

# YELLOWSTONE



## News

June 21, 1996

NPS Employee Newsletter

Next Deadline: July 3

### Director to Speak

On Monday, July 8 at 9:00 a.m., NPS Director Roger Kennedy will address NPS employees at an All-Employee Meeting at the Mammoth Recreation Hall. Prior to the early morning meeting, the Yellowstone Federal Employees Association will sponsor a welcoming coffee for the Director. Coffee, tea, juice, fruit compote, and homemade breads will be served. The winner of the YFEA logo contest will also be announced. As usual, supervisors should arrange for as many of their employees as possible to attend this meeting.

### Livingston Says, "Thanks for the Help"

Steve Golnar, from the City of Livingston office called on Thursday, June 20, to personally thank the NPS employees who helped out the city due to their flooding problems. They appreciated all the help the park provided.

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**Summer Starts  
Today!!!**

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**YIPPEE!!!**

### An Incident at Slough Creek

by Rick McIntyre, Wolf Interpreter

Wolf sightings in the northeast section of the park are averaging about twice the 1995 rate. Most of the observations are taking place in Slough Creek Valley. On the morning of June 18, I, along with 100 visitors met at the Slough Creek area in hopes of viewing the wolves.

Around 6 a.m. we spotted eight members of the Rose Creek Pack (No.8, the alpha male, and all seven yearlings) in a meadow at the lower end of Slough Creek Valley. The wolves gradually moved upstream along the western bank of the creek. At 6:15, the wolves sighted a small group of elk cows further upstream. I could see that the herd contained at least one calf. The pack ran toward the elk, with No.8 in the lead position. At first, the calf ran at the front of the herd but then began to slow down. Number 8 was clearly gaining on the calf. As the wolves reached the elk, the herd reversed direction and ran downstream. Two black yearlings and the charcoal yearling ran up to the calf and the charcoal wolf made first contact. A moment later, at least four wolves were attacking the calf. Within a minute, all eight were feeding on the carcass. The tails of the wolves were wagging and held high. During the next hour, the pack remained in the general area of the kill, feeding on the carcass and resting. The wolves were scattered over an area of several hundred yards.

At 7:15, No. 8 jumped up and started running at top speed uphill, away from the creek. Two black yearlings also jumped up and joined the alpha male. At first, I assume that they were going after another calf. A few moments later, however, I saw four wolves running downhill toward the Rose Creek wolves. This group contained two grays, a black, and a white wolf. I assumed it was the Druid Peak Pack.

At this point several things occurred at once and I wasn't able to follow all the action. I stayed with No.8 and saw that he and the yearlings had caught and pinned down one of the gray wolves, the Druid Peak alpha male (No.38). It appeared that at least five Rose Creek wolves were attacking him in the same way that they had pinned down and attacked the calf. After about one minute, No.38 escaped or was let go by the other wolves. No. 8 immediately started chasing No.38 diagonally up the high slope on the western side of the creek. Both wolves looked like they were going at top speed up the steep

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## Blood Drive to be Held

The American Red Cross is sponsoring their annual blood drive to be held on Saturday, June 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Gardiner School Multi-Purpose Room. Appointments are not necessary but can be made if you hate to wait, call 848-7259. The blood drive will be hosted this year by the Gardiner Fire Department.

## Youth Soccer Camp Scheduled

The 1996 Gardiner/Mammoth Youth Soccer Camp will be held on July 15, 16, and 17 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., for boys and girls ages 6-18. This camp is run by professional soccer coaches from the Soccer Shop in Bozeman. Your child will touch the ball more times in this camp than he/she will in a whole season. The cost is \$28 and includes a camp T-shirt. Contact Tom Olliff at 344-9272 for more information. Sign-up deadline is July 10.

## "Greetings!" from the Grand Canyon

Grace Gifford would like to hear from her friends at Yellowstone. Her new address is : P.O. Box 880, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023.

## Short-Term Host Families Needed

Host a foreign exchange student this fall for three or six months. Contact Dayna McClure, evening at 848-7291 for more information. AYUSA encourages couples without children and single parents to apply.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

\* Vet Visit Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Murray, will be at the Gardiner Exxon on Friday, June 28 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. Housecalls available upon request. Next visit: July 12.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: Hagstrom (Swedish) guitar with case, picks, capo, and brand new steel strings. Good condition, but missing finger rest. Neck is slightly smaller than full-size; good for smaller hands. Ideal for someone just learning. \$50 or best offer. Call Neysa at 242-7459 eves.

For Sale: Peugeot 12 speed road bike. 22" frame, \$80. Wet suit, Farmer John style, like new. \$90. Sony CD player, portable, will work with either home or auto system. Anti-shock base, remote control, power adapters, \$100. Boom box by Sony, \$45. Contact Dave Price at 242-2603 or 242-2620 and leave a message.

For Sale: Suzuki motorcycle, GS 850. Full Faring, side bags, trunk, oil cooler, new tires, nice bike. \$800. Call Joe at 646-9295.

For Sale: Saucony G.R.I.D. Shadow running shoes, navy/teal/white, wms size 9W. Worn twice, too big for me! Originally \$70, will sell for \$50 or best offer. Double size mattress and boxspring, two sets of sheets, and mattress pad. Call Elizabeth, 344-2307 or 344-9242 after 5 p.m.

For Sale: 190 mile antenna. VHF, UHF, FM, with original box and papers. In good shape, asking \$45. Call Al at 545-8028.

For Sale: Older 8 foot camper with jacks. Good condition, \$150. Call 848-7109 after 5 p.m.

For Sale: Dark brown, three sectional hassock, fake fur, new condition. 21x23x12 high when folded, \$25. Mini trampoline, \$25. Two walnut folding snack tables, both for \$30. Folding metal stool with padded seat. \$15. Call Mary at 344-2152.

For Sale: CHEAP!! Miscellaneous ceramic tile. Various colors, sizes, and amounts. Also, solid wood doors, various sizes. Call Kathy at 344-5252 or 848-7614.

**Employment Opportunity:** Position vacancies are being announced for the Gardiner-Mammoth-Park- County School Districts. Speech therapists, physical therapists and an itinerant resource specialist are needed. The following information is required: a district application, letter of intent, resume, transcripts, and credential files. Contact: Beverly LaPorto, PHD, Director of Special Services, Livingston School District, 215 East Lewis, Livingston, MT 59047, or call (406) 222-6600.

# LIVING IN BEAR COUNTRY



THEIR  
FUTURE  
DEPENDS ON YOU!

EVERY EMPLOYEE AND RESIDENT HAS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE BEAR.

The park bear management policy requires that all food, garbage, etc., which will attract bears, shall be properly disposed of or stored where it is not accessible to bears.

Park regulations requiring proper handling of foods and garbage will be enforced. Also, failure to fully comply with this policy may result in the loss of housing or trailer facility privileges.

Bears are dangerous whether they are grizzly bears or black bears. Please keep this thought in mind and review the pamphlet Living in Bear Country. Please contact the respective district or area ranger if you have any questions regarding the proper procedures and to report all bear sightings.

Let's all do our part to live, work, and enjoy our magnificent environment in a safe manner. Your personal cooperation is appreciated.

Dumpsters or garbage cans that are bearproof are provided in each housing area.

- all trash or garbage shall be placed in these receptacles;
- do not leave trash aside the can or dumpster if the receptacle is full;
- store garbage and trash inside a protected area until the can or dumpster has adequate space or carry it to a can or dumpster that is not full. Depositing trash and garbage outside the containers, and littering about the containers is prohibited;
- be aware that it is difficult for children, because of their height and strength, to place garbage in dumpsters;
- plastic bags will be used in all garbage cans, and only garbage and trash in plastic will be put in cans and dumpsters;
- cans provided for disposal of stove ashes shall be utilized only for ashes;
- non-bearproof garbage cans shall not be outdoors at anytime regardless of "intended" use.

The following items are considered as food items and attractants of bears. Proper storage must be provided.

- beverage cans/bottles (pop, beer, etc.)
- ice chest (coolers)
- beverage coolers
- smokers (fish, meats, etc.)
- cook stoves
- cooking and eating utensils
- grills from charcoal or LP gas barbecue systems (grills and barbecue systems must be thoroughly and immediately cleaned after each use if not stored indoors)
- pet foods and their containers
- all human food
- all animal food including horse feed
- bird feeders
- soaps and cosmetics
- any item with food odor

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hill. When I swung my spotting scope back to the other wolves, I found that the seven Rose Creek yearlings had chased the white wolf into the water. This was wolf No.39, the Druid Peak alpha female. Number 39 turned around and swam back to the bank. Just after she got back on land, the yearlings charged at her again. She jumped back into the water and swam away, toward the eastern bank. As she swam, she found her direct route blocked by a large tree floating horizontally in the water. Number 39 tried to climb over the thick trunk but got caught in the branches and seemed momentarily stuck. The yearlings stopped their pursuit at the edge of the water and watched No.39. If they had continued to pursue her, they could easily have caught her at the tree.

The yearlings backed off again, and the white wolf returned to the western bank and watched them as they moved away. We could see that she was howling but could not hear the howl. To the north of No.39 we spotted the black Druid Peak wolf (No.41 or No.42). She was also howling, probably in answer to No.39. This yearling wolf was left alone by the Rose Creek wolves. I next saw the seven yearlings chase the other gray wolf (No.40) up the slope. This seemed to be a half-hearted chase and the gray-another yearling female-easily escapes.

At 7:26, No.39 ran upstream toward the black wolf. She continually looked back over her shoulder as she ran. At times, she stopped and stared back at the scene of the attack. At 7:36, the seven yearlings ran toward the white and black wolves with Number 17 leading the charge. The yearlings broke off the pursuit and returned to the attack area. They smelled the spot where the Druid Peak alpha male had been pinned and could have been sniffing his blood. The yearlings then walked uphill in the general direction of their den site. At 7:56, the last of the yearlings disappear into the trees.

I did not see any wolves after that. I believe the white and black Druid Peak wolves continued upstream; I lost track of No.40 but assume that she swung around and joined the other two. After the wolves disappeared, I turned to the visitors near me. Most of them had never seen a wolf in the wild before. As can be imagined, they were all excitedly talking about what they had just seen. I realized that this was the perfect moment to interpret the background history of this encounter between the two packs. In early May, the Crystal Creek alpha male (#4) was found dead in the eastern end of Lamar Valley. His injuries indicated that he likely had been killed by other wolves. The Druid Peak Pack was in the area at the time and a visitor videotaped them chasing one of the other Crystal Creek wolves. It seems likely that the alpha male was killed by the Druid Peak Pack during a surprise encounter.

The Rose Creek alpha male is the two year-old son of the Crystal Creek alpha male. He joined the Rose Creek pack last October and since then has served as the stepfather of the yearlings. Their biological father had been illegally shot and killed in April 1995. The new alpha male fathered the pack's 1996 pups. He was the wolf who led the charge against the Druid Peak pack and caught, pinned, and attacked their alpha male. When that male broke away from the attack the Rose Creek alpha chased him out of the territory. He had no way of knowing that this wolf was probably responsible for the death of his father.

By now, we were discussing the Shakespearean dimensions of what we had just witnessed: a young male wolf unknowingly gets revenge on the wolf that has likely killed his father. At the same time he saved his own pack from attack and loss of territory. As we gathered up our scopes and binoculars one man who had attended many of my programs and who had accompanied me to Slough Creek came over and said, "Thank you for giving me the best experience of my life". I agreed with him; this was by far the finest experience I've had in 20 years of watching wolves.