

Backcountry Trip Planner

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Yellowstone National Park was created by Congress to preserve the resources and provide for their enjoyment in such a manner as to keep them unimpaired for future generations. Your help is needed to accomplish this goal. Yellowstone is one of the few large, natural areas remaining in the lower 48 states of the United States. Here you meet nature on its terms, not yours. The National Park Service wants your backcountry trip to be as safe and rewarding as possible. For your benefit, backcountry rangers have compiled the following information which will help you in planning your trip.

Hiking in the backcountry of Yellowstone is an opportunity few people enjoy. Most visitors rarely travel beyond the roadways and developed areas known as the "frontcountry". Yellowstone has over 1000 miles of trails and over 300 designated backcountry campsites. All offer some of the most unusual and exciting wilderness found anywhere in the world. Perhaps the hardest decision in preparing for a trip is choosing when and where to go. We have no trails or destinations that we recommend over others. There is no "best hike". Many people select their itinerary based on activities of interest to them, such as fishing, seeing mountain vistas or watching wildlife. All of Yellowstone's trails offer a rewarding adventure in some of this country's most spectacular wilderness.

Plan Ahead

The key to a successful trip is careful planning and preparation. Please read this publication thoroughly. When planning your itinerary, keep in mind the time of year, difficulty of terrain, possible river crossings, closed areas, elevation changes, and the physical condition of *everyone* in your party. Remember you can only travel as fast as the slowest person in your group. See page 12.

We recommend using topographic maps and reading a good hiking guide to assist you in planning. Guide books and topographic maps with trails and backcountry campsites are available at all permit issuing stations, and may be purchased at visitor centers. To order them ahead of time contact the Yellowstone Association, P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, (877) 967-0090, or on the web at www.YellowstoneAssociation.org. See the enclosed publications list.

Your Backcountry Use Permit

A Backcountry Use Permit is required for all overnight trips in the backcountry. The permit is valid only for the itinerary and dates you select. Permits are not required for day hiking; however, day hikers must observe all backcountry regulations. At the time you receive your permit, you will receive important information on current trail and campsite conditions, hazards, and any restrictions or closures.

All Backcountry Use *Permits* must be obtained in person and not more than 48 hours in advance of the first date of the trip. However, the backcountry *campsites* can be reserved more than 48 hours in advance of your trip. See Backcountry Campsite Reservations.

Backcountry Campsites

For safety and resource concerns, especially regarding bears, camping is almost exclusively restricted to designated campsites only. See undesignated camping below. Each campsite has restrictions on group size, stock use, boating access, wood fires, and length of stay. The maximum number of nights one can remain at a single site is three. These restrictions are listed on the campsite lists on pages 6-11. With the exception of nine campsites, we allow only one party at each campsite. The multiparty sites are identified on the campsite listing. We join the national Leave No Trace program in urging backpackers to keep their group size small. If your party size exceeds the campsite limit, you will need to divide into smaller groups and obtain a second reservation/permit. Please be prepared to cook and sleep as separate groups.

Camping in undesignated sites is occasionally allowed under certain circumstances and with special approval on a case-by-case basis. Stringent policies govern this privilege, and adherence to Leave No Trace skills and ethics is required. Camping in designated campsites is not required during the winter season. For more information about camping in undesignated sites and/or for a booklet about winter camping, contact our Backcountry Office.

Trails and Trailheads

Maintained trails are marked by orange metal tags on trees and posts. Some trails may be hard to follow due to infrequent use, missing markers, recent fires, or large meadows where the trail tread is not clear. We strongly recommend that you carry a compass and topographic map and know how to use them. Distance and directional signs are at most trail junctions. Yellowstone has very few designated loop trails, however, loops can be devised by combining several existing trails. Doing this generally requires some segments of backtracking or entering and exiting at different trailheads. Leaving a vehicle at one trailhead and coming out at a different trailhead requires two vehicles or a shuttle. Hikers can arrange a shuttle from one trailhead to another from another visitor or from a commercial shuttle service. Currently Back Country Sports is the only such service. Their email address is backsports@fretel.com and their phone is (208) 652-3385.

Parking is available at all trailheads, however overnight camping at trailheads is not allowed. Trailheads are differentiated from campsites by having either a K or an N as their second character.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) utilize parts of Yellowstone's trail system. For further information on these trails, contact the backcountry office.

Fires

Open wood fires are permitted only in established fire-rings at designated campsites. Only dead and down material may be used for firewood. Make certain the fire is cold before leaving your site. At some sites fires are not permitted; backpacking stoves are allowed at all campsites. Those sites which do not allow wood fires are specified with the initials NWF.

The following are prohibited in the backcountry:

firearms, weapons, traps and nets, pets, motorized equipment, wheeled vehicles, and hay. We do allow wheelchairs and some types of service animals in the backcountry. Due to personal safety concerns, please contact the backcountry office for further information before taking a wheelchair or service dog into the backcountry.

Backcountry Campsite Reservations

Yellowstone National Park has a reservation service for backcountry campsites. Below are some things you should know about our reservation system.

- Booking begins on April 1 and continues throughout the season. Reservation requests received before April 1 will be held until then. On April 1 the requests will be booked in random order determined by a computerized random number generator. After 4/1, the requests are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are requesting sites in one of our more popular areas such as Slough Creek or Yellowstone and Shoshone Lakes, your chances of getting your first choices are best if you submit your request by April 1.


Yellowstone National Park

WHERE TO GET YOUR PERMIT

For the best information on trail conditions, obtain your permits from the ranger station or visitor center closest to where your trip begins. During the summer season, Backcountry Use Permits are available 7 days a week between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (some stations close for lunch) at the following locations:

- **Bechler Ranger Station**
- **Canyon Ranger Station/Visitor Center**
- **Mammoth Ranger Station/Visitor Center**
- **Old Faithful Ranger Station**
- **Tower Ranger Station**
- **West Entrance Ranger Station**
- **Grant Village Backcountry Office** 
- **South Entrance Ranger Station** 
- **Bridge Bay** 

In addition, Backcountry Use Permits may sometimes be obtained at the Northeast and East Entrances. However, the rangers there have other responsibilities and may not be available. During the spring, fall, and winter, ranger station and visitor center hours may vary. To obtain a Backcountry Use Permit during these seasons, call the park phone number at (307)344-7381.

 Permits for boating trips must be obtained at one of these locations

- Requests for reservations will be accepted ONLY by mail, or in person. We can't accept requests over the phone or by fax. Requests should be submitted on the Trip Planning Worksheet (enclosed). If you did not receive a worksheet with this planner, call the backcountry office at (307) 344-2160 or email us at YELL_Backcountry_Office@nps.gov. Worksheets are also available for download via the internet at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/publications/pdfs/backcountry/index.htm>
- Each trip reservation costs \$20.00. The fee is for one reservation regardless of the number of nights or number of people in a single trip. A trip is defined as an itinerary with campsites along a trail from the entry trailhead to the exit trailhead. If the party returns to the road and travels to another entry trailhead, this constitutes another trip. Consult the campsite listing for party-size limits for each site.
- The fee must accompany the reservation request and can be made with cash, check, or money order. The fee is for *obtaining a reservation*, not for taking a trip. Once the reservation has been made the fee is no longer refundable even if the trip is cancelled. There's no charge for amending or cancelling reservations.
- Please, submit only one request per party. Multiple requests from the same party slow down the reservation process and may lead to false reservations and unused sites.
- A confirmation notice, not a permit, will be mailed to the camper. This confirmation notice is then exchanged for the actual Backcountry Use Permit which must be obtained in person at a ranger station in the park, not more than 48 hours before the first camping date.
- You must pick up your permit or contact the backcountry office before 10:00 a.m. on the day of your trip or your site(s) will be released to other campers. If you are delayed, you may hold your reservation by calling the 24-hr. phone number shown on the confirmation notice.
- Only a portion of backcountry campsites will be reserved in advance. We leave some sites open in each area each night for people without reservations. Consequently, if you can be flexible in your choice of campsites, you may decide to wait until you arrive in the park to reserve your site(s) and obtain your permit.

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Hiking and Camping in Bear Country

To learn more about bears, read one of the numerous books that are available at visitor centers in the park or from The Yellowstone Association. To fear bears is quite reasonable, but be aware that many bear stories are greatly exaggerated. Your chances of being injured on the way to Yellowstone are actually far greater than being injured by a bear. However, people have been injured and killed by bears in Yellowstone. Your safety is not guaranteed. Read the information below to learn good bear avoidance behavior

Attacks are caused mainly by surprising a bear, getting between a mother bear and her cubs, or getting too close to a bear with food.

The chances of being attacked by a bear can be reduced by avoiding the above situations and taking the following precautions:

- **Be Alert:** Watch for tracks, excrement, diggings or other bear sign. Carry binoculars and scan ahead periodically. If you see a bear cub, the mother is close by.
- **Don't Hike Alone or at Night:** Plan your itinerary so you do not travel at night. Bears travel (often on the trails) and feed mainly at night. Statistics show that parties of three or more are safer than solo hikers. Groups tend to make more noise and appear more formidable to a bear. Also, if there is an attack, members of the group can assist the injured while others go for help.
- **Make Noise:** Talk, sing, clap hands, shake pebbles in a can, anything to let a bear know your presence. Don't rely on bells; usually they are too quiet. Shout often, especially when traveling upwind, near streams or in thick brush.
- **Stay On Marked Trails:** You increase your risk of surprising a bear when hiking off-trail.
- **Avoid Carcasses:** Report dead animals near a trail or campsite to the nearest ranger station. Never camp in a campsite that has a carcass nearby. It is very risky to approach a carcass; a bear may be out of sight guarding its food.
- **Avoid Bringing Smelly Food:** Leave bacon, tuna, ham, scented deodorants and other odorous items behind. A bear's acute sense of smell can detect odors from great distances. Dry foods are lighter to carry and not as aromatic.

If you encounter a bear:

- Stay Calm
 - Back away slowly
 - Do not drop your pack
- Do not run or make sudden movements
 - Talk quietly to the bear, do not shout
 - Avoid looking directly at the bear

If you encounter a bear and it does not see you, keep out of sight and detour as far away as possible behind and downwind of the bear. Climbing a tree is popular advice, but not always practical in many settings. All black bears, all grizzly cubs, and some adult grizzlies can climb trees if the spacing of the branches is right. Climb a tree *only* if it is nearby, and the bear is far away. Running to a tree may provoke a bear to chase you. **You cannot outrun a bear!** If you do climb a tree, make sure you choose one in which you can climb at least 15 feet.

If you are charged: If the bear charges you, freeze. Some bears may bluff charge, then veer off or stop abruptly allowing you to slowly back away.

If a bear makes physical contact: Drop to the ground , lie face down and clasp your hands behind your neck; wearing your pack may shield your body. It may take all the courage you have, but lie still and remain silent, resistance will only provoke the bear. Before moving, listen and look around carefully to make sure the bear is no longer nearby.

Night attacks while in a tent are extremely rare, but if this happens you should defend yourself aggressively. A bear attacking at night or stalking is not being protective or defensive - rather it is possibly treating humans as food. Fight back, do not play dead - use anything available to defend yourself. If you carry pepper spray, keep it accessible in your tent and be prepared to use it.

Food and Bears

Don't let your actions cause a bear or other animal to be destroyed. A bear has an acute sense of smell. If you leave food out and unattended, you are inviting a bear into your camp. Bears that get food and/or garbage from people will likely continue to seek this easy source of food. Repeated incidents may mean a dead bear. Why? A bear conditioned to human food is more likely to be aggressive and subsequently, to injure or kill people in an attempt to obtain food. When such a bear injures someone, it is often necessary to destroy that bear.

Samples of odorous items which you are required to hang include all food, garbage, empty or full beverage cans, coolers, lip balm, sunscreens and lotions, toothpaste, food panniers, horse feed, some medications, clothes worn while cooking, eating utensils which have not been properly cleaned, and any article that has an odor. Keep all food and odorous items out of sleeping bags, tents and their stuff sacks.

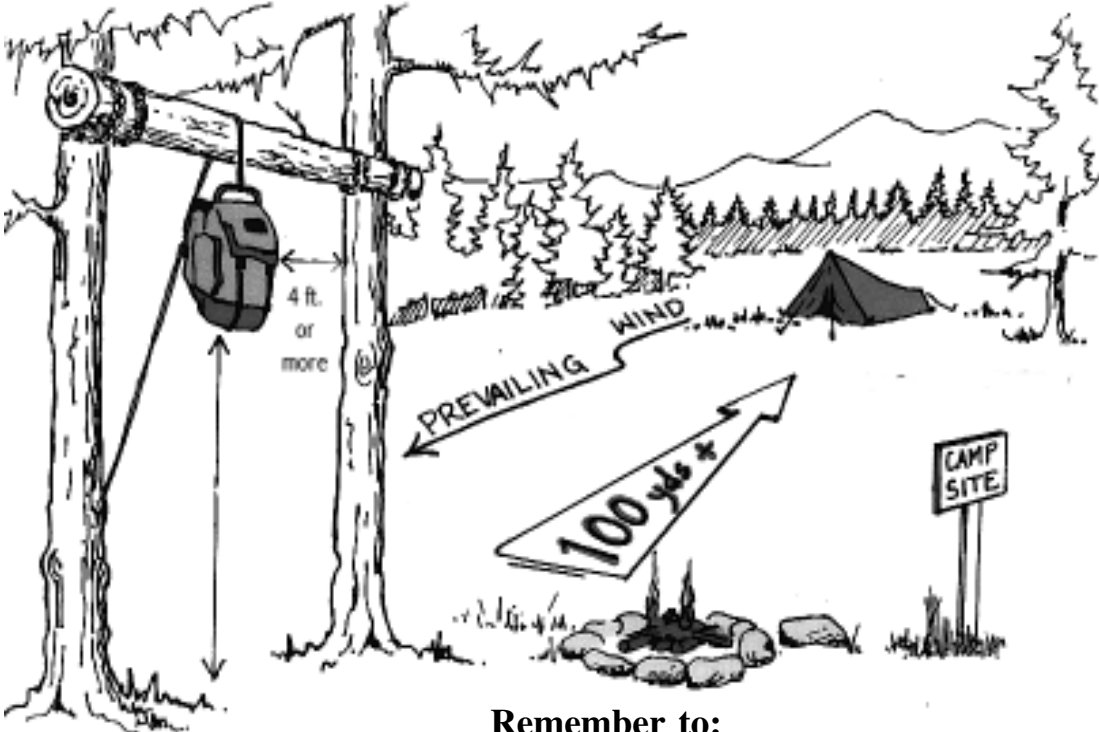
Before setting out on a day hike or backcountry trip check at a Visitor Center or Ranger Station for any recent bear sightings or warnings. Look for posted warning signs at the trailhead. Report bear sightings or encounters to the nearest Ranger Station or Visitor Center.

*Those who have
packed far up into grizzly
country know that the presence of even
one grizzly on the land elevates the mountains
deepens the canyons, chills the winds, brightens the stars,
darkens the forest, and quickens the pulse of all who enter it. They
know that when a bear dies, something sacred in every living thing
interconnected with that realm ...also dies.*

John Murray

Recommended camp setup in bear country

A food storage pole is provided at most campsites, so that food and other attractants can be suspended. You need to provide your own rope (35' recommended).



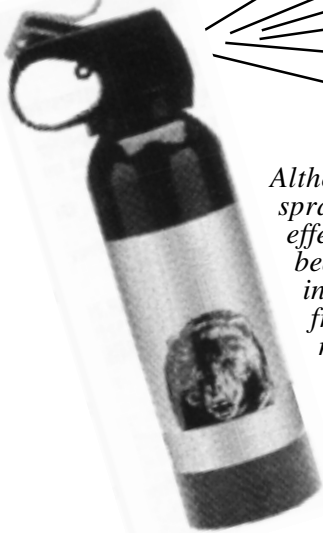
Remember to:

- Suspend items 10 feet above ground and 4 feet out from tree trunks
- In addition to food and garbage, suspend all odorous items including toothpaste, deodorant and lotion
- Keep a clean camp - pack out all garbage
- Don't sleep in the same clothes worn while cooking
- Store food in airtight containers
- Where possible, keep your sleeping area 100 yards from your cooking & food-storage area
- Strain food particles from dishwater and pack out. Scatter dishwater at least 100 yards from tent site
- Bring at least 35 feet of rope to hang food
- Line your pack or panniers with plastic bags
- Never eat or store food in your tent
- Sleep in a tent, not under the stars

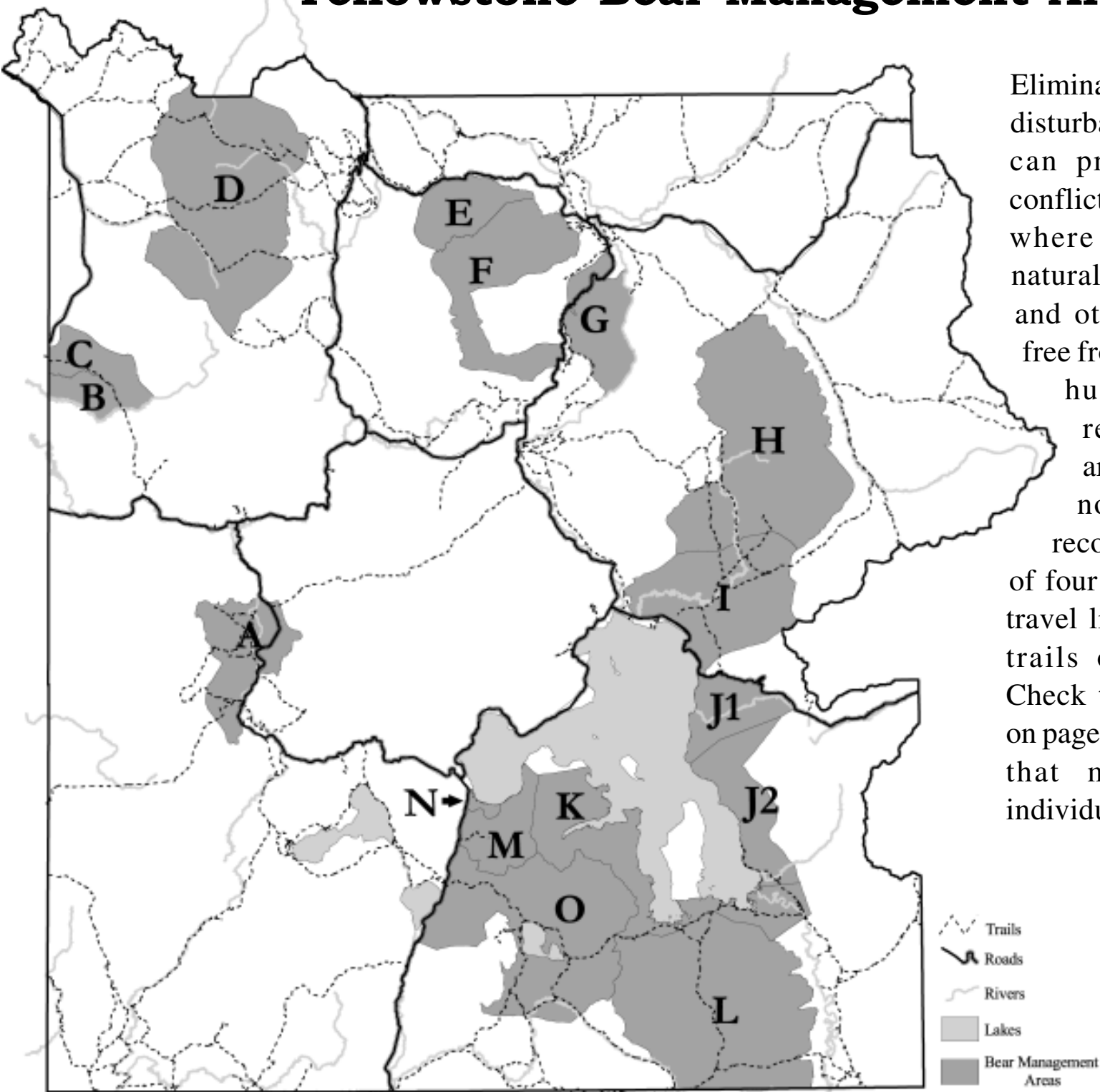
Bear Pepper Sprays

The best way to avoid being injured by a bear is by taking all the necessary precautions. However, if precautionary measures fail and you are charged by a bear, your reactions can, in many cases, defuse the situation. Bear spray is a good last line of defense that has been highly effective in the reported cases where it was used. The use of bear spray is especially appropriate if you are attacked in your tent at night. If you successfully use pepper spray to stop a bear, leave the area immediately. The spray is effective for a short time and is less effective the second time around. Bear spray is effective only at distances of 10-30 feet and is adversely affected by wind, cold temperatures, and age. Carefully read the instructions, know how to use the spray and be aware of its limitations. Be sure to check the expiration date. If you decide to carry bear spray, the canister must be immediately available, not in your pack.

In choosing a pepper spray please consider the following: Purchase only products clearly labeled "for deterring attacks by bears" • Concentration should be between 1 and 2% capsaicin • Minimum net weight of 225 grams or 7.9 oz. • Spray delivered in a shotgun-cloud pattern • Minimum range of 25 feet • Spray should be EPA approved.



Although bear sprays have been highly effective at stopping charging bears, there are some indications that the residue from some oil-based sprays may possibly act as a bear attractant. Use your spray only as a last ditch deterrent on the bear. Do not spray around your campsite, tent, camping gear, or in any bear habitat.



Eliminating human entry and disturbance in specific areas can prevent human/bear conflicts and provides areas where bears can pursue natural behavioral patterns and other social activities free from the disturbance of humans. Types of restrictions include: area and trail closures, no off-trail travel, a recommended party size of four or more people, and travel limited to established trails or daylight hours. Check the campsite listings on pages 6-11, for restrictions that may apply to an individual campsite.

To reduce human related impacts on bears in high density grizzly bear habitat, we have established the following areas and restrictions:

A Firehole: Area (including Firehole Freight Road and Firehole Lake Road) is closed March 10 through the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. The Mary Mountain Trail from the Nez Perce trailhead to Mary Lake is closed March 10 through June 15. Through travel from the Canyon trailhead is not allowed, however, travel is allowed from the Canyon trailhead to Mary Lake and back. Streamside use is allowed from the point where Nez Perce Creek crosses the main road to a point one mile upstream along Nez Perce Creek.

B Richard's Pond: Area is closed March 10 through the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. From the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through September 30, Duck Creek, from the park boundary upstream to the Campanula Creek/Richard's Creek fork, is open to streamside travel. The area upstream from Campanula Creek/Richard's Creek fork is closed from March 10 through September 30.

C Gneiss Creek: Area is closed March 10 through June 30. From July 1 through November 10, travel is allowed only on designated trails (off-trail travel is prohibited).

D Gallatin: From May 1 through November 10, travel is allowed only on designated trails (off-trail travel is prohibited). A minimum group size of four or more is recommended for hiking and camping.

E Blacktail: Area is closed March 10 through June 30.

F Washburn: Area is closed August 1 through November 10. From March 10 through July 31, the area is open by special permit only. Contact the Tower Ranger Station for permit information.

G Antelope: Area is closed March 10 through November 10. The Dunraven Road and related turnouts are open. From May 25 through November 10, foot travel is allowed on the Old Road Trail from Tower Falls Campground to the Buffalo Picnic Area.

H Mirror Plateau: From May 15 through November 10, the area is open to day use only with the exception that from July 1 through August 14 overnight camping is permitted for a combined total of 14 nights per summer at the 3O1 and 5P7 campsites.

I Pelican Valley: Area is closed April 1 through July 3. From July 4 through November 10, the area is open to day-use only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

J1 Clear Creek: From April 1 through August 10, travel is only allowed on the east shore from Nine-mile trailhead to Park Point. All other trails are closed and off-trail travel is prohibited. On August 11 all trails open and off-trail travel is permitted.

J2 Clear Creek: from April 1 through July 14, travel is only allowed on the east shore trail from Park Point to Beaverdam Creek. All other trails are closed and off-trail travel is prohibited. Open campsites are 5E2, 5E3, 5E4, and 5E6 (no travel away from campsite). All other campsites are closed. On July 15, all campsites open and off-trail travel is permitted.

K Lake Spawn: From May 15 through July 14, no off-trail travel allowed and the Trail Creek Trail between Cabin Creek and Outlet Creek is closed. Open Campsites are 7L5, 7L6, 7L7, 7L8, 7M3, 7M4, 7M5, 6A3, 6A4, and 6B1 (no travel away from campsite). On July 15 all campsites open and off trail travel is permitted.

L Two Ocean: From March 10 through July 14 and August 22 through November 10, travel is allowed only on designated trails (off-trail travel is prohibited). From July 15 through August 21, a permit is required for persons wishing to travel away from designated trails. Contact the South Entrance Ranger Station for permit information.

M Middle/Solution: Area is closed April 30 through July 14.

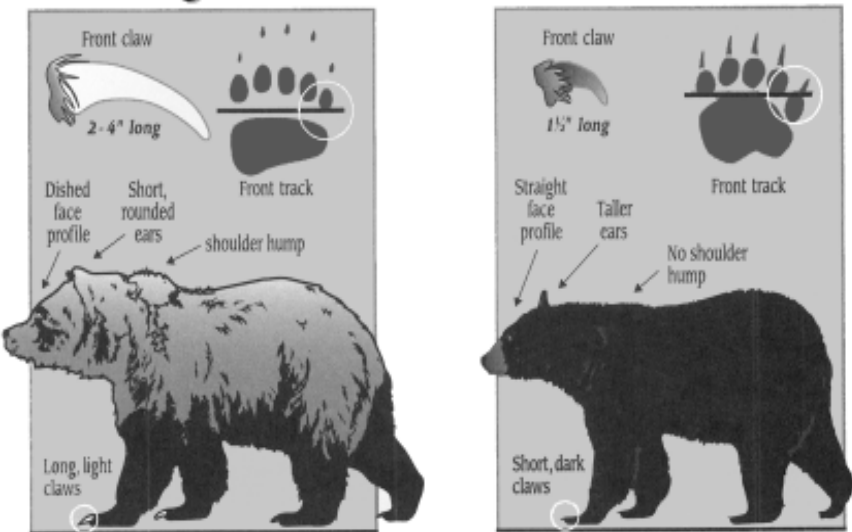
N Grant Village: Campground opens June 20 or earlier if bear use of the area spawning streams is over prior to that time. If bears are still frequenting the spawning streams after June 20, the campground loops adjacent to the stream(s) will remain closed until bear activity ceases. Campground closes October 16.

O Heart Lake: Area is closed April 1 through June 30. Access to the area on July 1 may be delayed if conditions warrant.

Do you know your bears?

Grizzly Bear

Black Bear



Look for a combination of characteristics. Color and size are sometimes misleading.

Identifying bear tracks: A line drawn under the big toe across the top of the pad runs through the top half of the little toe on black bear tracks and through or below the bottom half of little toes on grizzly tracks.

Seasonal Weather Table

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Data based on a Ten-year average	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Maximum Temperature	27	33	41	49	58	68	75	76	67	53	35	27
Average Minimum Temperature	0.3	4	12	21	29	36	39	37	29	22	10	0.7
Average Precipitation	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.7

Pay attention to the weather - Yellowstone's is highly unpredictable

Many warm sunny days turn abruptly into fierce stormy afternoons. Strong, gusty south to southwest winds are common each afternoon in Yellowstone. What can follow is sudden wind, rain, and lightning storms. If you are boating or hiking on a ridge when these storms approach, get off the water, ridges, shores, and open places. Thick forests of equal height offer better protection than meadows.

Backpackers to Yellowstone may be surprised to experience winter-like weather any time of year. Rain, wind, sleet and snow can be deadly if proper precautions are not taken. Always bring raingear and extra clothes for warmth. Nighttime temperatures can drop into the 30s and 40s. Depending on elevation, temperatures may even fall into the 20s with a light freeze.

Daytime temperatures are usually in the 70s or 80s. June can be cool and rainy; July and August tend to be drier, with afternoon thundershowers common. High water from spring runoff can make stream crossings hazardous and some trails wet and muddy until mid-July. Consult current conditions before venturing into the backcountry.

For Your Safety, please read this page

Thermal Features and Geyser Basins

- Burns from thermal features are a common cause of serious injury and death in the park.
- Be extremely cautious in thermal areas due to thin, fragile crusts overlying boiling water
 - Be alert for bears in geyser basins in spring and early summer
 - **Don't travel through thermal areas after dark**
 - Stock are not permitted in thermal areas
 - To swim, bathe or soak in waters that are entirely of thermal origin is prohibited
 - No food or smoking allowed in thermal areas

Following large animal tracks through geyser basins is no insurance of safety. Check at a ranger station before you go exploring; some areas may be restricted.

Don't approach or short-cut through geyser basins after dark. In the darkness, there is greater chance of stepping into a hot spring.

For your safety and for the protection of thermal features in Yellowstone, it is illegal to swim or bathe in any thermal water that is entirely of thermal origin. Many springs and pools in Yellowstone are extremely acidic or very alkaline; only a small number are neutral. The hot springs and pools found in Yellowstone’s thermal basins contain algae, bacteria and fungi that are found no where else in the world. These delicate life forms could be destroyed by soaking or wading in the pools.

Altering the status of any thermal feature is prohibited. Please don't put rocks, sticks or any objects into them. Doing so may clog the vents and cause their extinction.

Ticks and Mosquitoes

From mid-March to mid-July, grassy, brushy, low elevation areas (4000-6500 feet) are ideal **tick** habitat in Yellowstone. Wear repellent even on shoes socks, cuffs and pant legs. Tuck your pant legs into your socks and your shirt into your pants. Check your clothes and your body often.

During the summer season, **mosquitoes** are common and widespread, especially in wet areas, around lakes and streams. They are most intense during June and July and tend to diminish in mid to late August. Repellents, netting, and wearing protective clothing with long pants and sleeves are your best options. After that, patience and forbearance are required.

River Crossings

- Few of Yellowstone’s rivers or streams have bridges, and many are not fordable until July or later. Even in late summer, water levels can rise quickly after rainstorms or on warm afternoons from snowmelt in the high country. The water can be cold, fast, and over thigh-deep, making any attempt to ford very perilous. Trying to ford deep, swift water has resulted in loss of gear, injury, and death. Carefully check your itinerary on a topographic map for stream crossings, then ask about ford conditions at a ranger station before beginning your trip. Don't be afraid to turn around if conditions are dangerous. Before you cross make sure all members (especially smaller members) of your party are comfortable with fording.
- During the spring and early summer, stream depths are likely to change from morning to afternoon.
 - Seal important items in plastic bags and put dangling items inside your pack before crossing.
 - Search up and downstream to find the safest place to ford. You don’t have to cross where the trail meets the river. Wider sections are generally slower and shallower.
 - Do not ford barefooted, stay sideways to the current, and beware of deceptive currents . Don’t look at moving water when crossing; keep your eyes set on the approaching bank
 - Use a long sturdy stick to make your crossing safer. If you are part of a group, hold hands or interlock arms.
 - Use extreme caution if you use a fallen tree or logjam; they can be very slippery.
 - Undo the waist and chest straps of your pack. You must be able to get out of it quickly should you fall. If you fall while fording in deep water, discharge your pack and swim - a full pack could drag you down.

Water Treatment

Even though backcountry waters can look, smell and taste good, Giardia and other contaminants may be present. Giardiasis is an intestinal disorder caused by a microscopic protozoan. It is carried in the feces of humans and some domestic and wild animals. As a safeguard against Giardiasis, other parasites and bacteria, we recommend that you boil, filter or chemically treat all drinking water. Any water brought to a boil, even at high altitudes, should be safe. For additional assurance boil water for one minute. Some charcoal filtration systems may or may not remove Giardia. Therefore, when shopping for a filtration system, make sure the package says “Effective against Giardia” and is capable of removing particles of 1 micron or smaller.

Hypothermia (Exposure)

Hypothermia is the major killer of unprepared recreationists. It is the lowering of a person's inner-core temperature, followed by rapid, progressive mental and physical collapse. Each year outdoor recreationists die from it. Most of these deaths could have been prevented with prior knowledge and appropriate action. To avoid hypothermia: Stay dry, stay out of the wind, avoid getting chilled. Put on rain gear before you get wet and warm clothes before you start shivering. Use a hat and gloves to conserve vital body heat.

When a person is wet, the body is cooled rapidly as moisture evaporates; a breeze increases the rate of heat loss dramatically. When clothes get wet, they lose much of their insulating value: cotton and down lose the most, wool loses less, synthetic piles lose the least and dry out quickly. Most hypothermia cases happen in air temperatures between 30 and 50º Fahrenheit.

Warning signs of hypothermia:

- Uncontrollable shivering
- Immobile, fumbling hands
- Slow, slurred speech
- Stumbling, lurching gait
- Exhaustion
- Memory lapses, incoherence and drowsiness.

Watch yourself and others for symptoms. Be aware of the "denial syndrome” in which the victim negates any problems, “I’m OK, really!"

If you cannot stay warm and dry, assess and alter your plans. Remember that you are only as strong as the weakest person in your group. Persistent or violent shivering is a clear warning that you are on the verge of hypothermia. Find shelter from the storm and make camp. Get out of wind and rain. Remove wet clothing. Get into dry clothing and a sleeping bag. Administer warm drinks. Never give alcohol.

Cell phones

Cell phone coverage throughout the park is variable and intermittent. Three different companies provide coverage all in different areas. Being able to transmit a call depends on your carrier and your location. Coverage in the backcountry is even more unpredictable. Backcountry cell phone users should not count on their cell phones as a reliable means of communication in case of an emergency.

Edible Plants, Berries and Mushrooms

Edible plants, berries and mushrooms may be picked for your daily consumption. Make certain you know which varieties are edible. If you're not certain, don't eat them - better safe than sorry. People have died in Yellowstone from eating poisonous plants.

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Leave No Trace

Developed by the National Outdoor Leadership School, the principles of **Leave No Trace** are an extension of the National Park Service mission to preserve a vast system of resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations", and challenges individuals to become active stewards in its preservation. The program builds awareness, appreciation and respect for the land and provides a foundation for applying minimum-impact techniques.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Careful preparation for your trip helps avoid unnecessary impacts. Thoughtful preparation includes: repackaging food and supplies, having proper equipment, and obtaining knowledge about the area assists in knowing what to expect. You have already begun your preparation by reading this information packet. As you continue planning your trip, please keep the following in mind:

- Group size** Think small! A large crowd is difficult to organize and keep together as you travel. In addition, human waste disposal and proper food storage becomes difficult. As you look through the campsite list in this planner, please note the party size limit that pertains to each campsite. If your group size exceeds these limits, you will need to camp and cook as smaller groups in separate campsites with separate permits. Another alternative would be to consider going to a "frontcountry" campground in the park that is equipped with toilets, tables, and paved paths designed to accommodate larger numbers of people — large groups are not appropriate in the backcountry.
- When to go** Most people visit Yellowstone in July and August. If trails are dry, you might enjoy a late-spring or early-fall trip to avoid summer crowds. The trade-off of visiting the park during these less busy times may mean dealing with more mosquitoes or less favorable weather conditions.

- Food Packaging** Plan your meals carefully. Repackage food into reusable containers or plastic bags as this will reduce the amount of potential trash or litter you bring into the backcountry. Carefully plan your food to reduce waste and leftovers.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Yellowstone's designated campsite system concentrates impacts in a limited number of areas leaving most of the backcountry pristine. When on the trail, walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet and muddy. Staying on the trail, even when tempted to shortcut switchbacks, prevents erosion and slopes marred by numerous trails.

Leave What You Find

Allow others a sense of discovery by leaving rocks, plants, archaeological artifacts and other objects of interest as you find them. Walk lightly - avoid damaging trees and plants around your campsite. All plants, animals, animal parts, mineral features, archeological sites,

and cultural artifacts in the park are protected. Removing, disturbing, and/ or damaging them is prohibited.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

It is evident that building wood fires causes undesirable impacts. Where fires are permitted, the proliferation of fire rings causes accumulation of ash, charcoal, blackened rocks, and partially burned garbage. Living trees and picturesque snags, home to many birds and small animals, are stripped and hacked. Undesired trails develop around campsites in the quest for wood.

To safeguard the pristine environment, backcountry users should strive to use only portable stoves. At campsites where wood fires are prohibited, stoves are the only source of fire. They provide their users with the convenience of fire' while protecting the resource.

Where it is legal to build a fire, keep it small. In popular areas, natural processes cannot supply dead wood fast enough to feed camp fires. Moreover, revegetation at old fire rings is very slow or unlikely.

Use only small sticks and branches which burn more completely and provide a bed of hot coals for cooking. When you leave, you will not have partially burned logs to tend to.

Respect Wildlife ALL Animals are Wild and Potentially Dangerous

- **Do not approach wildlife**
- **Feeding, disturbing or harassing wildlife is prohibited**
- **Females with young are especially dangerous**
- **Remember: Wildlife + Distance = Safety**

Observing Yellowstone's wildlife can be one of the biggest thrills for the backcountry traveller. Unfortunately if people feed, or unnecessarily disturb animals, encounters between humans and animals can be dangerous.

You can avoid many harmful conflicts with the following knowledge and guidelines. Respect the needs of wildlife for undisturbed territory. These precautions are particularly important near breeding, nesting or feeding areas. In addition, backcountry use may be restricted during certain times of the year to minimize disturbance of wildlife. Some animals may be quite curious, but resist the temptation to feed them. Unnatural feeding of wildlife can alter their migration, feeding habits, and reproduction levels. Detour around large animals such as moose, bison, and elk, especially during mating season or when young are present. While large animals cause the greatest concern, remember that small rodents and other animals can ruin your tent or pack in their quest for food. Properly secure your food, trash and odorous items at night and when unattended.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Carry plastic bags for hauling and pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Never bury it or dump it in pit toilets. Where

When building fires, remember these things:

- **Campfires are only permitted in specified campsites in designated fire rings**
- **Before leaving, fires must be completely extinguished**
- **Burn dead and downed wood only**
- **Do not break, cut or saw branches from any standing tree (dead or alive)**

fires are permitted you may burn paper or leftover food. Do not burn glass, plastic, styrofoam or aluminum foil. Before leaving, sift through the ashes and remove all unburned material.

- To avoid polluting lakes and streams, wash yourself, your dishes or clothes, by carrying wash water 100 feet from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Strain out food particles and pack out or burn the residue. Scatter the strained water. Residue from scattered water will break down more quickly and be less of an attractant to animals and flies. Consider soapless dishwashing and bathing while in the backcountry. In high altitude lakes and streams even biodegradable soaps might not

degrade. Soap of any kind can alter the water's delicate pH balance, and affect aquatic life.

- Human waste disposal can be a health hazard and a substantial repulsion if done incorrectly. Bury solid human waste in catholes dug 6” – 8” deep and at least 100 ft. from water, camp and trails. Select a spot at least 100 feet away from any water course, out of sight of any trail or campsite. Carefully remove the sod, dig the hole, then fill in the hole with loose soil and replace the sod. Burn toilet paper only if fires are allowed, or pack it out. Large groups who are staying in a specific area for a longer time may consider digging a latrine. Dig it at least one foot deep and cover it in the same manner mentioned earlier. Individual catholes are generally recommended because smaller amounts of fecal matter will decompose faster.

In many of the more heavily used sites, wooden box-style toilets are provided and a few sites have outhouses. It's okay to dispose of toilet paper in these holes, but we encourage you to reduce the amount of paper used and use white, unscented toilet paper. Do not dispose of tampons in pit toilets; burn them completely or pack them out.

Check your campsite for litter before leaving.

Carry plastic bags for hauling and hanging trash

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Yellowstone's backcountry offers visitors a chance to escape the crowds and experience a quieter side of the park. Many visitors list solitude and relaxation as goals for overnight backcountry trips. Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience by being courteous & yielding to other users on the trail. Avoid loud voices & noises when other users are nearby. When fishing, be courteous and respect each others need for adequate space.

*For additional ideas on techniques and practices that will help you to follow these **Leave No Trace** guidelines, ask a ranger or contact: National Outdoor Leadership School 288 Main St. Lander, WY 82520*

1-800-332-4100 • www.LNT.org

Fishing in Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park offers some of the finest trout fishing in America. Whether seeking a place where children can experience their first fishing expedition or where an expert with a fly rod can find challenging angling, you can find it in Yellowstone. But as important as fish are to anglers, they are even more important to the park's native residents. Bald eagles, osprey, pelicans, otters, grizzly bears and other wildlife depend on fish for a major portion of their diet. Additionally, all fish are wild (there is no stocking), so populations must have sufficient numbers of adult fish to reproduce and maintain populations, and assure genetic diversity. In Yellowstone, we place less emphasis upon providing fish for human consumption and more on the overall quality of recreational fishing. Anglers, in turn, have the opportunity to fish for *wild* trout in a natural setting.

Fishing regulations in the park have evolved in the direction of preserving or restoring the natural abundance and distribution of native species. The native sport fish, cutthroat trout, grayling, and mountain whitefish, are catch and release only in ALL park waters. These regulations more effectively achieve our goals of (1) preserving and restoring native fishes and their habitats, (2) managing fish as an essential part of the total park ecosystem, and (3) providing quality recreational fishing opportunities for park visitors.

Fishing Permits A current Yellowstone Fishing Permit is required. Anglers 16 years of age and older are required to purchase either a ten-day or a season permit. Anglers 12 to 15 years of age are required to obtain a non-fee permit. Permits are available at all ranger stations, visitor centers, general stores in the park and many vendors in our gateway communities. *State* fishing licenses are not required in the park and are not a substitute for a Yellowstone Fishing Permit.

Exotic Threats In 1994, the discovery of non-native lake trout in Yellowstone Lake caused great alarm among biologists throughout the Greater Yellowstone Area. Because of the lake trout's history of displacing species such as cutthroat trout in other western lakes, an expanding lake trout population has ominous implications for the continued viability of the Yellowstone Cutthroat. Additionally, other species, such as eagles, otters, pelicans, and grizzly bears, who depend on the cutthroat as a significant food source, could be adversely affected. To provide more protection for the cutthroat, regulations now require anglers to release **all** cutthroats regardless of their size.

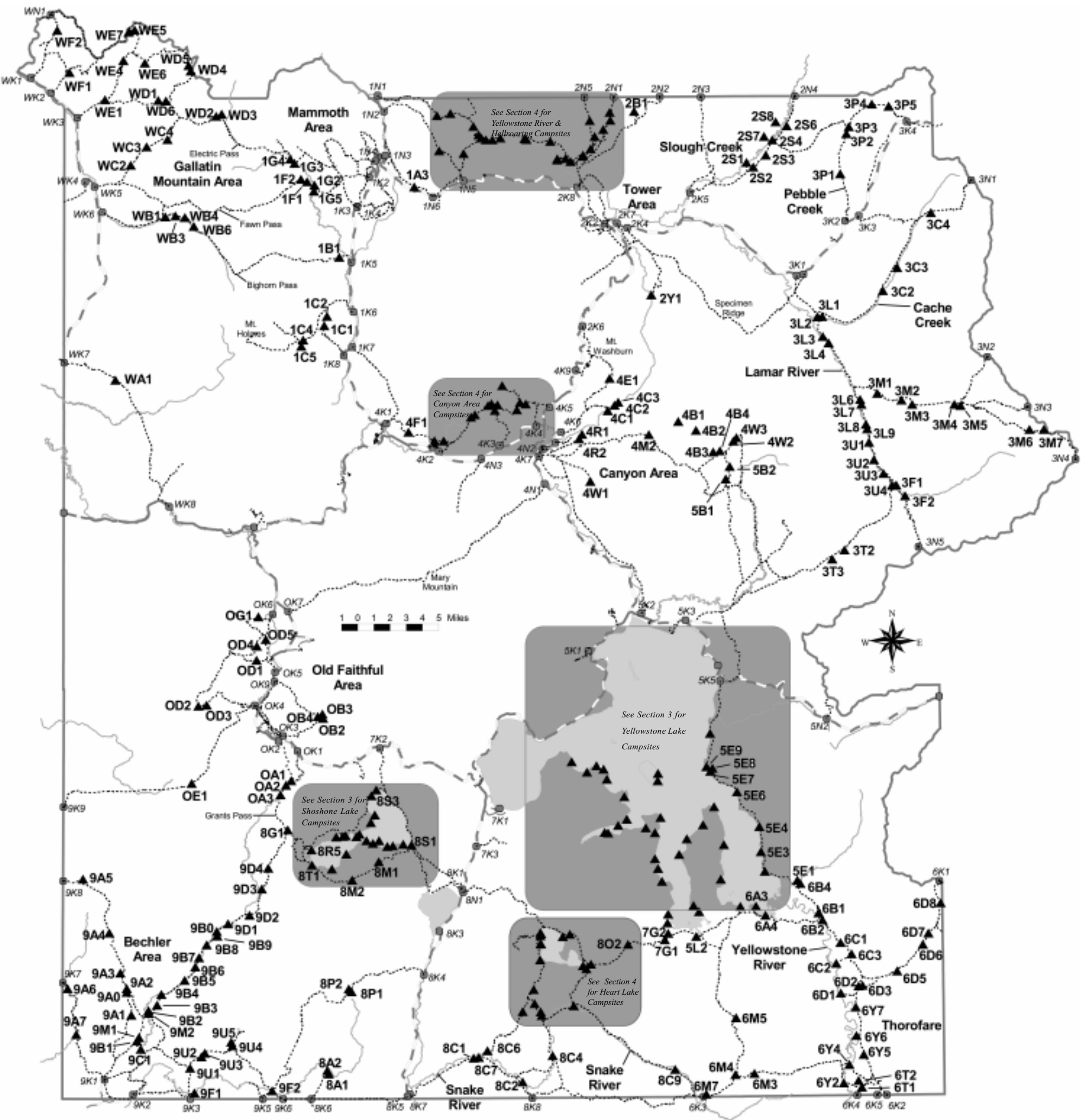
Two other potentially damaging exotic organisms threaten Yellowstone fisheries. Whirling disease has been implicated in the decline of numerous wild trout populations. And the New Zealand Mud Snail which occurs in the Firehole and the Madison Rivers, may harm aquatic insect communities. Please help prevent further spread of these invaders by thoroughly cleaning mud, plants, and debris from your fishing equipment, and inspecting footwear before leaving your angling site. Drain livewells and only clean fish in the same body of water in which they were caught. Please report sightings of the tiny (less than 1/4 inch) black snails to a park ranger.

Fishing Seasons With some exceptions, Yellowstone's fishing season begins on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and continues through the first Sunday of November. Some exceptions to these dates are Yellowstone Lake's tributary streams and the Yellowstone River (above the falls), which open July 15. ***Consult current fishing regulations for other exceptions and further information.***

Non-Toxic Fishing Yellowstone National Park has implemented a non-toxic fishing program. Nationwide, over three million waterfowl die each year from lead poisoning through ingestion. Fishing tackle such as leaded split-shot sinkers, weighted jigs (lead molded to a hook), and soft lead-weighted ribbon for nymph fishing are no longer allowed. Only non-toxic alternatives to lead are allowed For further information, contact the Chief Ranger's Office, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

Yellowstone National Park Campsites

This map is intended for trip planning and should not be substituted for a good topographic map. See the Yellowstone Association publications list to purchase topographic maps with our trails and campsites . Except when indicated otherwise all campsites have a three night limit, allow one party per site, allow wood fires, and have a food storage pole



▲ Backcountry Campsites

⋯ Trails

● Trailheads

— Roads

~ Rivers

Campsite Listings

NWF = No Wood Fires, BMA = Bear Management Area
e=Easy Access Sites, site is within 2 miles of the trailhead.
Camp --Capacity---

No.	People	Stock	Campsite Name/Restrictions
Mammoth Area (see Section 4 for Yellowstone River Trail & Rescue/Lave Creek area campsites)			
1B1e	10	0	Big Horn Pass Trail
1C1	10	0	Straight Creek South
1C2	10	6	Straight Creek North • Stock = llamas only
1C4	10	6	Winter Creek
1C5	10	6	Winter Creek SW
1F1	12	20	Fawn Cr-Gardners Hole • Stock Parties Only
1F2	10	0	Fawn Lake • No off-trail travel
1G2	10	0	Gardners Hole
1G3	10	0	Gardner River • No off-trail travel
1G4	10	0	Upper Gardner River • No off-trail travel
1G5	20	25	Soldiers Corral • Stock Parties Only
Tower Area Campsites (see Section 4 for Hellroaring Creek area campsites)			
2B1	10	16	Buffalo Plateau • Closed after 9/13
2C1	8	0	Coyote Creek
2C2	8	0	Coyote Creek
2C3	10	16	Coyote Creek • Stock Parties Only
2S1*	8	12	Lower Slough Creek
2S2*	6	0	Lower Slough Creek
2S3*	8	0	Slough Creek
2S4*	8	0	Slough Creek
2S6*	8	0	Upper Slough Creek
2S7*	12	20	Upper Slough Cr. • Stock Parties Only • 1 party per night in either 2S7 or 2S8
2S8*	12	20	Upper Slough Creek • Same as 2S7
*Only three nights allowed per permit for all 2S-sites from June 15 to Sept. 15.			
2Y1	8	0	Agate Creek • Closed Fri. of Memorial Weekend to 7/15

Lamar River & Pebble Creek Area Campsites			
3C2	12	20	Lower Cache Creek • 2 night limit for stock
3C3	12	25	Upper Cache Creek
3C4	12	0	Upper Cache Creek
3F1	6	0	Cold Creek
3F2	12	25	Lemon City
3L1	12	8	N Lower Cache Creek • Stock = llamas only
3L2	12	0	S Lower Cache Creek
3L3	12	0	Lower Lamar
3L4	12	0	Lower Lamar
3L6	12	20	Middle Lamar • Stock Parties Only • 2 night limit
3L7	12	0	Middle Lamar
3L8	12	0	Timothy Creek
3L9	12	20	Warm Spring Meadow
3M1	12	25	Appaloosa Meadows • 2 night limit for stock
3M2	12	0	Lower Miller Creek
3M3	12	20	Lower Miller Creek
3M4	6	0	Upper Miller Creek
3M5	12	0	Upper Miller Creek
3M6	12	0	Hoodoo Basin
3M7	12	20	Boundary • 1 night stock limit
3P1	12	0	Pebble Creek
3P2	12	0	Bliss Pass Jct
3P3	6	0	Bliss Pass Jct
3P4	12	20	Upper Pebble Creek
3P5e	12	0	Upper Pebble Creek
3T2	12	12	Mist Creek Meadows • 2 night limit
3T3	12	25	Mist Creek Pass • 2 night limit
3U1	12	25	Lower Willow Creek
3U2	12	0	Lower Willow Creek
3U3	12	0	Little Saddle Creek
3U4	12	25	Cold Creek Jct • Stock Parties Only

Canyon Area Campsites (see Section 4 for more campsites in the Canyon Area)			
4B1	6	0	Joseph's Coat Spring • Off-trail travel required • 2 night limit • NWF
4B2	12	0	Broad Creek • Off-trail travel required
4B3	12	6	Broad Creek • Off-trail travel required
4B4	12	10	Broad Creek
4C1	8	0	Old Seven Mile Hole • No stock allowed on trail • NWF
4C2	8	0	Seven Mile Hole • No stock allowed on trail • NWF
4C3	8	0	Seven Mile Hole • No stock allowed on trail • NWF
4E1	8	0	Washburn Meadow • No stock allowed on trail
4M2	12	6	Moss Creek
4R1e	8	0	Ribbon Lake
4R2e	8	0	Ribbon Lake
4W1	12	6	Wrangler Lake
4W2	8	0	Wapiti Lake
4W3	8	0	Wapiti Lake
5B1	20	25	Broad Creek
5B2	12	15	Broad View

Lake East Shore & Thorofare Campsites (see Section 3 for Yellowstone Lake boating campsites)			
5E1	12	0	Beaverdam Trail • Trail Access Only • Closed 4/1 - 7/14
5E3	12	0	Brimstone Point • No off-trail travel 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water
5E4	12	0	Brimstone Bay • No off-trail travel 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water
5E6	12	25	Columbine Meadow N • No off-trail travel 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water • One night limit
5E7	12	25	Meadow Creek • Trail access only • Closed 4/1 - 7/14
5E8	12	0	Park Point S • Closed 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water

Camp --Capacity---			
No.	People	Stock	Campsite Name/Restrictions
5E9	12	0	Park Point N • No off-trail travel 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water
5L2	8	10	Monument Camp • Trail or Boat Access • Closed 5/15 - 7/14
6A3	12	0	Trail Point • Trail or Non-Motorized Boat Access Only • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Can anchor sailboat
6A4	12	0	Trail Bay • Trail or Non-Motorized Boat Access Only • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Can anchor sailboat
6B1	20	20	Lower Ford • No off-trail travel 5/15 - 7/14 • 1 night limit for stock. • River may be unfordable until late July/early August
6B2	8	0	Upper Ford • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • River may be unfordable until late July/early August
6B4	20	20	Beaverdam Meadow • Closed 4/1 - 7/14
6C1	20	15	Colter Meadows • Keep stock from spring source
6C2	20	25	Rivers Edge • 1.5 miles west of main trail
6C3	10	0	Turret View
6D1	20	10	Mountain Creek
6D2	20	0	Mountain Creek Ford
6D3	20	25	Mountain Creek • Stock Parties Only
6D5	20	20	Upper Mountain Creek
6D6	20	25	Howell Creek
6D7	20	0	Howell Creek
6D8	20	10	Howell Creek • Often has snow until July • No stock after 9/1

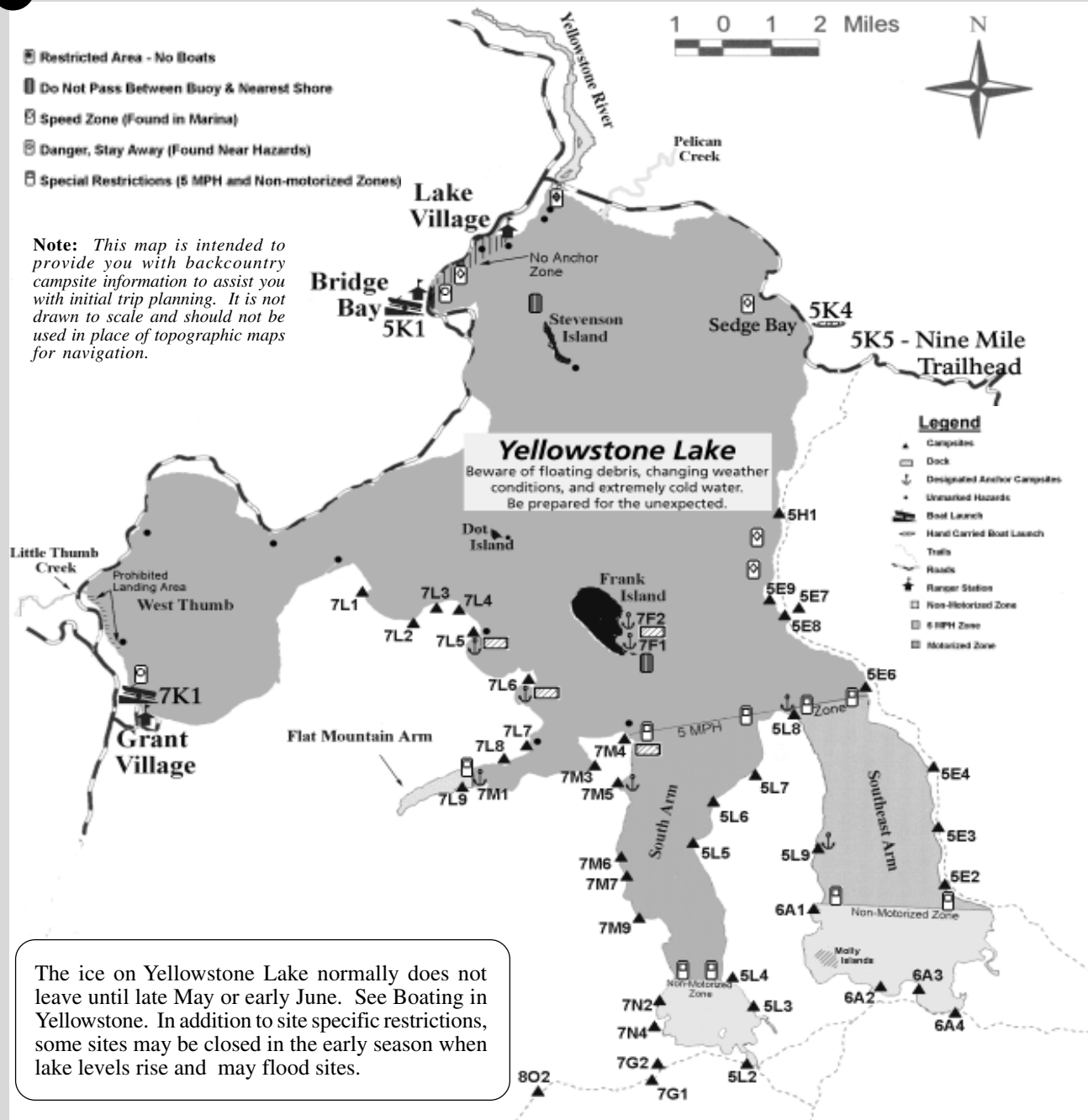
All 6M sites except 6M7, no off-trail travel except from 7/15 through 8/21. Must obtain a permit for off-trail travel at the South Entrance. See BMA - L.			
6M3	8	0	Mariposa Lake • NWF
6M4	12	25	Two Ocean Trail Jct • No stock before 7/20
6M5	12	25	Upper Passage Creek • No stock before 7/20
6M7	12	0	Fox Creek
6T1	20	20	South Thorofare • Creek may be unfordable until mid/late-July
6T2	20	0	North Thorofare • On north side of Thorofare Creek
6Y2	12	0	South Yell River • River may be unfordable until mid/late-July
6Y4	20	25	East Confluence • Limited picketing for stock
6Y5	20	0	Cliff Creek
6Y6	20	25	Three Mile Bend
6Y7	20	25	Yellowstone Meadows • Stock Parties Only
7G1	12	20	Grouse Creek • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Unavailable if 7G2 occupied
7G2	12	20	Grouse Creek • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Unavailable if 7G1 occupied

Snake River Area (see Section 4 for Heart Lake and Basin Creek area campsites)			
8A1	8	0	Beula Lake
8A2	6	0	Beula Lake
8C1	8	0	Snake River
8C2	20	25	Snake River
8C4	12	6	Snake River
8C6	8	0	Snake River Ford
8C7	12	25	Snake River • Stock Parties Only
8C9	12	20	Crooked Creek
8G1	12	8	Shoshone Meadows • 1 night limit • NWF • Stock = llamas only
8O2	6	6	Outlet Lake • No travel east of campsite before 7/14
8P1	8	6	Phantom Campsite • Stock use not recommended
8P2	8	0	Phantom Campsite

Bechler Area Campsites			
All Bechler area campsites are not reservable for camping dates prior to 7/15. Before July 15, these campsites may be available for in person permits as conditions allow.			
9A0	12	25	Upper Boundary Creek Stock
9A1	12	20	Boundary Creek Meadows
9A2	12	0	Upper Boundary Creek
9A3	12	0	Dunanda Fall
9A4	12	25	Talus Terrace
9A5	12	25	Buffalo Lake
9A6	12	25	Robinson Creek
9A7	12	0	Little Robinson Creek
9B1	12	0	Lower Boundary Creek • 2 night limit • NWF
9B2	12	0	Bechler Ford • 2 night limit • NWF
9B3	20	25	Trail Spring • Stock Parties Only • 2 night limit
9B4	12	0	Ouzel Falls • 1 night limit
9B5	12	0	Colonnade Fall • 1 night limit
9B6	12	0	Lower Ford • 1 night limit
9B7	12	0	Talus Spring • 1 night limit
9B8	12	0	Upper Ford • 1 night limit
9B9	12	0	Albright Falls • 2 night limit • NWF
9B0	12	25	Three Rivers Meadow • 2 night limit • NWF
9C1	12	0	Rocky Ford • 2 night limit
9D1	12	0	Ferris Fork • 1 night limit • NWF
9D2	12	0	Gregg Fork • 1 night limit
9D3	12	25	Douglas Knob Meadow • 1 night limit • NWF
9D4	12	0	Continental Divide • 1 night limit • NWF
9F1	12	0	Lower Falls River
9F2	12	0	Upper Falls River • 1 night limit
9M1	12	25	Lower Boundary Creek Stock • 2 night limit • NWF
9M2	12	25	Bechler Ford Stock • 2 night limit • NWF
9U1	12	25	Falls River Cutoff
9U2	12	0	Mountain Ash Creek
9U3	12	0	Mountain Ash Creek • NWF
9U4	12	0	Union Falls • 2 night limit
9U5	12	12	Union Falls • 2 night limit • NWF

Camp --Capacity---			
No.	People	Stock	Campsite Name/Restrictions
Old Faithful Area Campsites			
OA1e	12	10	Lone Star
OA2	6	0	Upper Firehole
OA3	6	0	Firehole Springs • NWF
OB2	6	0	Mallard Lake SE
OB3	6	0	Mallard Lake E
OB4	6	0	Mallard Lake Outlet • NWF
All OD and OG sites are closed from 3/10 until Fri. of Memorial Weekend. See BMA - A.			
OD1e	6	0	Fairy Meadows • NWF
OD2	10	0	Firehole Meadows
OD3	6	0	Firehole Falls
OD4	6	0	Imperial Meadows
OD5e	6	0	Goose Lake • Handicapped accessible • 1 night limit
OE1	6	6	Summit Lake
OG1e	8	0	Sentinel Meadows East • NWF
Gallatin Mountain Area Campsites			
WA1	10	20	Gneiss Creek • Closed 3/10 through 6/30 • No off-trail travel
WB1	10	8	Gallatin River • Stock = llamas only
WB3	12	25	Gallatin River • Stock Parties Only • Unavailable if WB4 occupied • No off-trail travel
WB4	12	25	Gallatin River • Stock Parties only • Unavailable if WB3 occupied • No off-trail travel
WB6	10	0	Gallatin River • No off-trail travel
WC2	10	0	Fan Creek
WC3	12	25	Fan Creek • Stock Parties Only
WC4	12	25	Fan Creek/NE Fork • Stock Parties Only
WD1	10	0	E Fork Specimen Creek
WD2	12	20	Sportsman Lake • No off-trail travel • No stock before 7/15
WD3	10	0	Sportsman Lake • No off-trail travel
WD4	10	0	High Lake • NWF
WD5	10	5	High Lake • NWF
WD6	12	25	High Lk/Sportsman Jct • Stock Parties Only • No stock before 7/15
WE1e	12	10	Specimen Creek Jct • 2 night limit
WE4	12	0	Specimen Creek
WE5	8	0	Shelf Lake • NWF
WE6	8	0	Crescent Lake
WE7	8	0	Shelf Lake • NWF
WF1e	10	10	Black Butte Creek
WF2e	10	10	Upper Dailey Creek

TRAILHEADS	4N1 Mary Mtn. East
* Trailheads marked with an * are on the park boundary and are not accessible by road.	5K1 Bridge Bay Marina (Boat)
1K1 Sepulcher Mtn.	5K2 Fishing Bridge
1K2 Snow Pass	5K3 Pelican Valley
1K3 Glen Creek	5K4 Sedge Bay (Boat)
1K4 Bunsen Peak	5K5 Nine Mile Post
1K5 Bighorn Pass-IndianCreek	6K1*Eagle Pass
1K6 Mt. Holmes	6K2* Hawk's Rest
1K7 Solfatara North	6K3* Snake River/Fox Creek
1K8 Grizzly Lake	6K4* Bridger Lake
1N1 Yellowstone River	6K5* Thorofare
1N2 Rescue Creek	7K1 Grant Village Marina (Boat)
1N3 Lava Creek	7K2 DeLacy Creek
1N4 Beaver Ponds	7K3 Riddle Lake
1N5 Blacktail Creek	8K1 Shoshone/Dogshead
1N6 Lava Creek Picnic Area	8K3 Lewis Lake Dock
2K2 Tower Junction	8K4 Phantom/Pitchstone
2K4 Specimen Ridge	8K5 South Boundary W.
2K5 Slough Creek	8K6 Beula Lake
2K6 Mt. Washburn North	8K7 South Entrance
2K7 Yellowstone River Picnic Area	8K8* Colter/Wolverine
2K8 Hellroaring	8N1 Heart Lake
2N1* Coyote Creek	9K1 Bechler Ranger Station
2N2* Buffalo Plateau	9K2 Cave Falls
2N3* Buffalo Fork	9K3 Fish Lake - 4WDrive
2N4* Upper Slough	9K5 Cascade Creek
2N5* Upper Hellroaring	9K6 Grassy Lake
3K1 Soda Butte/Lamar River	9K7* Robinson Creek
3K2 Pebble Creek	9K8* Buffalo Lake
3K3 Thunderer	9K9* Summit Lake
3K4 Warm Creek	OK1 Lone Star
3N1* Republic Pass	OK2 Howard Eaton
3N2* Canoe Lake	OK3 Mallard Lake
3N3* Bootjack Gap	OK4 Biscuit Basin
3N4* Hoodoo	OK5 Fairy Falls
3N5* Frost Lake	OK6 Freight Road
4K1 Solfatara Creek	OK7 Mary Mtn. West
4K2 Ice Lake	OK9 Mallard Creek
4K3 Grebe Lake	WK1 Dailey Creek
4K4 Cascade Creek	WK2 Black Butte
4K5 Cascade Lake	WK3 Specimen Creek
4K6 Glacial Boulder	WK4 Bacon Rind
4K7 Wapiti Lake	WK5 Fawn Pass
4K8 Artist Point	WK6 Bighorn Pass
4K9 Dunraven Pass Parking Area	WK7 Gneiss Creek
	WK8 Seven Mile Bridge
	WN1*Sky Rim



Camp--Capacity--		
No.	People	Campsite Name and Restrictions
5E2	12	Terrace Point • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Boat access only • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5E3	12	Brimstone Point • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5E4	12	Brimstone Bay • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5E6	12	Columbine Meadow N • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water • One night limit • Allows 25 stock.
5E7	12	Meadow Creek • Closed 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail access only • Allows 25 stock.
5E8	12	Park Point S • Closed 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5E9	12	Park Point North • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 7/14 • Trail or boat access • Boats must be entirely removed from water.
5H1	6	Midshore • No travel from campsite 4/1 - 8/10 • Boat access only • First and last night only • Boats must be entirely removed from water • Limited tent space.
5L2	8	Monument Camp • Trail or boat access • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Site is 1/4 mile from lake shore.
5L3	12	Chipmunk Creek Outlet • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L4	8	South Arm Cove • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Boat must be entirely removed form water.
5L5	12	Promontory Point • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L6	12	Promontory Shore • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L7	12	Promontory Bay • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
5L8	8	Promontory Tip • Rocky beach, boat must be entirely removed from water or anchored offshore • Not advisable to anchor boats over 20 ft. Limited tenting area.
5L9	12	Promontory Saddle • Rocky beach, boat must be entirely removed from water or anchored off shore • Not advisable to anchor boats over 20 feet.
6A1	12	Promontory SE • Non-motorized boats only • Can anchor a sailboat.
6A2	10	SE Arm Inlet • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Can anchor sailboat.
6A3	12	Trail Point • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Trail or non-motorized boat access only • Can anchor sailboat. • Trail access may be restricted during early season due to inability to ford the Yellowstone River.
6A4	12	Trail Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Trail or non-motorized boat access only • Can anchor sailboat. • Trail access may be restricted during early season due to inability to ford the Yellowstone River.
7F1	8	Frank Island Bay South • Anchorage site only • Boat must be farther than 100' from shore, 300' from dock, and within land points defining double cove of the island • Boat must be self-contained • No shore landings allowed prior to 8/15, except at dock and picnic area • No camping on shore.
7F2	8	Frank Island Bay North • Same as 7F1.
7L1	12	Breeze Bay North • Caution for shallow water.
7L2	12	Breeze Bay • First and last night only • Boat must be entirely removed from water.
7L3	12	Breeze Bay South • Boat must be entirely

Camp--Capacity--		
No.	People	Campsite Name and Restrictions
7L4	12	removed from water. • Closed 5/15 - 7/10, then no travel from site until 8/15.
7L5	8	Ravine • First and last night only • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 8/15.
7L6	8	Wolf Bay • 3 party dock site • Max. 8 people per party. • No travel from site 5/15 - 7/14 • Only two parties may camp on shore • Dock parties must be self-sufficient • Only 1 boat per party at dock, additional boats must be entirely removed from water. • No more than one canoe/kayak party.
7L7	12	Eagle Bay • 3 party dock site • Same restrictions as 7L5.
7L8	12	Bodego Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Boat must be entirely removed from water • Caution for shallow water in cove east of site.
7L9	8	Flat Mtn Arm N • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14.
7M1	8	Flat Mtn Arm S • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Non-motorized boats only • Boat must be entirely removed from water • Limited tenting space.
7M3	12	Grizzly Bay • 2 vessel site • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Self-contained anchored boats only • No cooking or sleeping on shore.
7M4	8	Flat Mtn Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14. • Good anchor site.
7M5	12	Plover Point • 3 Party dock site • Same restrictions as 7L5.
7M6	12	Plover Bay • No travel from campsite 5/15 - 7/14 • Rocky beach, boats must be removed from water or anchored offshore.
7M7	12	South Arm • Closed 5/15-7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water.
7M9	12	South Arm • Closed 5/15-7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water.
7N2	12	South Arm • Closed 5/15-7/14 • Recommend boats be removed from water.
7N4	12	Gowdy Camp • Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Off-trail or non-motorized Boat access only.
		Southwest Bay •Closed 5/15 - 7/14 • Access may be difficult in periods of low water. Off-trail or non-motorized Boat access only.

Definitions for dock and anchor sites:
*Self-sufficient is a boat with a galley and a berth.
*Self-contained is a boat with a galley, berth, toilet, and anchor. Self-contained boaters must stay at a designated campsite and have a backcountry permit for that site.

Shoreline Mileages		
from Sedge Bay to:	from Grant Village to:	
5H1 = 3.8		7M4 = 24
5E9 = 6	7L1 = 8	7M5 = 25
5E8 = 6.5	7L2 = 9	7M6 = 27
5E6 = 9	7L3 = 9.8	7M7 = 27.5
5E4 = 11.5	7L4 = 10.5	7M9 = 28.5
5E3 = 13.3	7L5 = 12	7N2 = 31.5
5E2 = 14.8	7L6 = 15	7N4 = 32.5
6A4 = 18.5	7L7 = 17	5L3 = 35.5
6A3 = 19.5	7L8 = 17.8	5L5 = 39.8
6A2 = 21	7L9 = 19	5L6 = 41
6A1 = 24	7M1 = 20	5L7 = 42.3
5L9 = 26.5	7M3 = 22	5L8 = 44.3
5L8 = 30		

Yellowstone Lake

Yellowstone Lake is the second largest fresh water lake in the world that is above 7,000 ft. It encompasses 136 square miles, with 20 mile stretches of open water. Its 110 miles of shoreline provide access to some of the most beautiful wilderness in the park. There are only two backcountry trails near its shores, the Thorofare Trail along the east shore and the Trail Creek Trail which connects the Thorofare and Heart Lake Trails south of the South and Southeast Arms.

Power boats can be launched from ramps at Bridge Bay and Grant Village. If the water is calm, boaters can reach the arms in a relatively short time. In keeping with the serene and wild nature of the arms, boaters must reduce their speed to a maximum of 5 miles per hour once they enter the South and Southeast arms. Additionally, the last 2 miles of the South, Southeast and Flat Mountain arms are restricted to hand-propelled craft only.

Canoeing and kayaking on Yellowstone Lake is a memorable experience, but it is not without its dangers. The ice cover on Yellowstone Lake normally does not break up until late May or early June. The water temperature even in the summer, is typically 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Almost daily, sudden winds can create waves as high as 4 to 5 feet. These waves are choppy and very close together making it especially hazardous for small boats. Most commonly the winds are out of the southwest but at high altitudes and in thunder storms, the winds can shift at any time. See the Boating in Yellowstone article for more information.

Bears are frequent visitors along the lake and its 100+ tributaries. Three Bear management areas have closures and restrictions on travel in effect until July 15. See pages 2 and 3 for details.

Yellowstone Lake is the home of the premier surviving inland cutthroat trout fishery in North America. To protect this exceptional fishery, the National Park Service has established special regulations. See the park's fishing regulations and the article on page 5 for further information.

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Over 100 people have lost their lives in the park’s cold lakes and steams. Water temperatures on Yellowstone, Lewis, and Shoshone lakes are in the 40’s in June and only the 60’s°F by late summer. Unless a person can get out of the water and get warm, survival time is minimal, even while wearing a life vest. In addition to frigid waters, sudden strong winds churn up 3 to 5 ft. waves. Boaters in canoes, kayaks, and other small craft must be aware of these hazards and plan accordingly. Here are a few recommendations for a safe trip:

- Travel close to shore and within sight of other party members. Begin early in the morning and avoid open-water crossings. If crossings become necessary, use good judgement & evaluate conditions. Open-water crossings are generally safer in early morning before winds come up.
- Get off the water during strong winds and lightning storms. Wait out rough water; often storms subside in the late afternoon and evening.
- Keep loads to a minimum; overloaded boats are dangerous and against regulations.
- Always carry a bailing device, extra paddle, throw ring buoy and/or rope and a sound producing device such as a whistle or air-horn.
- Practice capsize recovery techniques with all party members **prior** to your trip.
- A U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, in good condition, is required for each person on board and shall be readily accessible while on the water. We suggest wearing them at all times.

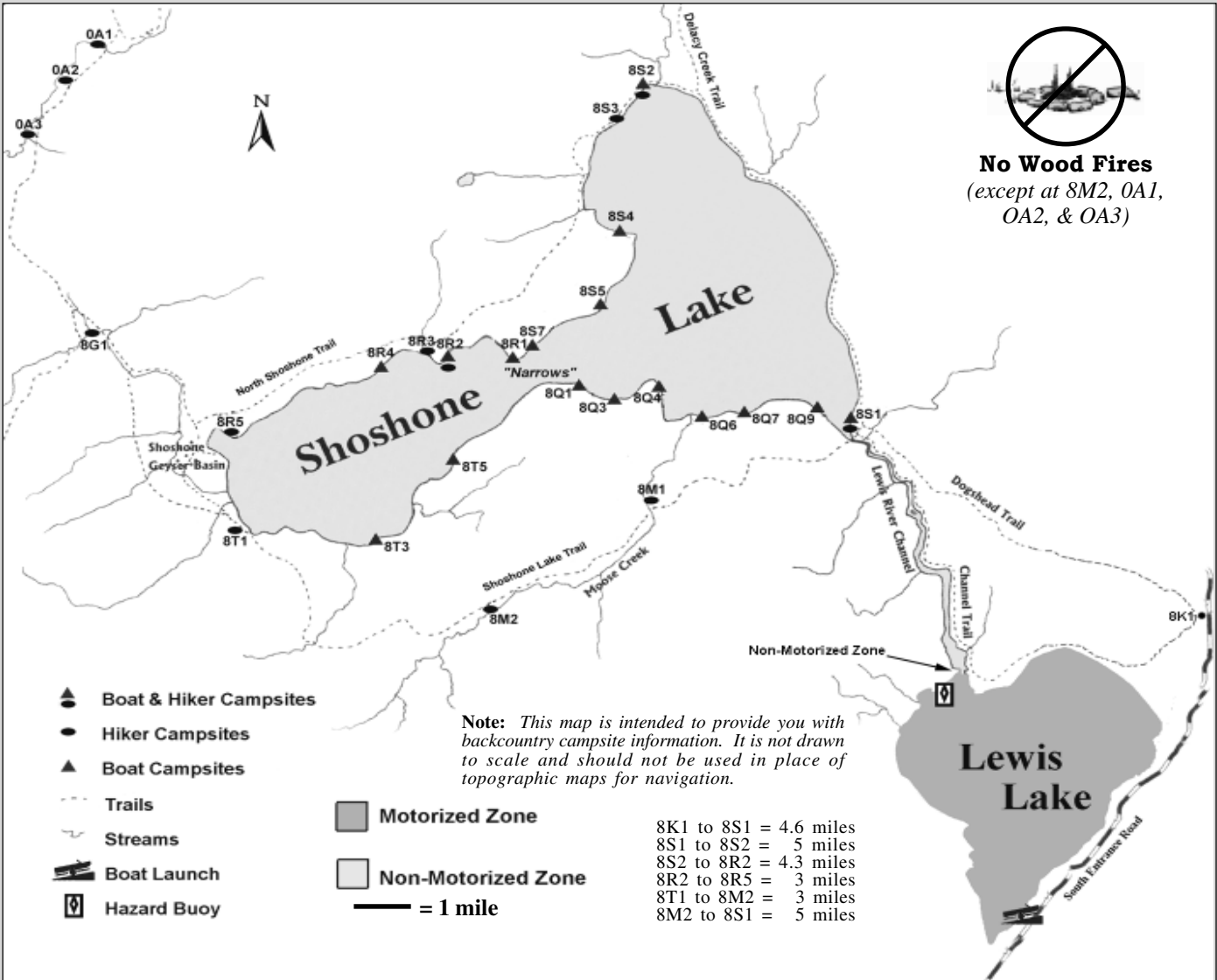
*In the interest of resource protection, **all park rivers are closed to boating** except the Lewis River Channel between Lewis Lake and Shoshone Lake where non-motorized boats are permitted.* For further information on this waterway read the Shoshone Lake page.

Motor-driven vessels are permitted only on Lewis Lake, and most of Yellowstone Lake, exceptions include portions of the South, Southeast, and Flat Mountain Arms. Boats too large to be carried can be launched only at Bridge Bay, Grant Village, and Lewis Lake where there are ramps. Hand carried boats may be launched and removed at Sedge Bay. Towing water skiers and using jet skies are prohibited on park waters.

Sailboat users need to contact the Central Backcountry Office for specifics on launching.

Boat permits are required for all boats and float tubes. Permits can be obtained at any of the following locations: South Entrance, Lewis Lake Ranger Station, Grant Village Visitor Center, and Bridge Bay Marina. In addition, Canyon, Old Faithful, and Mammoth Visitor Centers provide non-motorized permits. Further information will be provided when you obtain your boat permit. All motorized boats must be registered in the state of principle use.

Wood fires are prohibited at all these sites except 8M2, OA1, & OA2			
8G1	12	0	Shoshone Meadows • Site located on Shoshone Lk Trail & isn't visible from the Bechler/ Old Faithful Trail • 1 night limit.
8M1	8	15	Moose Creek #1
8M2	8	15	Moose Creek #2 • 2 night limit.
8Q1	8	0	S Narrow Point • Boat Access Only
8Q3	8	0	S Narrow Beach • Boat Access Only
8Q4	8	0	Moose Creek Point • Boat Access Only
8Q6	8	0	Moose Creek Outlet • Boat Access Only
8Q7	8	0	Moose Creek Beach • Boat Access Only
8Q9	8	0	Channel • Boat Access Only
8R1	8	0	Windy Point • Boat Access Only
8R2	8	0	Bluff Top • Trail or Boat Access
8R3	8	0	Cove • Trail Access Only
8R4	8	0	Flat Top • Boat Access Only
8R5	8	0	Basin Bay Point • Trail Access Only
8S1	8	0	Outlet • 2 Party site • 1 Trail Only and 1 Boat Access Only
8S2	8	0	DeLacy Creek • Trail or Boat Access
8S3	8	0	Coyote • Trail Access Only
8S4	8	0	N Grizzly Beach • Boat Access Only
8S5	8	0	S Grizzly Beach • Boat Access Only
8S7	8	0	North Narrows • Boat Access Only
8T1	4	0	Basin Beach • Trail Access Only • Limit of 1 tent.
8T3	8	0	Hillside • Boat Access Only
8T5	8	0	Tranquility • Boat Access Only
OA1	12	10	Lone Star
OA2	6	0	Upper Firehole
OA3	6	0	Firehole Springs



Shoshone Lake Campsite Summary

- Permits for boating parties must be picked up at the South Entrance, Grant Village, or Bridge Bay backcountry offices
- Shoshone Lake is a "no wood fire" area
- All Shoshone Lake campsites allow a maximum party size of 8 with the exception of 8T1
- The following campsites can be accessed only by boat: 8Q9•8Q7•8Q6•8Q4•8Q3•8Q1•8R1•8R4•8S4•8S5•8S7•8T3•8T5
- The following sites can be accessed only by foot: 8S3 • 8R3 • 8R5 • 8T1 • 8G1 • 8M1 • 8M2
- The following sites can be accessed by boat or foot: 8S1 (two-party site) • 8S2 • 8R2
- All 8Q sites and the 8S1 boat site are available for only the first and last night of a trip
- Only 8M1 and 8M2 allow stock
- If you use a motor on Lewis Lake, you must remove the motor at the south end of the channel and leave it there

Shoshone Lake, the largest backcountry lake in the contiguous states, is a magnificent wilderness resource. It has primitive campsites, no road access, and only hand-propelled boats may reach its waters. Not far from the northwest shore lies one of the park's amazing geyser basins. Being able to experience a thermal area without fences and boardwalks is a rare but risky venture. With this freedom comes the responsibility to use great care to protect the fragile features and yourself. Remember it takes only seconds to destroy what took nature hundreds of years to make. Remember, also that there is no 911 or rapid rescue in the backcountry. Visitors must exercise consideration and caution.

Considering the beautiful qualities of this popular lake, it is no wonder that the campsites along its shores are occupied almost every night of the summer. In seeking to protect the vegetation, soil, water, wildlife, and delicate thermal features, and provide for the enjoyment of all the lake's visitors, we have found it necessary to strictly enforce our regulations. We hope that through education, cooperation and the use of “Leave No Trace” practices we can eliminate the need for further restrictions. Below are some requirements for using the area.

- **PARTY SIZE** is limited to eight people per campsite. This helps alleviate disturbance to wildlife and other campers, reduce soil compaction, and cut down on the amount of human waste. Groups larger than eight must secure multiple sites and be prepared to cook and camp at their individual sites. They are encouraged to paddle together, but they may not congregate at a single site.
- **WOOD FIRES** are not allowed. Past use of campfires and wood-gathering practices, combined with high levels of visitor use, caused significant and lasting impacts. A variety of gas stoves, lanterns, and heaters are widely available. Charcoal fires are allowed in fire pans or grills elevated above mineral soil, and must be used in the camp core. No wood may be used to supplement the charcoal and all coals and ashes must be packed out.
- **SANITATION** Maintaining an acceptable level of sanitation is a challenge in an area as heavily used as Shoshone Lake. Primitive pit toilets are provided at all campsites. Please do not diminish the limited space by putting food or any form of garbage in these toilets.
- **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD** (USCG) regulations apply to Yellowstone waters. USCG approved wearable personal flotation devices (PFD) are required for each person. Children 12 and younger are required to wear their PFD at all times. PFDs should fit properly and be in serviceable condition. Boats must be sound and have a suitable bailing device.
- **HIGH WINDS** are almost a daily occurrence and create very challenging and hazardous conditions for paddlers. Arrange your itineraries to avoid open-water crossings in the afternoon. Travel early in the morning or late afternoon for easier and safer conditions. **We suggest you select a site on the southern shore of the lake for the first night of any trip.** Travel close to shore and within sight of other party members. Limit wind and wave exposure by using protected bays. If a crossing is necessary, evaluate conditions wisely and cross only at “the narrows” (see map). Place at least one experienced paddler in each boat and consider practicing capsize recovery techniques with all party members prior to your trip. Always wear USCG approved PFDs and be prepared for extremely cold water.

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Minute Man Geyser in Shoshone Geyser Basin taken by William Henry Jackson during the Hayden Survey of 1872

"No other area of equal dimensions on the globe contains so many objects of wonder as Yellowstone Park. There are more hot springs and geysers in this area than in all the remainder of the world beside." ...Ferdinand Hayden

- **EARLY SEASON.** Lewis and Shoshone Lakes usually lose their ice by the second or third week in June, and there is a high probability of early-season flooding at some sites. Camping is allowed as soon as the lake is ice free but *reservations* for Shoshone Lake sites may not be made for camping dates prior to June 10. To avoid making reservations that we most likely won't be able to honor, sites 8Q1, 8R2, 8S4, 8S5, 8S7 & 8T1 may not be reserved for camping on days before July 1. Sites 8Q6, 8Q7, 8T3 & 8T5 may not be reserved for camping on dates before July 15. If conditions allow, these sites may be available for "walk-up" permits prior to the listed dates.
- **PACKING YOUR BOAT.** It is very important to take time to properly pack and balance your load. Overloading you boat is not only unsafe it is unlawful. Using actual dry-bags will keep contents dry while at the same time provide flotation. Plastic bags are not the same as a dry-bags. A properly loaded boat using dry bags may float if capsized, while an overloaded, improperly loaded boat could sink if capsized.
- **PADDLING UPSTREAM ON THE LEWIS RIVER CHANNEL** is not possible for about the northern most mile of the channel. Prepare to wade in cold water while dragging your boat through a rocky-bottomed stream. Water shoes are strongly recommended. In early to mid-June, during spring runoff, expect depths of up to 3 - 4 ft. and extremely cold temperatures. In mid-July and August depth ranges are lower. Motors used to cross Lewis Lake are not allowed in the river channel. They must be removed and left at the south end of the channel.

Note: This map is intended to assist you with initial trip planning. It should not be used in place of topographic maps for navigation.

Cascade, Grebe, Wolf, and Ice Lakes are popular destinations for day-hikers and overnight backpackers. These lakes sit atop the Solfatara Plateau at an average elevation of 8000 feet.. At this elevation, snow often remains in the area through mid-June and wet and muddy conditions with a healthy population of mosquitoes may persist into early July. The ford of the Little Gibbon River (east of site 4G7) is slow-moving, but can be 3-4 feet high throughout June. The trail to Observation Peak is strenuous, climbing 1400 feet in less than 3 miles. Campsite 4P1, atop Observation Peak, has no nearby source of water after the snow drifts disappear in mid-summer. Site 4D3, on the shore of Ice Lake, can be reserved only by campers with special needs. Only one-half mile from the trailhead, site 4D3 can be reached by wheelchair (with assistance) and has an accessible pit toilet.

Yellowstone River/Hellroaring Creek Area

Note: This map is intended to assist you with initial trip planning. It should not be used in place of topographic maps for navigation.

This trail is one of the first trails dry enough for hiking by mid-May. However, Hellroaring Creek remains too swift and deep to ford until August. When traveling to campsites 2H1, 2H3, 2H5 and 2H7 from trailhead 2K8, hikers must use the bridge north of campsite 2H7 to cross the creek. If the creek subsides, usually by mid-August, hikers might be able to ford southeast of campsite 2H3. Fords are dangerous, especially in high water, and not recommended. Also, during the spring and early summer, this area has a healthy population of ticks so hikers should take appropriate precautions. A report of current conditions is available at backcountry offices that issue permits. All the campsites along this trail system prohibit wood fires except 1A1-3, 2C1-3 and 2H9.

Trailheads: *IN1*-Yellowstone River, Gardiner, MT (not shown)
IN2-Rescue Creek (not shown)
IN3-Lava Creek (not shown)
IN5-Blacktail Creek
IN6-Lava Creek Picnic Area
2K8-Hellroaring

North boundary trailheads in the national forest with no road access:

2N1-Coyote Creek
2N5-Upper Hellroaring

e=Easy access sites within 2 miles of the trailhead.

Heart Lake Area

Closed from 4/1 through 6/30, see below

Camp --Capacity---

No.People Stock Campsite Name/Restrictions

All sites listed below are closed 4/1 - 6/30. (BMA O)

8B1	4	0	Basin Creek
8B2	12	6	Basin Creek Lake
8B3	12	20	Basin Creek • Stock Parties Only • Unavailable if 8B4 occupied
8B4	12	20	Basin Creek • Stock Parties Only • Unavailable if 8B3 occupied
8B5	8	0	Basin Creek
8C5	12	10	Snake River
8H1*	8	0	South Bay • NWF
8H2*	6	0	Sheridan Creek
8H3*	4	0	Hideaway
8H4*	8	0	West Shore • NWF
8H5*	6	0	Sheridan Trail • NWF
8H6*	6	0	Rustic • NWF
8J1*	8	0	Beaver Creek

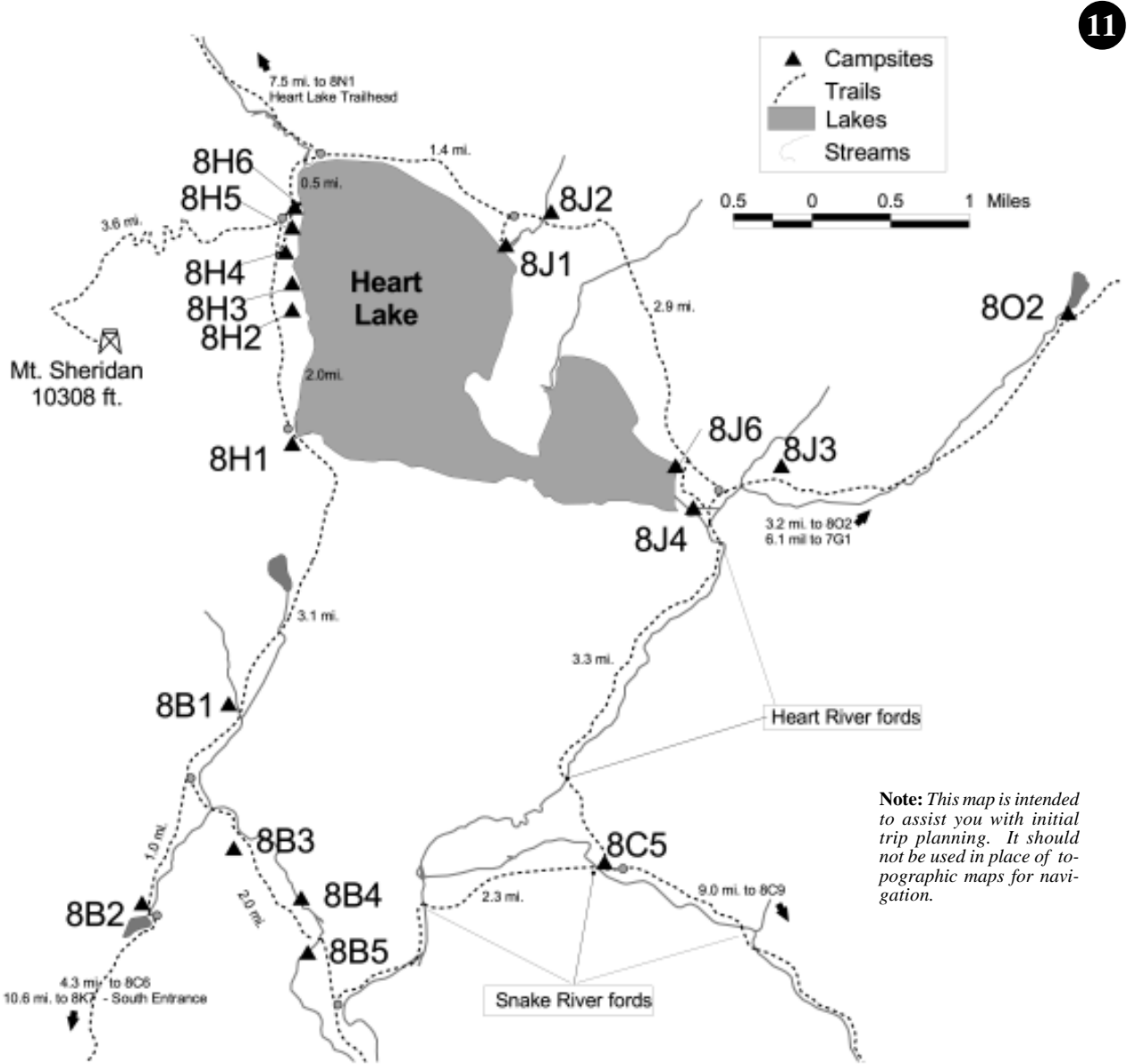
* All 8H sites and 8J1 have a limit of 2 nights per trip from 7/1 to 9/1

8J2	12	25	Beaver Creek Meadow •Stock Parties Only • 2 night limit
8J3	8	0	Surprise Creek
8J4	8	0	Heart River
8J6	4	0	E Shore
8O2	6	6	Outlet Lake • No travel east of campsite before 7/14

Located at the base of Mt. Sheridan, Heart Lake is a popular destination with much competition for the campsites along its shores in July, August, and early September. Campsites on the west shore have a two night per trip limit. A day hike up Mt. Sheridan is an option for hikers who have the time and energy. The hike to the summit is strenuous as the trail climbs over 2700 feet in 3 miles, but the view is worth the climb. Of the five sites at the base of Mt. Sheridan only 8H2 and 8H3 permit fires.

The Heart Lake area is prime bear habitat and part of a Bear Management Area that **does not open before July 1**. Depending on trail and bear management conditions, the opening might be delayed a day or two. The Trail Creek Trail east of campsite 8O2 remains closed until July 15. Assume that bears are in the area even if you don’t see them. Take the necessary precautions to minimize the chance of an encounter. Near the northwest shore of the lake are several thermal areas one of which is home to Rustic Geyser. Use caution around all thermal areas where boiling water and unstable ground can cause serious injury or death. Remember there is no 911 in the backcountry. Soaking in thermal features that are entirely of thermal origin is illegal, dangerous and can cause serious damage to the feature.

To the south and southeast of Heart Lake there are several significant river fords. These fords of the Heart River and Snake River are usually high, swift and sometimes impassable in the early season. In addition, there are two fords of the Snake River between the South Entrance and campsite 8B2. In a typical year, hikers should not plan on being able to cross any of these rivers until mid-July at the earliest. Contact the backcountry office for current conditions.



Note: This map is intended to assist you with initial trip planning. It should not be used in place of topographic maps for navigation.

Horsepacking In Yellowstone

"Packing unavoidably has a great impact on the country simply because horses and mules are big animals and have to eat. Packers have to accept this and make every effort to minimize the effects of their passing." (from Packing in on Mules and Horses by Smoke Elser and Bill Brown)

For a list of licensed outfitters who provide guided backcountry trips using horses or llamas, call our backcountry office.

Travelling on horseback is a traditional and exciting way to see Yellowstone's backcountry. In planning for your trip keep these things in mind.

Select only stock that are well trained, compatible with each other, and accustomed to being picketed or hobbled. Poorly managed stock have caused extensive resource damage.

- All equine stock crossing a state line while in the park must show proof a negative Coggins test dated within the last 12 months before entering the park.
- Take only enough stock to accommodate your party and equipment. Fewer animals make for less work, worry and impact.
- To prevent the spread of nonnative weeds and grasses, hay is not permitted in the backcountry or at the trailhead. All feed must be processed, i.e., hay cubes, pellets, rolled oats, etc.
- During mosquito and fly season bring plenty of insect repellent for your animals..
- If you wish to take a daytime ride, please call our backcountry office for current information.
- Carefully consider the equipment you plan to use for retaining your stock with minimal impact. While we do not prohibit the use of highlines, it is almost impossible to use them for long-term retention with causing unacceptable impacts. If you use them, you must move them often enough to prevent vegetation damage.

At the trailhead and on the trail :

Stock may not be kept at trailheads or any of the roadside campgrounds overnight. Plan on arriving at the trailhead, packing up, and departing the same day. Call the backcountry office for information on campgrounds that allow stock outside of the park.

- Manure from around the trailhead, parking area, and hitch rails must be removed or scattered elsewhere before leaving on your trip.
- Keep stock off roadways, except at designated trail crossings.

- When approaching other parties on the trail, exercise caution and have your animals under control. Give the right-of-way when possible. If backpackers seem unsure of what to do, politely offer solutions for safe passage.
- Food or equipment caches are prohibited.
- Travel single file on the established tread; cutting across switchbacks is prohibited.
- All non-ridden stock must be led. Stock in excess of those needed for the trip are prohibited.

Managing stock in camp:

Each backcountry campsite has a limit on the number of people and stock allowed in the site at one time. Consult the campsite list to find a site that will accommodate your stock and party size.

- Manure must be completely removed from the core camp which is that area within a 100 foot radius of the fire ring. In other stock retention areas, manure must be scattered. Properly scattered manure breaks down more rapidly, helps the vegetation, attracts fewer flies and reduces parasites.
- Campsites and their surroundings must be returned to a natural condition before you leave. Remove picket pins and drag logs from meadows.
- Stock must be kept out of the core camp, except for short periods during packing and unpacking.
- Trees and other vegetation are valued and protected resources. Tying stock so as to damage trees or the vegetation around them is prohibited. If stock must be tied for a brief interval, use only mature trees.
- If you picket stock, use only dead and down wood for picket pins and drag logs. We recommend that you carry picket pins and hobbles as part of your equipment. Locate picket sites well away from camp and at least 100 feet from the nearest water or trail. Rotate picket sites frequently to avoid overgrazing. Repair any trampled areas with a rake or shovel.
- Highlines should be used only for short-term retention, not for holding stock overnight. If you use one, be sure to pad the anchor trees and situate it well away from the core camp

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in an area where there will be minimal impact. Keep in mind that whatever retention method you use, it must be moved often enough so there is no damage to the resource. Even if you use an electric fence, you need to monitor and move it before resource damage occurs. Use care in watering stock to prevent stream bank damage. Avoid soft or marshy areas.

Bears:

Proper food and garbage storage is essential to minimize the possibility of encounters with bears. Please read the section on food storage on page two. Remember that all horse feed, insect repellants, and medications must also be hung. Feeding on the ground may attract bears. We recommend using nose bags or a ground cloth for supplemental feeding.

Notify a park ranger immediately if one of your animals dies in the park. Dead stock can attractant bears and must be moved away from any camp, trail or stream.

Remember:

- Designated pack animals are limited to horses, burros, mules, ponies and llamas.
- Some trails are not suited for stock and are therefore closed to stock. For specific information, call the backcountry office.
- Stock parties may travel off-trail except where off-trail travel is prohibited. Pack strings are not allowed off-trail unless no other access is available to a designated camp area.
- Obstructing, impeding, or disturbing, horses and pack stock is prohibited.
- Campsites and trails may be closed to stock in the spring and early summer due to wet conditions. Due to range readiness, overnight trips with stock are not allowed before July 1. Contact the nearest ranger station or the Central Backcountry Office for current trail conditions or restrictions.

BACKCOUNTRY USE REGULATIONS

The National Park Service is required by law “to preserve” park resources and the values and purposes for which the park was established, as well as “to provide for the enjoyment” of those resources and values by such means as will leave them “unimpaired for future generations.”

You can help us by obeying the following regulations:

- **Camping outside designated sites, at sites for which you are not permitted, or within 100 feet of a water source is prohibited. Digging a trench or leveling the ground is prohibited.**
- **Open fires are permitted only in established fire-rings at designated backcountry sites which allow wood fires. Only dead and down wood may be used as firewood.**
- **Food, garbage, cooking gear, and other odorous items must be suspended at least 10 ft. above the ground at night and when unattended.**
- **Carry out your trash; if you pack it in, pack it out.**
- **Bury human waste at least 100 feet from a water source, campsite, or trail. Putting items other than human waste and toilet paper in pit toilets is prohibited.**
- **Bathing, soaking or swimming in water entirely of thermal origin is prohibited.**
- **Polluting or contaminating any water source (with any soap, waste, food, etc.) is prohibited.**
- **Pets, weapons, and nets or traps are prohibited in the backcountry.**
- **Tossing, throwing, or rolling rocks or other items inside caverns, into valleys, canyons, or caves, down hillsides or mountain sides, or into thermal features is prohibited.**
- **Bicycles, wheeled vehicles (except wheelchairs), and operating motorized equipment in the backcountry are prohibited.**
- **Feeding or intentionally disturbing wildlife is prohibited.**
- **Collecting or disturbing natural features, plants, rocks, antlers, cultural, or archaeological resources is prohibited.**
- **Only certified weed-free feed and grain may be taken into the backcountry. Hay is prohibited in the backcountry.**
- **Picketed animals shall not be kept within 100 feet of trails, campsites, or water sources.**
- **Stock manure shall be scattered in meadows and removed from within or near campsites.**
- **Tying stock to any living or dead feature causing injury or damage to the feature, vegetation, or soil is prohibited.**
- **Pack strings are not permitted to travel off-trail unless no other access is available to a designated camp area.**
- **Impeding or disturbing horses or pack animals is prohibited.**

Some information on where to go when river crossings, snowpack, and bear management areas must be considered.

When planning your backcountry trip, remember that most of the trails in Yellowstone are over 7,000 feet above sea level. Most areas have some snow until late May or early June, and some areas (especially mountain passes) are snow-covered until mid or late July. In addition, many routes require fording rivers and creeks. In springtime and early summer, some of the creeks and streams in the park can be 25 ft. wide, extremely cold, and swiftly running 3 to 6 ft. deep. It’s hard to tell by the map whether or not a drainage, stream or river will be a raging torrent or merely a swollen creek.

Below is a breakdown of when many areas in the park are typically free of snow or standing water and can be reached safely. This information is based on historical averages and can vary from year to year. To be sure that a route can be accessed at the time you plan to take your trip, call the Central Backcountry Office or talk to a ranger who is familiar with the area you plan to visit. Keep in mind when reading through the time progression that the listing is cumulative. In other words, all the areas named in May and June are included in the group given for July.

EARLY MAY: All the 1A, 1Y, 1R and the lower 2H sites.

MID to LATE MAY: 3C2, 3C3, 3L1, the 2S sites.

EARLY JUNE: 1B1, 1G sites, 2C1, 2C2, 2C3, OG1, OD sites, OA1, OA2, OA3.

MID to LATE JUNE: WF1, the WB and WC sites, the 1C sites & 1F sites, 3P1 & 3P2, 4F1, the 4C, 4D, 4E, 4G, and 4R sites, 8G1, Shoshone Lake sites: 8Q3, 8Q4, 8R1, 8R3, 8R4, 8R5, 8S1, 8S2, some of Yellowstone Lake except 7M4 shore sites and those closed for bear management, the 5E sites, and most Old Faithful area sites except OE1.

EARLY JULY: 3C4, the 3L, lower 3M, 3F, 3T & 3U sites, 8M1, 8M2, 8Q1, 8R2, 8S4, 8S5, 8S7, 8T1, Heart Lake: 8H sites (except 8H3) and 8J sites, 8A sites, 9U sites (Union Falls in Bechler area), WA1.

MID to LATE JULY: The WD, WE, Fawn and Bighorn passes, 2Y1, the trail connecting the 2S & 3P sites (Bliss Pass), 4M2, 4P1, Specimen Ridge trail, all Yellowstone Lake sites, 6B1, 6B4,the 6C & lower 6D sites, the 6M, & 6Y sites, some 8B and 8C-sites depending on the Snake River ford at 8K7, and the 9A, and 9B1-9B6 sites in the Bechler area.

AUGUST: the 4B & 4W (Wapiti Lake) sites, the 6T sites, 6B2, 6A4 by foot, 7G1, 7G2, the upper 6D sites & Eagle Pass, 9B7-9B9, 9D sites (Bechler River Canyon), 8Q6, 8Q7, 8T3, 8T5, 8P1, 8P2, OE1.

As you can see, almost all of the backcountry is available in August and only limited areas are accessible in May and early June. In general, you will encounter fewer closures, dryer trails, lower stream crossings, and fewer mosquitos if you travel later rather than earlier in the season.

For your safety and pleasure, please plan your itinerary to avoid high elevations and major river crossings early in the season. In addition, certain areas may be closed during the early season if conditions are considered unsafe. Below is a list of some (but, not all) of the hazards and when they are typically open and safe for travel. We recommend you use a topographic map to find the locations of some of these passes and streams. If you have questions, our staff in the backcountry office will be happy to help you.

Mountain Passes

Grants Pass, between old Faithful and the west end of Shoshone Lake: late June/early July

Sky Rim trail along the northwest boundary and Fawn Pass between campsite 1F2 and trailhead WK5 : early-mid July

Electric Pass, trail between High & Crescent Lakes, Bighorn Pass, & Bliss Pass between Pebble and Slough Creeks: mid-July

Eastern Boundary Passes near upper Miller Creek: late July/early August

Eagle Peak Pass, late June

Stream Crossings

Heart River, east and south of Heart Lake: early July

Cache Creek/Lamar River, Snake River (except by the South Entrance): early-mid July

Thorofare Creek & Yellowstone River by the South Boundary: mid-late July

Snake River at South Entrance: mid-late July

Bechler River & Bechler area fords: mid-late July

Yellowstone River (Trail Creek trail): early August

Pebble Creek: mid to late June

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