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FREE

Yellowstone

YOUR GUIDE TO AMERICA'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE: THEN AND NOW
100 YEARS WITH THE PARK SERVICE

ESSENTIAL DAY TRIPS

KIDS' PAGES

PLUS: WILDLIFE GUIDE

PHOTO BY MACNEIL LYONS



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JUNE 2016 - JUNE 2017

Yellowstone

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

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Table of Contents

MAPS

Getting to Yellowstone.....	10
Exploring Yellowstone.....	11

PARK NEWS

Yellowstone: Then and Now.....	12
--------------------------------	----

DAY TRIPS

A Summer Day at Yellowstone's Grand Canyon.....	17
--	----

FAMILY

Family Fun in Yellowstone.....	20
--------------------------------	----

KIDS

Activity page.....	23
--------------------	----

WILDLIFE

Animal Guide.....	24
Bear Spray works.....	26

FISHING

Fall fishing in Yellowstone.....	28
----------------------------------	----

ADVENTURE

Back into the wild.....	34
-------------------------	----

SCIENCE

Yellowstone launches audio project with Montana State University.....	41
--	----

PARK HISTORY

Of Pride and Progress: Forty Years in Yellowstone.....	52
Theodore Roosevelt: Champion of Public Lands.....	60
100 Years in Yellowstone: National Park Service timeline.....	68

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.....	72
--------------------------------	-----------

ON THE COVER: "Rainbow Arch": The historic Roosevelt Arch was built in 1903 at the North Entrance to Yellowstone National Park in Gardiner, Montana. President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated the arch in August of that year, and its inscription holds true today, inspiring consideration for how we can sustainably enjoy our national parks.
PHOTO BY MACNEIL LYONS / YELLOWSTONEINSIGHT.COM

From the Editor: No place like Yellowstone

When family or friends visit you in southwest Montana, the first thing they want to see is Yellowstone National Park. And that's a good thing.

When my sister-in-law, Sarah, flew out from New York this spring, her first request was to tour the park. Her second was to see a wolf. I had never glimpsed one in the wild, so when we set out from Gardiner on a sunny Saturday in April, I told Sarah I couldn't guarantee her second wish.

But within 30 minutes of entering the North Entrance to the park, we were peering through my camera lens at a massive gray wolf, lying majestically on a butte about 500 yards from the road. He was lone and appeared to be posing for the slew of photographers lining the roadside.

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, and in this issue of *Explore Yellowstone*, we invite you to get your boots muddy; to focus your camera lenses; to immerse yourself in the splendor of Yellowstone.

In these pages, however, you will also learn that this exploration comes with an asterisk: Tread lightly.

In 2015, Yellowstone set a record when more than 4 million visitors entered through its gates, and this year – with the centennial of the Park Service and historically low gas prices – park officials expect this number to only increase.

There are few places in this country where we can witness the landscape in its most natural state. Yellowstone is the oldest national park in the world, and its land was set aside for our enjoyment and that of future generations. It's up to us to ensure its longevity. There's no place like it.

Joseph T. O'Connor
Managing Editor



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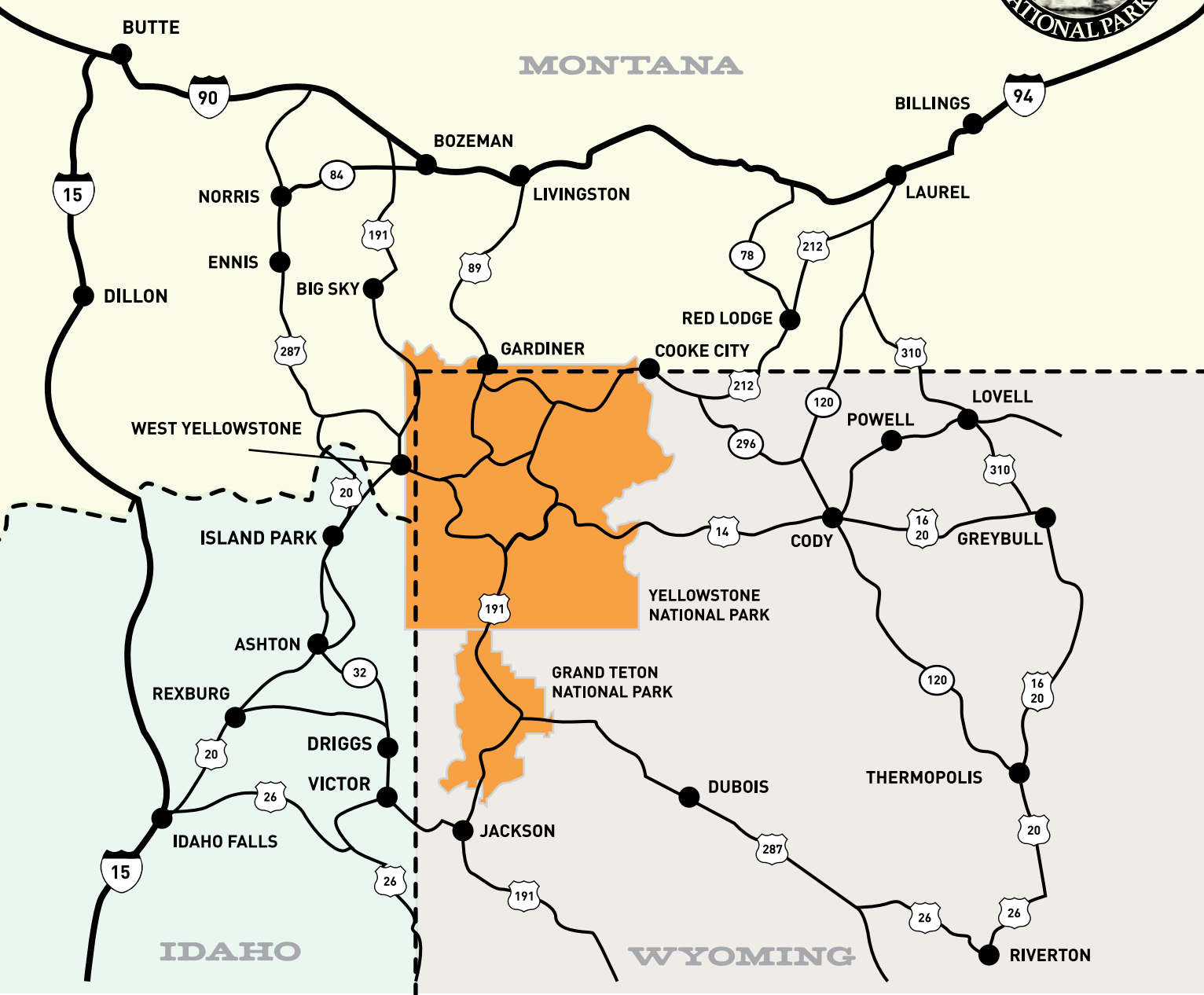
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>YELLOWSTONE NP</p> <p>Release of Yellowstone Centennial Pendleton Blanket TUESDAY JUNE 21 West Yellowstone, MT 7 a.m.</p> <p>National Park Service Centennial Celebration FRIDAY AUGUST 25 Arch Park, Gardiner, MT 7 p.m.</p> <p>13th Biennial Scientific Conference of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem OCTOBER 4, 5 & 6 Grand Teton National Park</p> <p>National Park FREE Days AUGUST 25 - 28 SEPTEMBER 24 NOVEMBER 11</p>	<p>Livingston Classic PBR (Professional Bull Riding) AUGUST 6 Livingston, MT</p> <p>Cycle Greater Yellowstone AUGUST 13 - 20 Bozeman, MT</p>	<p>Snowmobile Expo & Powersports Show MARCH 2017 West Yellowstone, MT TBA</p>
<p>NORTH ENTRANCE</p> <p>Hell's A-Roarin Horse Drive SATURDAY MAY 28 Gardiner Rodeo Grounds 12 p.m. - 11 p.m.</p> <p>Upper Yellowstone Roundup 38th Annual NRA Rodeo JUNE 17 & 18 Gardiner, MT 2 p.m.</p> <p>Roundup Rodeo JULY 2, 3 & 4 Livingston, MT</p> <p>Beartooth Rally & Iron Horse Rodeo JULY 15, 16 & 17 Red Lodge, MT</p> <p>3rd Annual Old Faithful Golf Scramble FRIDAY, JULY 22 Black Bull Golf Course, Bozeman, MT</p>	<p>WEST ENTRANCE</p> <p>Yellowstone Half Marathon FRIDAY JUNE 11 West Yellowstone, MT 7 a.m.</p> <p>Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo JUNE 15 - AUGUST 27 West Yellowstone, MT 8 p.m.</p> <p>Music in the Mountains THURSDAYS JUNE 23 - AUGUST 25 Big Sky, MT 7 p.m.</p> <p>Big Sky Art Auction JULY 28 Big Sky, MT 5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Big Sky PBR (Professional Bull Riding) JULY 29 & 30 Big Sky, MT</p> <p>Smoking Waters Mountain Man Rendezvous & Living History Encampment AUGUST 5 - 14 West Yellowstone, MT</p> <p>Beer Fest in West OCTOBER 2016 West Yellowstone, MT TBA</p> <p>Yellowstone Ski Festival NOVEMBER 22 - 26 West Yellowstone, MT</p>	<p>EAST ENTRANCE</p> <p>Cody Night Rodeo JUNE 1 - AUGUST 31 Cody, WY</p> <p>Buffalo Bill Invitational Shootout AUGUST 11, 12 & 13 Cody, WY</p> <p>Rendezvous Royale SEPTEMBER 17 - 24 Cody, WY</p> <p>Color Dash 5K AUGUST 27 Cody, WY</p>
		<p>SOUTH ENTRANCE</p> <p>Jackson Hole Shootout MAY 30 - SEPTEMBER 5 Jackson, WY Town Square 8 p.m.</p> <p>Teton Valley Balloon Rally JULY 1 - 4 Teton Valley, ID</p> <p>Green River Rendezvous JULY 7 - 10 Pinedale, WY</p> <p>Targhee Fest Music Festival JULY 15, 16 & 17 Grand Targhee Resort, WY</p> <p>Grand Targhee Bluegrass Fest AUGUST 12, 13 & 14 Grand Targhee Resort, WY</p> <p>Jackson Hole Rendezvous Spring Festival MARCH 2017 Jackson, WY</p>

Getting to Yellowstone



YELLOWSTONE & GRAND TETON NP ENTRANCE FEES

Vehicles

\$30 per vehicle to visit each individual park or \$50 for a two-park vehicle pass, for one to seven days

Motorcycles

\$25 for each park or \$40 for both parks, for one to seven days

Foot/bicycle

\$15 for each park (16 and older) or \$20 for both parks, for one to seven days

Annual passes

\$60 for each individual park. An \$80 Interagency Pass is valid for entry to all fee areas on federal lands

Interagency Senior Pass

\$10 lifetime pass available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 and older

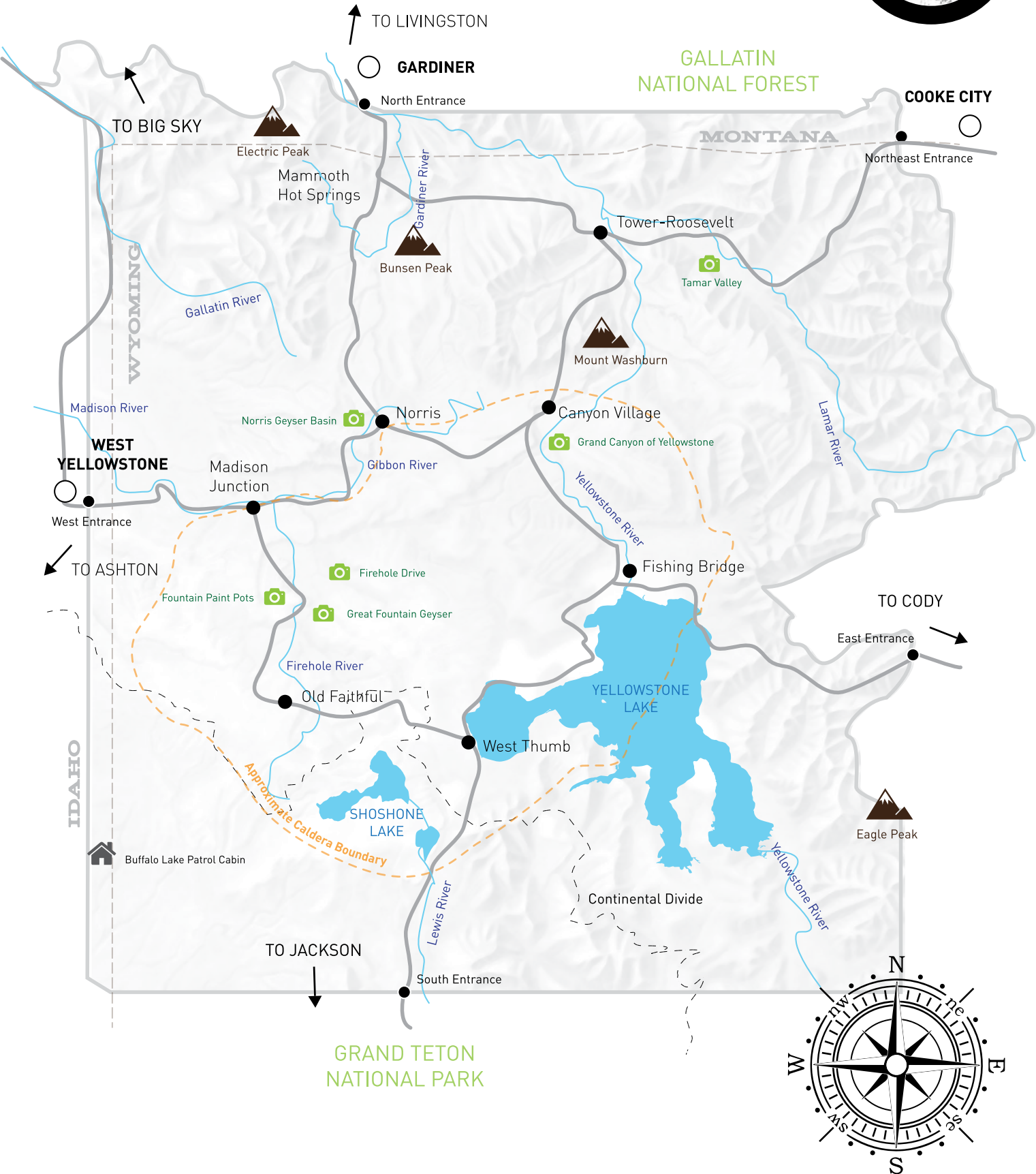
Military Annual Pass

A free annual pass available for active duty military personnel, and their dependents, with proper identification

Free Entrance Days

Every 16th day of the month in 2016
 Aug. 25-28: National Park Service Birthday
 Sept. 24: National Public Lands Day
 Nov. 11: Veterans Day
 Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Exploring Yellowstone



Yellowstone: Then and Now

As the National Park Service turns 100, the world's first national park prepares for the next century of service



U.S. Army soldiers on the Gardiner Rifle Range outside Gardiner, Montana, circa 1910. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BY SARAH GIANELLI

“National parks are crucial for people to understand who they are, where they’ve been, and where they can go. Parks offer firsthand opportunities to immerse ourselves in these places that help shape who we are, protect our collective natural and cultural heritage, and enrich our life experiences. If a place is a national park, it is because it really matters.”

-Raymond M. Sauvajot,
National Park Service,
Washington, D.C.

A good-natured rivalry has long existed between Yellowstone and Yosemite over which is truly the world's first national park. But as the National Park Service ushers in its 100-year anniversary, there's really no contesting that Yellowstone holds the honor, even if the distinction is grounded in a geographical technicality.

Both parks were established long before the formation of the Park Service in 1916: Yosemite in 1864 and Yellowstone in 1872. Although Yosemite was cordoned off first, California was already a state and therefore Yosemite was designated a state park that would not come under federal oversight until

1890. Yellowstone straddled the territories of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. Arguments over which territory would possess the park led to its establishment as a national park under “exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior.” Its establishment as such crowned it the first national park and ignited a worldwide movement that today includes 410 U.S. national parks, and some 1,200 international parks and land preserves.

In 1886, the Secretary of the Interior transferred Yellowstone's management to the U.S. Army for the 30 years leading up to the creation of the Park Service. A lasting vestige of that era can be seen in the Calvary-

inspired “flat hat” still worn by Park Service rangers nationwide (its pinched, four-quadrant top is known as the “Montana peak”). By 1916, a consensus had been reached that an overarching federal body was needed to oversee and protect the growing network of parks across the country, and the National Park Service was born.

The Park Service began gearing up for its centennial anniversary in 2011 with the internal campaign “A Call to Action,” designed to galvanize its 22,000 employees in preparation for a second century of service.

On a national level, the primary focus is outreach. The goal is to engage a more diverse demographic and bring awareness to overlooked park units and historic sites, many of which are within or close to urban areas. Last year the Park Service instituted the “Find Your Park” campaign to connect people with parks close to home and provide a forum for the exchange of personal stories and experiences.

“We want to see the faces of U.S. people from all different cultures, backgrounds and ages involved with and loving their parks because they belong to everyone,” said Yellowstone’s Chief of Strategic Communications Jody Lyle, about the Find Your Park program.

Increasing visitation is the biggest challenge facing Yellowstone, on a number of fronts. In 2015, Yellowstone broke all its visitation records, jumping 17 percent from the previous year to 4.1 million visits.

**“It’s a big moment ...
And Yellowstone has
been here through it all.”**



Yellowstone’s Grand Prismatic Spring, the largest hot spring in the United States.
PHOTO BY CURTIS AKIN

During peak season of July and August, the park saw average waits of two hours at the West Yellowstone entrance, and reports of another two hours to drive the 14 miles to Madison Junction.

“Forget about it if there were a bison or two hanging out on the side of the road,” Lyle said.

In anticipation of another record-breaking summer in 2016, Yellowstone is implementing short-term fixes such as installing additional bathrooms and reworking signage to promote better traffic flow. Looking ahead, administrators are beginning to ask bigger questions – Is it time to implement a shuttle system similar to that of Zion National Park? Will there come a day to impose visitation limits? And they’re initiating scientific studies that will determine their answers.

“That steep of a jump in visitation was an eye opening experience,” Lyle said of the increase from 2014 to 2015. “It stretched us to a breaking point we had never been at before ... for everything, from staffing to facilities to operations. A lot of people [saw the] effects of crowding; not everyone had the perfect Yellowstone experience ... If it gets to the point where the experience is no longer enjoyable, the whole thing collapses.”

Yellowstone social scientists have begun conducting fieldwork to better understand what visitors value about



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First U.S. Cavalry Guard Mount in 1911 on the Mammoth Parade Ground with Mammoth Hotel, then called the National Hotel, in the background. PHOTO BY GEORGE PETRACH

Yellowstone. “The least studied mammal in this park is the human,” said Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk. “What we learn will help us plan a future that balances visitor experience and protection of resources.”

Yellowstone has long been a leader in the science of ecology, most notably exemplified by the groundbreaking Leopold Report published in 1963. The Leopold Report revolutionized the approach to ecosystem management as scientists began recognizing ecological processes as holistic systems.

During the 2011 Call to Action campaign the Park Service commissioned a dozen outside scientists to review the existing Leopold Report in order to apply its principles to a rapidly changing world confronting contemporary challenges. Climate change, a ubiquitous issue that will affect every park and park resource, is at the top of that list.

“Yellowstone is a reflection of nearly all of the challenges and opportunities that face parks across the system,” said Raymond Sauvajot, Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, an environmental monitoring wing of the Park Service, from his office in Washington, D.C. “As the first park, it demonstrates the incredible success and accomplishment of the national park idea. It is also front and center with the challenges that the [Park Service] faces into the future. The first Leopold Report laid out a framework for ‘letting nature take its course’ in parks. Allowing native predators to return, actively restoring others, eliminating wildlife feeding, [and] controlling non-native species were all

conducted in the spirit of the original Leopold Report. This approach and its consequences are nowhere more apparent than in Yellowstone.”

Despite the fact that Yellowstone encompasses 2.2 million acres and is one of the largest, intact temperate ecosystems on Earth, its livelihood hinges largely upon measures taken in the surrounding states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. The March 2016 proposed delisting of the grizzly bear by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is a current concern. Yellowstone scientists agree that the grizzly population has rebounded (numbers are up from an estimated 135 bears in the 1970s to roughly 750 in the Greater Yellowstone region today) and support delisting, but insist that the species’ ability to thrive will depend on how neighboring states manage bears outside park boundaries.

Despite the complex issues facing national parks – some universal, others site-specific – progress continues to be made. Superintendent Wenk asserts that Yellowstone is healthier today than it was 40 years ago. Wolves have been reintroduced, bison and elk populations have balanced out, and recently, biologists are witnessing a revival of the native cutthroat trout population resulting from the systematic removal of invasive lake trout introduced to Yellowstone Lake 20 years ago.

“If you look at the 100 years of the Park Service, we have matured and come a long way, in the way that we approach management and learning, and we continue to be committed to making the best decisions we can based on the most current science available,” Lyle said.

Yellowstone employees are feeling a special kind of pride as they approach their anniversary celebration on August 25, precisely 100 years to the day President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service. Held in Gardiner, Montana, “An Evening at The Arch: Yellowstone Celebrates the National Park Service Centennial” is a free but ticketed outdoor event expected to draw several thousand attendees for a night of live music and dignitary speeches in Gardiner’s Arch Park outside Yellowstone’s north entrance.

“It’s a big moment,” Lyle said. “And Yellowstone has been here through it all.”

Sarah Gianelli is a freelance writer new to the Greater Yellowstone Region. Driven by curiosity, she writes about a wide range of subjects that include art, travel, personal experience and the eccentric.



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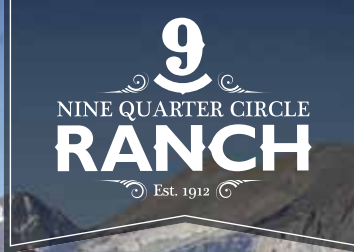
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A Summer Day at Yellowstone's Grand Canyon

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER
YELLOWSTONE PARK FOUNDATION

Old Faithful geyser might be Yellowstone National Park's most famous feature, but there's another destination not to be missed. The dramatic, 1,000-foot-deep Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone rewards visitors with dazzling views of multi-hued rock walls and majestic waterfalls. With walking and hiking trails for all abilities, and learning opportunities for the whole family, it's easy to spend an entire day in this unique area of the park.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is roughly 20 miles long and varies from 1,500 to 4,000 feet wide. Geologists believe it was formed as the Yellowstone River eroded softer, less resistant rock that had been weakened by hydrothermal gases and hot water.

The colorful canyon is a natural work of art: Streaks of red, orange, gold, black, and even green decorate the canyon walls. Several miles of trails connect 10 primary overlooks that afford dramatic views from both sides of the canyon.

Whether it's your first visit to Yellowstone, or you visit regularly, everyone loves a summer day in the park. Here's how to get the most out of yours.



View the canyon and falls

While some views of the canyon and falls are only accessible by trail, you can still get to the following overlooks by car and a short walk from the parking lots on paved, accessible walkways.

- **Brink of the Upper Falls:** Access this viewing area just off Grand Loop Road south of Canyon Junction, between the entrances to North and South Rim drives.
- **From North Rim Drive:** View the Lower Falls from Lookout Point, Grand View and Inspiration Point. Both waterfalls are visible from Brink of the Lower Falls.
- **From South Rim Drive:** See the Upper Falls from two viewpoints at Uncle Tom's Point. View the Lower Falls at Artist Point.

Artist Point Restoration

Historic Artist Point provides the quintessential view of the Lower Falls. Once in disrepair, a \$1 million restoration of this world-famous promontory, funded by the Yellowstone Park Foundation, was completed in 2008.

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PHOTO: MARIA BISSO



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Take a Hike

The best way to experience all the different facets of the Canyon's charm is to pick a trail and go for a hike. There are many trails along both canyon rims, from short jaunts to all-day treks. Here are a few of our favorites.



North Rim hikes

North Rim Trail (*easy*): Start this trail on either end and take in stunning views from several spots. Portions of this trail are paved and wheelchair accessible, especially near the major overlooks.
3 miles

Brink of the Lower Falls Trail (*moderate*): Descend 600 feet on a steep trail to get an up-close and personal view of the Lower Falls in all its thundering power.
0.7 miles, round-trip

Hidden gem: Seven Mile Hole Trail (*strenuous*): You'll want to commit a whole day to this trail – the only one that leads to the canyon bottom.
10.2 miles, round-trip

South Rim hikes

South Rim Trail (*easy*): This partially paved trail parallels the canyon, winding in and out of the forest, and connects with several viewpoints including Uncle Tom's Point and Artist Point.
1.75 miles to Artist Point

Uncle Tom's Trail (*strenuous*): A series of steep, paved sections and more than 300 steel-sheeting steps lead you 500 feet down to a viewing platform and a fantastic view of the Lower Falls.
0.8 miles, round-trip

Hidden gem: Point Sublime Trail (*easy*): Follow the South Rim Trail beyond Artist Point to this less-traveled path, which meanders along the canyon rim to the aptly named Point Sublime.
1.3 miles from Artist Point to Point Sublime



What Next?

Learn more about the geology, wildlife and history of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone through one of the excellent opportunities provided by the National Park Service.

Interactive and multimedia exhibits at the NPS Canyon Visitor Education Center explore a fascinating Yellowstone feature: the Yellowstone supervolcano. Check out the 9,000-pound, rotating "kugel ball" that illustrates global volcanic hotspots, and a room-sized relief model of Yellowstone that shows locations of volcanic eruptions, lava flows, and earthquake faults.

And don't miss the world's largest lava lamp! You can also view the 20-minute film, "Land to Life," or browse a variety of educational items in the Yellowstone Association bookstore.

Several free, ranger-led walks and talks occur throughout the day, as well. For families with children, the self-guided Junior Ranger and Young Scientist programs are offered for a nominal fee at the Canyon Visitor Education Center. Check the park newspaper for schedules and program details.

Canyon Village: Dining, shopping and visitor services

For dining, information, and other visitor services, head to Canyon Village near the canyon's north rim. At its heart is the sprawling Canyon Lodge and Cabins, which houses a full-service restaurant, cafeteria, deli and gift store. Nearby, you'll find a general store, outdoor store, gas station, public restrooms, campground, and the Canyon Visitor Education Center.

The Grand Canyon's future

Most of the canyon's spectacular trails and overlooks were built in the 1930s. Over the years, they have been hammered by unforgiving weather, compromised by soil erosion, and damaged by increased visitation. In recent years, these conditions have prompted some temporary or long-term closures. In summer 2016 major rehabilitation work begins at Brink of Upper Falls and Inspiration Point, which will eventually be closed to public access. Check the park newspaper or website (nps.gov/yell) or inquire at any park visitor center for up-to-date information.

Yellowstone Park Foundation – the official fundraising partner of Yellowstone National Park – is raising funds to restore seven crumbling overlooks and connecting trails. Each overlook and trail will be analyzed, rehabilitated, and stabilized to meet current safety and accessibility standards. Additional improvements will connect the North and South rim historic overlooks with new walkways and create more accessible viewing areas.

Visit ypf.org for more information.

Family Fun in Yellowstone

STORY AND PHOTOS BY WENDIE CARR

The world's first national park is a great place to explore and learn together as a family. But once you see Old Faithful and tour the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, where do you go from there? From spectacular hikes to private tours and from Mud Volcano to pristine picnic spots, here are some fun and educational park activities for you and the brood once you've tackled the usual suspects.

Mammoth area

At under a mile, round trip, Wraith Falls is a perfect hike for families with younger children, and holds a picturesque waterfall as the final destination. The trail is relatively flat, with a slight uphill at the end.

Older kids will enjoy "peak bagging" Bunsen Peak, an 8,564-foot mountain just south of Mammoth Hot Springs. Take your time on this 4-mile round-trip hike and soak in the 360-degree views of Swan Lake Flat and the surrounding area. When you reach the top, enjoy lunch while scanning the vistas for wildlife.

Yellowstone Lake area

Storm Point is a favorite for everyone in the family. Walk through wildflower-covered meadows and old-growth forest on this easy, 2.5-mile round-trip walk that rewards hikers with views of Yellowstone Lake along the way. Look for marmots racing through the grass or sunning themselves on rocks, and kids will enjoy exploring the expansive shoreline.

Canyon area

Kids of all ages will love exploring the boardwalks surrounding Mud Volcano, a thermal area that features oozing, bubbling mudpots. Check out Dragon's Mouth Spring, with a steamy cave that sounds like a dragon hissing, gurgling, and roaring as it spits out water. Bison are often spotted roaming in this area, too.

Old Faithful area

Avoid the crowds at Old Faithful and hike – or travel by bike – to Lone Star, a beautiful backcountry geyser. Pack a picnic lunch, and set out on a scenic hike or ride alongside the Firehole River (approximately 5 miles round trip; trail is flat and mostly paved). Lone Star geyser erupts approximately every three hours, shooting water up to 45 feet high.



Yellowstone offers adventure and learning opportunities to kids (and adults) of all ages.



Beautiful, isn't it?

Private tours

Looking for a more in-depth way to experience Yellowstone? Help children fall in love with the park on a Yellowstone Association Institute tour, exploring both iconic and out-of-the-way places. Build your own adventure on a private tour, and choose from four options (wildlife watching, hiking, geology, history) that can be tailored to the interests of your family. Private tours include transportation for the day, and institute instructors will even help children work on their Yellowstone National Park Junior Ranger patch.

Park-wide

Kids can create their own nature journals detailing the flora and fauna they see in Yellowstone. Buy an inexpensive notebook and encourage them to write down or draw what they see. Older kids can take photographs of wildlife they spot, as well as any tracks these animals leave behind. Not sure what you saw? Stop by a visitor education center and ask a ranger.

Before you go

Practice “leave no trace” principles: Pack out all trash and food, and leave things along the trail as you found them.

Yellowstone National Park is bear country. Carry bear spray and know how to use it. Park regulations require that you maintain a distance of 100 yards from bears and wolves, and 25 yards from all other wildlife.

Be sure to stop by the nearest visitor center for current information about hiking conditions and closures before you hit the trail.

Wendie Carr is the marketing manager for the Yellowstone Association, Yellowstone National Park's official educational partner. Call (406) 848-2400 or visit yellowstoneassociation.org for more information about their educational programs, tours, products, and membership program.

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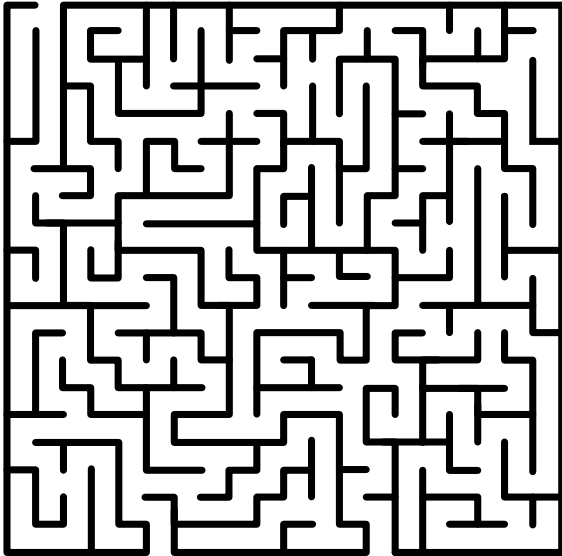
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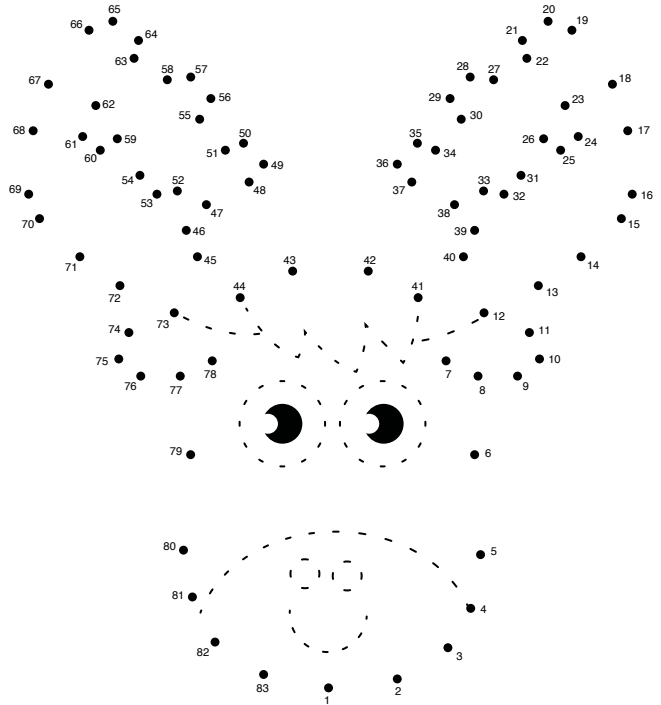
YELLOWSTONE WORD SEARCH

L I M Q L E E V A W V K E E A
 U H O N I N S E S O K L E G H
 F N U H B H O E I L C Z D U C
 H J N F Y Q O X F F G Z H F I
 T W T M D E M V V R J O U M E
 I Y A U N W O J E S N I Z A K
 A L I U L L A W O E G V B N E
 F T N A C H O T S P R I N G L
 D C K A N L B O E P C U W J D
 L E N O F A U E O R X W T E Z
 O O S D A O C H A B F T X A G
 I I L R E S Y E G R W A B G N
 B I R I V E R D D G B U L C S
 W W H B R N R H N B I Q L L L
 Y R B R F N Z W C L L Z M L O

BEAR	LAKE	RIVER
BISON	MOOSE	VOLCANO
ELK	MOUNTAIN	WATERFALL
GEYSER	NATURE	WILDFLOWER
HOT SPRING	OLD FAITHFUL	WOLF

MYSTERY ANIMAL

Connect the dots and discover an animal that inhabits Yellowstone National Park



Mystery Animal _____

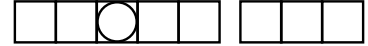
WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words and use the circled letters to solve the puzzle

NTCVOIAA



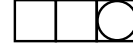
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PAM



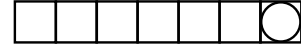
IRFE



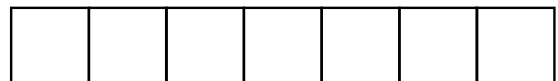
NETT



ISHIFNG



What do these words have in common?



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ANIMAL GUIDE

Which animals have you encountered? Check them off as you see them!



ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF

Adult males can weigh between 100-130 lbs, making them the largest member of the dog family.

Elk is their favorite winter meal, and a wolf can eat 20 lbs. of meat in a single sitting.

Wolves are known for their distinguishable howl, used to communicate.



BIGHORN SHEEP

Their horns can weigh up to 40 lbs, making up 8-12% of their total body weight.

Bighorns are herbivores and eat grasses, sedges and woody plants.

They are known for their ability to climb steep, rocky, mountain areas.

Counting rings on their horns can determine age.



BALD EAGLE

Adult eagles wingspan can reach up to 7 feet!

Eagles primarily eat fish, carrion, birds and rodents.

Their distinctive white head doesn't develop until they reach 4-5 years old.

They may use the same nest year after year.



ELK

Adult males stand about 5 feet high at the shoulder.

They can run up to 45 mph.

A bull elk's antlers can reach up to 4 feet high, so that the animal towers up to 9 feet tall.

Elk lose their antlers each spring, but grow them back a few months later in preparation for breeding season.



BADGER

They are 22 - 28 inches long with a wedge-shaped head.

They are adapted to digging, and create underground tunnels called setts.

They eat mainly squirrels, gophers and small rodents.

Badgers are nocturnal - they sleep during the day and are active at night.



OTTER

Their long tail takes up 1/3 of their 40-54 inch body.

Otters eat mainly fish and other aquatic creatures.

Their pelt is waterproof and allows them to regulate their temperature.

Otters can stay underwater for up to 8 minutes by closing their ears and nostrils to keep water out.





□ GRIZZLY BEAR

Adult males can weigh between 200 - 700 lbs.

Grizzlies lose up to 40% of body fat during hibernation.

They eat about 35 lbs. of food in a typical day.

Grizzlies can locate food from miles away. They have a better sense of smell than a hound dog!



□ MOOSE

Average adult males can weigh between 850-1500 lbs.

Fewer than 200 live in YNP.

Moose can run up to 35 mph.

Their antlers can spread up to 6 feet from end to end.

A moose can keep its head underwater for 3 minutes!



□ BEAVER

They are 35 - 40 inches long, including their long, paddle-shaped tail.

Beavers transform unsuitable habitats by building dams.

They have webbed rear feet, and large, flat tails that aid in swimming.

Beavers can stay underwater for up to 15 minutes, and have a set of transparent eyelids they use like goggles.



□ BISON

Adult males can weigh up to 2000 lbs. That's a TON!

Bison can live from 18-22 years.

They commonly eat grasses and sedges.

Bison are known for roaming great distances.

A bison's fur coat is so thick that snow can cover their back without melting!



□ RED FOX

Adult males average 43 inches long, but weigh only 10-12 lbs.

They have a very diverse diet from rodents and birds to vegetation, fish and worms.

Foxes use their tails for balance, as a blanket, and to signal other foxes.

Red foxes have such good hearing, they can hear rodents underground.



□ COYOTE

They weigh less than their wolf relatives, between 25-35 lbs.

Coyote populations are likely at an all-time high.

They will eat almost anything, from rodents to fish, to fruit.

Coyotes can run up to 40 mph.

In the fall and winter, they form packs for more effective hunting.



DID YOU KNOW?

Yellowstone National Park has 67 mammal species, 285 bird species, 16 fish species, 6 reptile species, 5 amphibian species, and 2 threatened species.

SOURCES: NPS.GOV, ANIMALS.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM, NWF.ORG, DEFENDERS.ORG

Bear spray works

And it's easy to use



Bear spray is a highly effective deterrent for both black bears and grizzlies. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Yellowstone is bear country. Always carry bear spray in the park and know how to use it.

| BY CHUCK BARTLEBAUGH

When used correctly, bear spray works 98 percent of the time, even against aggressive, charging or attacking bears. It has saved many people, including numerous visitors to Yellowstone National Park.

Kerry Gunther, in charge of bear management for Yellowstone National Park, advises visitors to carry bear spray and hike in groups of three or more. “Hike during daylight hours and be aware of your surroundings,” Gunther says. “Watch for bear scat, bear digging sites, rocks and logs turned over, claw marks on trees, and paw prints along creeks and rivers.”

As a certified bear spray instructor, when I conduct my training, I emphasize these critical steps to use bear spray quickly and properly:

- **Only purchase “bear spray.”** Generic pepper spray is not the same as bear spray, which is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. I recommend a product with at least seven seconds of spray duration and a spray distance of at least 25 feet.
- **Carry bear spray in a hip holster, chest holster or an outer jacket pocket.** During winter months, store your bear spray inside to keep it warm.

- **Practice makes perfect.** Practice withdrawing the bear spray canister from the holster, holding the can firmly in one or two hands, and placing your thumb in front of the safety tab until this process can be done with little hesitation or effort.

- **If a bear is charging within 60 feet, direct the bear spray downward in front of the bear.**

The powerful expanding cloud will billow in front of the charging bear. As the bear passes through the powerful, expanding cloud, the inflammatory and irritating chemicals will fill its eyes, nose, mouth, throat and lungs, causing the bear to divert its charge.

- **If a bear is closer than 30 feet in a charge, there is a possibility of contact, but bear spray will reduce the length and severity of confrontation.** Be prepared to lie on the ground and play dead until the bear is gone. When getting up, have your bear spray ready. Remember, every year millions of Yellowstone Park visitors never have a confrontation with a bear, but responsible hikers and campers prepare just in case.

Black bear or grizzly?

| BY CHUCK BARTLEBAUGH

Every year, tourists from around the world ask this question. Sometimes it's easy to tell the difference between a black bear and a grizzly bear. But sometimes it's not. Color and size can be misleading, so study multiple characteristics to confirm whether you're looking at *Ursus americanus* or *Ursus arctos horribilis*.

During my first visit to Yellowstone National Park almost 40 years ago, I stood in awe trying to determine if I was in the presence of a black bear or a grizzly when a kid nearby hollered, "There's a bear!"

"No, that's a grizzly," said a ranger standing nearby.

Some grizzly bears have a certain swagger and body profile that's earned them the reputation as "owners of the earth" in Native American lore. A mature grizzly, with its sparkling fur of silver or gold, has a hump on its back – a giant muscle unique to the grizzly, and one differentiation from black bears.

The hump empowers the grizzly bear to roll large rocks and logs over to look for insects, and adds to its already impressive strength and speed. Large black bears that have gained significant weight in their lifetime may appear to have a muscle hump, but it's just body fat.

Not all grizzly bears are born with this appearance. Young grizzlies may have a small hump and their dish face may not be as pronounced. Both black and grizzly bears can have a large color range that includes black, brown and cinnamon, but only the grizzly bear has the distinctive gold or silver "grizzled" fur.

Black bears are more common in forested areas, and are more likely to be seen because their protective behavior is to climb trees if they feel threatened. Before being pushed into more remote mountain areas, the grizzly bear roamed the open plains. When threatened, it reverts to "fight or flight," so it remains more concealed in brushy areas. There is a saying for both species: bears see more people than people see bears.

When you're on a hike, I recommend bringing binoculars or spotting scopes so you can look at a combination of identifying features. If you do spot a bear, take time to monitor its behavior. A black bear or other wildlife such as moose will often give grizzlies a wide berth. You should do the same.

Chuck Bartlebaugh is the director of the Be Bear Aware Campaign and conducts bear avoidance and bear spray presentations for state and federal wildlife agencies.



Fall fishing in Yellowstone

IT'S WORTH THE HYPE BY PATRICK STRAUB



Yellowstone National Park's Firehole River is home to unique geologic features, as well as plenty of trout. PHOTO BY SHAWN DIESEL

For a short time in my early 20s, mid-September was my least favorite time of year. I was in a Midwest college, and homesick for the great fishing in Yellowstone National Park. Despite short-term amnesia brought on by Old Style and Leinenkugels, my heart remained with my boyhood angling wonders.

Yellowstone is a special place. For anglers from both near and far, the hype of fishing the park in fall rings true. Here's why:

Accessibility. Every mile of every stream in Yellowstone is public. While fishing them all might take considerable effort, no other place in the world exists with this many miles of easily accessible, trout-filled water. It wasn't created to be a fly-fishing wonderland, but it might as well be. Despite the park's relative ruggedness, roads parallel many of its rivers making it easier for anglers to enjoy. That means those rivers get more pressure, which brings me to my next point.

Fewer people. Yellowstone sees far fewer visitors in fall than summer. You won't have the rivers to yourself, but your fishing plans are more likely to be thwarted by bison or moose than tourists taking selfies. And if you're still not happy with seeing another angler or two, walk a mile

from any trailhead or angling pullout and you're likely to be alone – save for a bear or elk.

Hatches come here first. Because of the park's high elevation, water temperatures cool early and hatches abound. Look for gray and green Drakes on Slough and Soda Butte creeks, as well as the Lamar River. Autumn Blue Winged Olives will hatch on the Madison, Gibbon, and Firehole rivers.

Large trout from Hebgen Lake. The trout of a lifetime lurks somewhere in Hebgen Lake. During the fall, these large, lake-dwelling fish travel out of Hebgen into the Madison and some smaller tributaries. Brown trout travel to spawn and rainbow trout follow to feed on their eggs. These fish movements are no secret – you'll see other anglers if you choose to fish the Hebgen tributaries. However, knowing the waters and where these fish hold is crucial to getting your fly in front of feeding trout.

Target the tail-outs of deeper holes and runs. Be prepared to fish close to the bottom with weighted flies and weight on your leader. Egg patterns, streamers, firebeads, and other large morsels will entice these trout. If you're new to these tactics and targeting pre-spawn fish, consider hiring a local guide.



The native Yellowstone cutthroat is the crown jewel of trout in the nation's first national park. PHOTO COURTESY OF DL SMITH ROD COMPANY

Streamer-fishing addicts delight. Since waters are low and clear, anglers willing to fish streamers will be successful. Unlike the large salmonflies and stoneflies of summer, fall bug hatches are smaller. But trout are still hungry in the cooler water temps, so prospect with small Woolly Buggers and streamers. Even the smaller creeks and headwater streams can be fished with streamers.

Shorten your leader so you can put the fly where it needs to be, and can pop it off the bank when you overshoot a cast.

Slim down your fly selection. To mimic Drakes in the northeast region of the park, fish purple or copper Hazes in sizes 14 and 16. For fall BWOs on the west-side rivers and creeks, fish a size 16 Parachute Adams with a size 18 CDC RS2 emerger as the trailer fly. For streamers on smaller creeks, fish a size 8 or 10 black Sculpzilla on a stout leader like 1X, so you can turn it over easily and won't break it on snags.

Sundays in college were always the worst, and it wasn't entirely due to starting the day slowly – I should have been fly fishing in Yellowstone. Though I wouldn't mind one more night of college, I can now chase trout in the park anytime I want.

Pat Straub is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana On The Fly," and "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky, and Pat operates the Montana Fishing Guide School and the Montana Women's Fly Fishing School.

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BACK INTO **THE WILD**

New film documents wildlife photographer's return to Yellowstone

| BY MARIA WYLLIE

“The solitude you find in Yellowstone promotes an independence of spirit. These experiences refresh our lives, teach us self-reliance, and reveal the wisdom of the cycles of the land. ”

– Tom Murphy, *“Silence & Solitude”*

Wildlife photographer Tom Murphy isn't like most people. He's happy in places where most folks are miserable. But it means he gets far-off places to himself, save for the wild animals and changing landscapes he photographs.

“I'm an oddball. I like to be outside, and I like to be out in bad weather,” Murphy says. “That's when it's more interesting.”

Photography has led Murphy around the world, but Yellowstone National Park remains his favorite muse. He was the first person licensed to lead photography tours in Yellowstone, and each year he averages 80-100 days in the park.

Murphy's fascination with the wilderness drove him to ski through Yellowstone's backcountry alone in 1985.

Through blinding snowstorms and with only a blue tarp for shelter, Murphy covered nearly 175 miles in 14 days. The journey tested his mettle.

“The truth is that solo trip ... gave me a lot of confidence,” Murphy says. “Not just that I can ski across Yellowstone National Park but that I can do anything I want.”

Now, at 66, Murphy continues to battle winter elements for the sake of experiencing wild places. “Yellowstone is truly as wild as it gets, and I love that,” he says.

Last winter, Murphy retraced his 1985 route across Yellowstone, but this time brought a film crew to document the journey. Five skilled outdoorsmen joined Murphy on the expedition: retired Yellowstone park ranger Brian Chan; Murphy's nephew and regular camping partner Clay Dykstra; award-winning filmmakers Shane Moore and Rick Smith; and porter John Williams, who shouldered much of the supplies and video gear.

“All five of them are terrific people to travel with,” Murphy said during an interview following the trip. “Even after beating ourselves up for 15 days, everyone's telling jokes and having a great time at the end.”

The 2016 expedition took place Feb. 20 to March 5, and videographers documented the crew covering a distance of 160 miles leading through the most remote area in the Lower 48 known as the Thorofare.

The public can witness the expedition for themselves in the upcoming documentary, "The Journey Through Yellowstone." The film offers insight into how the park has changed over the last three decades while also exploring Murphy's passion as a photographer and his lifelong pursuit of Yellowstone's wildest places.

"With this film, I want to show viewers what it's like back there, how beautiful it is, and ultimately how valuable it is," Murphy said. "If people see it as beautiful, then they assign value to it, and if they assign value to it, they are more likely to save it. That's always been a motivation of my photography."

Producer Rick Smith met Murphy 10 years ago while earning his master's in the Science and Natural History Documentary Film program from Montana State University. Murphy invited Smith on a winter camping trip at the time, and says Smith was one of the few friends he could convince to go again.

Through this project, Smith says he looks forward to helping realize Murphy's passion in sharing these wild places with people around the world.



This map depicts Tom Murphy's 1985 route (175 miles) across Yellowstone as well as his 2016 trip (160 miles). ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL FRANCIS REAGAN

"Not everyone has the chance to visit Yellowstone, and even if you do, not many people go where Tom goes," Smith said. "I think this film is an extension of that."

While Murphy avoids technology (he doesn't own a cell phone), his team provided updates along the way to journey followers via a live GPS tracking app on the project's website, as well as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

Murphy says that due to warmer temperatures, better snow conditions and a shortcut across Yellowstone Lake, skiing across the park last winter was easier than in 1985.

"It was certainly a significant factor that I'm 31 years older, so I'm really happy I had company this time instead of trying to do it by myself," he said.

Before the expedition, Murphy hoped to photograph three particular vistas, which would come to be

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Tom Murphy and crew were all smiles when they reached Fishing Bridge, where a new supply of food was delivered to them via Yellowstone Expedition's Arden Bailey.
PHOTO BY RICK SMITH



Cutoff Mountain above Slough Creek at the north boundary of Yellowstone looking northeast from Mount Washburn. PHOTO BY TOM MURPHY

highlights of the two-week journey: the 360-degree view from atop 10,223-foot Big Game Ridge, located along the south boundary of the park; the Trident, located deep in the Thorofare near the confluence of the Yellowstone River and Thorofare Creek; and Colter Peak, part of the Absaroka Range located near the southeast end of Yellowstone Lake.

“We had beautiful light on Big Game Ridge,” Murphy said. “You can see most of the world from there.”

Spending winter in Yellowstone’s most remote areas during its harshest season is Murphy’s way of life. In a way, it always has been.

Originally from South Dakota, Murphy grew up on a 7,500-acre cattle ranch with his parents, brother, and five sisters near the forks of the Cheyenne River. “It was really cold on the prairie in South Dakota – colder and windier than here,” said Murphy, who currently resides in Livingston, Montana.

Growing up on the ranch, Murphy spent most of his time outside, whether he wanted to or not.

“I was basically my dad’s cow dog,” he said.

“We’d have to feed these cattle and drive around in this ‘51 Chevrolet pickup. [I’d feed them, then] he’d pick me up and take me to another bunch, so I was just running along chasing cows, freezing my feet off.”

At 20 years old, Murphy tried winter camping. Alone and nervous, he drove his car to a campsite in the Black Hills. He didn’t trust his sleeping bag, so he slept within 30 feet of the car in case he needed to retreat to its warm interior. He made it through the night unscathed.

“After that I was perfectly confident,” said Murphy, who still ventures into the backcountry to capture images that tell the stories of wild places. But as the upcoming film will reveal, it’s more than just a hobby.

“I think everyone has an obligation to give back to their profession and their community,” he says.

For Murphy, Yellowstone serves both objectives.

Follow “The Journey Through Yellowstone” on Facebook to read more about the 2016 expedition, and visit yellowstone.film to learn more about the upcoming film. Producers expect the documentary to debut in spring 2017.



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Yellowstone launches audio project with MSU

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BOZEMAN – In January 2016, Yellowstone National Park and the Acoustic Atlas at Montana State University Library announced the launch of the Yellowstone Collection, a curated compilation of field recordings and a developing podcast series highlighting America’s first national park.

The growing audio collection aims to create new ways to experience the animals, landscapes and people of the area by offering a free online archive of natural sounds, interviews and radio stories focused on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The Acoustic Atlas was founded in 2013 and includes recordings from across the Western U.S. The Yellowstone collection builds on its mission to document the sounds of regional ecosystems.

“There are relatively few natural sound collections at libraries, and even fewer focusing on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem,” said Kenning Arlitsch, dean of the MSU Library. “We could not be more excited to share the sounds of Yellowstone through our archive.”

In addition to expanding the natural sounds collection at MSU, the field recordings will be used as a foundation in creating sound-rich, podcast-style audio pieces that tell the stories of research and issues in Yellowstone. The audio stories, which visitors and followers can listen to online, will highlight the rich but changing soundscapes of the area, chronicle some of the research taking place in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and spotlight key voices in the region.

“It’s kind of like public radio for Yellowstone National Park. I hope these stories build perspective and advance our conversations about science and the complexities of preservation in Yellowstone,” said project producer



Jennifer Jerrett, National Parks Service producer and editor, records sounds of the hot springs at Mammoth Terraces in Yellowstone National Park. PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS/NEAL HERBERT

and Yellowstone National Park correspondent Jennifer Jerrett. “[2016] marks the National Park Service Centennial, so it seems fitting to stop and listen – to really listen – and reflect on the meaning of parks and preservation in America.”

The project is supported in part by MSU, the Yellowstone Association, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, and by a grant through the Eyes on Yellowstone program, which is made possible by Canon U.S.A., Inc. This program represents the largest corporate donation for wildlife conservation in the park.

Audio from the partnership can be accessed at nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/soundlibrary and acousticatlas.org.

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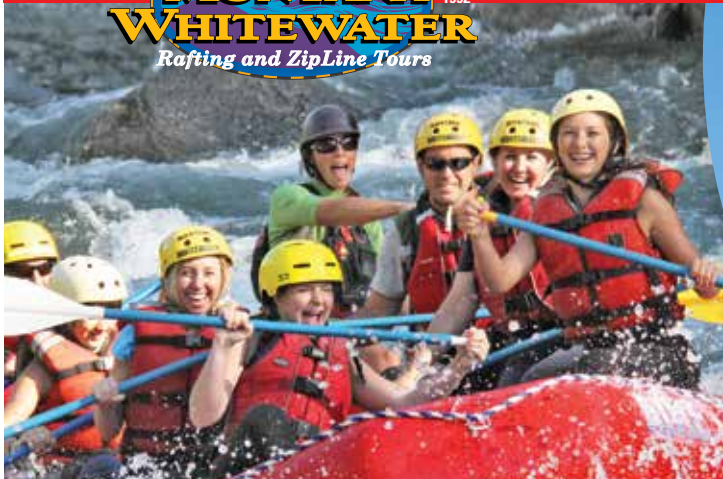
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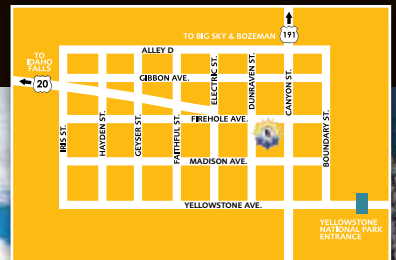


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Of Pride and Progress

Forty Years in Yellowstone

| BY STEVEN FULLER



The author carries an old crosscut saw mounted on a D-shovel handle, which enables a winterkeeper to cut snow into upright, freezer-sized blocks that can be skidded off building roofs. In this work, a snowblower is a useless toy. PHOTO BY JEFF VANUGA

If you came to Yellowstone National Park when it opened in 1872, you would have built a house here: On the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone overlooking the Yellowstone River, its famous waterfalls tumbling hundreds of feet over the cliffs. I have lived here, in the isolated Canyon winterkeeper's house, since 1973.

The house appears in old tinted postcards behind the Canyon Hotel, an architectural spectacle when it was built in 1910, its perimeter measuring one mile. After World War II the National Park Service determined it obsolete, and the hotel was condemned. In August 1960 it caught fire and burned for two weeks.

The fire was declared accidental, but in 1975 an old timer knocked on the door of my cabin, the only landmark left from his time in Yellowstone. We had coffee. When I asked if he was here when the hotel burned he said, "Here? Hell, I poured the kerosene!"

This house has been the Canyon winterkeeper's for more than a hundred years. Since the 1880s, winterkeepers have been employed as caretakers to shovel snow off roofs

of hotels closed for the long winters. I was the only applicant when I was hired in 1973. My wage was \$13.25 a day.

The park looked after us. That first winter, they gave me a worn-out Johnson snowmobile. But when my wife Angela was hauling garbage, the throttle on the machine stuck and she fell off near the 1,200-foot canyon rim. Later, while I was riding it, the bicycle-style handlebars broke off in my hands.

A winterkeeper is "the toughest job in Wyoming," Jerry Bateson, a retired winterkeeper, told me. I never thought about that until one winter when I had no snowmobile at all. I skied a mile to and from work carrying two shovels, a six-foot snow saw, and a 10-foot ladder on my shoulders from one building to the next.

The nearest neighbors lived on Yellowstone Lake, 17 snowmobile miles south: a ranger, his wife, and two winterkeepers, one known as Silent Joe. Otherwise, we had to snowmobile 34 miles to Mammoth or 40 miles to West Yellowstone to visit anyone. And it was questionable if the snowmobile would make it there, let alone back home.

Every fall we cached the supplies needed for the next five months by the case or the 50-pound bag. We baked bread, brewed beer, sprouted beans, and used powdered milk. Our mail arrived in a big canvas sack once every month or so. I listened by short wave radio to the BBC. Power outages were frequent and could last as long as two weeks. Those nights were lit by candles and Coleman lanterns.

All living winterkeepers have testified their time here was the best in their lives. One winterkeeper, circa late 1940s, visited me shortly before he died. He said he killed a grizzly bear off the front steps and poached deer to supplement the meager wages winterkeepers have always been paid.

Grizzlies are still common here. When Angela and I moved in, hundreds of nails had been driven through the back door so the protruding points would tear a bear's paws if it attempted to claw its way inside. I witnessed this defense firsthand on Oct. 5 during our second winter.

Angela who was eight months pregnant, our young daughter Emma and I were enjoying a dinner of elk stew when we heard a commotion at the small kitchen window. A huge, pig-eyed grizzly head intruded into the room.

My family fled the kitchen while I advanced to shoo the bear away, a difficult task since this occurred years before pepper spray was available. I first tried an ancient .22 pistol (would not fire); considered shooting a 12-gauge shotgun over the bear's head (damage to kitchen wall too significant). I made a long pole with two prongs wired to an electrical outlet, the idea: shock the bear while it was stuck in the window (not sure this was a good idea). Later, I tried ammonia-filled balloons (no noticeable effect on the bear). I joined the family and we bailed out a window.

I radioed the ranger at Yellowstone Lake. The bear was trapped and released 40 miles northeast of Canyon, but two nights later it was back trying to claw its way through the walls. Trapped again, she proved to be an elderly, underweight female unlikely to survive the winter. Ultimately, she was euthanized.

Things have changed in the 41 years I've lived here and I'm now one of two winterkeepers left in the park. In summer 2014, Canyon was open 111 days. In the 1970s, the season was 70 days long and otherwise quiet, rarely visited. The



Getting it done, circa 1999. Fuller winterkeeps approximately 100 buildings in Yellowstone's Canyon Village area, where average winter snow depth ranges from 3-6 feet. PHOTO BY JEFF VANUGA

surrounding region had far fewer people than now and highways to the park were slow. Cars were less capable.

Salt Lake City International Airport is now only six hours away by rental car and regional towns have become cities. Big Sky is a world-class destination and the tiny Bozeman airport of the early '70s has grown exponentially.

Bozeman was a provincial town where local cowboys would give you a haircut if you needed one, and Budweiser and Velveeta were the closest to wine and cheese options, even within the cloistered university.

My winter life, while still challenging, is easier. Long ago, I wanted to live at the top of a mountain but have access to the Library of Congress. Now, with my Internet satellite dish, I have that connection.

Progress comes at a cost. Civilization has come to my doorstep and I now live in a box that grows ever smaller. Sometimes I wish the world was going in reverse, that "civilization" was in retreat rather than busy incorporating the last fragments of the wild and of the independent, self-reliant life I enjoyed for such a long time.

But I tasted the old wilder Yellowstone. And still I cherish the good fortune of living here.

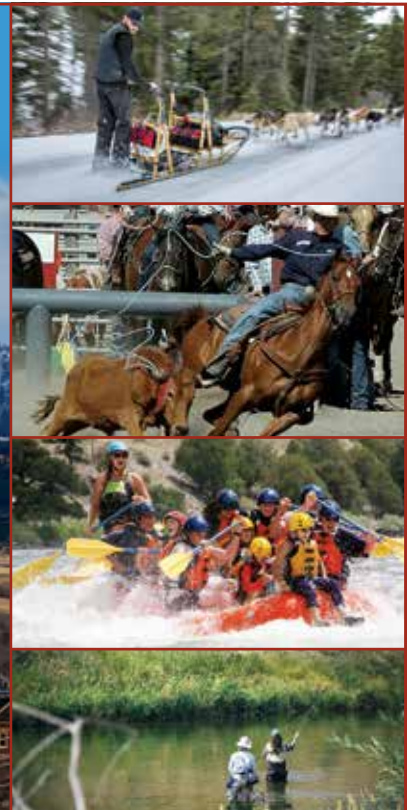
Steven Fuller has passed much of his adult life off-road in Yellowstone and in roadless bush Africa, a combination he finds routinely complimentary. His writings, photographs, television works, and presentations have been well received on three continents.

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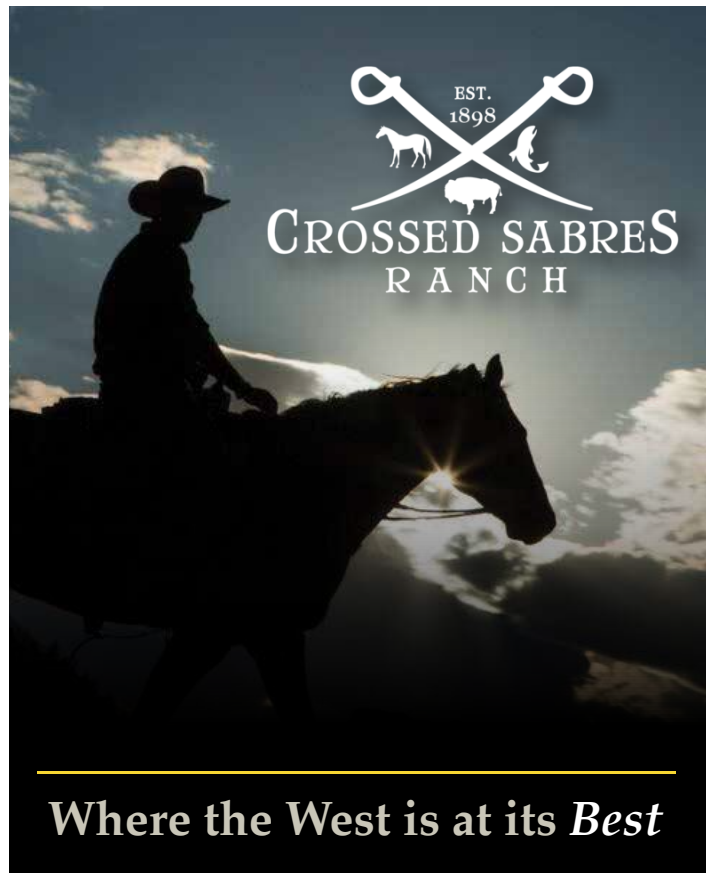
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A watercolor illustration of Theodore Roosevelt, shown from the chest up, wearing a dark military-style uniform with a high collar and a wide sash. He has a prominent mustache and is looking upwards and to the left. The background is dark with some light, ethereal shapes. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

PARK HISTORY

Theodore Roosevelt

**Champion
of public
lands**

| BY TYLER ALLEN

ILLUSTRATION BY KELSEY DZINTARS

Spanning the north entrance to Yellowstone National Park in Gardiner, Montana, the Roosevelt Arch is a monument to our country's collective conscience, a symbol of the progressive conservation values fervently championed by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Standing beside the stone arch on April 24, 1903, after a two-week tour of the park, Roosevelt spoke to this symbolism as he dedicated the unfinished monument that would eventually bear his name.

"Nowhere else in any civilized country is there to be found such a tract of veritable wonderland made accessible to all visitors," the president told the crowd in Gardiner.

Roosevelt had ridden his executive train, The Elysian, south through Paradise Valley on April 8, to Cinnabar, north of Gardiner. The trip was intended as a respite during an exhaustive eight-week domestic tour, and the president spent it hiking and horseback riding, and observing large herds of elk, whitetail deer and pronghorn, as well as the last remaining bison in the Greater Yellowstone, captive at Mammoth.

Camping on the Yellowstone River below Tower Falls, he marveled at the bighorn sheep, and learned from a road crew camped nearby of the animals' acuity negotiating the steep, icy precipices.

"When we first saw them they were lying sunning themselves on the edge of the canyon, where the rolling grassy country behind it broke off into the sheer decent," he later wrote. "Before dark they all lay down again on a steeply inclined jutting spur midway between the top and bottom of the canyon."

At the journey's end, Roosevelt's party rode north from Mammoth. A mile from Gardiner, they crested a hill to see a throng gathered, awaiting his arrival.

The strongest public lands advocate to ever occupy the White House, Theodore Roosevelt accomplished his initiatives despite daunting opposition from big business and land barons, who saw the West as an inexhaustible faucet of money and power.

The man who found respite homesteading and hunting the wilds of the Dakotas – escaping public life after his mother and first wife died on the same day in 1884 – and who led the Rough Riders into battle during the Spanish-American War, rarely backed down from a challenge, either political or physical.

Elected governor of New York in 1898, Roosevelt installed a wrestling mat in the executive mansion in Albany, sparring with official guests for sport. While serving as vice president under President William McKinley, Roosevelt was elevated to the executive office on September 14, 1901, when McKinley succumbed to an assassin's bullet fired eight days earlier. The 42-year-old Roosevelt retained McKinley's cabinet and vowed publicly to change little; privately, however, he articulated a new direction for the Republican Party, away from the special interests he believed were exploiting the country's impoverished and its natural resources.



Theodore Roosevelt in Yellowstone, 1903. NPS PHOTO

In the late 19th century, logging was nearly unrestricted in the West, and mining claims were staked unencumbered by federal oversight. President Grover Cleveland set aside 21 million acres of forest reserves before leaving office in 1897, but McKinley suspended the order after entering the White House. Roosevelt and his Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot began zealously conserving western forests after the president's landslide reelection in 1904 and the creation of the Forest Service in 1905.



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In 1907, Idaho senator and land baron Weldon B. Heyburn pushed an amendment to a spending bill through Congress that stripped a president's authority to create new national forests without congressional approval.

The bill had to be signed to keep the government running – considered essential at the time – but Roosevelt had a week. So, he and Pinchot spread maps of the West across the White House floor, and added 16 million acres of national forest land by executive proclamation. Roosevelt then signed the bill, preventing any president from doing such a thing again.

Livid, Heyburn and his allies were left without recourse. The national forest system now totaled nearly 180 million acres.

April 24, 1903, was a warm spring day in Gardiner. Storefronts were decorated with American flags and red, white and blue bunting. Trainloads arrived from Livingston, and the crowd was an estimated 3,700 by the time the president arrived, just after 4 p.m.

Before his speech, a group of Masons from the Grand Lodge of Montana placed a box of memorabilia including copies of four regional daily newspapers, a 1903 World's Almanac and the Bible in a cavity inside one of the stones. Roosevelt spread mortar atop it with a trowel, and then the cornerstone, etched with the date, was lowered into place using a block and tackle.

Roosevelt spoke that day about the “essential democracy” of national parks.



A procession passes beneath the Roosevelt Arch in June 2012, after a ceremonial agreement to improve infrastructure around the park's entrance. PHOTO BY EMILY STIFLER WOLFE

“Here all the wild creatures of the old days are being preserved, and their overflow into the surrounding country means that the people ... will be able to insure to themselves and to their children and their children's children much of the old time pleasures of the hardy life of the wilderness.”

Then, Roosevelt rode north to Cinnabar, leaving on The Elysian at 6 p.m. He never visited the park again or saw the completed arch that represents the heritage of his ideals.

As long as the Roosevelt Arch stands, it will represent the 26th president's determination to conserve the country's resources for future generations, and his rejection of those who use our collective treasures for profit.

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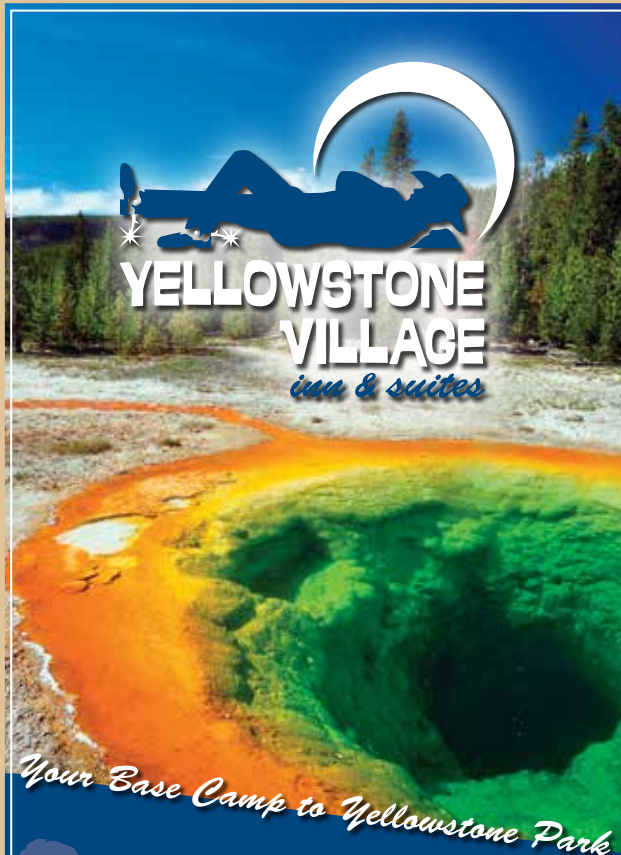
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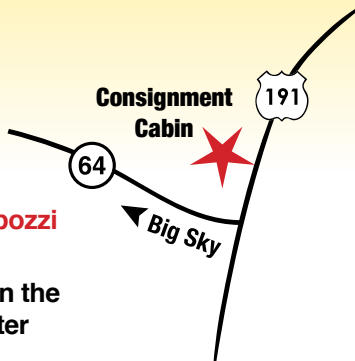
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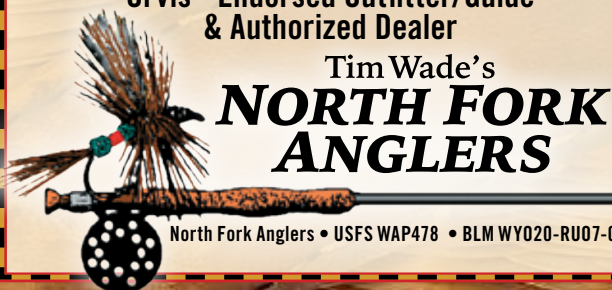
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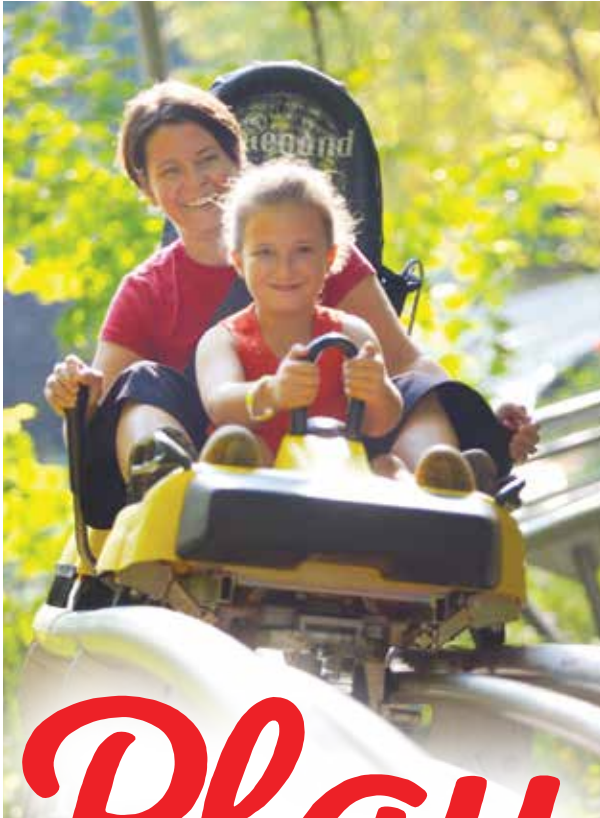


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1916-2016

1916

The Organic Act of 1916 establishes the National Park Service

1920

The mass production of automobiles made YNP readily accessible, increasing visitation drastically from its opening. **In 1920 about 5,000 automobiles enter the park**

1930

The famous **Beartooth Highway** is built, allowing visitors to enter Yellowstone from Red Lodge, Montana, via Cooke City and Silver Gate



1948

Yellowstone receives one million visitors

1929

President Hoover signs first law changing Yellowstone National Park's boundary and creates Grand Teton National Park



1933

On February 9, the all-time lowest temperature in Yellowstone is recorded at **-66° F at the Riverside Station**

1955

Mission 66 is initiated in a massive effort to expand Yellowstone's roads and trails, as well as visitor and employee facilities

1959

A magnitude 7.5 earthquake strikes on August 17, killing 28 campers in Gallatin National Forest and affecting the park's geysers and hot springs

1966

The thermophile *Thermus aquaticus* is discovered in a hot spring



1971

Overnight **winter lodging** opens across the park



1975

Grizzly bears are listed as a threatened species in the lower 48 states

1963

Scientists release the **Leopold Report**, which established the framework for park management still used today throughout the National Park system

1970

New bear management plans begin, which include closing open-pit dumps in the park

1974

Fishing is prohibited from Fishing Bridge in order to protect spawning areas of the native **cutthroat trout**



1988

The worst wildfire season in Yellowstone's history takes place. **"The Fires of 1988" burned 1.4 million acres** between June and October, costing \$120 million and requiring 25,000 firefighters to extinguish



1995

Despite opposition from local ranchers, **wolves are reintroduced** into the park ecosystem. **Yellowstone Park Foundation (YPF)** is conceived to provide Yellowstone with conservation, science and education resources



2002

National Academy of Sciences confirms effectiveness of Ecological Process Management, or natural regulation

2009

Grizzly bears return to the threatened species list as gray wolves return to the endangered species list

1994

Congress enacts a law allowing a percentage of park entrance fees to be kept in the national parks



1997

About 1,100 bison are killed by the Montana Department of Livestock due to a **brucellosis outbreak**



2007

Yellowstone's grizzly bears are removed from the federal threatened species list



2010

The Old Faithful Visitor Education Center is officially dedicated and opens to the public



2013

YPF completes restoration of the **Old Faithful Haynes Photo Shop**



2015

Yellowstone visitation sets a new record at 4.2 million. Yellowstone Lake Hotel is designated as a National Historic Landmark

2012

A \$1 million grant matched by federal funds provides significant resources to implement the Native Fish Conservation Program

2014

A Dutch tourist crashes a drone into the Grand Prismatic Hot Spring - the largest hot spring in the park and the third largest in the world. **Park Service bans unmanned aircraft** from all park service-controlled areas



2016

The National Park Service celebrates its centennial year, 1916-2016

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