The winter use dilemma

Many of the staff who live in Yellowstone during the winter consider this our favorite season. The wildlife is more visible, the scenery is even more spectacular than in summer, and the thousands of thermal features are at their most dramatic, wreathed in delicate ice formations and billowing steam.

We hope your visit is safe and memorable, and that Yellowstone lives up to your expectations. But while you are here, we would like you to think over a vexing dilemma we all face. The focus of our concerns revolves around the extraordinary wonders we all enjoy and their need for special consideration in the winter.

For all its beauty, winter is a time of extreme hardship for many of Yellowstone's wild residents. Winter is the foremost control on many animal population sizes, and those populations have evolved to survive in an extreme environment.

But human use of the park has skyrocketed in the past 20 years, and though we humans try very hard to use the land lightly, we have many effects that we only now are beginning to understand. As well, we have effects on each other; the more people there are, the less each person can be assured of the quality experience for which Yellowstone is so famous.

In 1990, after much deliberation and extensive public involvement, we produced a Winter Use Plan, aimed at ensuring the protection of park resources and the quality of the visitors' experience. This plan's best estimates of winter use levels have already been exceeded; in 1992-93, visitation levels in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks passed the levels predicted for the year 2000.

Scientific studies are beginning to reveal to us the extent of our impacts upon wildlife in winter. Budgetary realities are telling us that we no longer have staff or resources adequate to care for the growing winter crowds. Individuals and organizations are expressing concerns that the experience is slipping in quality. We in Yellowstone are actively seeking ways to address these problems.

In conjunction with Grand Teton National Park, and the six national forests surrounding the parks (Bathlin, Targhee, Bridger-Teton, Beaverhead, Custer, and Shoshone), Yellowstone has launched an initiative to determine how best to manage winter use in the long run.

Among other things, we have conducted winter use surveys, to learn more about your experiences here. We are continuing our research on recreational impacts on the park, and we are communicating extensively with our neighbors, our concessioners, and a variety of user groups.

We all want the chance to enjoy Yellowstone at its best, and we all want Yellowstone to last in good shape, not only for our next visit but also for future visitors. We hope you will be able to assist us in achieving those goals.

If you would like to comment about your winter experience in the national parks or forests, please do so either at any of the warming huts or visitor centers in the parks, or when you return home by writing to: Winter Use, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

For information on other winter use concerns, see page 9.

Snowmobilers need license

All snowmobile operators in Yellowstone National Park must possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license. In addition, persons possessing a learner's permit may operate a snowmobile in the park only when supervised within line of sight (but no further than 100 yards) by a licensed person 21 years of age or older.

For more information on the park’s snowmobile regulations, please see page 5 or ask a park ranger.

Spring plowing schedule

Throughout the park, groomed roads will close to snowmobile traffic (snowmobile and snowcoach) traffic for spring plowing as follows:

March 4 Mammoth to Norris
March 11 All other park roads close to snowmobile traffic.

Roads close at 8:00am on the days listed.
**WARNING!**

Some things all visitors must know... hazards in Yellowstone National Park

Emergency—dial 911

Park information—(307) 344-7381

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**Temperatures**

Daytime temperatures are usually in the 10° to 30°F range (-12° to -1°C) while nighttime temperatures often dip to between -12° and -40°F (-29° to -40°C). How cold can it get here? The lowest temperature ever recorded in Yellowstone was -66°F in 1933.

Yellowstone’s weather often seems to defy predictability; conditions at any given time may vary drastically from those forecast or from long term averages. Wind chill compounds severe temperatures. Be prepared for storms that can quickly drop temperatures. Before starting a snowmobile trip or ski tour, check on local conditions and get a weather forecast.

**Drivers**

The only roads plowed for the entire winter season—and not open to oversnow vehicles—are the 56 mile stretch between the North Entrance and Cooke City, Montana, via Mammoth Hot Springs and Tower Junction, and a 1-1/2 mile stretch from Mammoth Hot Springs to the parking area at the Upper Terraces. These roads are maintained only during daylight hours and may close during severe storms. Expect snow packed roads, icy spots, and frost heaves. High winds cause blowing and drifting snow. Snow tires or tire chains may be required and are usually recommended.

Park roads are designed for slower-than-interstate speeds—45 mph maximum, lower where posted. Do not stop on the road and block traffic when viewing wildlife or scenery. PLEASE USE PULLOUTS.

**Snowmobilers**

Prepare for extremely cold conditions. Sudden changes in weather are typical, and conditions can differ drastically from one location to another.

Cold plus wind can be a deadly combination. For example, if you are travelling 40 miles per hour on a snowmobile and the thermometer reads 10°F, the wind chill factor is 37° below zero, cold enough to freeze exposed flesh within one minute!

Dress warmly and stop often at warming huts to reheat. For regulations and information on planning a safe trip, see page 5.

**Skiers & Walkers**

Trails may be icy, making footing dangerous. Need trail closures; even open trails may be hazardous. Proceed with caution at all times. Please watch your children very closely on all trails and overlooks.

You face harsh conditions plus the effects of vigorous physical exertion. Be prepared for equipment problems, injury, rapidly changing weather, and other unplanned events that may occur whether your outing lasts several days or only a few hours! For more information on gear selection and ski trip safety, see page 5.

The large fires in Yellowstone during the summer of 1988 burned near or across many trails. These fires burned the tree trunks and root systems, creating hazardous standing snags which can fall with little warning. Be alert for this possibility. There is no guarantee of your safety. While in burned areas, stay on established trails.

Stay on boardwalks and designated trails. Scalding water underlies most of Yellowstone’s thermal features, rare among the earth’s wonders, are among the park’s most hazardous. Snowmobiles and trails protect you and preserve delicate formations.

**Avoid these situations**

Law enforcement rangers strictly enforce park regulations to protect you and the park. We do not want to have a negative contact with you. Please give special attention to park regulations and avoid these common problems:

- speeding (radar enforced)
- feeding wildlife
- littering
- swimming in thermal pools
- removal of natural or cultural features
- approaching wildlife too closely
- sidehilling or off-road snowmobiling
- chasing or molesting wildlife
- feeding wildlife
- camping in unde Designated locations
- pets off leash or on trails
- approaching wildlife

**Unpredictable wildlife; keep your distance**

Do not approach any wildlife. View from the safety of your vehicle. If an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.

BISON may appear tame and slow but are unpredictable and dangerous. See page 5 for tips on passing bison or other wildlife on a snowmobile.

COYOTES can quickly learn bad habits like roadside begging. This may lead to aggressive behavior toward humans.

BEARS may be seen in early and late winter. Be alert for tracks and signs. Never approach animal carcasses. Report all bear sightings to a ranger.

Snowmobilers: Stop and allow wildlife to move off roads before continuing. If you must pass them, stay toward one side of the road and pass carefully.

Skiers: Give all animals plenty of room. Do not ski through herds.

Seeing animals in the wild inspires the photographer in all of us. However, wild animals, especially females with young, are unpredictable. Keep a safe distance from all wildlife. Each year, a number of park visitors are injured by wildlife when approaching too closely. Approaching on foot within 100 yards of bears or within 25 yards of bison, elk, bighorn mountain sheep, deer, moose or coyotes is prohibited.

If your camera is not equipped with telephoto lenses, do not attempt closeup photography.

You will see more of an animal’s natural behavior and activity if you are sensitive to its need for space. That need is most critical in winter. Cold and deep snow make it difficult to find food, and every movement costs precious energy. If you pursue an animal for a photograph, you may jeopardize its survival.
Winter in Yellowstone is a time of extremes: boiling versus frozen water, the stunning beauty of bubbling hot springs, and the harsh realities of winter survival. Wildlife and extremesthat end in endlessly variable forms and shapes. Humans adapt to harsh conditions in ways that are more adaptable than those of nature. In the wild, animals must adjust to the changing seasons and weather. Yellowstone's season of winter operations runs from mid-December to early March. This is a time when the landscape is transformed by snow, creating a serene and magical backdrop for winter adventures. Travelers can explore the park via snowmobiles, renting or privately-owned equipment, and snowmobiles are permitted on groomed roadways; sidehilling and off-road travel are illegal.

Snowmobile tours are a popular way to experience the winter wonderland. These tours take place on groomed roads and offer a unique perspective of the park's landscape. It's important to note that snowmobile tours are illegal on some areas of the park, so it's essential to check with the park service for information on legal routes.

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Yellowstone Today is published by the Division of Interpretation, Yellowstone National Park. For a map of the area. Trails and overviews are snowpacked - use caution. Note: photography is allowed but not encouraged in midwinter.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1995

WILDLIFE

Winter is the season of the greatest stress for all life in the park. For many animals, it is the time of dying. The very old, very young, and those weakened by injury or illness are the first to be lost. Even animals in good condition must endure repeated stress without depleting energy reserves; soon, survival is at stake. Nor do animals have a life-saving flood of stored energy to draw on; even those in good condition may find food scarce and must fight for survival. Even animals in good condition cannot adapt to cold in the way that plants or trees do. Instead, they must adapt to harsh conditions in ways that are more adaptable than those of nature. In the wild, animals must adjust to the changing seasons and weather. Yellowstone's season of winter operations runs from mid-December to early March. This is a time when the landscape is transformed by snow, creating a serene and magical backdrop for winter adventures. Travelers can explore the park via snowmobiles, renting or privately-owned equipment, and snowmobiles are permitted on groomed roadways; sidehilling and off-road travel are illegal. Snowmobile tours are a popular way to experience the winter wonderland. These tours take place on groomed roads and offer a unique perspective of the park's landscape. It's important to note that snowmobile tours are illegal on some areas of the park, so it's essential to check with the park service for information on legal routes.

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**Information and activities**

**Visitor centers**

Mammoth Hot Springs, Albright Visitor Center.

Open year round. Winter hours 9:00 am-5:00pm daily.

Information, publications, and exhibits of the history, exploration and establishment of Yellowstone National Park. A one-hour video on winter in Yellowstone is shown at 9:00am and 3:30pm daily; a 25-minute film on the National Park idea is shown on request during the remainder of the day. Check at the visitor center for more information or call (307) 344-2263.

Old Faithful Visitor Center.

Open through March 10. Winter hours 9:00am-5:00pm daily.

Information, publications, geyser eruption predictions. A 10-minute movie on geysers is shown throughout the day. Check at the visitor center for more information or call (307) 545-2750.

**Ranger-naturalist activities**

**Old Faithful**

Evening programs are offered Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights (beginning Dec. 17) at 7:00pm in the Old Faithful Visitor Center Auditorium. For more information on ranger-naturalist activities, check at the visitor center.

**Mammoth Hot Springs**

Evening programs are offered Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights (Dec. 31 - March 2) at 8:30pm in the Mammoth Hotel Map Room. For more information on ranger-naturalist activities, check at the visitor center.

**Roving ranger-naturalists**

Look for ranger-naturalists at Yellowstone warming huts or near major park features. They are intermittently available to assist you, to answer your questions, and to tell you more about the winter wonderland of Yellowstone.

**Yellowstone Institute courses**

As seasons change and winter moves in, Yellowstone country is transformed into a beautiful snowscape, offering visitors to the park rewarding experiences available to relatively few people. Yellowstone institute winter courses provide an opportunity to learn about this special place in a stimulating, fun, and safe environment, full of the camaraderie that comes so easily at this time of year.

Field courses offered this winter are:

- Explore the wilderness, diverse habitats, and fauna of Yellowstone.
- Yellowstone's Winter World—February 2-4, 1996
- A Yellowstone Institute class examines a snow profile. A Yellowstone Institute class examines a snow profile.
- For mammals, winter is a time of harsh reality with scarce food, deep snow, and raging blizzards. In this class, you will learn through lectures and field exercises how mammals survive these harsh realities of winter.
- This course for newcomers to the winter landscape will introduce you to tools and techniques to thoroughly prepare you for enjoyable winter outings. Classroom discussions of equipment and natural history topics will be interspersed with skiing and field demonstrations.
- The Tradition of Winter Storytelling—February 2-4, 1996
- Winter is the season for storytelling. Coyote tales, and many others like them around the world, are traditionally told only during the winter. It is a time not only to tell stories but to figure out what to tell and how to tell them. This will be a session of stories, of discussions about stories, and analysis of stories.
- Yellowstone's Winter World—February 16-19, 1996
- This is an introduction to snow as a substance and how plants and animals adapt to it. One of the course highlights is the construction of a quinzhee snow shelter.
- The Yellowstone Institute, in its 20th season, offers more than 80 diverse courses each year on such topics as geysers, grizzlies, birds, wildflowers, and park history. For more details about these learning experiences, call (307) 344-2334 or write P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

**Concessioner interpretive activities**

**TW Recreational Services, Inc.**

Operates lodging and provides other services in Yellowstone, including interpretive activities, some of which are free and some of which have fees. For reservations or for more information regarding any of the activities listed below, call (307) 344-7311.

**Evening Programs**

Evening programs are offered Monday and Tuesday nights (December 25-February 27) at 8:30pm in the Mammoth Hotel Map Room.

**Snowcoach tours**

Full and half day interpretive tours are offered in heated snowcoaches departing from both Mammoth, Old Faithful, and West Yellowstone. These trips provide excellent opportunities to view winter wildlife and to explore other points of interest. Fares, routes, days, and times vary; call the number listed above for more information.

**Guided ski tours**

Full and half day guided ski tours are offered from both Old Faithful and Mammoth. Transportation to the trailhead is provided by either snowcoach or van. A guide will assist you with your ski technique and explain the area features. Tour fees and destinations vary; call for more information.

**Guided snowmobile tours**

Available roundtrip from Mammoth to Norris, West Thumb, and Old Faithful; call for more information.

**Wildlife bus tours**

Departs from Mammoth Hotel and Travel through the northern range of Yellowstone to look for wildlife. Tour fees, days and times vary; call for more information.

**The Yellowstone Association**

The Yellowstone Association was founded in 1933 to assist with educational, historical, and scientific programs for the benefit of Yellowstone National Park and its visitors. Among the Association's past and present projects are:

- Operation of bookstores in all park visitor centers with proceeds funding interpretive programs and exhibits for visitors, as well as research projects and equipment in Yellowstone.
- Sponsorship of the Yellowstone Institute which offers a variety of in-depth classes on various aspects of Yellowstone.
- Sponsorship of scientific conferences relating to Yellowstone resource management issues.
- Publication of books and pamphlets about Yellowstone for the visitor.
- Maintenance of park research library.

You are invited to become a member of the Yellowstone Association. Membership benefits include:

- A 15% discount on books sold by the Yellowstone Association in all visitor centers; discounts at many association bookstores in other national parks.
- Discounts on Yellowstone Institute class tuition.
- Memberships are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

For more information about the Yellowstone Association, write P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 or call (307) 344-2263.
WHEELED VEHICLES: wwinter camping is available at Mammoth Campground (accessible via the North Entrance). Heated restrooms and water are available. Overflow camping is not allowed outside of this designated campground and is not permitted.

BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS: Permits may be obtained in person up to 48 hours in advance from any ranger station. Rangers will provide information on weather, trails and snow conditions, and alert you to any special winter hazards. Wood fires are only allowed in Mammoth Campground.

WINTER CAMPING: Wheeled vehicles: winter camping is available at Mammoth Campground (accessible via the North Entrance). Heated restrooms and water are available. Overflow camping is not allowed outside of this designated campground and is not permitted.

ACCIDENTS: Report all accidents or injuries to park rangers at visitor centers or ranger stations.

SANITATION: Latrine areas must be a minimum of 100 feet from all water sources and out of sight from trails and camp areas. Burn toilet paper on top of the snow.

DEFACING PARK FEATURES: Collecting natural or archaeological objects, or removing, defacing or destroying any park feature is illegal. Leave it just the way you found it.

TRAVEL INTO FRAGILE THERMAL AREAS: Travel into fragile thermal areas may result in serious injury or damage to the area.

FIREARMS: Firearms are not allowed in Yellowstone. Unloaded firearms may be transported in a vehicle when the weapon is cased, broken down or rendered inoperable, and kept out of sight. Ammunition must be placed in a separate compartment of the vehicle.

LOST AND FOUND: Report lost and found items at any visitor center or ranger station. A report will be filed and the article returned when possible. Please call 911 or park rangers for assistance.

PET SPOILERS: Pets must be leashed. They are prohibited on ski trails, in the backcountry, and in thermal areas. Leashed and unattended pets are prohibited. They are not allowed in the backcountry.

YOU SHOULD DRINK THE WATER: Intestinal infections from drinking untreated water are increasingly common. Water may be polluted by animal and/or human wastes. When possible, carry a supply of water from a domestic source. If you draw water from a natural source, boil it a minimum of two minutes to reduce the chance of infection.

BEWARE OF HYPOTHERMIA AND FROSTBITE: Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable; a clear, sunny day may turn fiercely stormy. Without adequate clothing and gear an easy ski tour or snowmobile trip can turn into a battle for survival. Cold wind and cold can result in hypothermia. The rapid loss of body heat can cause death if not treated. Early warning signs include shivering, slurred speech, memory lapses, drowsiness, and exhaustion. Exposure to cold and wind can also result in frostbite. Frostbite can permanently damage tissue and affect functional use of fingers, toes, nose, ears or other body extremities. Protect yourself with warm, layered clothing and frequent stops to warm up.

SNOWMOBILE REGULATIONS

Snowmobile is one way to discover Yellowstone's winter wonders. Snowmobile regulations are designed to protect park resources and you, and are strictly enforced.

**Operating a snowmobile while intoxicated is illegal. Possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages, including beer bags, is illegal with a valid state motor vehicle driver's license (see article below).**

Maximum speed limit is 45 mph or less when posted.

**Snowmobiles may be driven on designated roads only. Sidetracking is prohibited and carries a fine of up to $500.00.**

Stay on roads to avoid injuring yourself, damaging your machine or harming the environment.

SOME TIPS FOR PASSING BISON ON PARK ROADS

If bison or other wildlife are slowly walking toward you on the road: Pull your machine over to the side of the road opposite the animal(s), as far as possible, and stand to the side of it, leaving the machine between you and the animal(s). Wait until they are completely past you before driving on. Do not make any quick or loud movements. Wildlife are generally not agitated, and may have been provoked or surprised.

If animals are standing in the road: Stop at least 25 yards before reaching them. Give them the opportunity to move off the road. If they don't move, and you want to pass them, assess their behavior.

IF THE ANIMALS DON'T MOVE:

- If the animals do not appear to be agitated and if they remain standing calmly, inch toward them and stop. Watch how they respond to your advance. They may decide to get out of your way by walking off the road or by moving to avoid you. If so, pass safely on the opposite side of the road at a moderate and consistent speed. Use groomed pullouts when available to give the animals maximum space when you are passing.

- If the animals remain calm, but do not move as you inch toward them, stop, pause, and then try again. Give them the right of way. If they feel pressured or pushed, they may begin to stampede.

- If an animal raises its tail, paws the ground, or throws its head and body around, do not attempt to pass. Wait for the animal to leave the road on its own. Any advance may be perceived as a threat and the animal(s) could charge.

- If animals are running toward you: It is likely that oncoming snowmobiles will not be able to get off the road in time. If you have enough time and space, turn your machine around and move down the road until the animals have moved off the road or until you find a safe place, such as a pullout. Remember that it is difficult to turn a snowmobile around quickly. If your machine does not have reverse, remember that you will need the space of both lanes to turn your vehicle around.

Keep your trip safe

- **Keep your trip safe.**

- **Design for extreme cold.** Items essential for snowmobilers include: helmet, face mask, heavily insulated gloves or mittens, felt lined boots, and a heavily insulated snowmobile suit. Avoid thin clothing layers; restrict circulation and increase the possibility of frostbite.

- **Carry extra food for 12 hours beyond your planned trip, extra fuel, a spare spark plug and appropriate tools, plus extra parts which frequently break down or wear out on your machine. Always include matches and a First Aid kit.**

- **Check on road and weather conditions. Blowing and drifting snow can be especially hazardous in Hayden Valley (between Canyon and Fishing Bridge Junctions) and on Swan Lake Flats (approximately 4 miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs).**

- **Before starting your trip, check on road and weather conditions.** Blowing and drifting snow can be especially hazardous in Hayden Valley (between the East Entrance and Fishing Bridge Junction) and on Swan Lake Flats (approximately 4 miles south of Mammoth Hot Springs).

- **Know the locations of warming huts, visitor centers and roads (see the back page of this newspaper).**

- **Avalanches may occur on steep hills or canyons. When travelling through such areas, do not bunch up—spread out. Avalanches are more likely to occur during or after heavy fresh snowfall, high winds, or extreme temperature changes.**

- **Hazardous conditions may temporarily close Sylvan Pass (between the East Entrance and Fishing Bridge Junction). The road from Tower Junction to the West Entrance is closed during parts of the winter. Points four miles north of Canyon Junction is closed to snowmobiling due to avalanche danger.**

- **Bison often stand, lie, or walk on roads during winter; see article above for some tips to assist you in passing them.
Cross country skiing information

Yellowstone National Park, encompassing 2.2 million acres, is one of the world's premier wilderness areas. Most of the park is backcountry and managed as wilderness; many miles of trails are available for skiing.

However, there are dangers inherent in wilderness: unpredictable wildlife, changing weather conditions, remote thermal areas, deep snow, open streams, and rugged mountains with extreme avalanche danger. You have chosen to explore and experience the land on its own terms, but there is no guarantee of your safety. Be prepared for any situation. Carefully read all backcountry guidelines and regulations, and know the limits of your ability.

All unplowed roads and trails are open to cross country skiing and snowshoeing; on unplowed roadways used by snowmachines, keep to the right to avoid accidents.

Most trails are marked with orange metal markers attached to trees. Few streams have bridges. Parties venturing into the backcountry should carry a USGS topographic map and a compass, and know how to use them. Even on a well-marked trail, it is easy to get lost in a "whiteout" or blizzard. Only skiers thoroughly familiar with the area should attempt off-trail travel. When planning your trip, get specific information on conditions from rangers at a ranger station or visitor center.

Park elevations with adequate skiable snow range from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. Skiers and snowshoers who live at lower elevations should take a short day or overnight trip to test your capabilities before attempting longer outings.

To preserve Yellowstone's backcountry and enhance your wilderness experience, the National Park Service has established regulations and guidelines (see pages 2, 5). A non-fee permit is not required for all overnight trips in the Yellowstone backcountry. Contact a park ranger at a visitor center or ranger station before you begin a ski trip—whether for a few hours or several days.

Ski gear guide—equipment and clothing

Choose skis and boots made for touring or mountaineering. Narrow racing skis won't give you enough surface area to break trail. Low shoes won't give you enough ankle support, and track is set only on a few Yellowstone trails. Before you rent or borrow equipment, check for fit and suitability for wilderness use. Equipment that fits both you and your partner can make or break your trip.

Winter temperatures are severe in Yellowstone but you can be comfortable and confident if you are properly dressed. Prepare for changing conditions by wearing clothes in several adjustable layers. It is as important to prevent overheating as it is to prevent chilling.

Be sure your clothing includes a windproof hooded outer layer with wool or other insulated garments underneath. Wool or synthetic trousers and long underwear will help keep your legs warm and dry in deep snow. Wind or rainproofs are lightweight and provide extra warmth on windy days. Avoid cotton jeans and sweatshirts. Thick wool socks and gaiters or overboots help keep your feet warm and dry. Wear gloves or wool mittens with shells that breathe to allow moisture to escape from sweaty hands.

Since you lose more heat from your head than from any other part of your body, wear a facemask-style stocking cap or parka hood when you need maximum protection. Dark sunglasses are a must for sunny days. High altitude sunlight reflected from snow is much more intense than at lower elevations; snowblindness may occur if sunglasses are not worn. Apply sunscreen lotion to exposed skin to avoid painful sunburn.

Each ski trip will teach you what works best for you. Discuss your plans with rangers at visitor centers and ranger stations. Staff at the Old Faithful and Mammoth Ski Shops can help you choose gear to match your ability and the conditions.

Trip planning should include allowances for limited daylight, snow conditions, temperature extremes, and the number of people in the group and their experience and physical condition. Overnight ski and snowshoe trips during December and January are difficult due to short days (8:30am-5:00pm), temperature extremes and soft snow.

On day trips consider taking some or all of these items to increase your margin of safety: extra clothing, compass, matches or lighter, snack food, water, ski trip.

Skiers who are planning extensive backcountry trips involving overnight camping should carry all of the above and the items below:

Backpack
Sleeping bag (7 in. thick min.)
First Aid kit
Avalanche cord
Compass
Kits
Tent or bivouac bag
Closed cell sleeping pad
Stove and pots
Easily prepared food
Shovel
Maps
Repair parts and tools for skis, stove and pack

From The Nordic Skier's Guide to Montana by Elaine Sedlack
Sketch by Larry Thompson

Skiing safety

1. Evaluate your party's capabilities. Plan your outing to allow the weakest member of your group to enjoy and survive it.
2. Learn about your equipment's capabilities and weaknesses and be prepared to repair it.
3. Never closely approach payers, hot springs or mud pots. You may fall through overhanging snow ledges or thin crust. Do not leave designated trails in geothermal areas.
4. Beware of icy conditions on downhill grades leading into thermal areas. Side-step or walk down the hill rather than risk skiing out of control into a boiling pool.
5. Avalanches are possible on hillides or in canyons with slopes of 25-50%. Slides occur most frequently after heavy snowstorms or during warm periods.
6. Do not approach wildlife. All wild animals are unpredictable, if they charge, you can't outrun them in deep snow. If they run, you are forcing them to use energy they need to survive.
7. Fires during the summer of 1988 burned near or across many ski trails and destroyed the trunks and root systems of many trees, creating hazardous standing snags which could fall with little warning. Skiers—be alert for this possibility, and, while in burned areas, stay on established trails.
8. Exertion in dry mountain air can dehydrate you. Carry and drink two quarts of water a day. Carry gear to melt water from snow or tip out of a stream from a safe distance with a ski pole. Boil water from lakes or streams to reduce the chance of infection.
9. Learn as much as you can about winter survival. Talk with park rangers before you leave on any trip. Many good books are also available on this topic.
10. Basic ski etiquette: yield to those skiing downhill when sking uphill on trails.
11. Hikers: please do not walk in ski tracks.
Bison in the Yellowstone ecosystem

Wild, free-ranging bison have been a part of the Yellowstone landscape since prehistoric times. Primarily because of poaching and market hunting, the bison population declined until the turn of the century when less than 50 bison were known to exist in Yellowstone National Park.

In this century, bison populations have made a remarkable recovery, now numbering over 150,000 animals in private and public lands in the West. Bison are not listed as federally endangered or threatened species. By 1995, the Yellowstone bison population had increased to about 4,000 animals.

The Yellowstone herd is the largest free-ranging (unfenced) bison herd in the world.

Maintaining a wild, inherently nomadic bison herd can present problems. Bison do not recognize boundaries and sometimes move to adjacent public and private land, especially during the winter. Increased numbers of bison, weather conditions, and human activities all affect distribution of animals. Attempts to manipulate bison movements by hunting or herding have met with very limited success.

Unfortunately, early in this century, bison were exposed to brucellosis, probably the world's most dangerous disease. Unlike bison from Arizona and New Mexico that were exposed to brucellosis, probably in the 1890s, bison from Yellowstone were exposed to brucellosis, probably in the 1910s. Representatives of the livestock industry have concerns about the possibility of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle. While no documented case exists of wild, free-ranging bison transmitting brucellosis to domestic cattle, the risk of transmission is of concern.

In November 1995, the National Park Service (NPS), Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the State of Montana reached agreement on proposed interim Bison Management Procedures and a schedule for completing a long-term bison management plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) for bison that move between Yellowstone National Park and Montana.

The agreement settles a lawsuit filed by Montana against the NPS and APHIS in January 1995. The suit was based on concerns about brucellosis transmission to cattle and the possible revocation of Montana's brucellosis-free status. In the settlement agreement, APHIS has agreed that it will not change Montana's brucellosis-free status based on the presence of brucellosis-exposed bison migrating from Yellowstone to Montana as long as the proposed procedures outlined in the agreement are implemented.

The proposed New World Mine site is located just outside Yellowstone National Park's northeast corner (1).

Where and under what conditions the potentially toxic mine tailings are deposited and stored could affect the water quality of one or more of these drainages. These toxic mine tailings would have to be maintained in a neutral state forever.

There are also unanswered questions about the potential of groundwater contamination as water comes in contact with the acid-generating rock as it is being mined.

The area is seasonally active. Geologic studies indicate that over 1,000 tremors and quakes of various sizes are recorded in and around Yellowstone each year. Other concerns that have been expressed include potential impacts to wetlands, wildlife (including grizzly bears), air quality, nearby communities, scenic values, and noise.

The National Park Service (NPS) has no permitting authority for projects outside park boundaries. It is, however, working with the agencies (U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Department of State Lands) preparing the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project in an effort to ensure that any impacts to the park are fully addressed. The NPS has requested that an alternative that would dispose of the mine tailings outside the greater Yellowstone ecosystem be examined, and that geologic studies detailing subsurface faulting and aquifer location be completed and analyzed in the EIS.

Superintendent Mike Finley has stated, "There are many unanswered questions and no guarantees associated with the New World Mine proposal. We don't know yet whether this project can withstand the test of time."

The draft EIS is scheduled for release to the public for comment in early 1996. If you are interested in this issue and would like more information, contact the Superintendent's Office, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190. To be placed on the mailing list for the draft EIS or to comment on the proposal, please contact the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620 or Gallatin National Forest, P.O. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Controversial mine proposed near park.

Yellowstone offers unique opportunities to view wildlife in their natural environment. Some birds and mammals are found near park roads and developed areas, where they are particularly observable. However, this increases the likelihood that some individuals will become habituated—that is, used to people. Habituated wildlife are misunderstood—there may appear to be highly tolerant of humans, but they are still wild and potentially dangerous. Never feed or approach any park animals.

Approaching wildlife at close range can cause the animals stress. Be observant—many animals will show signs of increased stress at close range. They may move away; heads may perk up, or eyes widen and focus on nearby humans; the animals may be fluffed up, flatten ears, nostrils, change body direction, stop eating, or rise from a resting stance.

Habituated wildlife can quickly become conditioned to human foods. Swans, coyotes, bighorn sheep, ground squirrels, bears, ravens and other species have all demonstrated "begging" behavior in Yellowstone. This apparently harmless behavior can present problems, or failure to accumulate adequate fat reserves for the winter when food is scarce. Beggars birds and wildlife may become aggressive, and have occasional injuries to park visitors.

Human foods in an animal's diet may result in tooth decay, ulcers, digestive problems, or failure to accumulate adequate fat reserves for the winter when food is scarce. Beggars birds and wildlife may become aggressive, and have occasional injuries to park visitors.

To enjoy the opportunity to view and photograph park wildlife in their wild, natural state, the park is not a zoo. Animals live and die based on their species' adaptations and their individual ability to survive in their environment. Respect park wildlife—never approach too closely, and be alert for changes in animal behavior that could lead to a problem, for you or for them. All park animals are wild and potentially dangerous. Never feed or approach any park animals.

Coyotes and habituation

The coyote—perhaps Yellowstone's most common predator—is often seen traveling through the park's wide open valleys. Coyotes may live in packs, or may range alone in search of prey or carrion to scavenge. They eat a variety of small mammals, birds, and carrion. Coyotes can also hunt and kill neonate prey; packs have been observed bringing down adult elk in Yellowstone.

Coyotes normally avoid people but are wild and unpredictable. During recent winters, instances of coyote aggression toward humans, including one which involved an actual attack, were reported. Habituation most likely played a role in this unusual behavior.

We are experimenting with scaring unwary coyotes away from visitor use areas. Those animals that continue to pose a threat to themselves or to humans may move away; heads may perk up, or eyes widen and focus on nearby humans; the animals may be fluffed up, flatten ears, nostrils, change body direction, stop eating, or rise from a resting stance.

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Wolves return to Yellowstone

In March, 1995, 14 gray wolves (Canis lupus) were released from three fenced enclosures in Yellowstone National Park. The releases represent one tangible outcome of a plan developed over nearly two decades under the authority of the Endangered Species Act, with input by more than 60,000 people, to restore wolves in Yellowstone.

This plan, evaluated in an environmental impact statement (EIS) in 1992-1994, and under rules published in the Federal Register in November 1994, is to restore wolves to Yellowstone and central Idaho by establishing experimental populations of gray wolves in both areas. Copies of the rules, and of a summary of the final EIS, are available at park visitor centers or by calling (307) 344-2013.

The goal for Yellowstone wolf recovery is to establish 10 packs of wolves reproducing in the Greater Yellowstone area for three consecutive years by the year 2002.

The plan is to place about 15 wolves from Canada in Yellowstone each year for 3-5 years. Each group of wolves will be allowed to acclimate to their new surroundings in Yellowstone for several months before being released into the wild. The purpose of the acclimation period is to let them recover from the stresses of being captured and moved, and to reduce the likelihood that wolves might travel widely or try to return to their former homes.

Wolves translocated to Yellowstone in January 1995 were captured near Hinton, Alberta. Following evaluation of potential impacts on wolf populations this year, we hope to capture and move wolves from northeastern British Columbia to supplement the genetic diversity of the new population of wolves in Yellowstone, and to enhance the probability of reaching recovery goals. The gray wolves of western Canada are the same as those naturally recolonizing northern Montana, and that might have eventually reached Yellowstone on their own. They also feed primarily on elk and deer. Wild wolves are shy, and may become fratic if unable to retreat. For this reason, the acclimation sites are closed to the public when occupied by wolves. The areas are posted against entry, and are regularly patrolled by rangers. While the wolves are temporarily penned, they are fed road-killed deer, elk, moose and bison.

From March through November, the movements of all three packs of wolves varied greatly. Some stayed relatively close to the pen sites, while others, at times, explored up to 50 miles from the release points, often over rugged mountainous terrain. By mid-November, none of the wolves released in Yellow­stone had come into conflict with livestock and all were using areas within Yellow­stone National Park.

One wolf was shot outside the park in late April; the party responsible was prosecuted under the Endangered Species Act. Also in late April, the mate of this dead wolf gave birth to a litter of pups. This female and her pups were relocated back into their enclosure in order to assure their survival, and were then released in mid-October.

One of the other two packs also gave birth to one known wolf. Members of the third pack were very visible in Lamar Valley from May through the early days of July. All released wolves are radio collared, and biologists monitor their movements from the ground and from aircraft as regularly as weather permits. Information gained from these monitoring efforts will enable managers to evaluate the success of this reintroduction effort, and to modify the effort in future years, if necessary. This reintroduction will provide valuable insights about how to restore wolves and other large canids into other habitats.

Continuing to capture, transport, and release about 15 wolves annually for at least another year or two is essential to ensure the success of the restoration effort. In the fall of 1995-96, one new acclimation pen was built, using surplus materials from the pens constructed in 1994-95. Another was disassembled and moved. Eventually, wolves may be released at sites located near large groups of wintering ungulates in the Firehole River Valley and/or the Pelican Valley or southeast regions of the park.

Prior to 1870, gray wolves were common in the northern Rocky Mountains, including Yellowstone. By the 1930s, government predator control programs had eliminated wolves from Yellowstone.

Restoring wolves to Yellowstone is in keeping with national park goals to perpetuate all native species and their natural interactions with their environment. As with other park wildlife programs, management emphasizes minimizing human impacts on natural animal population dynamics.

Once again the greater Yellowstone area has a nearly complete complement of the native wildlife found here long before Yellowstone became the world's first national park in 1872.

Coyote or wolf?: identification facts

Unexpectedly, an estimated 3,750 park visitors viewed wolves in Yellowstone's Lamar Valley during the early summer of 1995. They observed wolves playing, resting, killing elk, and interacting with grizzly bears, coyotes, and bison. Lamar may again be a good place to see wolves this winter.

It can be difficult to distinguish between coyotes and wolves. In general, wolves are much larger than coyotes. The wolf track printed here is actual size; tracks can be even larger. The legs and muzzle of a coyote are particularly delicate in appearance; the legs of a wolf appear much longer in proportion to its body. Coyotes are rarely pure black or white in color and are often light to dark gray with rust or brown. Both animals live in packs and can prey on small as well as larger animals, such as elk.

The National Park Service monitors wolf activity in Yellowstone. Wolf observation reports from park visitors play a major role in detecting wolves in the area. If you think you see a wolf-like animal, take detailed notes of your observation and your location, photograph or measure tracks if possible, and report your sighting to a ranger at the nearest visitor center.

For a look at mounted wolves, visit the second floor of the Albright Visitor Center in Mammoth Hot Springs.

Your opinion counts

Yellowstone is no stranger to complex, important, and often controversial issues.

If you have comments on issues which affect the park and/or the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, please send them to Superintendent Mike Finley, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.
**Winter use concerns**

As described in the article on page 1, the rapid increase in winter visitor use is bringing a whole host of concerns to the managers and staff here at Yellowstone National Park. Through our cooperative efforts with Grand Teton National Park and the national forests that surround us, we will be looking more closely at a wide variety of problems. Some of these issues come from our own observations; most have been suggested by visitors like you. Some of the concerns that we face are:

- **Overcrowding:** During peak use periods, parking areas, roads, warming huts, and restrooms are full, making it difficult for visitors to enjoy the area.

**Visitor Centers and Activities**

The Moose Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park is open daily 8:00 am-5:00 pm, except Christmas Day. Services include information, audiovisual programs, exhibits, raised relief map, permits, and publication sales. Ranger-led snowshoe hikes (reservations required, snowshoes provided) are given during peak use periods.

The information station at Flagg Ranch will be open daily (except Christmas Day) from mid-December to mid-March. Park activities include snowmobiling in designated areas, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

**Snowmobile studies underway this winter**

Snowmobile in the Park Project

One of the issues that concerns managers at Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the nearby national forests is snowmobile emissions. Snowmobiles are powered by two-stroke engines, in which oil is mixed directly with gasoline. The resulting exhaust is believed to contain significantly more carbon monoxide and particulate matter than a modern automobile.

The exhaust fumes from the machines create clouds of blue smoke where snowmobiles concentrate, especially in the communities, at park entrances, and along major travel corridors. The fumes create health and environmental concerns for residents, employees, and visitors who live, work, and play in these areas. These problems are particularly acute in Yellowstone National Park, where up to 5,000 snowmobiles enter the park daily.

To begin to address these concerns, the Snowmobile in the Park Project is underway in Yellowstone. The project is designed to provide industry and government with detailed laboratory and field data on alternative fuels and lubricants for snowmobiles. This project will provide information on emissions from snowmobiles, including exhaust emissions. These alternative fuels and oils are expected to reduce pollution, color, and visibility from smoke caused by snowmobiles.

The alternate fuels include biomass-derived (grain) ethanol blend, along with biodegradable lubrication oils, such as esters derived from plant fats and their derivatives (for example, CONOCO's Bio-Synthetic 2-Cycle oil). The fuels and oils will be tested at the Southwest Research Institute. Products that reduce emissions and health concerns, show increased biodegradability and efficiency, and meet manufacturers specifications will be field tested in Yellowstone and in Montana and Wyoming gateway communities.

The National Park Service has been working cooperatively with snowmobile manufacturers and the oil industry to address these concerns. The Park Service believes that concerns about emissions, noise, and safety equipment need to be addressed at their source, with the manufacturers of snowmobiles.

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**Gasoline:** Gas storage capacity is limited in Yellowstone Park during the winter. Each year we come close to running out of fuel.

**Community Expectations:** Communities around the area have become increasingly dependent on winter use. Community expectations and marketing efforts assume continued and unlimited growth in winter recreation use. The number of businesses renting snowmobiles and the number of snowmobiles being rented is increasingly rapidly. These expectations and marketing efforts may be inconsistent with resource capacity.

**Resource Damage:** We are unsure of the effects of rapidly increasing winter use on wildlife and other resources. Geothermal features in Yellowstone and tree plantations on the forests may be damaged by improper visitor use. Snowmobile exhaust and noise levels create health concerns for employees.

**Employee Stress:** Staffing has not kept up with the rise in winter use, resulting in employee stress and reduced efficiency and service to visitors. Many park employees live in housing designed for summer-only occupancy. Operational funding is inadequate to meet demands. Also, the Forest Service receives no additional funding for construction, maintenance, housing or necessary parking for national and regional trails.

**Renewable Fuels**

Marking Montana Snowmobile Association International Association of Snowmobile Administrators

**Groomed Roadways**

This winter, another project will evaluate the effect of snowmobiles and snow coaches on the groomed road surfaces. The project will be conducted several times throughout the winter, between Old Faithful and Madison Junction, both on the Old Freight Road and on the main Grand Loop Road. Snowmobile and snowcoach traffic will be separated so that the effects of each type of vehicle can be compared.

**Legislation passed by Congress in 1988 raised the ceiling on entrance fees charged at Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Entrance fees are now $10 for a private, noncommercial automobile and $4 for each visitor (ages 17 to 61, inclusive) entering the park by snowmobile, motorcycle, bus, bicycle or on foot. A maximum of $10 will be charged for an immediate family residing in the same household. These fees are good for a seven day pass to both parks.**

Also available for $15 is a parks-specific pass to Yellowstone and Grand Teton, valid for one year from date of purchase. The $25 Golden Eagle Passport, valid for one year from date of purchase, allows the permit holder and accompanying passengers in a private noncommercial vehicle to enter all parks which charge entrance fees.

The Golden Age Passport (for those U.S. residents over 62) can be obtained for a one-time $10 fee. And the Golden Access Passport is still offered free of charge to qualify individuals with special needs. These special passes allow the holder and accompanying passengers in a private, noncommercial vehicle to national parks plus a 50 percent reduction in camping fees.

**Ten percent of the earth’s surface is covered with snow or “old snow” (ioe). This is about 48 million square miles. In winter months more than 20% and up to 50% of the earth’s surface is snow and/or ice. Snow covering is the greatest source of fresh water for humans.**

When we fight snow, try to overpower it, ignore its dangers, we suffer. When we understand it, adapt to it, it becomes a source of pleasure and an ally.

**Snow is an important economic force, both positive and negative, including effects on recreation, tourism, snow removal and insurance.**

Winter use on wildlife and other resources. Geothermal features in Yellowstone and tree plantations on the forests may be damaged by improper visitor use. Snowmobile exhaust and noise levels create health concerns for employees.

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Visitors to Yellowstone National Park may be surprised to encounter "winter" weather any time of year. If unprepared, the consequences range from uncomfortable and inconvenient to life-threatening. During the coldest months, wind and snow can kill if rules of nature are ignored and protective clothing is not worn. The information presented here describes the "normals" and extremes of Yellowstone's year round climate and may be used as a guide in planning a visit to the park. Obtain information on current weather conditions and forecasts at visitor centers or ranger stations when planning outdoor activities.

Weather observations were started at Mammoth Hot Springs—by U.S. Army personnel in January 1887; a Weather Bureau station was established in 1903. The observation site is located in the extreme northern part of the park on the mountain slopes above the Gardner river. Mountains to the east, south, and west rise 2,000 to 3,000 feet higher than the valley. The station itself, being at 6,241 feet above sea level, is lower than most of the park, which varies from 7,000 to 8,500 feet, with several ridges and peaks going up to 11,000 feet or more.

Because of the lower elevation and mountain barriers that trap moisture-laden air at this headquarters site, temperature will average about five degrees warmer and precipitation less than at other locations in the park. The valley location is also favorable for lighter winds.

In summer, a general rule is that the higher the elevation, the cooler the temperatures and the greater the moisture and shower activity. In winter, precipitation is heavier at the higher elevations and in the southern portion of the park; the coldest temperatures occur in the mountain valleys.

Yellowstone’s weather—is predictably unpredictable

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The average maximum temperatures for the park during the summer months are in the 70s. Readings occasionally reach the 80s, and rarely the 90s, at the lower elevations but there is no record as high as 100° F at any place in the park.

Winter nights are invariably cool, and temperatures drop into the 30s and 40s on the average at most places before sunrise. The lowest recorded temperature (incompletely by the summer, is 9 degrees, on August 25, 1910 at Canyon.

Expedition: Yellowstone! The National Park Service continues to offer a curriculum for upper elementary grades called Expedition: Yellowstone. Through this curriculum, students learn about the park either by studying it at their school or by combining classroom work with a trip (an "Expedition") to Yellowstone. This residential program, taught by park ranger-naturalists, operates on a fee basis in the spring and fall.

Aim ed at the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade levels, the curriculum materials consist of a teacher's workbook and a storybook entitled Expedition Yellowstone, A Mountain Adventure. For more information, please fill out the coupon below.

Please send me more information about Expedition: Yellowstone!

Name: ______________________

School: ____________________

Address: ___________________

City, State, Zip: ____________

Phone: ______________________

Leave this coupon at any park visitor center or mail to: Expedition: Yellowstone, Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Yellowstone Park Medical Services

West Park Hospital, Cody, Wyoming, through its Yellowstone Park Medical Services Division, has been offering medical care to Yellowstone's visitors, employees and residents since 1980.

A board certified family practitioner provides year-round health care to the Yellowstone Park community, including biweekly visits to Old Faithful. Experienced registered nurses and office staff complete the team offering courteous, professional family and emergency medical care.

In the summer, the operation grows to meet the needs of the park's increased number of visitors and the employees who serve them.

Outpatient services are provided at Lake Hospital and Old Faithful Clinic, as well as at Mammoth. Lake Hospital is also an acute care facility with ten inpatient beds. Clinical laboratory, pharmacy, radiology and 24-hour ambulance and emergency services. The staff is assembled from highly qualified, experienced professionals from across the country.

For information on employment for the 1995 season (both professional and nonprofessional positions are available), send a resume to: Yellowstone Park Medical Services, 707 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY 82414 or call (307) 578-2461.

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Yellowstone Park Medical Services

We're there when you need us!

A division of West Park Hospital — Cody, Wyoming
the past 15 to 20 years but the unique
scenery. The tempo has changed over
time. Familiarize yourself with
expected survival.

We feel privileged to be able to live and
work here in the winter. We hope you
enjoy it as much as we do and will help
us to preserve it.

EXPLORE YELLOWSTONE
This Winter Season

A winter visit to Yellowstone will provide you with an unforgettable
vacation where cross-country skiing and snowcoach touring are without
equal. Enjoy all that Yellowstone has to offer during this season...

For more information, contact any
hotel front desk or activity desk,
call (307) 344-7311.

YELLOWSTONE PARK SERVICE STATIONS

Yellowstone Park Service Stations has been serving Yellowstone
visitors since 1947, and since 1972 has served winter travelers.

We offer quality petroleum products at four winter locations.

Snowmobile fuel is available at Canyon and Old Faithful
December 8-March 10, at Fishing Bridge December 15-March 10,
and at Mammoth Terraces December 20-March 3.

Drive Belts, Spark Plugs and Accessories are available
at Old Faithful, Canyon and Fishing Bridge
(Snowmobile repair services are not available).

Conoco, Master Card, Visa, Discover and American
Express credit cards are accepted.

Hamilton Stores—oldest park concessioner

The 1872 Act that set the Park aside "for
the benefit and enjoyment of the people,
and the protection of the natural and
scenic treasures therein" also granted
leases to the various concessioners who
served the public. For the first decade of
the park's official existence, no lease to
sell general store merchandise was
issued. Then, in 1882, Henry E. Klamer
applied for, and received, permits to
provide fresh meat to camps and hotels,
pasture and slaughter beef cattle, operate
a dairy herd, and open a general store in
the Old Faithful area of the park.

In 1915, a year after the Klamer General
Store was purchased by Charles Ash-
worth Hamilton, horse transportation in
the Yellowstone reached to zenith. Three
thousand hayburners pulled Yellowstone
wagons, coaches, surveys, freight
wagons, and—grandest of all—double
decker twenty-six passenger Tallyho
or stagecoaches. However, autos were
allowed into the park for the first time
that year, and Charles Hamilton quickly
spotted the line marks in the dirt. In the
next five years he acquired store conces-
sions at Lake and Fishing Bridge, and
built filling stations at each location. This
was the start of what was to become the
oldest privately/family owned concession
in the National Park System, serving the
traveling public for over 75 years.

Hamilton Stores invites you to visit its
locations during the summer season for
a bit of that history—most especially, the
original store at Old Faithful (the Lower
Basin Store) and the General Store in
the Lake area. The upper store at Old
Faithful and the Fishing Bridge General
Store also convey natic charm. The
newest store, Grant Village General
Store, was built and decorated with the
craft of many Montana artisans. The
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HAMILTON STORES INC.
EST 1915
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Serving the traveling public since 1915,
Hamilton Stores, Inc., offers a wide
variety of merchandise including Yellowstone souvenirs,
gifts, film and photo supplies, souvenir T-shirts and
sweatshirts, winter accessories, and groceries and food,
including hot and cold beverages, beer and liquor.

Mammoth General Store is open year round to serve
the traveling public. Come in and meet Ted Lowe,
our manager for over 20 years.

We are an authorized UPS shipping agent.
Yellowstone National Park winter facilities

Park information (307) 344-7381 TDD: (307) 344-2386 Emergency 911

- Plowed roads - autos only
- Groomed snowmobile routes (no wheeled vehicles; off road travel is illegal)

Visitor centers:
- Mammoth Hot Springs: Open year round
  Old Faithful: December 8–March 10

Warming huts:
- December 8–March 10
  Indian Creek, Madison Junction, Old Faithful, West Thumb, Fishing Bridge, Canyon

Lodging:
- Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel: Dec. 20–March 3
- Old Faithful Snow Lodge: Dec. 15–March 10

Food service:
- Dining Rooms: Mammoth Hotel, Dec. 20–March 3
  Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Dec. 15–March 10
  Old Faithful Four Seasons

- Snack Shop: Dec. 9–March 10
  Madison and Canyon Warming Huts, mid-Dec.–March 10

- Light Lunches: Mammoth General Store, Open year round

Snowmobile fuel:
- Old Faithful, Canyon Junction, Dec. 8–Mar. 10
  Fishing Bridge: Dec. 15–approx. March 10
  Mammoth Hot Springs: Dec. 20–March 3

Campground:
- Mammoth Hot Springs—Open year round

Clinic:
- Mammoth Hot Springs—Open weekdays 8:30am-12 noon and 1:00-5:00pm; closed Wed. afternoons; phone (307)344-7965

General store:
- Mammoth Hot Springs - Open year round

Restrooms

Dates subject to change due to weather conditions and/or resource management concerns.

TW Recreational Services, Inc. also offers full service ski shops, guided ski tours, skier shuttles, and snowcoach tours at Old Faithful and Mammoth, and snowcoach tours/transportation out of West Yellowstone. Snowmobile rentals, guided sightseeing tours, ice skate rentals, and hot tub rentals are also available at Mammoth. Dinner reservations are required; call (307) 344-7901. Reservations are strongly recommended for lodging and snowcoach tours. For TW Information and reservations, call (307) 344-7311.

This map courtesy of Conoco -- providing petroleum products since 1917...

All service stations in Yellowstone offer environmentally sensitive fuels, specially formulated by Conoco to reduce hydrocarbon emissions and decrease other pollution-related problems.