental to the rescue operation, and the entire team used their climbing expertise to safely carry out a successful mission, bringing Mr. Kurth to safety and needed medical care.”

Valor awards are presented to Department of the Interior employees who have demonstrated unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in the face of danger. The act of heroism is not required to be related to official duties, or to have occurred at the official duty station. Recipients receive a special certificate and citation signed by the Secretary, and an engraved gold valor award medal.

—NPS—
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 19, 2008 08-20

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Annual Spring Clean-Up to Occur in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that Grand Teton National Park staff and concession employees will join together for the annual park clean-up day on Thursday, May 22. From 8 a.m. to noon, employees will be out picking up litter along park roadways, turnouts and parking lots before summer visitors arrive. Anyone driving through Grand Teton on Thursday morning should be alert for people walking along the roads. Slow moving and parked vehicles will be encountered during clean-up hours.

Each year before the summer season is in full swing, park and concession employees take time to remove litter and debris from park roadsides and turnouts. This activity typically takes place by mid May; however, this year the park clean-up was rescheduled for May 22 due to the lingering snow cover along many of the park's roads.

"Although park staff and concessioner employees traditionally take this time to 'spruce up' the park before summer visitors arrive, each and everyone who visits Grand Teton can eliminate unsightly trash by placing any litter in garbage cans and dumpsters located throughout the park. This relatively simple, and responsible, act is very much appreciated," said Superintendent Scott.

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

—NPS—
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 20, 2008 08-22

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Breaks Ground on Pathway Project

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott and the staff of Grand Teton National Park hosted over 100 people at an outdoor event on Saturday, May 17, to mark the beginning of construction on multi-use pathways in the park. National Park Service Intermountain Region Director Mike Snyder, National Parks and Conservation Association President Tom Kiernan and Trustee Emeritus Gretchen Long, Friends of Pathways Board Member Don Alsted, and Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) served as honored guest speakers for a groundbreaking ceremony held in Moose, Wyoming against a backdrop of the snow-covered Teton Range.

Superintendent Scott welcomed the audience, which included David Axelrad, father of Gabriella Axelrad. Thirteen-year-old Gabriella was accidentally killed by an inattentive driver while bicycling on a park road in 1999. Gabriella's untimely death began a movement to establish separated pathways in Grand Teton.

Superintendent Scott also paid tribute to the late Senator Craig Thomas for his unwavering dedication to Grand Teton National Park and his ability to secure federal appropriations for special projects such as the new Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center and multi-use pathways. Senator Thomas was able to obtain \$8 million in federal appropriations for park pathways.

In addition, Superintendent Scott acknowledged the interest and support shown by the local community, as well as the Teton County commissioners, Jackson Mayor Mark Barron and the Jackson Town Council, who have been instrumental in establishing pathways within the town of Jackson and the valley of Jackson Hole. At the completion of remarks, Superintendent Scott invited all the guest speakers to join her with gold-colored shovels in hand to break ground where the pathway will be constructed.

Full construction will begin later this month on the first pathway segment—an 8-mile section that runs parallel to the Teton Park Road from Dornan's, near the junction with Highway 26/89/191, to the South Jenny Lake area. The first portion of the pathway segment will be complete in fall of 2008, with the remainder completed by fall of 2009. Superintendent Scott reminded the audience that the park's transportation plan will be implemented in stages as planning, design and appropriations become available.

In her final remarks, Superintendent Scott said: "As the pathway begins to take shape, we recognize the important balance between maintaining critical wildlife habitat and providing safe visitor access. Through these pathways, along with our hiking trails and new visitor center, we have set the stage for our visitors to form personal connections that inspire them to become more conservation-minded, and more engaged in helping to care for the land, our incomparable wildlife, and our common heritage. We need to keep in mind that all of us are stewards of this special place, for present-day and future generations."

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2008 08-23

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Closely Monitors Gros Ventre River Bank Erosion

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that park staff and federal highways officials are closely tracking and monitoring the erosion of the north bank of the Gros Ventre River as it relates to a portion of the Gros Ventre Road between the junction with Highway 26/89/191 and the Gros Ventre Campground. Due to the spring runoff and recent rains, the Gros Ventre River is swollen and flowing fast. The force of the river's current is gradually eroding away a section of river bank near to the road surface. At present, 24 feet of roadside remains between the river bank and the edge of the road itself.

Park rangers have placed bright orange traffic cones along the segment of road that is subject to bank erosion. Motorists should heed these traffic cones—which mark the undercut bank of the Gros Ventre River—and not drive onto the road shoulder at that location. Pedestrians should also avoid walking along the road shoulder near the traffic cones. As a prudent measure, visitors should refrain from walking along the banks of any fast-moving rivers or streams throughout the park.

Federal highways engineers recently surveyed the situation with park officials and have provided recommendations for a contingency plan in the event that the river bank continues to slough off and compromise the stability of the road surface. They are also assisting the park in determining future options for reducing additional bank erosion.

The deepening river channel and swift current will determine what can be safely accomplished in the near term. Park officials are frequently monitoring the situation and analyzing remediation options that can be scheduled for a later date when river flows have subsided.

—NPS—
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
June 2, 2008 08-24

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a temporary travel closure will be in place on the unpaved segment of the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 6. This temporary closure is necessary to prepare for and apply a dust abatement product to the gravel portion of the road from the Granite Canyon trailhead parking area for a distance of 1.5 miles north. The closure will prevent the ability to make a “through trip” on the Moose-Wilson Road for approximately 12 hours.

Although the temporary closure will inconvenience visitors and local residents who wish to drive the length of the Moose-Wilson Road on Friday, the dust abatement application will make future travel a safer and more enjoyable experience. By minimizing dust on this road, visibility will be improved and damage to nearby vegetation will be reduced. Local residents and park visitors are advised to make travel plans accordingly and detour away from the Moose-Wilson Road during the closure.

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

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



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

Jackie Skaggs
307/739-3393

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



Mary Cernicek
307/739-5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2008

Firefighters to Gather for 10th Annual All Fire Day Training

For the past ten years, firefighters from three counties, as well as state and federal agencies, have started the summer wildland fire season with an integrated fire training exercise. On Saturday, June 14, about 150 firefighters from Teton, Sublette and Lincoln counties, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, the National Elk Refuge, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Wyoming State Forestry Division will gather at Hoback Ranches near Bondurant for the annual All Fire Day. Hoback Ranches homeowners are also participating this year, along with the Sublette County Sheriff's Department, search and rescue, emergency management, animal control, emergency medical services, and the local American Red Cross chapter.

"All Fire Day 2008 is a collaborative approach to wildland fire training from all county, state and federal partners to improve interagency coordination and emergency preparedness," said All Fire Day Operations Section Chief Steve Markason. "By conducting a fire operations scenario within a wildland-urban interface setting, the neighborhood has the opportunity to practice their wildfire response and evacuation plan in a realistic situation."

All Fire Day will focus on a wildfire scenario that involves a Wyoming incident management team and line officers from the southern and western portions of the state, as well as firefighters who will work through a variety of drills, structure assessments and live fire exercises. Homeowners at Hoback Ranches will have the opportunity to participate in a mock evacuation and learn the steps to take in protecting their homes from wildfire. The exercises will take place, weather permitting.

"We made a conscious effort this year to involve homeowners and make sure they had all the necessary information to be prepared in the event of a wildfire," said Deputy Operations Chief Willy Watsabaugh. "We know Hoback Ranches is in a high risk area for wildland fires. With the homeowners engaged in the exercise, they will have the opportunity to better understand firefighters' perspectives when it comes to protecting homes in the wildland-urban interface."

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

Media representatives are welcome to attend. Please contact Traci Weaver at 307-739-3692 or 307-690-1128 for more information.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 9, 2008 08-26

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that motorists may experience a minor travel delay along Highway 26/89/191 from Moran Junction to the Elk Ranch flats (one mile south of the junction) on Saturday morning, June 14, between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The temporary delay will allow for the safe movement of cattle from the Pinto Ranch of Buffalo Valley to the Elk Ranch pastures, which lie south of Moran Junction and the Buffalo Fork River. Park rangers will provide traffic control during the cattle drive.

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

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

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

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2007 08-27

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

Roger Scott/ 307.739.3376

Media Advisory

Grand Teton National Park Dedicates Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve

Wyoming native and former Assistant Secretary of State, John Turner, will serve as keynote speaker at a dedication ceremony for the newly created Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve in Grand Teton National Park near Moose, Wyoming on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at 10 a.m.. Other guest speakers include: Lyle Lavery, Department of the Interior assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, daughter of Laurance and Mary Rockefeller; Clayton "Wes" Frye, senior associate of Mr. Rockefeller; and Mary Gibson Scott, superintendent of Grand Teton National Park. Pete Williams, NBC News correspondent, will act as master of ceremonies for the event.

The dedication ceremony is by invitation only. Media are encouraged to attend and cover this historic transition of Mr. Laurance Rockefeller's private ranch lands to Grand Teton National Park. Access to the ceremony site is limited to a shuttle bus system, so all media should arrive at Moose by 8:30 a.m. to board the bus. A media riser and a multiplex box will be provided at the site; however, electrical power will **not** be available for media equipment.

Located at the site of the former JY Ranch—the valley's first dude ranch—the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve is significant because of the Rockefeller family's essential relationship to the establishment of Grand Teton National Park and the incomparable conservation legacy of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Laurance Rockefeller's donation of his 1106-acre ranch represents one of the largest gifts ever conveyed in the history of the National Park System and carries on the tradition of philanthropy and land stewardship established by his father.

All roads, buildings, utilities and other structures were removed from the historic ranch in order to restore the area's physical landscape and re-establish natural systems. An 8-mile trail network and a 7,500-square-foot interpretive center were constructed on the Preserve to provide an enhanced experience for visitors to the site. Innovative design elements and sustainable features awarded the LSR Preserve Center a Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The LSR Preserve trails opened quietly for public use in November 2007. The Preserve Center will open to the public on Sunday, June 22, 2008.

WHO: Former Assistant Secretary of State and Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service John Turner; DOI Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Lyle Lavery; Rockefeller family members and senior associates; national, state, and local elected officials

WHAT: Dedication of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve at Grand Teton National Park

WHEN: Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 10 a.m. Media arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. to check in and board the shuttle bus to the ceremony site

WHERE: Shuttles depart from Grand Teton National Park Headquarters (old Moose Visitor Center parking area) Moose, Wyoming, 12 miles north of Jackson, Wyoming

Media members should confirm attendance to this event by June 18, 2008 to Roger Scott, event information officer, at 307.739.3376 (phone), or 307.739.3438 (fax).

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2008 08-28

Jackie Skaggs / Roger Scott
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3376

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a temporary travel closure will be in place on the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 21. During the Saturday closure, through travel will not be possible on the Moose-Wilson Road between the gate at the Granite Canyon trailhead and the gate at the Death Canyon trailhead road. However, access to these popular trailheads and their parking lots will be available for those who wish to drive only to those destinations.

This temporary closure is related to a dedication ceremony for the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve (LSR Preserve). The closure is being implemented to provide for the safe operation of shuttle buses that will be traveling to and from the LSR Preserve as they transport invited guests to the event from park headquarters at Moose. The buses are over-sized and unable to safely navigate the narrow road with normal two-way vehicle traffic.

To alert travelers of the expected one-day, 12-hour closure, electronic signs will be in place on Wyoming Highway #390 beginning Tuesday, June 17. Signs will also be placed at the junction of the Teton Park Road and the Moose-Wilson Road to inform local residents and visitors of the scheduled closure.

This temporary closure may inconvenience visitors and local residents who wish to drive the length of the Moose-Wilson Road on Saturday, June 21; therefore, motorists are advised to make travel plans accordingly and not expect to make a through trip on the Moose-Wilson Road during the June 21st closure.

In addition to the temporary travel closure on the Moose-Wilson Road, the parking area for the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve will be closed to all public entry from 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 19 through 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, to accommodate preparations for the dedication ceremony.

For further information, contact Roger Scott, public information officer for the dedication event, at (307) 739-3376.

—NPS—
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
June 21, 2008 08-29

Jackie Skaggs / Roger Scott
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3376

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center Opens to the Public

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott and the staff of Grand Teton National Park, the family and associates of Laurance S. Rockefeller, former Assistant Secretary of State John Turner, and approximately 175 guests joined together on Saturday, June 21, 2008, for a dedication ceremony to mark the grand opening of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center. The new interpretive center—the first platinum-level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building to be constructed in the National Park System—offers visitors a distinctive opportunity to learn about the natural world while exploring the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve property in Grand Teton National Park. Eight miles of woodland trails wind throughout the 1,106-acre Preserve; these trails have been open since November of 2007 when the property transferred to the National Park Service. The trail system is accessible year-round, and the new 7,500-square-foot Center will be open annually from May through September.

The Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve is a reflection of Mr. Rockefeller's life-long commitment to making areas of natural scenic beauty accessible to the public. He strongly believed that nature has the power to restore and sustain the human spirit. It was his hope that, by experiencing this spiritual and emotional renewal, visitors to the Preserve would become aware of the importance of nature in their own lives and acknowledge their roles in acting as good stewards of the land.

During the Saturday ceremony, Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky said her father thought of “mind-body-spirit as one word,” because people would be “physically and emotionally renewed at the same time.” Clayton Wesley Frye, longtime senior associate of Mr. Rockefeller, stated that Laurance was the “intellectual father” of the Preserve, and he prioritized “removing the hand of man” to return the Preserve to its natural state. John Turner told of floating the Snake River with Laurance and Mary Rockefeller “on a beautiful fall day with blazing colors,” and having Mr. Rockefeller hint at his desire to return the JY Ranch to its natural condition. Turner went on to say that “Laurance hoped people would restore their spirits in the wilderness setting.”

Mr. Rockefeller also believed that managing natural areas requires a careful balance between preservation and public access. This balance is consistent with the mission of the National Park Service, which will manage the Preserve in such a way as to allow for public enjoyment of the place while preventing overcrowding and overuse of the trails and rest areas. In this way, the opportunity for visitors to experience the extraordinary beauty of the area will be available to future generations.

The primary visitor experience at the Preserve is hiking a network of trails that provides access to views of Phelps Lake and the Tetons, as well as other scenic and ecological features. This experience is supported by the newly opened Center, which orients visitors and provides a series of sensory exhibits designed to make visitors more aware of nature on many levels.

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

The Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center is situated to capture views of the Teton Range, and the interpretive experience within the building has been carefully choreographed to make visitors more aware of natural elements found on the Preserve. Visitors move through a series of sensory experiences linked with a poem by esteemed nature writer Terry Tempest Williams. These visual, auditory and tactile explorations include recordings of Mr. Rockefeller speaking about conservation, high definition nature videos, large-scale photography, and a soundscape room with nature recordings from the Preserve. There is also a resource room that provides a place for visitors to relax and learn about the Preserve. Comfortable seating, tables, chairs and a fireplace invite visitors to sit and explore books, albums and maps. The Center and restroom buildings were designed and constructed to be a model National Park Service facility by using the latest environmental technologies and sustainable techniques. A brochure explaining these attributes is available at the orientation desk in the Preserve Center.

The 8-mile trail network has been carefully designed to lead visitors on self-directed hikes to the most scenic and ecologically significant areas of the Preserve, including Lake Creek, Phelps Lake and the adjacent ridges. Visitors walking the 2.5-mile primary loop experience views of Phelps Lake and the Teton Range from a series of rest areas where they may sit and enjoy the views, observe wildlife and touch the water. Over 5 miles of secondary trails lead visitors through remote areas of the Preserve and to a series of overlooks along the glacial ridges. The network also includes a .3-mile accessible trail that provides an opportunity for visitors with limited mobility to experience the Lake Creek riparian community.

The Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve is the former JY Ranch and served as a longtime summer retreat for the Rockefeller family. Between July 2004 and May 2007, thirty buildings, as well as the roads, utilities and other structures were removed, and the developed areas were reclaimed to blend with the natural landscape. Approximately half of the structures, including the oldest residential cabins and dining and recreation buildings, were moved to a new family property outside Grand Teton National Park. The remaining structures were donated to the Park Service for housing and service facilities at several sites within the park. The extensive reclamation enhanced wildlife habitat, reduced non-native vegetation, and reconnected fragmented wetlands.

The Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve is open to the public seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can call 307.739.3654 for information on programs or facilities.

For digital images of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center and property, please go online to <http://npsfocus.nps.gov> and search for "Rockefeller Preserve."

—NPS—
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
June 23, 2008 08-30

Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393/307.739.3415

Grand Teton National Park News Release

American Indian Guest Artists Program in Grand Teton National Park

Every summer, Grand Teton National Park sponsors an exciting program for visiting American Indian artists at the Colter Bay Visitor Center and Indian Arts Museum. For the past 33 years, artists from diverse tribes have demonstrated their traditional and contemporary art forms, providing visitors an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of—and appreciation for—American Indian art and culture.

Artists participating in the program represent tribes from across the United States. Among the art forms demonstrated are painting, weaving, pottery, beadwork, decorative gourds and musical instruments. Guest artists exhibit daily, Monday through Sunday, from approximately 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the lower level of the Colter Bay Indian Arts Museum. Artists also offer their finished items for purchase. The 2008 schedule with dates and type of artwork demonstrated is:

June 23 – 29	Andrea Two Bulls	Oglala Sioux	Beadwork & Painting
June 30 – July 6	DG House	Cherokee	Painting
July 7 – 13	Ted Moran	S’Klallan	Northwest Coast Carving
July 14 – 20	Eddie Two Bulls	Oglala Sioux	Painting
July 21 – 27	Shonto Begay	Navajo	Painting
July 28 – Aug. 3	Aiona Anderson	Thompson	Painting & Pottery
August 4 – 10	Paul Hacker	Choctaw	Flutes, Knives, & Pottery
August 11 – 17	Jola LaBeau	Eastern Shoshone	Beadwork
August 18 – 24	Willie & Debbie LaMere	Shoshone	Beadwork & Flint Knapping
August 25 – 31	Lela Teton & Josie Bronco	Shoshone	Beadwork
Sept. 1 – 7	Clyde Hall & Nancy Nacki	Shoshone	Beadwork & Quill Work
Sept. 8 – 14	Guillermo Martinez	Tarascan-Apache	Drums & Flutes

-NPS-
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2008 08-31

DRAFT

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Serious Vehicle Accident Results in Two Fatalities in Grand Teton National Park

A head-on collision between a passenger car and a semi truck hauling a car transport trailer resulted in the death of two people in Grand Teton National Park. The accident occurred Monday afternoon, June 23, at 4:30 p.m. on Highway 26/89/191, approximately 1.5 miles south of the Moose junction.

Teton Interagency Dispatch received a report of the accident from the Teton County Sheriff's Office shortly after it occurred. Approximately 10 park rangers and emergency medical personnel along with Teton County Fire/EMS personnel immediately responded to the scene, and several Teton Interagency fire staff helped with traffic control at various intersections near the accident site. In addition to the park response, several Teton County sheriffs and a Wyoming Highway Patrol officer assisted with traffic control and an accident reconstruction investigation. Other mutual aid assistance included a Teton County ambulance, Teton County Fire/EMS, and the Teton County rescue vehicle with an extrication team, responding from Jackson, Wyoming.

Details on the cause of the accident will become available after the investigation is completed. The two deceased persons were visitors from Belgium. Their identities are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Due to the serious nature of the accident and the position of the semi truck and its trailer, Highway 26/89/191 was closed from 4:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Traffic was rerouted through detours along the Antelope Flats Road and the Moose-Wilson Road.

—NPS—
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
June 24, 2008 08-32

Jackie Skaggs / Jennifer Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Evacuated by Helicopter from Teewinot Mountain

Grand Teton National Park rangers and an interagency contract helicopter evacuated an injured 16-year-old girl from Teewinot Mountain on Tuesday, June 24, at 2:15 p.m. The young woman, from New Mexico and visiting Jackson Hole with her family, slipped on snow and tumbled about 100 meters near the Worshipper and the Idol (elevation 11,000 ft.) while descending the east face of Teewinot with two other climbers. She suffered injuries to her hip, elbow and ankle during the fall as well as lacerations on her forehead and hands. She was wearing crampons and a helmet at the time of the fall; she was also carrying an ice axe.

An Exum guide, who was taking a client up the mountain, first made contact with the injured girl at approximately 10:15 a.m. The guide stabilized her, provided emergency medical assistance, and contacted park rangers for assistance. Due to the nature of the injuries, the location of the accident, the difficult terrain, and the prolonged time an evacuation by foot would take, rangers made the decision to evacuate the injured climber by helicopter.

Two park rangers were flown from Lupine Meadows and inserted by the short-haul method to the injured party's location on Teewinot; a third ranger was then inserted with medical equipment and a rescue litter. When there is no suitable spot to land a helicopter, the short-haul method is used to place rescue personnel, who are suspended below the helicopter by a rope, into a location near the patient; the injured person is then secured into either an evacuation suit or a rescue litter to be airlifted for a short flight to another landing spot where the ship can safely touch down. In this case, rangers provided medical care to the patient and placed her into a rescue litter. She was then flown in tandem with an attending ranger to the Lupine Meadows Rescue Cache on the valley floor at 2:15 p.m., where a waiting park ambulance transported her to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further medical care.

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

—NPS—
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
July 1, 2008 08-33

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Construction Projects Planned for Signal Mountain Summit Road and Pacific Creek Road

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a temporary travel closure will be in place on the Signal Mountain Summit Road beginning Monday, July 14 in order to facilitate a repaving project. The temporary closure is scheduled to be in effect from Monday through Thursday for three consecutive weeks; however, the road will be open to travel on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of each week.

The Signal Mountain Summit Road has deteriorated and needs to be repaved in order to ensure safe travel for the many visitors who drive it each summer. To minimize the travel closure, and allow for limited visitor access during the repaving project, road work will only take place from Monday through Thursday of each week. During the three-week construction period, the road will open to vehicle travel at 7 a.m. on Friday mornings and close again to traffic at 10 p.m. on Sunday nights.

Park staff will also be paving the Pacific Creek Road. This project will involve only minor delays of approximately five minutes—travel closures are not required for completion of this roadwork. Work on the Pacific Creek Road will be underway from June 30 through July 10. The construction area includes a section of road between the Teton Wilderness Road junction and the Pacific Creek housing area.

Road crews will complete both projects in the shortest time possible, barring inclement weather or equipment malfunction. If road work schedules change, the public will be notified as soon as possible.

The temporary closure of the Signal Mountain Summit Road may cause some inconvenience to visitors and local residents; alternate travel plans should be made to avoid this road during the scheduled construction days of Monday through Thursday.

—NPS—
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
July 2, 2008 08-34

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Lecture Series Celebrates David T. Vernon Collection at Colter Bay Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park will host a lecture series entitled “Celebrate the Vernon Collection” for three consecutive nights—Monday, July 7, Tuesday, July 8, and Wednesday, July 9—in the Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Three guest speakers, Dr. Douglas Evelyn, Mr. George Horse Capture, and Dr. Herman J. Viola will share their in-depth knowledge of American Indian interests and museum curation, as well as specific information about the David T. Vernon Collection on exhibit in the Indian Arts Museum at Colter Bay. Collectively, these speakers have many years of experience at the world-renowned Smithsonian and the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

This lecture series is a reunion of sorts: all three men participated in a presentation 30 years ago at the Colter Bay Indian Arts Museum. The return of these museum experts to this area is a testament to the value and significance of the Vernon Collection. The collection contains an impressive variety of American Indian artifacts collected by David T. Vernon over his lifetime. The collection was purchased by the Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated—a Rockefeller Family foundation dedicated to conservation of cultural and natural resources. Laurance S. Rockefeller loaned the Vernon collection to the National Park Service and requested that the impressive artifacts be exhibited in Grand Teton National Park. The Indian Arts Museum was built to house the collection and it opened to the public in June 1972 with Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Vernon serving as key dignitaries at the dedication. A few years later, Mr. Rockefeller donated the entire collection to the National Park Service with the stipulation that it continue to be displayed in Grand Teton.

Dr. Douglas Evelyn will present his lecture, “National Mall and the Smithsonian,” on Monday, July 7. Dr. Evelyn, a historian of Washington, D.C. by avocation and an independent museum consultant by occupation, specializes in museum planning and management following a 36-year career at the Smithsonian Institution. He helped establish the National Museum of the American Indian, serving as its deputy director for 14 years. He also served as deputy director at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, from 1979 to 1991, and at the National Portrait Gallery, where he began his Smithsonian career in 1969. Dr. Evelyn has been active in the American museum scene for over four decades, including serving as staff, treasurer and board member for the American Association of Museums; as president and board member of the American Association of State and Local History; and on the United States board of the International Council of Museums. He is now a trustee of the New York State Historical Association and the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

George Horse Capture, a Gros Ventre Indian tribal member, will present a talk entitled “In Search of the Gros Ventre Indian People” on Tuesday July 8. Mr. Horse Capture served as deputy assistant director for cultural resources of the National Museum of the

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

—MORE—

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

Dr. Herman J. Viola's lecture, slated for Wednesday, July 9, is called "The View from the Riverbank: American Indians and the Lewis and Clark Expedition." Dr. Viola is a curator emeritus at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. A specialist on the history of the American West, he served as director of the museum's National Anthropological Archives in addition to organizing two major exhibitions for the Smithsonian: "Magnificent Voyagers" and "Seeds of Change." Prior to joining the staff of the Smithsonian Institution in 1972, he was an archivist at the National Archives of the United States, where he launched and was the first editor of *Prologue: The Journal of the National Archives*. His publications include *Exploring the West, After Columbus, Warrior Artists*, and *The North American Indians*. He is also the author of the middle school social studies textbook, *Why We Remember*. His most recent book, *Little Bighorn Remembered: the Untold Indian Story of Custer's Last Stand*, was selected by both the Book of the Month Club and the Quality Paperback Club, and was a primary selection of the History Club.

—NPS—

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
July 6, 2008 08-35

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Flown from the Middle Teton on the Fourth of July in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers and an interagency contract helicopter evacuated an injured climber from the Middle Teton on Friday, July 4, at 5:45 p.m. 24-year-old Tom Wilkinson, from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, tumbled approximately 150 feet and suffered a severe ankle injury while descending a snowfield on the Middle Teton. He was wearing crampons and a helmet at the time of the fall; he was also carrying an ice axe.

Wilkinson and his climbing partner, Christopher Leath, also 24 years old, of Wilson, Wyoming, were descending the South Couloir route—a rarely climbed couloir, between the Southwest and Ellingwood couloirs—when Wilkinson fell. He tumbled over several rockbands, injured his ankle when he impacted a rock, and came to a stop above a cliff (elevation 11,300 ft.). Leath placed an emergency cell phone call, which was transferred to park rangers at 12:30 p.m. Rangers began coordinating a rescue operation and requested the assistance of an interagency contract helicopter. Because the two climbers were unable to describe their exact position on the mountain, an initial reconnaissance flight was required to locate them. During this flight, rangers and the pilot determined that winds were too strong to allow for the insertion of rescue personnel to the climbers' location. Instead, six rangers and a helitack crew member were flown to a landing zone in the Garnet Canyon Meadows, and they approached the party on foot.

Two rangers reached the climbers at 3:45 p.m., and another helicopter flight was launched to determine if weather conditions had stabilized enough so that the pilot could perform a short-haul evacuation of Wilkinson. When there is no suitable spot to land a helicopter, the short-haul method is used to place rescue personnel, who are suspended below the helicopter by a 100-150-foot rope, into a location near the patient; the injured person is then secured into either an evacuation suit or a rescue litter to be airlifted for a short flight to another landing spot where the ship can safely touch down. In this case, rangers provided medical care to Wilkinson, placed him in an evacuation suit, and flew him, along with an attending ranger, below the helicopter to Lupine Meadows. A waiting park ambulance transported Wilkinson to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further medical care.

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 07, 2008 08-36

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

New Artwork Donated to Grand Teton National Park Collection

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that three artists—Scott L. Christensen, William G. Smith and Kathy Wipfler—will donate original pieces of art to the Teton Collection, the park’s permanent art collection. The three painters will present their newly created artwork to Superintendent Scott during a brief ceremony to be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, in the art gallery of the new Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at Moose, Wyoming.

These fine art paintings represent the most recent additions to the park’s Teton Collection—a collaborative project between the Grand Teton Association (formerly Grand Teton Natural History Association) and the National Park Service. The art collection was created about 50 years ago, when world-renowned painter Conrad Schwiering—then a board member of the Association—initiated a program to pay homage to the beauty of the Teton landscape through fine art. In the tradition established by Schwiering and the early Association board, the Grand Teton Association art committee purchases paintings, or commissions new ones, to enhance the park’s art collection. The Association usually adds one new painting every year; the paintings by Wipfler, Smith, and Christensen represent the last three years’ contributions.

The Teton Collection serves as a testament to the crucial role that art has played in preserving Grand Teton National Park and other public lands, and reflects the historic significance of artwork throughout the greater Jackson Hole area. The eclectic collection features artwork by John Clymer, Olaus Murie, Joanne Hennes, Leland Curtis, Conrad Schwiering, Jim Wilcox, Betty Thomas, and Harrison Crandall. All of these artists found creative inspiration from the Teton landscape, and each has skillfully captured the spectacular scenery and wild inhabitants of this region. The Association is in the process of creating an informational brochure to hand out at the gallery that will provide an overview of all the artists and their paintings.

Scott L. Christensen, of Christensen Studio, Inc., in Victor, Idaho, has exhibited his work in many prestigious museums and shows throughout the country, including the National Academy of Western Art, Prix de West Invitational at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma; the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming; the Denver Art Museum; the Kimball Museum; the Salmagundi Club in New York; the Autry Museum; and the Salon d’Arts at the Colorado History Museum. Christensen has been a recipient of many honors throughout his career, including Arts for the Parks competition in 1991; Northwest Rendezvous Juror’s Award of Merit in 1993 and 1994; Most Distinguished Alumni of Chadron State College 1997; and the Prix de West Award for his painting “Wind River Ice” in 2000.

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



William G. Smith has worked steadily as a freelance illustrator and commissioned artist for the past thirty years, completing scores of portrait, landscape and wildlife commissions. He has given art his full-time effort since 2004. He has won many awards in shows and contests, including the Arts for the Parks Mini 100 in 2004, the Collector's Choice Award in the Arts for the Parks Top 100 in 2005, and first place in the Wyoming Conservation Stamp contest for the 2009 Conservation Stamp.

Kathy Wipfler's paintings appear in the Kriendler Gallery, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming, and in the collections of Senator and Mrs. Alan Simpson, Governor and Mrs. Mike Sullivan, and Governor and Mrs. Jim Geringer. Her work also appears in 22 other Western states' Governors' collections as well as those of three Canadian premiers. Last year, one of her paintings was selected as a permanent part of the Whitney Collection at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. Wipfler's work has been featured at the Maynard Dixon Show, Mt. Carmel, Utah; Western Visions Show, National Museum of Wildlife Art, Jackson, Wyoming; Northwest Rendezvous Show, Helena, Montana; Plein Air Painters of America, Catalina Island, and Tahoe; and the Coors Western Art Show, Denver, Colorado.

Formerly displayed on the walls of the old Moose Visitor Center, the Teton Collection is now showcased in the gallery at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Since relocating to the gallery, the collection has become even more visible to the public, and this new space provides a fitting home for this precious artwork.

The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the summer and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter months.

—NPS—
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
July 8, 2008 08-37

Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393/307.739.3415

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Female Black Bear Euthanized in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that park biologists euthanized a female black bear on Monday, July 7, out of concern for public safety. The bear's increasingly bold behavior toward park visitors, and her repeated attempts to get human food, forced park officials to make the difficult decision to remove her from the population in order to reduce future threats to visitors and their safety.

The nine-year-old bear was easily identifiable because she wore a yellow eartag in her left ear. Bear #22044 was originally tagged in 2004 during a research project involving both grizzly and black bears. She had no history of nuisance behavior until 2007, when natural foods were in scant supply throughout the park.

During the past two years, the 175-pound female black bear gradually became human food-conditioned and unafraid of people. For several weeks during 2007, and especially during the last two weeks, she frequented the Colter Bay area, as well as Elk Island in the middle of Jackson Lake, roaming in search of food and getting multiple food rewards. Throughout August and early September of 2007, she actively sought and obtained human foods, and was consequently hazed several times. There were no additional incidents involving this bear until June 28 of this year, when she grabbed food from people cooking on Elk Island. After that situation, almost daily incidents occurred involving this bear and her attempts to acquire human foods. On July 1, she tore into bags of trash left at campsites in the Colter Bay campground.

Although quite habituated to people, bear #22044 had never acted aggressively toward humans until last week, when she flattened and damaged two tents in the Colter Bay campground. In each case, people were not in the tents at the time of the incident; however, food had been left unattended inside one of the tents. She also put her paws onto another tent as if she was going to crush it. Her recent behavior—combined with the potential for her to become a risk to human safety—contributed to the decision to permanently remove her from the population. This bear was not a good candidate for relocation because of her well-established habit of seeking out human food sources within developed areas.

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

Bears are active in areas of high visitor use, as well as in the backcountry. For the health and safety of all bears, as well as that of park visitors, please adhere to the following rules: Never leave food or backpacks unattended, even for a minute; use available storage facilities when camping, or secure food in your car; dispose of garbage in bear-proof garbage cans, provided at all campgrounds; when camping in the park's backcountry, use the approved, portable bear-proof food canisters; never run from a bear, and do not drop your backpack if a bear charges you.

Detailed information about how to behave in bear country is available at park visitor centers and ranger stations. Please take the time to educate yourself about bear safety before enjoying the park. Through information and proper actions, you may help save the life of a bear.

—NPS—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2008 08-38

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Youth Conservation Program Thrives at Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott salutes the Grand Teton National Park Foundation for their invaluable help in establishing and supporting the Youth Conservation Program (YCP) at Grand Teton National Park. Thanks to generous donations made by several donors through the Foundation, the park has been able to offer this youth employment opportunity for the past three years. This year's program includes 17 YCP crew members—with enrollees from as far away as Florida and California. The 2008 crew represents an increase of five members over last year's crew, three of whom returned after participating in the 2007 program.



YCP crews work with National Park Service (NPS) staff to improve trails and structures throughout the park. Their efforts include the rehabilitation of trails and backcountry areas through projects like brushing, hazard tree removal, and construction of water bars and drainage swales. Participants also pull exotic weeds, clear vegetation, build fences, construct stone masonry, install bear-proof containers, repair historic structures, and repair and launch the ferry boat at Menor's Ferry Historic District. NPS teams work with the YCP teens to provide a unique educational experience that includes park history, as well as training in safety, fire, and rescue operations. Crew members work primarily for the NPS Trails Branch, but they also collaborate

with other park divisions in order to gain a well-rounded understanding of the variety of resource protection and management issues that the NPS regularly encounters. Through their diverse tasks and exposure to park operations, YCP members are able to see firsthand the value of land stewardship and develop personal conservation ethics. This year, a previous YCP member obtained a seasonal position at Grand Teton, while two others are in the process of securing seasonal federal employment elsewhere.

The YCP is a summer employment program for high school students, ages 16 to 19. YCP enrollees develop an understanding of NPS conservation ethics as they assist with projects to complete critically-needed maintenance and rehabilitation on park trails and other resources. Participants work alongside NPS crew leaders and become familiar with NPS stewardship goals, while learning essential trail maintenance skills. YCP participants also serve as park ambassadors, as they complete project work on some of the most visible, and most impacted, park trails—trails like Jenny, String, Taggart and Bradley lakes, and the trails near Colter Bay. The YCP program runs for ten weeks, from mid-June through mid-August.

As an extension of their mission to support new and innovative projects that add value to the park, the Grand Teton National Park Foundation provides funding for salaries for YCP participants, as well as some of their work gear and transportation to and from Jackson.

For more information about YCP and how to contribute to future YCP activities, or other Foundation programs, please call Leslie Mattson at 307.732.0629, or email leslie@gtnpf.org.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2008 08-39

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Personal Valuables Stolen from Vehicles in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to two separate incidents of theft on Friday, July 11. In each case, valuable personal items were stolen from unattended vehicles. Rangers are currently conducting investigations into both incidents.

The first theft occurred early Friday morning; however, it was not reported to Teton Interagency Dispatch Center until 2:30 p.m. An individual had parked her car and walked a short distance down a dirt road, leaving her vehicle temporarily unlocked. While she was away from her car, a laptop computer was stolen from the unlocked vehicle. A witness in the area at the time of the incident recalled seeing a male, who was acting suspiciously, driving either a red Chevy pickup or Suburban.

Later that same day, at about 5:30 p.m., park rangers took another report of a theft in a nearby location. This time, a wallet—visible on the center console—was stolen from a locked vehicle at a turnout along Highway 89, north of Moose, Wyoming. The perpetrator broke a window to get the wallet, which contained cash, credit cards and personal information. A separate witness recalled seeing a red Chevy Suburban in the area at that time, possibly the same vehicle described at the earlier crime scene.

After the owner of the wallet called to report that his credit cards were stolen, park rangers subsequently learned that his card had been used at an establishment outside of the park. Rangers worked cooperatively with the Teton County Sheriff's Office to interview clerks working at the establishment, and it was determined that the card had been used to withdraw funds from an ATM machine.

Teton County sheriffs also responded to multiple similar incidents on Friday. Investigating officials believe that these incidents may be related.

While crimes of this type are rare in Grand Teton National Park, park visitors and area residents are reminded to avoid becoming a victim by locking vehicle doors and securing valuables at all times. People should never leave valuable items—such as purses, wallets, cameras or computers—in plain sight inside unattended vehicles. People should either carry these items with them or lock them in the trunk of the vehicle, out of sight.

Visitors and residents should remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to park rangers at any visitor center or ranger station.

—NPS—
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
July 16, 2008 08-40

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Road Improvement Project from Jackson Lake Lodge to Moran Junction in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park is conducting a chip seal project on a portion of Highway 89/287, from Jackson Lake Lodge to Moran Junction. The project will take two days: Wednesday, July 16 and Thursday, July 17. Motorists should expect delays of no more than 15 minutes between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on each of those days, while the chip seal project is being completed.

Flaggers will direct traffic through the work zone. Motorists are asked to be cautious while traveling through the area and to drive slowly in order to avoid windshield damage.

Chip sealing is a critical part of road maintenance, and the project will improve the long-term durability of this heavily-used park road.

Roadwork schedules may change or be delayed due to weather conditions, equipment failure, 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) 739-3614.

—NPS—
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
July 20, 2008 08-41

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Climbing Guide Takes Fatal Fall on Grand Teton

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is saddened to announce that climbing guide George Gardner, age 58, from Ridgeway, CO, died Saturday evening, July 19, from traumatic injuries suffered in a fall while solo climbing a route on the Grand Teton. Gardner was not guiding any clients at the time of the fall.

Park rangers are investigating the accident and will issue more information as it becomes available.

—NPS—
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
July 21, 2008 08-42

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Investigation Continues on the Grand Teton Climbing Fatality

Grand Teton National Park rangers continue to investigate the death of longtime Exum Mountain Guides employee George Gardner, age 58, that occurred on Saturday, July 19. Fellow guides, who were with Gardner before the accident that took his life, have provided rangers with extensive information about the circumstances leading up to his untimely death.

Gardner and several other Exum guides had taken a group of clients, including youths from Wilderness Ventures, to the Lower Saddle on Saturday with the intention of climbing the Grand Teton the following day. After the group had eaten dinner and settled into their Lower Saddle camp for the evening, Gardner departed around 5 p.m. to free solo climb the Lower Exum Ridge on the Grand Teton, a climb rated 5.7 on the Yosemite Decimal System. According to his colleagues, Gardner planned to climb the route to Wall Street and then return back to Lower Saddle base camp. It is not unusual for professional guides—either in pairs or solo—to go out for additional climbing on their own, once their clients have settled in for the night.

Several guides were concerned when Gardner had not returned by dark; however, the guides noticed headlamps coming down from the Upper Saddle and they figured it was Gardner, perhaps assisting a mountaineering party in their late-hour descent. When the guides awoke at 3 a.m. to prepare for the day's excursion, they discovered that Gardner was missing. Out of concern, they notified Exum Mountain Guides President Jack Turner, who contacted Teton Interagency Dispatch Center (TIDC) with news of the missing guide. After the call, park rangers immediately began coordinating a search and rescue response, and requested for an interagency contract helicopter to arrive at first light.

At the Lower Saddle, several Exum guides began a hasty search for Gardner, with three guides climbing the Lower Exum Ridge route and two guides ascending the classic route to the Upper Exum Ridge via Wall Street. One of the guides ascending towards Wall Street spotted Gardner's body around 6 a.m. from an area near the Eye of the Needle. After alerting the party that was ascending the Lower Exum Ridge, two of the guides from the Lower Exum Ridge party climbed to Gardner's location and confirmed that he was deceased. Park rangers and TIDC were notified of the fatality, prompting a switch to a recovery and investigation operation. At approximately 6:30 a.m., park rangers were flown by helicopter with the intention of landing at the Lower Saddle. They were diverted to a landing spot on Teepee Glacier due to moderate and high wind conditions; a local storm system with lightning temporarily shut down air operations. After the storm passed, the helicopter delivered additional rangers involved with the recovery and investigation effort to the Lower Saddle. Gardner's body was flown from the accident site on the mountain via short haul and delivered to his family and a contingent of fellow climbing guides at the park's Lupine Meadows rescue cache at 12:30 p.m. Gardner's body was then transferred to the Teton County Coroner's office in Jackson, Wyoming.

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



Park rangers are further investigating the accident, though they acknowledge that the exact cause may never be known for certain. Rangers speculate that Gardner may have fallen from one of the upper pitches of the Lower Exum Ridge route. They also note that there was a substantial (and atypical) wind gust—of about 60 mph—at approximately 6 p.m. the day of the accident that may have been a factor in Gardner’s fall. Whatever the cause of this accident, park rangers and Exum guides both agree that Gardner was climbing well within the realm of his capabilities, and doing what he was comfortable with and what he loved.

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott expressed heartfelt condolences on behalf of all park staff. “Park employees, local residents and the climbing community are stunned by this tragedy,” she said. “George was not only a respected guide, but also a wonderful mentor to other climbers. Our hearts go out to his family.”

A resident of Ridgeway, Colorado, Gardner had been an Exum guide for 17 years and a climbing guide for 28 years. His vast mountaineering experience included expeditions on the southwest face of Kanchenjunga and the west face of Hyani Potosi in Bolivia’s Cordillera Real; ski ascents in the Alps and in Colorado; and extensive climbing in North America and the Himalayas. He was the program director for Sterling College’s “Semester in the Himalayas” as well as an AMGA Certified Alpine Guide.

—NPS—
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
July 22, 2008 08-43

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

North Park Road Improvement Project Begins in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a road improvement project will take place on the north park road from the Lizard Creek Campground in Grand Teton National Park to the Snake River Bridge at Flagg Ranch in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway. Project work will begin on or about Monday, July 28, and continue through the summer/fall season. This project is necessary to improve travel conditions and ensure safety for the millions of motorists who use this road each year.

The initial phase of the highway improvement project involves replacing the many culverts that assist with drainage under the roadway. Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday of each week. While flaggers will direct vehicles through the work zone and keep traffic moving, motorists should expect delays of up to 30 minutes.

In addition to the road project, repairs will begin on the Snake River Bridge at Flagg Ranch as early as Friday, August 1. Work on the bridge will take place from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and delays of up to 30 minutes are possible. Flaggers will direct traffic; however, travel will be reduced to one lane. The bridge will reopen to two-way traffic for the winter season.

The north park road improvement project will continue during the 2009 summer season. Weather permitting, project work will begin in April and continue through mid-November. During that time, the road will be resurfaced and widened. During this second phase of the project, traffic will again be reduced to one lane.

The north park road project is a continuation of work that began in 2003 with reconstruction of the highway from the South Gate of Yellowstone National Park to Flagg Ranch and a stretch of road from Lizard Creek Campground to Leeks Marina.

Superintendent Gibson Scott reminds everyone that roadwork is necessary for the park to maintain safe and high quality roads for the large volume of traffic passing over them each year.

Local residents and park visitors are advised to use caution, drive slowly and watch out for workers and equipment when traveling through the project zones. Every effort will be made to minimize the inconvenience of these projects to those people traveling through the work areas.

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 24, 2008 08-44

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Wolves and Other Wildlife Killed by Vehicles in Grand Teton National Park

Numerous animals—including wolves, elk, and moose—have been hit and killed by vehicles in Grand Teton National Park during the past month. Consequently, Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott strongly reminds motorists to slow down and be alert for wildlife that may be traveling across, or wandering near, park roads.

On Wednesday afternoon, July 23, a sub-adult male wolf was hit and killed by a car traveling on Highway 26/89/191 near the Glacier View Turnout. Luckily, the occupants of the vehicle were uninjured; however the young wolf died as a result of the collision, and the car was damaged enough to require it to be towed away. This marks the second time in the past month that a wolf was killed by a motor vehicle. On Monday, June 23, a radio-collared male wolf was killed by a car on Highway 26/287 about 1 3/4 miles east of Moran Junction. Besides these two incidents, one fox, one pronghorn antelope, one bison, two moose, four deer and four elk have also lost their lives in vehicle collisions since the 19th of June.

These recent incidents serve as a reminder that many animals are often wandering across, and roaming near, the park's roadways. Therefore, motorists must be extra alert while driving and slow down for their own safety, as well as the welfare of park wildlife.

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

Each year, over 100 animals are hit and killed on park roads. Since the beginning of 2008, a total of 35 animals have been killed in collisions with automobiles. These collisions resulted in the deaths of deer, elk, moose, bison, pronghorn, wolves and smaller creatures such as foxes, otters, and pine martens. With an extra measure of caution—and increased attention to the road—this statistic could be greatly reduced during the remainder of 2008.

—NPS—
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
July 25, 2008 08-45

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole Astronomy Club Celebrate National Astronomy Day

Grand Teton National Park will join with the Jackson Hole Astronomy Club to celebrate National Astronomy Day on Sunday, August 3. Several family-oriented activities are planned, offering visitors and local residents the opportunity to learn about star gazing, meteor showers, sunspots, star clusters, galaxies and much more. The special event, titled "Astronomy under the Tetons," will begin at 2 p.m. at the Colter Bay Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park and end with late-night star gazing session on the nearby shore of Jackson Lake.

To recognize National Astronomy Day, solar-filtered telescopes will be available to view sunspots from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Colter Bay Visitor Center. Throughout the afternoon, exhibits and information tables will also be set up, providing fun and interesting information to children and adults alike. Beginning at 9 in the evening, Park Ranger Naturalist Bob Hoyle will present a PowerPoint program at the Colter Bay Amphitheater; this educational program focuses on American Indian use of the sky and its celestial bodies, and includes incredible images of stars and other astronomical objects. As a finale, high-powered telescopes will be set up at 10 p.m. along the shore of Colter Bay for participants to view stars, galaxies, nebulae and other cosmic phenomena. Anyone planning to attend the evening program and telescope observation session should dress warmly as evening temperatures at Colter Bay can be quite chilly even in July.

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



Big Dipper over the Tetons by Full Moon--Photo by Bob Hoyle

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2008 08-46

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Extension of Signal Mountain Summit Road Paving Project

A paving project on the Signal Mountain Summit Road in Grand Teton National Park will be extended for an additional week, due to an unexpected equipment malfunction. Paving will be underway throughout this week from Monday, July 28 through Thursday, July 31, and continue through the following week from Monday, August 4 through Thursday, August 7. The road will be open to weekend travel on Friday, August 1, Saturday, August 2, and Sunday, August 3.

The temporary travel closure on the Signal Mountain Summit Road may cause inconvenience to some visitors and local residents; to avoid this road during the scheduled construction, alternate travel plans should be made during Monday through Thursday for the next two weeks.

If there are any additional changes to the road work schedule, the public will be notified as soon as possible. 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 307.739.3614.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



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

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

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



Mary Cernicek
307.739.5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

July 30, 2008

Fire Danger Rating Elevated to Very High

Teton interagency fire managers announce that the fire danger rating will be elevated to Very High for both the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park as of Thursday, July 31. Recent hot temperatures, low humidity and windy conditions have increased the potential for intense fire activity. Local residents and visitors alike should exercise an extra measure of caution and practice heightened fire safety at all times.

When determining fire danger ratings, fire officials use several indices, such as: the moisture content of grasses, shrubs and trees; projected weather conditions (including temperatures and possible wind events); the ability of fire to spread after ignition; and the availability of fire-fighting resources. A fire danger rating of Very High means that fires can start easily, spread quickly and burn intensely.

Unattended or abandoned campfires can quickly escalate into wildfires, and it is extremely important that all campfires are completely extinguished and cold to the touch before campers leave their site. Visitors should **never** leave a fire unattended, and should prepare for the unexpected by having a water bucket and shovel on hand and ready to use.

To report a fire or smoke in either area, call Teton Interagency Dispatch Center at 307.739.3630. For more fire information, please contact Bridger-Teton National Forest at 307.739.5500, or visit the Web at www.tetonfires.com.

XXX



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2008 08-48

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Menor's Ferry in Operation at Grand Teton National Park

The historic Menor's ferry boat is operating for the summer season, now that a high flow on the Snake River has subsided. Visitors can once again take a free ferry ride—with a qualified park ranger operating the helm—across the Snake River between Bill Menor's store and Dorman's. Located north of the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park, the ferry is a central feature of the Menor/Noble historic district. The ferry provides park visitors with a unique opportunity to ride on an historic replica boat while learning firsthand about Jackson Hole's settlement and transportation history.



Truck rides across Snake River aboard Menor's Ferry.

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

Bill Menor built the ferry in 1894, shortly after he arrived to homestead on the banks of the Snake River. Prior to ferry service, residents who lived primarily on the east bank of the river could only cross when the flow was low enough to ford, or when they traveled south to the small village of Wilson, Wyoming where they could cross over on a bridge. After the ferry began its operation, residents made regular trips to Menor's homestead in order to cross the river to gather berries and firewood or to purchase wares from Menor's general store.

Menor charged 25 cents for a horse and rider to cross the river and 50 cents for a team and wagon; pedestrians rode across for free. After the ferry was sold to Maud Noble in 1918, the price increased to one dollar for automobiles with local license plates, and higher fares for those from out-of-state. The original ferry became obsolete and ceased operation in 1927, when the State of Wyoming built a highway bridge across the river, just south of the Menor homestead.

The current ferry is a replica of Menor's original craft. It was constructed by the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park and officially dedicated on August 25, 2000, as part of the park's 50th anniversary celebration.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2008 08-49

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Wal-Mart Volunteers Assist with Projects in Grand Teton National Park

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that volunteers from Wal-Mart have once again donated their time and energy to work in Grand Teton National Park. On Monday, August 4, a group of approximately 60 Wal-Mart volunteers joined park employees to assist with site clean-up projects at the Mormon Row Historic District and the recently acquired Hartgrave property—a former private inholding, located about five miles south of Moose on the Moose-Wilson Road. The volunteers, employees of Wal-Mart stores throughout southeastern Idaho, are participants in a company program titled “Volunteerism Always Pays” (VAP).

The Wal-Mart volunteers spent approximately five hours working with one of Grand Teton’s Student Conservation Association interns and staff from the Western Center for Historic Preservation—a workshop and training center based in Grand Teton National Park for historic preservation work throughout the greater Yellowstone area. Together, the group removed trash and debris from areas surrounding historic structures at Mormon Row, cleaning up both the inside and outside of these buildings. Volunteers also worked at the Hartgrave property, where they cleared trash piles and helped remove several small structures in order to facilitate extensive rehabilitation of this area. With help from Land and Water Conservation Funds and Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act funds, the park was able to purchase the Hartgrave property last year and begin taking steps to restore the 4.4-acre property to its natural state.

Wal-Mart’s VAP program began in 1995 as a way to encourage employees to connect with, and give back to, their local communities. Since then, the program has contributed more than 7 million hours to deserving organizations. In 2007, more than 1 million volunteer hours translated to approximately \$6 million in VAP contributions. Mark Marvin, Wal-Mart market manager, said of the volunteers: “Our Grand Teton projects are a wonderful example of how a few hours of work will have long-lasting impact to the historic preservation at one of this region’s world-renowned national parks. Wal-Mart associates are proud to have a role in what we hope will be a turning point for these key park locations.”

“This is the third year that Wal-Mart has been a welcome park partner. The commitment and generous efforts of the VAP volunteers add immeasurably to our resource preservation work in Grand Teton National Park,” said Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. “We are grateful to the Wal-Mart team for offering their time and skills toward the restoration of one of the park’s significant historical areas at Mormon Row, and one of the park’s newly obtained properties at the Hartgrave place. Through the assistance of these volunteers, we can better preserve the park’s distinctive cultural history, improve our ability to reveal the past by making areas safe for visitors to explore, and restore habitat for wildlife use.”

Previous years’ projects included rehabilitation of popular park trails and restoration work at the heavily-used Schwabacher’s Landing on the Snake River.

-NPS-
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2008 08-50

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Seriously Injured Hiker Located After Major Search in Grand Teton National Park

A seriously injured hiker was located and rescued Wednesday afternoon, August 6, from Avalanche Canyon in Grand Teton National Park after an extensive search effort that involved 65 searchers from multiple agencies: Grand Teton National Park rangers and trail crew, a Teton interagency helitak crew, and members of the Teton County Search and Rescue team. Fifty-eight year old Richard Felder, from Houston, Texas, was descending Avalanche Canyon on Tuesday morning, August 5, when he slipped on a snowfield just below Snowdrift Lake and tumbled at least 10 feet over a cliff. Felder received internal and head injuries, as well as several broken bones, and was unable to resume hiking. He spent an unscheduled night in the backcountry, enduring cold temperatures and his multiple injuries.

Felder and his wife, Patty, were on a backcountry trip, hiking the Teton Crest Trail together, when they opted to separate from one another at 7 a.m. on Tuesday after camping in the south fork of Cascade Canyon. Richard chose to hike out of the Tetons via a traverse over Avalanche Divide—a route he had read about in a recent issue of Backpacker Magazine. Patty continued to hike out the more traditional route through Cascade Canyon, intending to meet her husband at Jenny Lake sometime late Tuesday afternoon. When Richard failed to return by the appointed time, Patty reported him overdue to park rangers at the Jenny Lake Ranger Station. Rangers began to coordinate a field search for Felder and planned to get searchers on the ground at first light the next morning.

At 6 a.m. Wednesday morning, a team of two park rangers hiked from Taggart Lake into Avalanche Canyon, while another team hiked from Jenny Lake into Cascade Canyon to reach Avalanche Divide. These two “hasty search” parties met at Snowdrift Lake in Avalanche Canyon without finding Felder. The incident commander for the search effort also summoned the assistance of an interagency helicopter to provide aerial search capabilities. Because the interagency helicopter was temporarily out of service for maintenance, air operations did not begin until 11 a.m. In the meantime, over 20 searchers—including the park’s trail maintenance crew and Teton interagency fire crews—began an extensive ground search using a grid system to methodically cover assigned sectors of Avalanche Canyon from Taggart Lake trailhead. Once airborne, the helicopter was able to deliver approximately 15 searchers into the upper canyon using a landing zone at Snowdrift Lake; these people fanned out to search assigned locations above the lake.

Working a systematic search pattern from the air, rangers eventually spotted Felder at 4:52 p.m. Felder was lying near some rocks at the base of a snowfield about ¼ mile below Snowdrift Lake outlet; he became visible to the searchers after he waved his arm at the helicopter. Rescue personnel responded by foot from Snowdrift Lake, reaching Felder at 5:12 p.m. These first responders provided emergency medical care for his serious injuries and prepared him for immediate evacuation by helicopter. Felder was placed into a rescue litter at 5:40 p.m. and flown by short-haul with an attending ranger directly to Lupine Meadows where a park ambulance was waiting to transport him to St. John’s Medical Center in Jackson.

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

An investigating ranger was able to interview Felder in the hospital on Thursday morning, and Felder gave the following account of his ordeal: While descending from Snowdrift Lake (elevation 9,999 ft.), Felder found himself on a steep snow-covered slope; because he did not have an ice axe with him, he began to use his hiking pole as a brace to get himself to a more level area. As he traversed the snowfield, he started to slide, but was able to remain on his feet. He then continued to work his way toward a flatter spot, but broke through the snow into a shallow stream and hit his head on a rock. To climb out of the icy moat (lingering snow cover in the backcountry may be as deep as 15 feet), he took his pack off and tied it to his waist so that he could climb out of the snow cavity without interference from his backpack. He gradually worked his way out of this hollow using steps that he punched with his feet. As he was attempting to put his backpack on his shoulder, he slipped again. His backpack was still tied to his body, so as he slipped, its weight pulled him off balance, causing him to slide and then tumble over a 10-foot cliff. At this point, Felder was dazed and seriously injured. He tried to get a shelter from inside his pack and other items to help him with his injuries, but was unable to reach them. Felder noted that the temperature became quite cold with the setting sun. He also noted that the next morning he watched “helicopters come and go several times” and tried to get a yellow shirt from his pack to place onto his hiking pole to use as a signal.

Felder’s injuries were serious enough that he may not have survived a second night exposed to the elements in the Teton backcountry. He is scheduled to be flown to Houston for further intensive medical care on Friday.

The search and rescue operation was successful in locating and evacuating Felder in a relatively short period of time thanks to the combined efforts of park staff and interagency partners, including search coordinators from Teton County Search and Rescue.

The Teton backcountry can be difficult terrain in which to locate a single person, especially if they are injured and not moving. Rangers caution backcountry users that making a solo hike and climb includes a certain level of risk. If someone gets injured and cannot perform a self rescue, they may become vulnerable to the elements and be stranded for a period of time until a rescue and evacuation can be accomplished.

—NPS—
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
August 8, 2008 08-51

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Rescued from Upper Saddle of Grand Teton

An injured climber was evacuated by helicopter from the Grand Teton on Thursday afternoon, August 7, in Grand Teton National Park. Merry Carny, age 46, of Salt Lake City, Utah sustained multiple broken bones after landing hard during a rappel from a cliff near the Upper Saddle of the Grand Teton. Carny and her husband had successfully reached the summit and were on their way down when the accident occurred; neither climber was wearing a helmet at the time.

The Carnys climbed the Exum Ridge on the Grand Teton on Thursday morning and reached the summit at 12:30 p.m. They were descending the standard rappel near the Upper Saddle when Merry was unable to maintain friction on her climbing rope and ultimately slid about 50 feet before coming to an abrupt stop on the slope below the rappel route. She landed on her feet, but fell backward after the abrupt landing. Carny received injuries to her leg, side and back, and was unable to continue climbing. The Carnys used their cell phone to report their situation; however, because of their location on the Grand Teton, the call was received by the Driggs, Idaho sheriff's office. Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received notice of the accident at 1:30 p.m., and park rangers immediately summoned an interagency contract helicopter to assist with the rescue effort.

Three park rangers were transported by the contract helicopter to the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton, and one of those rangers was then inserted into the accident site via short-haul. Two additional rangers were flown by helicopter to the Lower Saddle along with necessary rescue equipment, and a second ranger was also inserted by short-haul into the accident site. Carny was given emergency medical care by the rangers and placed into a rescue litter for evacuation. She was then flown at 4:45 p.m.—with a ranger accompanying her—directly to the Jenny Lake rescue cache located on the valley floor. A park ambulance transported her to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment of her injuries.

The remaining ranger accompanied Mr. Carny as he continued his descent from the Upper Saddle. Upon reaching the Lower Saddle, he too was flown by helicopter to the rescue cache to expedite his ability to join his wife at the hospital.

This marks the second major search and rescue operation in Grand Teton National Park in the past two days.

—NPS—
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
August 10, 2008 08-52

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Climbing Fatality near Gilkey Tower in Grand Teton National Park

A 55-year-old man from Helena, Montana took a fatal fall while traversing the ridge between the South Teton and Cloudveil Dome with three companions on Saturday afternoon, August 9. Chris Pazder slipped on snow while crossing the south side of Gilkey Tower (elevation 12,320 ft.) and tumbled about 800 feet over steep rock before landing on a ledge on the north side of Avalanche Canyon. He was carrying an ice axe at the time of the slide, but was unable to self arrest.

Grand Teton National Park rangers were notified of the accident at approximately 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, when Pazder's companions placed a cell phone call to Teton Interagency Dispatch Center to report the incident. Rangers immediately organized a rescue operation and requested the assistance of an interagency contract helicopter for air support. The helicopter flew to Lupine Meadows, picked up several rangers, and undertook an aerial reconnaissance flight. Pazder was located from the air, and rangers were able to verify that he was deceased.

A ranger who was on routine mountain patrol in Garnet Canyon was diverted from his backcountry route to the accident scene. He reached the three members of Pazder's party just before 5:00 p.m. and assisted them with the descent to their camp in the South Fork of Garnet Canyon. They were able to hike out of Garnet Canyon on Sunday morning.

Because of an incoming thunderstorm and the time of day, rangers decided to wait until Sunday to attempt to recover Pazder. At about 7:00 a.m. Sunday, helicopter operations and the recovery effort resumed.

Rangers began their ground-based recovery operation on Sunday morning by flying six rangers to a landing zone near Lake Taminah, in Avalanche Canyon. The rescue personnel had to ascend 200 feet of technical terrain to the ledge where Pazder came to rest. The recovery operation was completed by early Sunday evening.

—NPS—
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
August 10, 2008 08-53

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Vehicle Rollover Accident Results in a Fatality in Grand Teton National Park

A single-car rollover on Saturday evening, August 9, resulted in the death of a sixteen-year-old male in Grand Teton National Park. The accident occurred at 7:05 p.m. on Highway 26/89/191, near the Elk Ranch Flats just 1.5 miles south of Moran junction. Seven people—an extended family from Washington State and Hungary—were traveling in a Honda Odyssey minivan when the accident occurred. The driver and six passengers sustained injuries; one of the passengers, an eight-year-old boy, suffered life-threatening injuries. Four of the vehicle occupants were wearing seatbelts and remained in the minivan; two passengers, including the deceased teenager, were ejected from the vehicle.

James Kochis, age 70, from Port Orchard, Washington, was driving southbound on the highway when his vehicle left the pavement for unknown reasons and rolled one or more times before coming to rest on all four wheels. The cause of the accident is under investigation; however, it appears that the tires of the minivan dropped off the pavement, forcing Kochis to make an abrupt correction, which caused the vehicle to roll and come to a stop on the east side of the highway after crossing both lanes of the highway.

The sixteen-year-old male passenger was ejected out of the rear window of the minivan and was pronounced dead at the scene. The eight-year-old boy received fractures to both legs and sustained other internal injuries. A park ambulance took the young boy and his father to St. John's Medical Center, where he was transferred by Life Flight to Salt Lake City later Saturday night. The other four occupants were transported to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for treatment of a variety of serious injuries.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a report of the accident from the Teton County Sheriff's Office shortly after it occurred. Approximately 20 park personnel (park rangers, emergency medical personnel, one Air Force EMT detailed to Grand Teton National Park and Teton interagency fire staff) as well as Jackson Hole Fire/EMS staff, Teton County deputy sheriffs and a Wyoming Highway Patrol officer responded to the accident. In addition to the interagency response, two physicians from St. John's Medical Center, Dr. Will Smith (the park's medical director) and Dr. Vaughn Morgan, also provided emergency medical care at the scene.

Teton interagency fire staff helped with traffic control at the Moran and Moose junctions to divert vehicles from the area. Other mutual aid assistance from Jackson included a Jackson Hole Fire/EMS rescue vehicle with an extrication team and two ambulances.

Due to the serious nature of the accident and the multiple ambulances and emergency medical personnel required to treat the numerous injured people, Highway 26/89/191 was closed to traffic from 7:10 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Traffic was rerouted through a detour along the Teton Park Road.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2008 08-54

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a brief travel closure will be in effect on the unpaved section of the Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park for about ten hours beginning at 7 a.m. on Thursday, August 14. The temporary closure is scheduled to allow for grading work to be done on the gravel roadbed. The Moose-Wilson Road will reopen by 5 p.m., barring inclement weather or equipment malfunction.

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

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

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



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

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

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



Mary Cernicek
307.739.5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

August 17, 2008

Human-Caused Fire near Jenny Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park

Teton interagency fire personnel responded to a report of a small fire in Grand Teton National Park on Saturday, August 16. The human-caused Trail Fire, located approximately 300 feet west of the one-way Jenny Lake scenic drive, was reported shortly after 12 p.m. by Jenny Lake Lodge staff. The fire was burning a single tree and nearby brush, with short-range spotting in dead and downed litter. Because it was human-caused, the 1/10-acre fire was suppressed.

Two park rangers and five firefighters with two wildland fire engines joined the Lodge staff—who had initially responded to the fire with shovels and fire extinguishers—at the scene and continued fire suppression activities. The fire was contained on Saturday at 2:45 p.m., and it is expected to be declared out on Sunday, August 17.

The Trail Fire was apparently ignited by a cigarette from a smoker or smokers using an undeveloped trail in the String Lake/Jenny Lake Lodge area. The fire burned in an area that had undergone a fuel-reduction treatment as well as a previous wildfire, which had reduced fuels in the area.

After several weeks of Very High fire danger, Grand Teton National Park and Bridger-Teton National Forest have changed the fire danger rating to High. However, the Trail Fire offers a reminder that lower-elevation forests and sagebrush flats remain drier than normal this year. Continued dry weather is expected for August, and visitors are reminded to be cautious when building campfires. In Grand Teton National Park, campfires are only allowed in fire grates within frontcountry campgrounds and in established fire rings at some designated backcountry lakeshore campsites. Unattended or abandoned campfires can escalate into wildland fires, and it is extremely important that all campfires are completely extinguished and cold to the touch before campers leave the site. Visitors should **never** leave a fire unattended, and should prepare for the unexpected by having a water bucket and shovel on hand and ready to use.

To report either smoke or a fire, please call 307.739.3630. For further information about fires in the greater Jackson Hole area, please contact Bridger-Teton National Forest at 307.739.5500 or visit www.tetonfires.com.

-XXX-



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2008 08-56

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Greater Yellowstone Coalition Partners with Grand Teton National Park to Support Wildlife Protection Efforts

In 2007, Grand Teton National Park established the Wildlife Brigade—a team of park rangers and citizen volunteers—to help manage human-wildlife interactions and to increase food storage compliance at park campgrounds and picnic sites through public contact and education efforts. This newly created wildlife-protection squad is thriving in its second year of operation thanks in part to the generosity of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) which provided funding for two positions with the 2008 brigade.

This year's Wildlife Brigade team consists of three full-time National Park Service employees, three full-time volunteers, four part-time volunteers, and two full-time GYC internship positions. Although working in a variety of park settings, the team's primary job is to educate the public about responsible and ethical interactions with park wildlife. These individuals spend their days assisting with traffic flow and people management at roadside "wildlife jams" and conducting patrols in developed areas to look for unsecured food and other bear attractants. They also provide visitor education at trailheads and on popular trails, offer interpretive education to park visitors about wildlife and other park resources, and collect wildlife and visitor use data.

Grand Teton National Park was able to supply limited funding for members of the Wildlife Brigade; however, additional positions became possible through volunteer help and the welcome funding provided by the GYC—a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The GYC recognized the importance of this new wildlife protection program and partnered with Grand Teton to help ensure its success. As a part of the pilot project, GYC funded two former University of Montana students, Ariel Blotkamp and Lee Rademaker, for the 2008 season. Blotkamp graduated from the University of Montana in 2006 with a degree in recreation resource management, and spent two summers in Glacier National Park researching the park's new transportation shuttle system. Rademaker completed undergraduate work in 2005 in recreation resource management at the University of Montana, and earned a Master's degree, also in recreation management, studying interpretive technology in parks.

Blotkamp says she very much appreciates the role non-profits like the GYC play in conservation. About her job with the brigade, she commented: "I like talking with so many different people from across the country and the world while traveling around the park to keep wildlife safe. I also love being a part of someone's first wild bear sighting; their enthusiasm and appreciation for the bears makes me smile every time. I feel that this love of the bears and the park, and this face-to-face experience, are what drives the protection of the resources." Rademaker concurs, saying that there are few situations more exciting than a wildlife jam. "Everyone, from the visitors to the volunteers and staff working the jam become so focused in the moment, so engaged in the excitement. I know they won't ever forget their experience with the animals." He added: "After six years of class work, it is nice to 'ground truth' some of what I learned."

The two brigade members are excited to gain experience working for the NPS, since they both hope to one day obtain full-time positions with the agency.

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott praised the value of the Wildlife Brigade and commended the GYC's support. "The brigade has become an essential component of this park's wildlife management. It is crucial that we educate visitors about how to properly behave around wildlife, in order to keep both people and animals safe," she said. She also said the new partnership with the GYC is a great example of how the park can work with other agencies and organizations to enhance resource protection in this ecosystem. "It demonstrates the ideological common ground that we share with the GYC. We are both concerned with maintaining diverse and healthy wildlife populations, with providing recreational opportunities, and with sustaining the ecological processes that make the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem unique." Both the park and GYC are guided by similar missions to preserve and protect this fragile ecosystem for future generations.

The Wildlife Brigade was launched in response to growing concerns for wildlife protection in the park. Thriving wildlife populations and a rising number of visitors to the park means a greater potential for interface between people and wildlife. Increased visibility of wildlife in the park—especially highlighted by the presence of bear #399 and her three cubs, that frequently use habitat near park roadsides—has also increased the incidence of wildlife jams. One of the primary responsibilities for members of the brigade is to educate both visitors and local residents about responsibly sharing habitat with wild animals.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



Wildlife Brigade manages a "bear jam" in Grand Teton National Park



Wildlife Brigade patrols the Colter Bay Campground for food violations



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2008 08-57

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3431

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Free Screening of *Don't Move a Mussel* at Colter Bay in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park will host a free screening of a film titled *Don't Move a Mussel* in the Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, August 22. The 46-minute-long film, created by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, is open to the general public.

Don't Move a Mussel was made possible through a collaborative effort between state and federal agencies and organizations working together under the 100th Meridian Initiative—an effort to prevent the spread of exotic species of mussels into the western United States. Major funding was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The film is arranged in two parts. The first portion provides background information about the invasion of quagga and zebra mussels from the eastern United States into additional states; it explains their origins, distribution, biology and transport routes and outlines the impacts these non-native species could have on various regions of the country. This segment also contains ideas about how to avoid spreading and exacerbating the problem of exotic species such as quagga and zebra mussels and how to prevent their adverse impacts. The second part of the film teaches viewers about watercraft inspection and decontamination. This pragmatic segment includes detailed demonstrations of the inspection and decontamination processes.

The screening should be of particular interest to boat owners, to those who enjoy water recreation across the western states, and to anyone who is concerned about the impacts of exotic species in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and other vulnerable areas.



Mussels encrust shopping cart submerged in a lake

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2008 08-58

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Conducts Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspections

Commercial vehicle safety inspections conducted during Tuesday, August 12, and Wednesday, August 13 in Grand Teton National Park resulted in the discovery of several violations on commercial vehicles traveling through the park. A full-level inspection evaluates both the driver and the commercial vehicle to ensure full compliance with the federal regulations that govern these vehicles. Last week's inspections were unannounced and focused on commercial buses and trucks.

Safety inspections were conducted through an interagency effort by Grand Teton National Park rangers, Federal Motor Carrier Administration personnel, and Wyoming Highway Patrol officers. A complete safety inspection station was assembled in Colter Bay Village, and every commercial vehicle traveling on Highway 89/287 through the park was diverted through the inspection station by federal and state officers. Vehicles inspected included passenger vans operated by local hotels for touring guests, vans operated by bicycle tour companies, commercial passenger buses, delivery vehicles, construction vehicles, and one commercial well drilling truck that was illegally traveling through the park. A total of 45 commercial vehicles were checked for safety issues that could lead to motor vehicle accidents, injuries to passengers and others, and/or resource damage to the park.

The inspections resulted in five vehicles being parked because their drivers had worked too many hours or had failed to properly log their hours worked. One bus operation was suspended until emergency exits could be repaired, and three other buses were taken out of service due to tire, brake and steering failures—two of these buses were operated by the same company, which had to arrange to have their buses towed from the park as they were unsafe to operate. In addition, one delivery truck was taken out of service until the brakes were repaired.

A total of 21 warnings were issued for seatbelt violations, and one person was issued a violation notice and mandatory court appearance for possession of a controlled substance.

This was the first time in several years that an interagency inspection program took place in the park. As safety violations are identified and addressed, it is expected that commercial vehicle operators and companies will improve their safety operations.

—NPS—
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
August 21, 2008 08-58

Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393/ 307.739.3415

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Mountain Pine Beetles Affect Lodgepole and Whitebark Pines in Grand Teton National Park

A number of red-colored trees interspersed throughout the conifer forests of Grand Teton National Park have captured the attention of visitors and local residents and prompted many questions about what is happening. These conspicuous red trees stem from a cyclic, natural phenomenon caused by mountain pine beetles, a native insect whose activities kill individual lodgepole and whitebark pine trees by damaging the phloem layer and cutting off the flow of water and nutrients between the roots and needles. Periodic outbreaks of mountain pine beetles play an important ecological role in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and are central to the life cycle of western forests.

The mountain pine beetle—the most common bark beetle and a natural part of forest ecosystems in western North America ranging from Mexico to British Columbia—evolved with lodgepole pines over the millennia. Climate plays a role in the proliferation of beetles, and warmer air temperatures of recent years have allowed bark beetles numbers to expand into higher elevation ecosystems, as well as to flourish where they have historically occurred. Vast numbers of beetles are needed to kill a single tree, and beetle numbers are sustained by the availability of suitable hosts—such as drought-weakened trees—as well as by mild winters that ensure successful beetle reproduction. While hearty pines typically use their resin as a defense against the boring activities of beetles, trees can become overwhelmed by prolific beetle outbreaks. Periodic increases of this insect, and the subsequent tree mortality, are part of a naturally occurring cycle. In fact, similar beetle infestations occurred throughout the Rocky Mountain West and in Grand Teton National Park during the 1930s and 1960s. Biologists and ecologists acknowledge that mountain pine beetle outbreaks help to create a mosaic of forest types and ages and to maintain nutrient and energy cycling in a natural ecosystem much like other natural events such as fires, avalanches and wind events that topple vast tracts of trees.

Currently, beetle-affected trees are most prevalent in mid-elevation lodgepole pine forests. This year, Grand Teton National Park is attempting to reduce beetle infestations in some key visitor use and developed areas by hanging white pouches containing a pheromone called verbenone on selected trees. Two pouches per tree (or 40 per acre) send a chemical message that a specific tree, or a general area, is already saturated with beetles; the pheromone application may reduce the likelihood that additional trees will be attacked. Lodgepole pines chosen for this treatment include: trees that are located in high visitor use or administrative areas where lodgepole pine is the predominant tree species; trees that were preserved during construction projects; and trees that contribute to the character of a specific area, such as picnic sites. The success and value of this strategy will be tracked and further assessed in the fall of 2008.

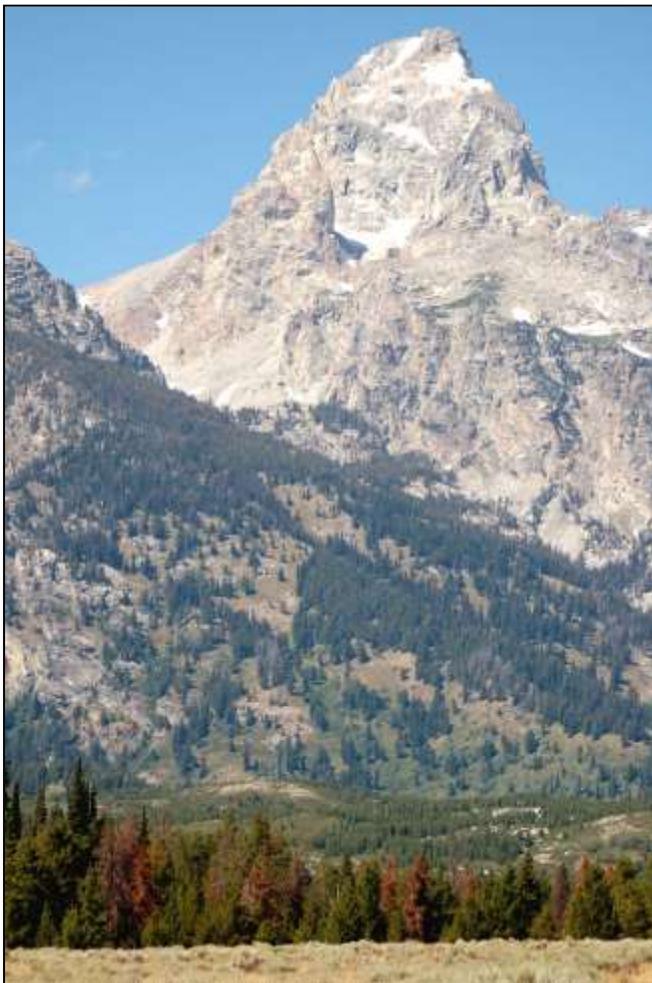
—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

In the Jackson area, mountain pine beetles began attacking high-elevation whitebark pine forests about four years ago. Impacts to this species are extensive and ongoing. Park biologists are also using verbenone pouches to try to protect small numbers of individual whitebark pines that appear to be genetically more resistant to white pine blister rust, thereby preserving the seed source for the future. In the past, the high-elevation environment of the whitebark pine prevented mountain pine beetle from becoming abundant enough to kill more than a few trees at a time. However, warmer winters and longer growing seasons related to climate change have allowed the beetles to produce many more offspring in a faster period of time. Park biologists will also monitor the effectiveness of pheromone use among whitebark pine stands.

While the mountain pine beetle activity in whitebark pine ecosystems is atypical, the effects of beetles on local lodgepole pine forests are more common. There is some concern that an abundance of beetle-killed trees may increase the risk of wildland fires. Although extensive stands of dead trees can be flammable, current research suggests that once the red needles have fallen from the dead trees, the fire risk may be reduced in some situations.



—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



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

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

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



Mary Cernicek
307.739.5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

August 25, 2008

Interagency Fire Managers Increase Fire Danger Rating to Very High

Teton interagency fire managers raised the fire danger rating back to **Very High** on Monday, August 25, as a result of dry conditions, hot temperatures, and curing vegetation. In addition, the National Weather Service has also issued a red flag warning, effective from noon Monday through 6 a.m. Tuesday, August 26, due to high temperatures, low humidity, strong winds and the potential for dry lightning.

“The very high fire danger rating reflects a seasonal drying of vegetation in the low- and mid-elevation areas,” said Ron Steffens, fire use monitor for Grand Teton National Park. “After an exceptionally snowy winter and wet spring, we’ve seen below average rainfall in northwest Wyoming this summer.”

Recent fires in the Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park area have resulted from people leaving smoldering campfires or discarding lit cigarettes. Fire managers remind visitors to smoke only in areas of cleared of vegetation and to ensure campfires are completely out and cold to the touch before leaving them.

To report either smoke or a fire, please call 307.739.3630. For further information about fires in the greater Jackson Hole area, please contact Bridger-Teton National Forest at 307.739.5500 or visit www.tetonfires.com.

-XXX-



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 26, 2008 08-61

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Fall Ranger-led Programs to Begin in Grand Teton National Park

Several ranger-led programs are scheduled for the upcoming fall season. These programs will begin on Tuesday, September 2, 2008. Residents and visitors alike may learn about geology, history, and wildlife while enjoying autumn in the park, when colorful foliage and seasonal wildlife behavior reach their peak.

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. Boat ride costs \$9.50 for adults.
- **Explore the Preserve Hike**, a 2.5-hour hike to Phelps Lake to experience the pristine setting of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, 9:30 a.m. daily. Reservations recommended. Call 307.739.3654.
- **Autumn Stroll**, a 2.5-hour hike along the scenic Taggart Lake trail, 9:30 a.m. daily from Taggart Lake trailhead on the Teton Park Road.
- **Glimpses of the Grand Teton**, a 30-minute talk about geology and park wildlife, 11 a.m. daily at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Teton Highlights**, a 30-minute travel planner, 11 a.m. daily in Colter Bay Visitor Center auditorium. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Autumn at the Preserve**, a chat about fall changes in wildlife and plants, 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily on the porch of the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Walk into the Past**, a 45-minute stroll around Menor's Ferry historic district near the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, 1:30 p.m. daily from Menor's Ferry General Store. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Building Green**, a 30-minute talk about the innovative design and sustainable features of the new Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center, 2 p.m. daily at the LSR Preserve Center.
- **Wildlife You May Know**, a 30-minute talk on Grand Teton's diverse wildlife, 2:30 p.m. daily, at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. 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.
- **Wildlife Caravan**, a 3-hour wildlife auto-tour, 5-8 p.m. daily from the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Limited to 10 vehicles, reservations are required. Reserve a space at the CTDVC or call 739.3399. Ride sharing encouraged. Dress warmly and bring binoculars or spotting scopes.
- **Wildlife Watch at Oxbow Bend**, a 90-minute wildlife watch offered at 6 p.m. daily at Oxbow Bend Scenic Turnout. Bring binoculars, cameras and questions. Wheelchair accessible.
- **Jenny Lake Twilight Talk**, 45-minute ranger talk, 6:30 p.m. daily at Jenny Lake Campground Circle.
- **Evening Campfire Program**, a 45-minute illustrated ranger talk presented 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at the Colter Bay amphitheater. Dress warmly. Wheelchair accessible.

Fall programs will be offered through September 30; however, the schedule is subject to change. For weekly updates on program changes or further information on any of the listed activities, please call either the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center at 307.739.3399 or the Colter Bay Visitor Center at 307.739.3594. The Craig Thomas, Colter Bay, Jenny Lake and Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve visitor centers are open daily during the month of September. While the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is open year-round, the Jenny Lake Visitor Center closes for the season on September 27 and the Colter Bay and Rockefeller Preserve visitor centers will both close for the season on October 13.

—NPS—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2008 08-62

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Major Search Conducted for Lost Hiker Near Hidden Falls in Grand Teton National Park

A full-scale search for a lost hiker took place on Wednesday evening, August 27 and Thursday morning, August 28, west of Jenny Lake in the Hidden Falls/Inspiration Point area of Grand Teton National Park. Charles “Chuck” Mastny, age 54, from Lakeland, Minnesota, was hiking with his wife, Stephanie, on Wednesday afternoon when he left her at 2:30 p.m. to “do some exploring” while she read a book near a boulder field at Hidden Falls. Searchers located Mastny at 11:10 a.m. on Thursday as he was making his way out of Cascade Canyon toward Jenny Lake after spending a frosty night in the Teton backcountry without shelter and wearing only a T-shirt, long pants and sandals. Nearly 65 searchers—Grand Teton National Park personnel, Teton interagency fire staff, Teton County Wyoming Search and Rescue volunteers, an interagency contract helicopter, and three dog teams from Wyoming K-9 Search and Rescue—took part in the major search effort.

When Mastny failed to return to the Hidden Falls area by 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Stephanie became concerned and quickly hiked to the west shore boat dock to report that he was overdue. Jenny Lake Boating made a call to Teton Interagency Dispatch at about 6:00 p.m. to report the situation, and park rangers immediately initiated a hasty search of the area. A team of 13 rangers scoured the area on foot, but were unable to locate Mastny before sunset. With darkness falling, the hasty search was halted and plans were made to resume a full-scale search beginning at first light on Thursday morning. Rangers also summoned the assistance of an interagency helicopter to provide aerial search capabilities the next morning.

Mastny apparently became so engrossed in scrambling up the boulder field to the south of Hidden Falls, that time got away from him Wednesday afternoon. When he decided to turn around and retrace his path, he realized that he was uncomfortably high, and that it was not safe to return the way he had come. He started to traverse along the top of the boulder field to find a safer way down. Darkness ultimately overtook him, and wearing prescription sunglasses, he eventually sat down to rest and sleep before dawn would provide better light. He also found a bank of snow and ate some for moisture. The next morning, he was able to pick his way across more boulders and through thick vegetation to eventually cross Cascade Creek at a point well into the mouth of Cascade Canyon. A park ranger who was searching the Cascade Canyon trail met up with other hikers who recognized Mastny from a photograph he showed them. They told the ranger that they had met Mastny just a few minutes before, and had given him a candy bar to eat. The ranger quickly caught up to Mastny and confirmed that he was the missing person—the focus of the search.

While this incident had a positive outcome, it could have easily resulted in injury or worse. Rangers remind backcountry travelers that they should be prepared for any hike by carrying food, water, a map, and extra clothing in the event that they are forced to spend an unexpected night out in the backcountry due to injury or being lost. Rangers also recommend that visitors stay on trails and hike in groups of two or more people.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 5, 2008 08-63

Jackie Skaggs/Carol Cunningham
307.739.3393 / 307.739.3415

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Crandall Painting Donated to Teton Art Collection

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that Herb Pownall and Quita Crandall Pownall, daughter of renowned Teton photographer and artist Harrison R. Crandall, have donated one of her father's original oil paintings to the park's Teton Collection. Created in the mid-1960s, the fine art painting depicts a classic Teton scene with mountain peaks partially obscured by clouds and autumn-tinted aspens. The painting will eventually hang in the Jenny Lake Visitor Center — Crandall's former art studio and showroom — an historic log structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Harrison "Hank" Crandall was born November 23, 1887, in Newton, Kansas, and raised on the Midwest plains. Crandall was inspired as a young boy to photograph the Teton Range after seeing a William Henry Jackson photo of the rugged mountains in a grade school geography book. After studying art at the School of Art and Design in Los Angeles, California, and serving in World War I, Crandall moved west at the age of 25 and settled briefly in Idaho. He first visited Jackson Hole in 1921 and returned the following year with his bride, Hildegard "Hilda," to make a permanent home. With photographic equipment and camping supplies in hand, the Crandalls spent their first summer scouting locations for photographs, while camping with two friends in what is now Grand Teton National Park. As artist and photographer of the Teton landscape, Crandall became both a Jenny Lake homesteader and a fervent early supporter of the establishment of the park. And with the growth of tourism, Crandall also became one of the earliest concessionaires, selling national park souvenirs and art.

In 1924, he and Hilda homesteaded 120 acres northeast of Jenny Lake and opened the String Lake Dance Pavilion. Although immensely popular with valley residents and "dudes" from local dude ranches, the summer-run, open-air dance hall operated for only 2.5 years because Hank wanted to focus on opening an art studio. He designed his rustic log structure to withstand heavy snows, incorporating sky lights for added natural light and an intricate cross-hatch pattern on the ceiling. Wood from the dismantled dance pavilion was used by local artisans to build the log cabin in 1925 and 1926, and the Crandall Studio opened in 1927. Hand-painted photo postcards of ranch life and the Teton landscape became very popular. Later offerings included paintings, photographs, cameras and film, animal skins, and Navajo rugs. In 1929, when the Snake River Land Company bought the Crandall property, Hank received one of the first concession permits in Grand Teton National Park and relocated his studio nearer to Jenny Lake. It was relocated again in about 1960 and finally moved to its present site in 1991, where the historic building received treatment to rehabilitate and restore its logs, flooring and fireplace.

Crandall's oil paintings often depicted scenic Teton landscapes but he is also known for paintings of 32 species of wildflowers, which provided an invaluable ecological record of the Jackson valley to the US Biological Service during the 1920s to 1940s. Through his art, Crandall became an influential promoter of Grand Teton National Park and the National Park Service, inspiring and informing countless people and future generations. He died in 1970 at the age of 83. His daughter Quita Pownall, an artist herself with formal art training, was occasionally tutored by her father; she hand painted many of the Crandall photographs, including his wildflower panels.

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Crandall's painting will be added to the Teton Collection, which serves as a testament to the crucial role that art has played in preserving Grand Teton National Park and other public lands, and reflects the historic significance of artwork throughout the greater Jackson Hole area. Initiated by the Grand Teton Association (formerly Grand Teton Natural History Association) in the late 1950s, this eclectic art collection features work by John Clymer, Olaus Murie, Conrad Schwiering, Jim Wilcox, Joanne Hennes, and Harrison Crandall. These artists, and many others, found creative inspiration from the Teton landscape, and each skillfully captured the spectacular scenery and wild inhabitants of this region. Much of the Teton Collection is now showcased in the art gallery at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming. The Grand Teton Association is currently in the process of creating an informational brochure to hand out at the gallery that will provide an overview of all the artists and their paintings.

The Jenny Lake Visitor Center — historic Crandall Studio — is located eight miles north of Moose Junction on the Teton Park Road and open daily from late May through late September. It is scheduled to close for the 2008 season on September 27.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



Herb and Quita Pownall present Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott with original painting by Quita's father, Harrison Crandall.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



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

Jackie Skaggs
307/739-3393

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



Mary Cernicek
307/739-5564

Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release

September 10, 2008

Fending Off Aquatic Invasive Species

Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest are partnering to provide Teton County residents with an opportunity to learn more about aquatic invasive species that threaten Wyoming's waterways. Interested persons are invited to attend a free barbecue dinner and presentation on Wednesday evening, September 17th. Boaters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts who use Wyoming's lakes and streams will learn about invasive species that threaten the health of these waterways from Bob Wiltshire of the Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species out of Livingston, Montana. Wiltshire will give a presentation immediately following the barbecue to inform the audience of the consequences of aquatic infestations, and to offer suggestions about what can be done to protect local waters.

The barbecue will be held from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the University of Wyoming/National Park Service Research Center — formerly known as the historic AMK Ranch — located one mile north of Colter Bay near Leeks Marina.

“Anyone recreating in the waters of the Greater Yellowstone Area, or anyone interested in learning about protecting Wyoming's watersheds would be a well served to attend this dinner and presentation,” said Bridger-Teton National Forest Supervisor Kniffy Hamilton. “Bob Wiltshire is a recognized authority on the subject of aquatic invasives, and as a community, we are fortunate to have such an expert come to share with us how our role can serve to slow the spread of these nuisance species,” said Hamilton.

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott said, “Aquatic invasive species are a growing concern across the western states and other parts of the country. As a first step to address this problem locally, the park initiated a self-certification program this past summer whereby people applying for a park boat permit could certify that their watercraft was free of contamination.” Superintendent Scott added, “Grand Teton has also ordered a high-pressure decontamination system that boaters can use in the future before they launched their craft on park lakes or the Snake River.”

Currently, efforts are underway to survey waterways across Wyoming's Teton and Lincoln counties and to look for and identify various aquatic invasive species that could be colonizing in area waters.

--XXX--



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2008 08-65

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Site Visit Scheduled for Future Prospectus on Guided Float Trips, Fishing Trips, Multi-Day Lake Trips and/or Guided Horseback Rides

Grand Teton National Park anticipates issuing a prospectus soliciting proposals to provide guided float trips and fishing trips on the Snake River, multi-day lake trips on Jackson Lake, and/or guided horseback rides in the park. The prospectus is expected to be released in late 2008, when roads and/or launch points will likely be closed for the winter. Consequently, a site visit is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2008, in order to provide interested parties an early opportunity to see the areas authorized for operation.

There are currently eleven concessioners providing these services within Grand Teton National Park. An additional contract may be awarded to provide guided fishing trips on the section of the Snake River south of Moose only. The existing concession contracts authorize and designate specific activities related to launch and takeout points, passenger meeting points, and meal sites if permitted, as well as the number of launches allowed per day and month.

A site visit is not required to submit a proposal for the upcoming prospectus; however it is highly encouraged to take this opportunity. The site visit will view existing boat launch and takeout locations and address questions about the existing concession contracts. No questions specific to the upcoming prospectus will be entertained during the site visit. Instead, questions specific to the future prospectus will be answered after it is issued later this year.

The site visit will begin at 9 a.m. at the Grand Teton National Park headquarters building in Moose, Wyoming. Parties interested in attending the site visit must R.S.V.P. by the close of business on Monday, September 22, 2008 to Grand Teton National Park Chief of Business Resources Mallory Smith by phone at 307.739.3434 or by e-mail at Mallory_Smith@nps.gov. If responding via email, please include the names of all persons planning to participate.

Once an R.S.V.P. is received, specific information will be provided on the meeting location and visit agenda.

—NPS—
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
September 12, 2008 08-66

Jackie Skaggs / Jenn Ladino
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Launched Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program in 2008

Grand Teton National Park participated this past summer in a new National Park Service (NPS) program called “Teacher to Ranger to Teacher” (TRT). By hiring educators from across America, Grand Teton joined other national parks in recruiting teachers and enlisting their help to encourage young people to learn about their national parks. Erica Vogt from St. Mary, Pennsylvania, Carmi Strom from San Diego, California, and Nelson Turner from Brentwood, Tennessee, spent eight weeks of the summer season working for the park’s division of interpretation. After returning to their respective classrooms, these three teachers will now create curriculums to introduce their students to the remarkable American heritage that national parks preserve.

The TRT program targets areas with large, ethnically diverse populations and links national parks with teachers from Title 1 urban and rural school districts — those that qualify for federal funding to help disadvantaged youths achieve state-mandated academic standards. Selected participants spend the summer working as park rangers, performing various duties related to their own interests and the needs of the park. Their duties may include developing and presenting interpretive programs for the general public, staffing visitor center desks, developing curriculum-based materials, and assisting resource management through research or other special projects. Then, during the school year, these teacher-rangers bring the parks into their classrooms by developing and presenting new lesson plans that draw on their in-park experience. During National Park Week in April, teacher-rangers will wear their NPS uniforms to school and discuss their summer experiences as a park ranger; they will also engage students and other teachers in activities related to national parks, and talk about the role that the NPS plays in preserving our nation’s legacy.

Erica Vogt, a middle school reading teacher from St. Mary’s School District, worked at the Jenny Lake Visitor Center. Vogt said of her TRT experience, “I loved taking visitors on hikes and teaching them about the wonders of the area. I also loved the fact that I worked for the Park Service, which is committed to conserving our natural resources.” She also stated that, “I hope to show my students that there is so much of the world to learn about and explore. I want them to keep filling their vessels, and to keep finding ways to make a better life for themselves.”

Carmi Strom, a resource teacher from the Oak Park Music Conservatory who worked at the Colter Bay Visitor Center, said he intends to “show my students that national parks are not just pictures in books, but places where you can actually visit to experience the incredible scenery and wildlife, or perhaps even work in.” He added that he was “extremely proud to wear the NPS uniform and to work as a park ranger.” Strom previously taught at Oak Park Elementary School in San Diego and was named teacher of the year in 2001/02. Prior to his summer in Grand Teton, Strom worked as a seasonal park interpreter for Great Basin and Denali national parks, Cabrillo National Monument, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

Middle school science teacher, Nelson Turner, worked at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Turner said, "This was an experience of a lifetime and I feel very fortunate to have been given this amazing opportunity." Turner presented a program on astronomy as part of his seasonal work and often marveled at the brightness of stars in the Wyoming night sky. He plans to develop a geology unit to explain the physical environment of Grand Teton to his Tennessee students. Turner commented that, "I thought I came as a teacher, but I found out that I was more like a student in summer school, learning about the natural world from knowledgeable park staff."

The TRT program is made possible through an Inter-governmental Personnel Act Agreement (IPA) between the public school district and the NPS. The program was initiated in 2003 and became a national program in 2007. This summer, over 80 teacher-rangers wearing NPS uniforms served visitors at various parks nationwide while learning about park resources and issues. As park ambassadors, the teacher-rangers are taking the knowledge gained back to their home schools and sharing their unique experience with children who may one day become ambassadors themselves.



Ranger Nelson Turner swears in a young Junior Ranger



Ranger Erica Vogt at Jenny Lake VC



Ranger Carmi Strom gives talk on Colter Bay VC back deck

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2008 08-xx

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Changes in Facility Operations at Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park's facilities and operations will make the annual transition from summer season to fall season during the next few weeks. The following dates reflect the facility closings that will occur during late September and throughout October.

SEPTEMBER CLOSURES

Campgrounds

Lizard Creek	September 2	(closed)
Flagg Ranch	September 21	(12 noon)
Jenny Lake	September 28	(12 noon)
Colter Bay	September 28	(12 noon)

Ranger Stations & Visitor Centers

Flagg Ranch Information Station	September 2	(closed)
Jenny Lake Ranger Station	September 21	(5:00 pm)
Jenny Lake Visitor Center	September 27	(4:30 pm)

OCTOBER CLOSURES

Campgrounds

Gros Ventre	October 12	(12 noon)
Signal Mountain	October 19	(12 noon)

Ranger Stations & Visitor Centers

Colter Bay Visitor Center	October 13	(5:00 pm)
Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center	October 13	(5:00 pm)

Entrance Stations

Granite Canyon	October 31	(5:00 pm)
Moose	October 31	(5:00 pm)
Moran	October 31	(5:00 pm)

Road Closures for Motorized Use

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

CONCESSIONER LODGING CLOSURES

Colter Bay	September 28
Jackson Lake Lodge	October 5
Jenny Lake Lodge	October 5
Flagg Ranch	October 6
Signal Mountain Lodge	October 19
Triangle X	October 31

The public is welcome to contact the park for more detailed closure information at 307.739.3300, or consult the park's newspaper, *Teewinot*, online at www.nps.gov. A winter opening schedule will be announced in December.

—NPS—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2008 08-xx

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

National Public Lands Day Celebration to Include Author Alfred Runte

In recognition of the 15th annual National Public Lands Day, Grand Teton National Park will host a presentation by guest speaker, Alfred Runte, on Saturday, September 27 at 2 p.m. in the Director's Room at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming. This presentation is free and open to the public; an author book signing will follow in the Discovery Center's bookstore. In addition to Runte's special appearance, all entrance fees (including commercial tour fees) will be waived for visitors entering the Grand Teton National Park on September 27.

Alfred "Al" Runte is an environmental historian and former college educator who taught at five major institutions of higher education, including Baylor University in Waco, Texas and the University of Washington in Seattle. Runte's literary works focus on parks, conservation, and public transportation. He has written numerous books on these subjects; his first book, *National Parks: The American Experience* (1979; revised 1987, 1997), has been praised as the definitive study of the national park idea. Recently, Runte completed a history of railroads and the environment, titled *Allies of the Earth: Railroads and the Soul of Preservation*. Runte is also advising Ken Burns on a forthcoming PBS series titled "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" due to air in the fall of 2009.

Runte's lecture, *Our Public Lands: An American Legacy*, will focus on public lands with an emphasis on the National Park System. During his talk, Runte plans to encourage his audience to ponder such questions as: How did our public lands come into being? What should be done to protect them? Are public lands something that Americans want to protect for future generations, and keep for their present-day use and enjoyment?

Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott expressed her support of National Public Lands Day and stated that, "With the fall color display and watchable wildlife, September is a truly special time to visit Grand Teton National Park and take advantage of a free entry day. I hope that local residents and park visitors will also make time to attend Mr. Runte's presentation, which promises to be informative and thought-provoking."

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with the purpose to increase awareness of the value of all public lands, to foster shared stewardship of America's national resources, and to encourage people to volunteer their time. Federal land agencies have created partnerships with private individuals and citizen groups in an effort to improve, restore or enhance public lands and to provide additional opportunities for education, outdoor recreation, and enjoyment. Eight federal agencies and many state and local partners, plus dozens of non-profit organizations, tens of thousands of individuals, and national sponsor Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. are expected to participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands.

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

Please visit <http://www.publiclandsday.org> for more information.

—NPS—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2008 08-69

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Receives Shipment of Bear-Proof Food Storage Boxes

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott is pleased to announce that a shipment of 52 bear-proof food storage boxes has been delivered to the park, thanks to financial support from the Grand Teton National Park Foundation (GTNPF) and the Grand Teton Lodge Company (GTLC). Durable bear-proof food storage boxes provide a convenient method of securing human foods away from the reach of bears. Although a few boxes were already stationed at some picnic sites and campgrounds throughout the park, obtaining additional boxes has become a high priority of the park's bear management program.

The GTNPF — a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Grand Teton National Park by raising funds for special programs and projects — began a focused campaign in 2008 to secure money for the purchase of food storage boxes in an effort to reduce bear-human conflicts. The GTLC — an authorized park concessioner — joined in the endeavor and supplied additional funding through a campground improvement program required under their current contract. Other funding was supplied by the National Park Service through concessioner franchise fees.

Bear-proof food storage boxes cost \$1,100 each. The GTLC committed approximately \$20,000 in funding for 2008 to place bear boxes in high priority sites. Franchise fees will provide an additional \$25,000/year for the next four years. GTNPF donors have provided funding for 21 boxes to date, with the promise of additional donations in the future. The generosity of individual GTNPF donors will be acknowledged through the placement of donor recognition plaques on the boxes.

More than 3.5 million visitors come to Grand Teton National Park each year, most during the summer months, and thousands of them picnic or stay overnight at one of the park's 916 campsites. Proper food storage is vital to prevent bears from becoming "human food-conditioned" while they search for available food sources throughout the park; however, nearly 85% of the park's front country campsites lack these sturdy containers. The park has identified approximately 850 front country sites for bear-proof food storage box installation. This first shipment of boxes will be placed at the String Lake picnic area and in the Colter Bay tent village and campground.

Since 2006, park rangers have documented almost daily violations of food storage regulations by careless or uninformed visitors. Although overall compliance with food storage regulations is high, it only takes one incident of a bear obtaining food for them to get food-conditioned and become a potential nuisance bear. Out of concern for public safety, nuisance bears are often removed from the park, and in serious cases, nuisance bears are euthanized. By being widely available for visitors to use, bear-proof food storage boxes will help prevent bears from becoming food-conditioned.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2008 08-70

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Site Visit Scheduled for Upcoming Lodging, Food and Beverage, Retail and Marina Services Prospectus in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park anticipates issuing a prospectus soliciting proposals to provide lodging, food and beverage, retail and marina services at the Signal Mountain Lodge and Leeks Marina areas of Grand Teton National Park. The prospectus is expected to be released during the spring of 2009 when facilities and roads will still be closed for the winter season. A site visit is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2008, in order to allow interested parties an opportunity to see the facilities prior to their season closure.

The site visit will examine existing concession facilities and areas authorized for operations, and also address questions about the existing concession contract. The existing concession operation is located in northwest Wyoming within Grand Teton National Park, specifically, on the shores of Jackson Lake at the Signal Mountain Lodge and Leeks Marina areas. The NPS has determined that the existing concessioner is not a preferred offeror for the new contract, pursuant to the terms of 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51—Concession Contracts and Permits.

A site visit is not required to submit a proposal for the prospectus, but is encouraged. No questions specific to the prospectus will be entertained during the site visit; however, questions specific to the prospectus will be answered after it is issued.

The site visit will begin at 9 a.m. at Signal Mountain Lodge, located 17 miles north of Grand Teton National Park headquarters at Moose, Wyoming. Parties interested in attending must R.S.V.P. by the close of business on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, to Mallory Smith at 307.739.3434 or by e-mail at Mallory_Smith@nps.gov. If responding via email, please include the names of all persons planning to participate in the site visit. Once an R.S.V.P. is received, information will be provided on the specific meeting location and visit agenda.

—NPS—
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
October 6, 2008 08-xx

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

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

The annual elk reduction program in Grand Teton National Park will begin on Saturday, October 11, 2008. Under its 1950 enabling legislation, Grand Teton National Park is mandated by federal law to conduct an elk reduction program — when necessary — for the conservation of the elk population in Jackson Hole. Since the elk herd is currently above its management objective of 11,000 animals, intensive management (including the reduction program) is warranted. The need for the park's elk reduction program stems partly from an annual winter feeding program on the National Elk Refuge, which sustains high numbers of elk with unnaturally low mortality rates. A majority of elk that are fed on the refuge either summer in, or use migration routes through Grand Teton National Park; as a result, the reduction program has historically included specified park lands.

The elk reduction program utilizes Wyoming licensed hunters that apply for and receive limited quota permits in hunt areas #75 and #79. As provided in the 1950 legislation, a park permit deputizes hunters as park rangers with the authority to take one elk each. Permits are issued for either any elk, or for cow/calf elk.

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

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

During the 2007 elk reduction program, many grizzly bears moved widely throughout Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest in pursuit of discarded gut piles and other remains. Bear #399, a 12-year-old female, and her three sub-adult cubs were among those that followed the activities of hunters in the region. Because these bears were comfortable foraging near roads and other developed areas, they served as visible reminders of grizzly bear recovery in the southern portion of the GYE, including increasing numbers of grizzlies in the southern portion of Grand Teton National Park.

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 2008 08-72

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Nighttime Travel Closures Planned for Park Roads

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that the installation of a large culvert on Highway 89/287 at Huckleberry Hill between Lizard Creek campground and Flagg Ranch Resort will require a temporary overnight travel closure from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. on October 20, 21 and 22. Although the culvert installation work is scheduled to be completed in one night, motorists should plan for overnight travel restrictions to be in place on any one—if not all three—of the scheduled nights as a result of weather conditions, or other circumstances, that may impede the operation.

The north park road improvement project on Highway 89/287 will continue during the summer of 2009. Work will begin in April, weather permitting, and continue through mid-November. During that time, the road will be resurfaced and widened to be consistent with the pavement width from the Snake River Bridge to the south gate of Yellowstone National Park. Traffic will be restricted to one lane during this phase of the project, and 30-minute delays can be expected.

In addition to the overnight travel restriction on Huckleberry Hill, the Teton Park Road will also be closed between Taggart Lake parking area and South Jenny Lake so that a heavy-duty crane can off load and set in place a pedestrian bridge over Cottonwood Creek on the new multi-use pathway. The bridge placement is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, and the roadway will be closed from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

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

—NPS—
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
October 27, 2008 08-xx

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Seasonal Road Closures and Hours of Operation in Grand Teton National Park

Jackson Hole residents and park visitors are reminded that two roads within Grand Teton National Park will close to vehicular traffic for the winter season beginning Friday evening, October 31, 2008. Vehicle closures include the length of the Teton Park Road between Taggart Lake parking area and the Signal Mountain Lodge parking lot, as well as the Moose-Wilson Road between Granite Canyon and Death Canyon trailheads.

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

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

NOTE: The new multi-use pathways running from Dornan's near Moose Junction to South Jenny Lake parking area is still a construction zone and not yet open for public use. For safety reasons, no one is allowed on the pathway until announcement is made that it is officially open; this includes bikers, walkers, strollers, in-line skaters, etc. **ALL** visitors and local residents must stay off this pathway.

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

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2008 8-74

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Gros Ventre Road and River Embankment Project Scheduled

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a road improvement project is scheduled to begin on Friday, November 14 on the Gros Ventre Road, about two miles east of the junction with Highway 26/89/191. The construction project will stabilize a 300-foot section of the Gros Ventre River embankment and the adjacent roadway in the aftermath of emergency repairs that were made to the area in late May during high water run-off. The project is anticipated to be completed in one week's time, weather depending.

No traffic delays are anticipated to occur during this road improvement project; however, motorists should be alert for construction vehicles and equipment at the site and along the river bank near the roadway.

The road construction project will be conducted for several reasons: 1) to strengthen the boulder armoring that was installed to protect the river bank during the 2008 spring run-off; 2) to grade the embankment slope and further reinforce it; and 3) to plant native vegetation to stabilize the soils.

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2008 08-75

Jackie Skaggs /
307.739.3393 /

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Ditch Creek Road Closure Scheduled in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that a closure of the Ditch Creek Road just east of the Teton Science School, will occur on two days next week, Wednesday, November 19 and Thursday, November 20, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The road closures are planned to allow for two 30,000-gallon water tanks to be unloaded and positioned at the Science School's Kelly campus as part of a project directed by Grand Teton National Park to rehabilitate their water system.

The closures are required to safely stage a crane needed to off load two large water tanks. The water system improvement work is close to completion and installation of these custom made tanks is one of the last major tasks required to conclude the project. As a result of this effort, water system quality and service, along with fire fighting capabilities, will be improved at the Kelly campus, located in Grand Teton National Park.

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

—NPS—
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
November 20, 2008 08-76

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Rescheduled Closure of Ditch Creek Road in Grand Teton National Park

A closure of the Ditch Creek Road, just east of the Teton Science School, will occur on Monday, November 24 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The temporary road closure was previously scheduled for yesterday and today; however, a delay in the delivery of two large water tanks has caused a change for the anticipated closure.

The road will be temporarily closed to allow for placement of two 30,000-gallon tanks to be unloaded and positioned at the Science School's Kelly campus as part of a project directed by Grand Teton National Park to rehabilitate their water system.

The closures are required to safely stage a crane needed to off load two large water tanks. The water system improvement work is close to completion and installation of these custom made tanks is one of the last major tasks required to conclude the project. As a result of this effort, water system quality and service, along with fire fighting capabilities, will be improved at the Kelly campus, located in Grand Teton National Park.

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

—NPS—
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
December 8, 2008 08-77

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Winter Season Activities to Begin in Grand Teton National Park

Activities for the 2008/09 winter season begin in Grand Teton National Park on Monday, December 15. The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center (12 miles north of Jackson, Wyoming) is open year-round and winter hours run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Discovery Center will close to observe the Christmas holiday on December 25.

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

- \$25 Seven-day Pass valid for single vehicle entry into Grand Teton and Yellowstone
- \$50 Grand Teton/Yellowstone Annual Pass valid for one year entry into both parks
- \$80 Interagency Annual Pass valid for one year entry to all federal land management fee areas

Ranger-led snowshoe hikes will begin December 26 at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. This 2-hour activity is offered every day at 2 p.m. and previous experience is not necessary. Snowshoes are provided for a requested donation of \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids aged 8 years and older. Reservations are required and can be made at 307.739.3399.

Backcountry users and mountaineers planning to stay overnight in the backcountry must get a non-fee permit before their trip at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Permits are not required for day users. To obtain weather forecasts and avalanche hazard information, stop at the Discovery Center, visit the backcountry Web site www.jhavalanche.org, or call the avalanche hotline at 307.733.2664.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular winter activities in the park. Trails are skier tracked, but not groomed. The Teton Park Road (TPR) is a designated winter trail, open to non-motorized use. During the winter season, the unplowed TPR will be intermittently groomed for cross-country touring and skate skiing from the Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain. Severe winter storms or park emergencies may preempt the trail grooming schedule on occasion.

Important reminder: Snowshoers should walk adjacent to – and not on top of – cross-country ski tracks.

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

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

—MORE—

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

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 keep dogs off the groomed ski tracks as a courtesy to other trail users.

Mutt Mitt stations are in place at the TPR trailheads to dispense plastic bags for pet waste; trash receptacles are also available for disposal of used bags. Pet owners are **required** to clean up their pet's waste and **properly dispose** of the bags in the receptacles provided. Some pet owners have left used bags along the side of the road, and when these bags become buried in snow, they cause problems for rotary snow plows during the spring road opening. If pet owners do not comply with the rules and regulations—especially with regard to pet waste disposal and leash rules—it is possible that pets will be prohibited from the TPR in the future.

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

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

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

Snowmobilers are required to use only approved best available technology (BAT) machines on Jackson Lake. Before operating a snowmobile in Grand Teton, review current snowmobile regulations and approved BAT machines online at http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/current_batlist.htm, or stop at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Wyoming.

Snowmobiles may also use the Grassy Lake Road in the JDR Parkway for recreation. For winter 2008/09, BAT machines are required if an oversnow trip originates from Flagg Ranch Resort, while non BAT machines are allowed for trips beginning in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

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

—NPS—
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
December 22, 2008 08-78

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Applications Available for the 2009 Boyd Evison Fellowship

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott and Grand Teton Association Executive Director Jan Lynch announce that applications are available for the 2009 Boyd Evison Graduate Research Fellowship. Supported by donations to the Grand Teton Association (GTA), the Evison Fellowship provides whole or substantial support for new graduate studies that increase public awareness of the importance of science to parks, and of parks to science. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for research of the intangible and disappearing aspects of Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and public or private lands surrounding the Greater Yellowstone Area.

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

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

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

Applications for the 2009 Boyd Evison Fellowship must be postmarked by February 13, 2009; the recipient will be announced on April 15.

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

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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