



Y E L L O W S T O N E

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# DISCOVERY

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION



## YELLOWSTONE'S GRIZZLIES

Approximately 150 grizzlies have home ranges wholly or partially in the park. Photo: Jim Peaco/NPS

By Beth Pratt  
Yellowstone Association

*"This whole episode of bear life in Yellowstone is so extraordinary that it will be well worth while for any man who has the right powers and enough time, to make a complete study of the life and history of the Yellowstone bears."*  
Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

**Y**ellowstone's bear management biologist, Kerry Gunther, clearly remembers what led him to a career studying grizzly bears. "When I was a kid I watched the National Geographic special on the Craighead brothers where the grizzly charges their car, and that's what got my interest in bears."

For those of a certain age, that documentary, which aired in 1967, evoked either fear or fascination toward the magnificent grizzly bear. Millions of viewers were captivated by their first glimpse of the adventurous Craighead twins and their exciting encounters with grizzlies during their research in

Yellowstone National Park. The two dashing and larger-than-life brothers, Frank and John, conveyed their passion and enthusiasm, along with their respect, for the bears. As Frank once remarked: "When releasing grizzlies, point them away from you."

No matter how one comes to discover Yellowstone's famed animal—whether by watching apprehensively as the Craigheads dove into the safety of the their station wagon just as the grizzly leaps on the car, or by viewing a live grizzly foraging peacefully in a meadow in Yellowstone—these experiences have one common factor: the enduring power of what naturalist Enos Mills

### What's Inside...

- INTERVIEW WITH DAN WENK, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT
- PARK STORE HOLIDAY SALE
- SKI AND SNOWSHOE TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

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deemed “our greatest wild animal” to resonate with all of us.

## A CHANGING DYNAMIC

Yellowstone’s grizzly bears entered the history books in 1806 during the return journey of Lewis and Clark on their famous expedition. Native Americans had warned the explorers about the great “white bear,” and one finally materialized in 1804, documented by Clark’s entry in his journal, “I saw several fresh tracks of that animal double the size of the largest track I ever saw.” A Yellowstone grizzly crossed their paths in 1806 on the northern boundary of the park. Clark gave chase on horseback, but abandoned pursuit after about two miles. Present day ursophile and scientist Dr. James Halfpenny humorously commented about the incident: “so the first Yellowstone grizzly

encountered by non-native Americans proved its formidable power by outrunning a horse.”

Most early visitors to Yellowstone, however, had a very different experience when first meeting a grizzly. Bears panhandling for food on the roadside became a common sight, along with the specter of bears gathering nightly at one of the garbage feeding areas, sometimes even accompanied by a ranger-led wildlife talk. A visitor in the 1950s complained about the “free and frequent roaming of the bears,” and reported seeing 71 bears during his 48-hour stay while camping at Canyon. He also reported that his wife had been appalled and wished to leave Yellowstone immediately.

The majority of the public, however, ignorant about the repercussions of food-conditioned bears, enjoyed and also expected such displays.

Olaus Murie completed one of the first comprehensive studies of Yellowstone’s ursine population in 1944 and observed: “We know that the bear has endeared itself to mankind from earliest times.” Murie’s landmark report was the first to criticize the garbage dumps and recommend their removal. Although the park took no action at the time, historian Paul Schullery, author of many works on Yellowstone’s bears, credits Murie with shifting the park to a more enlightened age of bear management. “It could be said with Murie’s study, Yellowstone bear management began to pass from its era of relative innocence into a more informed period.”

The Craighead Study, which began in 1959, may have provided additional impetus for ushering in the new age of bear management in Yellowstone. The brothers were concerned about the rapidly decreasing grizzly bear population in North America. Where grizzlies had once roamed as far south as northern Mexico, their historical range had decreased almost 98 percent, and Yellowstone remained one of the last strongholds for the grizzly in the lower 48 states. The efforts of the brothers produced the first long-term study of grizzly bears, and yielded important data on population size and behavior. They also pioneered new approaches to research—like the first radio transmitter collar—that are still used today.

In the 1970s the Secretary of the Interior formed the Committee on the Yellowstone Grizzlies led by the National Academy of Sciences to address bear research and other issues. The attention by government agencies to grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) continues to this day, as the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) conducts regular research in Yellowstone, including a study this past fall to collect scientific samples to assist with the ongoing monitoring of the activities and population of the animals.

With the numerous plans and committees, both past and present, dedicated to the animal’s ongoing survival, Yellowstone’s famed bear continues to fascinate visitors in

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## YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION

### THE MISSION OF THE YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION

The Yellowstone Association, in partnership with the National Park Service, connects people to Yellowstone National Park and our natural world through education.

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the park. As former Yellowstone Superintendent Suzanne Lewis stated: “The nearly spectacular response of the grizzly bear population in greater Yellowstone is the only testament we should ever need to the ultimate value of the bureaucratic arts when they are well and sincerely practiced.”

## A FASCINATION WITH GRIZZLIES

Yellowstone has perhaps the most viewed and most studied bear population in history. Yet the awe and wonder many of us experience about these animals has little to do with research and committees (however valuable) and more to do with the bear’s intrinsic link to wildness, its symbolizing of freedom and a primeval time, and its superior strength. We are equally curious and frightened when considering the grizzly.

Perhaps our fascination rests with a tendency to assign human characteristics to the animal. Enos Mills described the bear as “dignified and so-strangely human-like.” The second superintendent of Yellowstone, Pilatus Norris, categorized bears very unscientifically based on more hominid attributes, “Smut faced bear—this is still a smaller animal, with a brockled, impish-looking face—a true indicator of the character of the beast. It is the most meddlesome and pugnacious of the bear family.”

In his book *Yellowstone Bears in the Wild*, Dr. James Halfpenny tells an amusing story of what he considers one of the bear’s most endearing traits: a curiosity that might rival our own. After two yearlings had created a traffic jam on Swan Lake Flats, they departed down a popular hiking trail. Once they were out of sight, Yellowstone’s bear biologist, Kerry Gunther, posted a warning sign at the trailhead “Bear Frequenting Area.” After Gunther left, the bears, who had obviously been watching his actions with interest from the forest, emerged and headed right for the sign. They considered it for a few moments, and tore it down.

Or maybe the reason for our fascination is as simple as Jim Carrier



Yellowstone has perhaps the most viewed and most studied bear population in history. Photo: Bill Mahoney

claims in his *Letters from Yellowstone*: “We hold the grizzly bear in awe, not because of mythology, not because it stands and walks, not for its speed or dexterity. The reason is that it can kill and eat us. If it didn’t, it would be a 500-pound marmot.”

## CHALLENGES OF CO-EXISTENCE

Even if grizzlies can kill us, they generally avoid human interactions. Despite recent fatalities in 2011, grizzly fatalities are still extremely rare in Yellowstone. Out of an estimated 158 million visitors to Yellowstone since the park’s formation in 1872, bears have killed only seven people. Nonetheless, practicing safety in bear country should always be a priority. Visitors should view grizzlies from a safe distance (park regulations require maintaining at least 100 yards) and remain in their cars if spotting a bear from the road. Backcountry hikers should travel in groups of three or more, carry bear spray, and remain on designated trails.

## MARIAN: A FAMOUS YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY

In his book *Track of the Grizzly*, Frank Craighead tells the story of Marian and how she made history as the first grizzly bear to be fitted and tracked with a radio collar in 1960. “Number 40’s debut as a free roaming electronic instrument of science took place that day.” The team decided to name #40 after the wife of the designer of the first tracking device she bore. Frank observed: “She was learning about us just as we were discovering things about her.”

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Photo: Jim Peaco/NPS



Grizzly tracks in the snow.  
Photo: McNeil Lyons



Grizzly bears remain a threatened species in the GYE, having been returned to the Endangered Species list in 2009. Photo: Dave Syfert

Managing the safe co-existence of people and bears is the primary job of Kerry Gunther and other wildlife managers in Yellowstone. Managers no longer have to deal with the open pit feeding areas of the past, but they face other challenges, such as human-bear conflicts that occur with increasing visitation, decreasing bear habitat surrounding the park, and a varying food supply.

Eight-five percent of bear mortality in the region is caused by humans. “The biggest challenge with bears is

managing the people,” says Gunther. “The bears seem to do fine as long as we don’t kill them. So just trying to continue to work on the foundation of our programs, which is preventing bears from getting human food and garbage, will continue to be our main efforts. And just trying to manage with the huge number of people who want to stop and see bears on the road—that’s a continual challenge.”

Climate change presents a formidable challenge as well. Grizzly bears remain a threatened species in the GYE, having

been returned to the Endangered Species list in 2009. A court ruled that their delisting in 2007 did not adequately consider the impacts of climate change on their food supply, but this decision is under appeal.

Whatever the outcome, the issue remains a serious and sometimes controversial subject for discussion. The 10th Yellowstone Biennial Scientific Conference in 2010 had no shortage of research on the topic of climate change. Although scientists disagree on the extent and/or the source of the



Grizzlies mate in spring and give the following winter, typically to 1-3 cubs. Photo: Jim Peaco/NPS

repercussions, a number of trends have the potential to stress the grizzly bear in the GYE.

For example, warmer temperatures may disrupt the animal's hibernation patterns. During hibernation, grizzlies live off of a stored layer of fat built up during the months prior to hibernation. They do not eat, drink, defecate, or urinate while they are hibernating. "Bears don't pee for five months," observed Professor Hank Harlow of the University of Wyoming at the 2010 conference. His research showed that the bear's physiological strategy to conserve protein in hibernation through recycling urea could be disrupted by the animal being aroused from its den in warmer winters.

Another potential impact of climate change involves the reduction of the whitebark pine nut crop, which decreases one of the bear's major food sources. During the period known as hyperphagia, the pre-denning period

in fall, bears consume as much food as possible before hibernation. Some bears may gain up to 100 pounds just in one month alone. When a shortage of the nutrient rich seeds of the whitebark pine occurs, bears are forced to switch to other menu items. Doug Smith, the Project Leader for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, has observed a perfectly inverse relationship between bear's stealing of wolf kills in the fall and the productivity of the whitebark pine crop.

Despite these threats, many people and organizations work tirelessly to ensure the grizzly bear thrives in Yellowstone and remains an integral part of the landscape. As Jean George, famed nature writer and sister to the Craighead brothers, once asked, "What would we lose if the grizzly did disappear? For one thing, the grizzly is part and parcel of the wilderness ecosystem... but beyond this, the grizzly is as much a wonder of this land as the Grand Canyon and Old Faithful."

Will the Yellowstone grizzly survive

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Grizzlies actually can climb trees. Park ranger Rudolf Grimm dispelled a popular myth in 1938 when he witnessed one climbing an apple tree in Yellowstone. Grizzly bears can also swim and run downhill.
- Approximately 150 grizzly bears live entirely or partially within Yellowstone, and 541–663 live in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.
- Grizzly bears are not ravenous meat-eaters, as many people assume. They subsist on a diet that on average is 60 percent plant-based. As Thomas McNamee relates in his book *The Grizzly Bear*: "The awesome grizzly, widely known as 'the largest terrestrial carnivore,' actually spends most of his waking time placidly munching on flower.
- The average Yellowstone grizzly bear measures about 3 ½ feet at the shoulder, weighs between 200–700 pounds, and can live up to 30 years.

some of these formidable challenges? Gunther, who has spent more than 30 years studying Yellowstone's bears, and his colleagues place the responsibility squarely on us: "The long-term survival of grizzlies in Yellowstone is intimately linked with humans, how we impact the ecosystem and how much space we leave for bears. To that end, the future of the bear is in our hands."

## ENDNOTES

In order to publish this article in its entirety in the available space, we have omitted the footnotes and references provided by the author. You may contact the Association to obtain a list of sources.

# DAN WENK: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT

Dan Wenk came to Yellowstone in 1979 to take his first job in a national park. In 2011, with more than 35 years of experience in the National Park Service, he returned to Yellowstone to become the park's superintendent. Here he speaks to *Discovery* about the past, present, and future of Yellowstone.

## WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME KEY MOMENTS ON THE JOB SINCE YOU RETURNED TO YELLOWSTONE?

Two of the key issues are bison—in terms of how we are going to manage a free-roaming herd—and winter use. I thought I knew a little bit about them, so probably the key moment was when I realized the reality of the situation: The intensity of the feelings of the stakeholders is something you can't comprehend from a distance. There's a lot more emotion behind the feelings that the stakeholders have that can't be moved by science, law, regulation, or policy.

## HOW HAS YELLOWSTONE CHANGED SINCE YOU WERE HERE 27 YEARS AGO?

Yellowstone is a far healthier place today. Ecologically it is due to the more balanced prey-predator relationships, thanks to wolf reintroduction and how grizzly bears have rebounded. On top of that, the facilities—everything from new visitor education centers and improved concession facilities to upgrades of historic facilities and the roads—have been improved dramatically, but their footprints haven't grown.

In real numbers, the national park's budget has improved over that time, and we also have the funding of the Yellowstone Association and Yellowstone Park Foundation.



Superintendent Dan Wenk/NPS

## HOW IMPORTANT IS THAT FUNDING?

We are down about 5 percent in budget since 2010, with additional potential cuts looking forward. The Yellowstone Association really assists us with education, youth programs, and research; and the Yellowstone Park Foundation has raised \$65 million over the last 15 years. Because there is an obligation to provide services through our appropriated dollars, we couldn't do the job we are doing without our partners.

## HOW ELSE DOES THE YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION HELP THE PARK?

Collectively, we have a great cadre of employees who care passionately about Yellowstone, whether they are wearing the green and grey of the National Park Service or the uniform of the Yellowstone Association. The better the cooperation between the National Park Service and our partners, the better service we provide.

I love going down to the store in Gardiner because the Association staff and volunteers are, for many people, the entry to the park, and they are passionate about their work. In the wintertime especially, they are providing great information to visitors in terms of wildlife viewing opportunities on the northern

range. We are not going to contact everyone, so the more opportunity we have for visitors to meet and get great information throughout the park, the better we are all served.

### HAVE YOU SEEN THAT TYPE OF COLLABORATION IN YOUTH PROGRAMS?

I had the great fortune a week ago to watch a group from the Boys & Girls Club from Tacoma that came into the park, and the Yellowstone Association provided the program for that. That's a really good example of how Yellowstone can be a learning place for some great things.

We are working with the Association to develop a program for high school students throughout the region and country. I think there is a concerted effort among the Park Service and the Yellowstone Association and Yellowstone Park Foundation to find ways to bring youth to Yellowstone and use it as a foundation for education for future stewards to develop a love of the outdoors.

### YOU SEEM TO BE PUSHING THE MESSAGE OF BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY. WHY IS THAT?

One of the problems we have is the number of people that aren't taking measures to protect themselves. We have requirements for people who are going to camp in the backcountry: They need a permit and instruction on food safety, what equipment to carry, and the importance of bear spray. But if visitors want to do a day hike they don't have those requirements, so we have tried to very aggressively and intentionally help people understand what they should and shouldn't be doing in the backcountry. We will continue to look at how we can improve in the future.

### IS THERE AN ISSUE THAT SOMETIMES GETS OVERLOOKED?

One of biggest areas of concern is with the native fisheries. Their role is a little harder to understand because

you don't see it. I am emphasizing trying to restore native cutthroat trout on Lake Yellowstone and native Westslope cutthroat and grayling on the park's west side, and to segregate some of the natives from the non-native species in places like Lamar Valley and Slough Creek because non-native fish act differently and have a different impact on the native species. On Lake Yellowstone alone, the cutthroat trout is important to 42 other species of animals, while the non-native lake trout doesn't have the same impact.

### WHAT CAN YA MEMBERS DO FROM AFAR TO HELP THE PARK?

They should let people know how important the national parks are in their lives. Their voices can and should be heard. They can always go to our website and see what is going on, view planning documents, see the different kinds of priorities we have with certain issues. And they can get involved with their voices and with their contributions, which can be their time through volunteering or their dollars to support different projects in the park.

### HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY FIT INTO YELLOWSTONE'S FUTURE?

I think there is a place for it. We are not the most connected place in the world, and for many people that is a relief. Still, we are looking at the ability to have connection in all the major developed areas throughout the park. That may give us some opportunity for providing more up-to-date information to visitors, and I think we should take care of those things appropriately. Also, if people go to our website, they can learn about pretty much any aspect of Yellowstone through programs and podcasts.

### WE'VE TALKED ABOUT WORK, BUT DO YOU GET TIME TO ENJOY THE PARK?

There's not nearly a big enough play connection. I enjoy being out in

the park, taking advantage of the opportunities we have, whether it's just touring or hiking. Since I have been back here I have not had the chance to do any overnight backpacking trips, but I look forward to them in the future. It's amazing; when I was sitting back in Washington before I got here, I could imagine all the things I was going to do; and I am finding that I am still imagining.

### AS WE HEAD INTO A NEW YEAR, DO YOU HAVE AN AGENDA FOR THE PARK?

I didn't come to Yellowstone with the top "five things" I thought needed to change. For the minute and a half I had to sit back, I wanted to find out where I could help to make this a better and stronger park ecologically and ensure the long-term preservation of the park. I think some of the long-term issues that we are trying to tackle right now are universal issues. My predecessors did a lot of great work setting things up, and my job is to follow through and fill in some of the places where perhaps we haven't put enough emphasis yet.

### SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL, YOU HAVE MADE A POINT TO BE ACTIVE IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY. WHY IS THAT?

Yellowstone is incredibly important to the communities and states that surround the park. There are tough issues we have to discuss, and it is easier to discuss them if people don't just see when things are going bad. When we disagree they have to understand why. My belief is that the more they know about me, the more they'll know about my decision-making, values and the basis for what we are doing.

There are a lot of people who are very passionate about Yellowstone, making everything you do either somewhat controversial to incredibly controversial. And that's okay, because I can't imagine what it'd be like if nobody cared.



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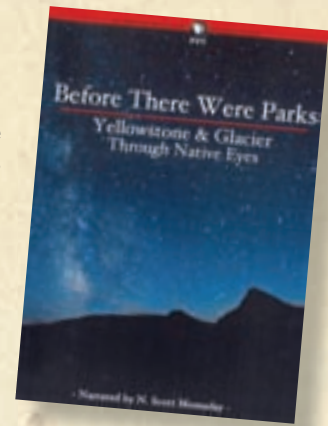
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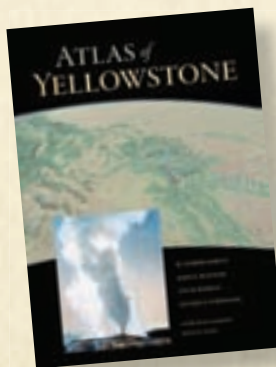
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# YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION

## Holiday Gift Ideas



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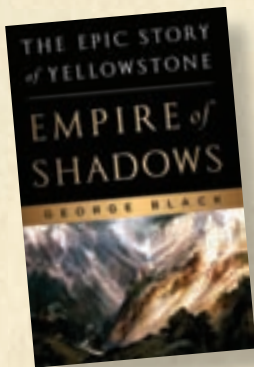
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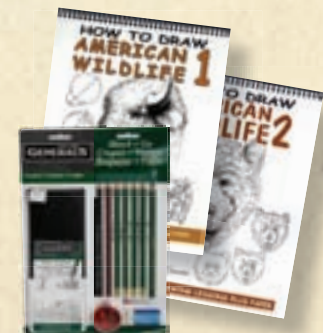
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# YELLOWSTONE BISON UPDATE

By April Christofferson  
Yellowstone Association

Yellowstone's iconic buffalo herd may one day be credited with repopulating the West with wild bison. Within the park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and throughout the West, the future of Yellowstone's bison continues to be the focus of intense public sentiment, multi-agency planning, and legal activity.

Steps are being taken to determine the viability of restoring wild bison on federal or state land. This is prompted by public support for opening up habitat outside of the park for Yellowstone's herd and by a national Bison Conservation Initiative whose goal is to find ways to preserve the species.

This past May, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar issued a directive to his agencies to analyze short- and long-term bison relocation on federal or tribal land. Salazar asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify lands that could host Yellowstone bison.

As part of a three-year process to determine the level of public support for free-roaming bison, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks—the state agency that will develop the Environmental Impact Statement for bison reintroduction in the state of Montana—conducted a 60-day scoping period over the summer of 2012, which included an eight-city tour. Approximately 23,000 public comments were submitted during the scoping period and are being reviewed.

Additional support for the bison repopulation comes from the National Park Service's Second Century Vision. Number 26 in the agency's *Call to Action* states: "Return the American bison, one of the nation's iconic species, to our country's landscape."

A first step in repopulating parts of the West with wild bison was taken last March when 60 Yellowstone bison that had been quarantined for almost five



As of summer 2012, Yellowstone was home to approximately 4200 bison. Photo: Bridget Lyons

years were relocated to the Fort Peck Reservation in northeast Montana. That herd now numbers more than 80 bison, including calves. Fort Peck would welcome more bison. "The tribes want to be leaders of this effort," states Robert Magnan, tribal fish and game director for Fort Peck.

The public has shown strong support for translocation of bison to the tribes. The Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming have also expressed interest in acquiring some of Yellowstone's genetically pure bison.

On the legal front, in late August, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that under the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), Yellowstone National Park managers have the authority to slaughter bison that leave the park. The appeals court upheld a federal district court judge's ruling in an earlier lawsuit brought by environmental groups and individuals against Department of the Interior Secretary Salazar, the National

Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. The plaintiffs claimed that the agencies should have conducted an environmental impact statement and taken public comment prior to culling the herd.

The appeals court ruled that the park has the discretion to manage the Yellowstone bison population at levels that can be accommodated by the park. The IBMP was implemented in 2000 to address the perceived threat of Yellowstone bison transmitting brucellosis to cattle, although there has never been a documented case of transmission from wild bison to cattle.

The IBMP provides authority for the culling of Yellowstone's herd to keep it between 3000 and 3500 animals. As of summer 2012, Yellowstone was home to approximately 4200 bison. Park officials want to remove approximately 700 bison from the population. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit oppose culling the herd, especially when efforts are underway to allow bison to roam year-round outside the park.

# TEMPORARY WINTER USE RULE EXTENDED

By April Christofferson  
Yellowstone Association

In August, the National Park Service (NPS) proposed a rule extending the existing “one-year rule” regarding management of oversnow vehicle use in the park for the 2012–2013 winter season. The rule, which allows up to 318 commercially guided Best Available Technology (BAT) snowmobiles and 78 commercially guided snowcoaches daily, has been in place for the past three winters. It also continues to provide access for motorized oversnow travel over the East Entrance road and Sylvan Pass. In September, the temporary rule was released for a 30-day public review and comment period.

Concurrently, the NPS reopened the public comment period for 30 days on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) for a long-term plan for winter use in Yellowstone National Park. In June, the National Park Service released a Draft SEIS. The preferred alternative represents a new approach to management of oversnow vehicle use in the park.

Requirements that both snowmobiles and snowcoaches become cleaner and quieter in the future are designed to reduce impacts on visitors, air and sound quality, and wildlife, while continuing to provide snowmobile and snowcoach access. Based upon the idea that the impacts of one snowcoach entering the park are comparable to those of an average group of seven snowmobiles, for the first time one non-commercially guided group of up to five snowmobiles would be allowed to enter the park per entrance per day.

Following release of the Draft SEIS, four public meetings were held in communities surrounding the park. Park officials presented the Draft SEIS and provided the opportunity for formal public comment. The original comment period extended through August 20, 2012. The new comment period responds to public requests for additional review and comment on the long-term plan.

After considering the public comment on extending the temporary rule, the NPS intended to amend the Record of Decision for the 2011 Environmental Impact Statement and issue a rule authorizing oversnow vehicle use during the 2012–2013 winter season, pursuant to the extended “one-year rule.”

“As we look to the 2012–2013 winter season, we want to provide a safe and positive experience for our visitors,” said Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk. According to Wenk, this approach also “ensures that there will not be interruptions to access this winter.”



In the winter, Old Faithful geyser is accessible by snowcoach or snowmobile.  
Photo: Shirley Cope

## YA TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE IN LATE 2012

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new Yellowstone Association (YA) website. The current YA site is more than ten years old and no longer meets the needs of today's fast-paced digital world. Our main focus as we develop the new site is improving the user experience. Our new website will feature an easy-to-navigate design with mobile and tablet versions for those on-the-go.

It will now be easier than ever to personalize your Yellowstone experience with the Yellowstone Association Institute (YAI). Our new filtering function will allow users to easily compare YAI programs that best match their needs. YA members will now be able to log-in to personalized accounts to view the current status of their membership, renew or change their membership online, or view their purchase history.

Following in the footsteps of Amazon.com, we will now have the ability to suggest items to customers. This feature is

particularly handy when you sign up for a program, as you'll receive recommended publications and products that will enhance your experience. Haven't decided what class you'd like to take yet? Just add it to the wish list function. This feature allows you to bookmark products and courses with the option to purchase them later.

Since 1933 the Yellowstone Association has been connecting visitors to Yellowstone National Park. We have been working hard to maintain that connection when you return home. The new "Share" section will help do just that. Not only will we give you frequent reports from the field (wildlife sightings, naturalist notes, special alerts, etc.), but we also want you to share your Yellowstone adventures with us. Through the seamless integration of popular social

media outlets, you can post photographs, swap stories, recommend hiking trails, or just reach out and say "hi."

The new site will go live in December 2012. We look forward to seeing you then!



## CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON ARCH HOUSE

Construction is set to begin later this year on the Arch House, the building located next to the Yellowstone Association headquarters in Gardiner, Montana.

The Arch House is part of a body of work designed by Old Faithful Inn architect Robert Reamer. The building was erected in 1910, at the boundary line between Gardiner, Montana, and Yellowstone National Park, and directly across from the Roosevelt Arch. Given its proximity to the arch, it has been referred to as the "Arch House" in recent years.

The renovated Arch House will provide much-needed additional office space for full-time Institute staff. The intent is to connect the two buildings—the Arch House and the North Entrance Education Center—with a discreet foyer. When completed, the space will house five offices and a shared meeting space. Construction and design will embrace



The Arch House was designed by Old Faithful Inn architect Robert Reamer.

the building's historical perspective, and will maintain the original historical flavor of the structure while at the same time making it energy efficient and sustainable. Targeted completion of the

improvement project is early 2013. This coincides with the work being done around this property in conjunction with the Gardiner Gateway Project.



Photo: Mike Kautz

## TWO WAYS FOR YOU TO JOIN THE YELLOWSTONE FAMILY

### 1. VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

If you love the magic of Yellowstone, consider spending the summer season volunteering with the Yellowstone Association. We are looking for generous, hardworking, enthusiastic individuals and couples to support our mission to inspire, educate, and preserve. Volunteers spend full seasons working in Yellowstone National Park and play an integral role in our organization. Housing is provided. Opportunities include program assistants, campus caretakers, and information assistants.

### 2. WORK AS A SALES ASSOCIATE

Our sales associates work at our busy educational Park Stores throughout Yellowstone National Park. They ring up sales, provide park information, and offer Yellowstone Association memberships. Sales associates have an important role in serving the visitor and facilitating product sales that benefit the park. These are paid positions of approximately 30 to 35 hours per week. Applicants must be able to work from the middle of May through the end of September. Most associates live in their own RV's inside the park, though housing is available in Gardner and Mammoth.

For position descriptions, please visit our website at [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org).

#### WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*About a month ago, four of us from the Yellowstone Association went on an instructor-led hike to Cascade Lake. Most of us were wearing YA ball caps or shirts or were carrying YA water bottles. While we were on the trail, we passed a couple who had been backpacking. They stopped us to thank us for being members of YA!*

*What impressed all of us was that at some point, someone from YA must have done something to enhance the Yellowstone experience for these two people. Whether it's writing animal sightings on a map, plotting a day trip to Old Faithful, or putting together a week-long visit, what we do makes the park unique and special for the people who come to see us. And when we do that for visitors, the reward is often a life-long relationship that benefits both them and all of us.*

—Kathy Haines,  
summer 2012 volunteer

# MAKING TRACKS

By Stephen Camelio  
Yellowstone Association

Winter is not the end of outdoor fun in Yellowstone. In fact, for those that like to cross-country ski and snowshoe, it can be the best time of year to explore the backcountry without worrying about crowds. Ready to brave the elements, but not sure which direction to head? Our naturalist guides have hot tips on where to go when the trails go cold.



Photo: Brad Orsted



Photo: Glen Cope



Photo: NPS



Photo: Red Lodge Hiking Club

## LONE STAR TRAIL (2.5 miles)—BEGINNER

The shuttle back-and-forth from Old Faithful and the groomed surface make this a favorite with rookies. "Following along the Firehole River makes it really peaceful," says YA Resident Instructor Danielle Chalfant. Plus, having a backcountry thermal feature at the end of trail is a great incentive. "Viewing a geyser with no railing or boardwalk around it is something special that a lot of people don't get to see," adds Chalfant.

## BANNOCK TRAIL (4 miles)—BEGINNER

Following Warm Creek from open meadows where you might find a bison or two to gently rolling hills, this smooth trail is a treat for all levels. Most people head to the park boundary and then turn around, making it a great out-and-back trip. "This is one of my favorites because of the amazing vistas you get of the beginnings of the Absaroka-Beartooth range," says YA Resident Instructor Shauna Baron.

## CANYON RIM TRAIL (4.5 miles)—INTERMEDIATE

Though relatively flat, this trail—which leaves from the warming hut and follows roads along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone—can be tricky. The proximity to steep drop-offs makes it important to remove your skis before doing any sightseeing. Still, it is great way to see the spectacular combination of winter and water. "The views of the snow-covered canyon are amazing," says Chalfant. "And with the ice bridge at the base of the falls always changing, I see something different every time I do this trail."

## BARRONETTE (3.5 miles)—INTERMEDIATE

Sitting on the base of its namesake mountain, this route has enough loop-de-loops and little stream crossings to make it fun and challenging. "It has a great mix of terrain," says Baron. "Keep a lookout for old avalanche shoots, blow-downs, and waterfalls." This is also a great wildlife corridor where mountain lion and moose tracks have been spotted.

## HOWARD EATON TRAIL (7 miles)—ADVANCED

The Lone Star Trail connects to the Howard Eaton, a trail for the more experienced, thanks to its taxing climbs and hairpin downhill. Winding its way through an older, mixed lodgepole forest as well as areas that burned during the 1988 fires, the Howard Eaton is anything but monotonous. "Remember to stop at the top and look down at the Upper Geyser Basin," reminds Chalfant. "If you're lucky, you just might see Old Faithful going off."



# MAKING TRACKS

## JOIN US THIS WINTER FOR A SKI OR SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE!

### YELLOWSTONE ON SKIS

Ski amid grand views of the Gallatin Range, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and the Old Faithful area. Five day programs are offered in January and February. You'll spend three nights at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, and three nights at Old Faithful Snow Lodge. This package includes daily field trips, lodging, most meals, in-park transportation, and optional evening programs. Rates per person are \$1,555/double, \$1,930/single and do not include taxes, utility fees, or ski rentals.

### OLD FAITHFUL WINTER EXPEDITION

Travel by snowcoach from Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful. See Yellowstone Lake, the Grand of the Yellowstone, and other winter gems, and enjoy guided walks and snowshoeing around the world-famous geyser area. Three day programs are offered in December, January, and February. You'll spend 2 nights at the Mammoth Hot Springs hotels and 2 nights at Old Faithful Snowlodge. This package includes daily field trips, lodging, most meals, in-park transportation, and optional evening programs. Rates per person are \$1,075/double, \$1,325/single and do not include taxes or utility fees.



Photo: Bob Woodward

## GEAR UP FOR WINTER ADVENTURE

### YA LOGO HYDRO FLASK BOTTLE

This wide-mouth, double-walled and vacuum-insulated stainless-steel water bottle keeps beverages hot for 12 hours and cold for 24 hours. BPA Free. Color: Black

Price: \$23.99 **YA Member Price: \$17.99**



### PREDATOR FRIENDLY WOOL HATS

Keep warm this winter with a beautiful handmade hat, knitted in Montana. Choose from Bear Pair, Bison, White Wolf, Bear in Snow, Wolf Paw Print, or Dark Wolf.

Price: \$29.99 **YA Member Price: \$22.49**

Order online at [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org) or call 406-848-2400.

## OVERLOOK FIELD CAMPUS

### WINTER WEEKEND GETAWAYS



Photo: Red Lodge Hiking Club



Photo: Dody Sheramate

**In winter**, Yellowstone truly shines. Join us for a three-day adventure based at our Yellowstone Overlook Kendeda Field Campus in Gardiner, Montana. The campus features comfortable cabins on 80 acres, awe-inspiring views, and easy access to the northern section of the park.

Your adventure begins on Friday as you settle into your cabin and enjoy a relaxing evening taking in the panoramic views of Yellowstone from the front deck of your cabin. On Saturday morning you'll venture into the park with a local naturalist who is intimately familiar with Yellowstone's wildlife and winter recreation opportunities. Spend the morning wildlife watching, followed by a picnic lunch and an afternoon spent skiing or snowshoeing. End the day with a soak in the Boiling River—a popular soaking area fed by a natural hot spring. Sunday is yours: spend a leisurely morning enjoying the view from your cabin, or take what you've learned and head back into the park before heading home.

Our Winter Weekend Getaways include two nights of lodging in a private cabin, a full-day tour with a naturalist guide, snowshoes, and in-park transportation. Packages are offered Friday–Sunday, with the opportunity to add additional days. Rates begin at \$672 for a group of up to five people—a **savings of 25% off summer rates**. Please call us at 406-848-2400 for more information.



Photo: Sandy Shapiro



Photo: Beth Pratt



Photo: Angela Stewart

### ADDITIONAL WEEKEND PROGRAMS OFFERED AT OVERLOOK FIELD CAMPUS

#### SKIING BY THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON

December 28–30

Skiing by the light of the full moon opens a new window into Yellowstone. Ski through the thick mists of Mammoth Hot Springs by night, and by day, enjoy wildlife watching in the Lamar Valley and skiing to Tower Fall.

Cost: \$200 per person

#### YOGA AND SKI WEEKEND RETREAT

January 18–20 or February 16–18

Begin each day with a gentle yoga session, suitable for all levels of ability. On Saturday, glide along a groomed ski trail to a spectacular waterfall seldom seen by visitors. Later, learn about the winter lives of wildlife as you look for them in the Lamar Valley.

Cost: \$240 per person

#### SNOWSHOEING CANYON AND THE NORTHERN RANGE

January 4–6

Enjoy wildlife encounters in Lamar Valley and awe-inspiring views of the Upper and Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone as you snowshoe Yellowstone's diverse winterscapes. Along the way, look for signs of wildlife, learn about the park's geology, and talk about its human history.

Cost: \$405 per person

For more information, please visit [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org) or call 406-848-2400.

# INSTITUTE SUMMER 2013 PROGRAMS

## LODGING AND LEARNING PROGRAMS

**Join other individuals and families** for just the right amount of education and recreation. You'll be based at park hotels and taught by our naturalist guides. Packages are offered in partnership with Xanterra Parks & Resorts® and include daily field trips, lodging, most meals, and in-park transportation. Minimum age is 12 unless noted. Rates are double/single and don't include taxes or utility fees.

### SPRING WOLF AND BEAR DISCOVERY

Delve into the world of Yellowstone's wolves and bears as you go early morning wildlife viewing; then learn about behavior, ecology, and conservation on leisurely hikes. 3-day programs offered May 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29  
4 nights at Mammoth Hot Springs  
\$699/\$949

### ESSENTIAL YELLOWSTONE

Our naturalists guide you in wildlife watching, walking the rim of Yellowstone's Grand Canyon, and learning about the park's geology. 4-day programs offered Saturday to Wednesday May 25, June 1, August 24, 31, September 21  
5 nights at Lake Hotel  
\$1,189/\$1,747

### OLD TIMES ON THE GRAND TOUR

Tour the park in style in a classic Yellowstone bus with retractable top. Stay in the best park hotels and enjoy walking tours of historic and thermal areas. 5-day programs offered Sunday to Friday May 19, 26, June 2, 9, 23, 30, July 14, 28, August 11, 18, 25, September 1, 8, 15  
2 nights each at Mammoth Hot Springs, Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Lake Hotel  
\$1,659/\$2,136

### TRAILS THROUGH YELLOWSTONE

Pack boots and daypacks. We'll hike specific trails to explore geysers, Yellowstone's Grand Canyon, and valleys full of wildlife. 4-day programs offered Monday to Friday from May 27 to September 23  
2 nights at Mammoth Hot Springs, 2 nights at Grant Village  
\$869/\$1,149

### FALL WOLF AND ELK DISCOVERY

Delve into the world of Yellowstone's wolves and elk as you go early morning wildlife viewing; then learn about behavior, ecology, and conservation on leisurely hikes. 3-day programs offered August 23, 29, September 4, 10, 16, 22, 24, 28, October 1  
4 nights at Mammoth Hot Springs  
\$679/\$929

### ROOSEVELT RENDEZVOUS

It's camp for grown-ups. Choose a different half- or full-day field trip each day. Learn photography, read animal tracks, hike, or search for wolves. Enjoy buffet dinners and evening programs. 4-day programs offered September 6, 10, 14  
4 nights at Roosevelt Lodge  
\$759/\$897

### SUMMER WILDLIFE EXPEDITION

Search for and learn about wolves, bears, elk, bison, and more as an Institute naturalist guide takes you through Yellowstone by bus, by foot, and by boat. 4-day programs offered Sunday to Thursday June 16, July 7, 21 August 4  
2 nights at Mammoth Hot Springs, 2 nights at Lake Hotel  
\$1,439/\$1,896

SELECTED "BEST SUMMER FAMILY CAMP  
IN AMERICA" BY GOOD MORNING  
AMERICA AND FAMILY FUN MAGAZINE!

## NEW FOR 2013 *Our award-winning families program now spans multiple park locations, including Old Faithful!*

**YELLOWSTONE FOR FAMILIES**—Families with kids ages 8–12 join our naturalist to explore waterfalls and geysers, track animals, and work on Junior Ranger badges. 4-day programs spend either 2 nights at Mammoth Hot Springs and 2 nights at Old Faithful, or 2 nights at Mammoth Hot Springs and 2 nights at Grant Village.

Mammoth and Old Faithful: \$869/\$1,149/\$509 per child  
Offered June 3, 10, July 1, 8, 29, August 5, 12

Mammoth and Grant: \$869/\$1,149/\$509 per child  
Offered June 7, 12, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, July 3, 5, 10, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 31, August 2, 7, 9, 14, 16



For more information, please visit [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org) or call 406-848-2400.

# INSTITUTE SUMMER 2013 PROGRAMS

## PRIVATE TOURS



### WILDLIFE WATCHING ON THE NORTHERN RANGE

Discover the diverse and abundant wildlife of Yellowstone's northern range.

Start: 6 or 8 a.m. at Gardiner or Mammoth; 7 a.m. at Roosevelt or Lamar

### NATURAL HISTORY AND GEOLOGY: YELLOWSTONE LAKE AND GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE

Explore the natural and geologic history of the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone Lake areas. Start: 8 a.m. at Gardiner, Mammoth, Canyon, Norris, or Lake

### GEYSERS, MUDPOTS, AND HOT SPRINGS: OLD FAITHFUL AREA

Take an in-depth look at the world's greatest concentration of hydrothermal features and why they do the things they do.

Start: 8 a.m. at Gardiner, Mammoth, Norris, Madison, or Old Faithful

### DAY HIKING IN YELLOWSTONE

Travel Yellowstone on carefully chosen hikes that show you the park's diverse landscape.

Start: 8 a.m. at Gardiner, Mammoth, Canyon, Lake, Roosevelt, Madison, or Old Faithful

### BACKPACKING IN YELLOWSTONE

Learn about natural history and wildlife with an instructor who will help you hike and camp comfortably. Call for specific details. Rates vary depending on group size and itinerary.



Photos: Karen Withrow

Photo: Todd Klassy

#### TOUR LENGTH:

Approximately 8 hours per day.

#### DAILY TUITION RATES:

1-5 participants \$495  
6-13 participants \$650  
14-26 participants \$1,300

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please call: 406-848-2400

Rates effective through October 31, 2013.

For more information, please visit [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org) or call 406-848-2400.

# WE EXTEND OUR DEEP APPRECIATION TO OUR DEDICATED MEMBERS.

Through your support and our strong membership of almost 35,000 households across the world, you have helped make a difference for Yellowstone National Park and the Yellowstone Association.

In 2012 we increased our educational contact hours in the park, sold more educational material in our Park Stores than ever before, and increased our funding to Yellowstone National Park. Your membership has been extremely important in helping us achieve these goals. We are dedicated to maintaining high quality and standards in all that we do, and we hope we can continue to count on your support and membership for years to come.

We need your support now more than ever! Year-end is a great time for giving. When you make a donation by December 31 to the Yellowstone Association, you aren't just making a monetary contribution—you are helping us achieve our collective vision. Together we can **INSPIRE, EDUCATE, and PRESERVE** on behalf of Yellowstone National Park for future generations. There are many ways you can give back to Yellowstone National Park through the Yellowstone Association by December 31:

- Upgrade or renew your membership
- Give a gift membership
- Give a stock gift
- Create a legacy gift by including the Yellowstone Association in your will
- Join our business membership program
- Have your company match your gift



## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Director of Development Stacey Orsted at [sorsted@yellowstoneassociation.org](mailto:sorsted@yellowstoneassociation.org) or 406-848-2855. Please visit [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/membership](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/membership) to renew, upgrade, or give a gift membership.

Xanterra Parks & Resorts® is pleased to offer Yellowstone Association members a 20% discount off regular room rates from May 3, 2013, through May 23, 2013, and from October 1, 2013, through October 19, 2013. Members may book up to the day of arrival, based on availability, and receive the discounted rate by calling 1-866-Geyserland (866-439-7375) or 307-344-7311 and identifying themselves as Yellowstone Association members. The Yellowstone Association member discount is not applicable to packages or special functions and cannot be combined with other discounts or promotions. Proof of membership is required at time of check-in.



Photo: Karen Withrow

# GIVE THE GIFT THAT GIVES ALL YEAR!

Show your loved ones you care about them and Yellowstone National Park by giving them an annual gift membership. When you give a gift membership, your friends or family members will be welcomed into the Yellowstone Association's family of dedicated individuals committed to protecting the future of Yellowstone through education.

When you order a gift membership of \$35 or more, a copy of the 2013 Yellowstone National Park calendar will be sent to the recipient. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery. To ensure delivery by December 25, orders must be received by December 11. You can order online at [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/membership](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org/membership) or by calling 406-848-2400. Please refer to code: giftdisc12



## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

- Subscription to our quarterly *Yellowstone Discovery* magazine
- Discounts at all of our Park Stores and online store
- Seasonal lodging discounts
- Early registration and discounts on Institute programs
- Supporting Yellowstone through education

# M E M B E R S H I P

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPECIAL PATRONS

### NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS OF THE YELLOWSTONE SOCIETY...

The Yellowstone Society recognizes preservationists who annually support the Association at \$1,000 or more through memberships and philanthropic contributions. Thank you to the following donors who joined or renewed their membership in the Yellowstone Society between July 1, 2012, and September 30, 2012. Your annual support plays a critical role in the Association's mission to educate visitors about preserving Yellowstone National Park.

**BECHLER \$5,000 - \$9,999**  
Devin and Brian Cronin  
Joy and Jordan Renner

**GALLATIN \$2,500 - \$4,999**  
Tamara and Martin Hicks  
Barb and Lou Lanwermeyer  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lukas  
Axson and Bryan Morgan  
Alan Shaw

**LAMAR \$1,000 - \$2,499**  
Ken Bowling  
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Roberta and William Scherer  
Joan and Mark Strobel  
Mary Ann and William Sullivan  
Kelly and Len Trout  
Annette and Kelley Waters  
Page and Pearre Williams  
Kathryn and Frank Yeager

*\*Yellowstone Guardian*

### BUSINESS MEMBERS...

Special thanks to the following business members who annually support the Association at \$1,000 or more

**GOLD \$1,000 - \$2,499**  
Jacklin's Fly Shop  
Henry Fork Anglers

### HONORARY YELLOWSTONE SOCIETY...

Special thanks to the following members who made cash or in-kind contributions of \$1,000 or greater between July 1, 2012, and September 30, 2012

Yellowstone General Store

Pacific Studio

Imerys Talc America Incorporated

### SUMMIT SOCIETY...

The Summit Society is a special program to recognize those individuals or families that have included the Yellowstone Association in their estate planning to ensure the preservation of Yellowstone for future generations.

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous

Jeane Burlein  
Lynn Bart  
Claire Campbell & Brian Makare

Stephen and Lara Compton  
Jerry and Shirley Cormier  
Kathleen Haines

Frank Hensing  
Dennis and Jayne Poydence  
William Ryerson  
Robert & Catherine Shopneck

### SPECIAL TRIBUTE DONORS...

Special thanks to the following donors who made a contribution to the Yellowstone Association as a tribute to someone special in their lives between July 1, 2012, and September 30, 2012

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD  
BLENKHORN  
Ed and Kathy Fronheiser

IN HONOR OF RON AND DIANE  
BROWN  
Sandra Davis

IN HONOR OF ELI  
Gail and Alan Robinson  
Joseph and Laurence Waltman

IN MEMORY OF HILDA MIKAN  
Rebecca Berryhill

IN MEMORY OF CRAIG SCHROEDER  
Kirsten Munighan

IN MEMORY OF DANNY QUALLS  
Mr. and Mrs. Brite

IN MEMORY OF EMILY ESTEEN  
QUINN  
Chris Michael

IN MEMORY OF SCOTT ZAPALAC  
Rebecca Berryhill



Photo: Diane Simpson



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## 2013 YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK CALENDAR



**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!**  
BY THE YELLOWSTONE ASSOCIATION.

Start your new year off in the heart of Yellowstone with the Yellowstone National Park 2013 calendar. Get up close and personal with America's first national park as each month guides you through the natural and cultural history of Yellowstone. Stunning photography and depictive captions let you enjoy this wonderland from the comfort of your own home any day of the year. A great gift for all ages.

12" x 12"

**Price: \$12.95**

THE SECOND CALENDAR IS FREE

*No further discounts apply*

Order online at [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org) or call 406-848-2400.