Yellowstone National Park Research Application Packet

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Welcome Letter with Permitting Requirements

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming 82190

N2219(YELL)

Dear Colleague:

We have received your request to conduct research in Yellowstone National Park. A permit is required to perform scientific research in a national park (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, available on request). Yellowstone National Park is proud to be the location for approximately 140 research projects each year. Understanding Yellowstone's resources is vital to improving park management and expanding scientific knowledge. Every research project must be reviewed to ensure that it satisfies regulatory requirements, is appropriate to the park setting, meets accepted scientific criteria, and does not unduly impact park resources or the visitor experience.

Please submit an online application, a full research proposal as outlined, and copies of two peer reviews. Submit all paperwork as far in advance as possible to allow time for the review process, which takes at least 60 days. At the end of each calendar year, you will also be required to submit an Investigator Annual Report.

Enclosed you will find the necessary information and forms needed to begin the process of applying for a research permit in Yellowstone National Park. More information can be obtained online, at https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/researchpermit.htm. We have included the following documents for your review:

Application Procedures & Requirements- This document provides an overview of the National Park Service's permit requirements and review process.

Guidelines to Researchers for Study Proposals- Recommendations from the National Park Service for formatting a study proposal. You do not have to adhere to this format, but you must address the elements listed in their guide.

Peer Review Request- We require 2 peer reviews of your research. The peer reviews must be from individuals who will not be listed on your permit and who will not collaborate in future publications from this research. We prefer reviewers from outside of your institution or university. If you already have peer reviews (from a grant application, for example), you may provide those. Otherwise, we have provided a sample peer review request that you may send to reviewers.

Curatorial Responsibilities- Yellowstone National Park's rules for archiving and cataloging specimens. If you collect specimens in Yellowstone, you will be required to adhere to the guidelines set forth in this document.

General Conditions- The National Park Service's general permit conditions which apply to all research permits, regardless of study type.
Yellowstone National Park Permit Conditions- This document lists additional conditions which are specific to Yellowstone National Park.

BMA Map and BMA Map Key and Program Information- Sixteen Bear Management Areas have been designated within Yellowstone. These documents explain the history of the Bear Management Area Program and show where such areas are found in the park. They include areas where off-trail travel is prohibited, areas closed to human entry on a seasonal basis, and areas restricted to day-use only.

We look forward to receiving your proposal and permit application. Please do not hesitate to call me at (307) 344-2239.

Sincerely,

Alison White, Research Permit Coordinator
Yellowstone Center for Resources

Application Procedures & Requirements for Scientific Research and Collecting Permits

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

POLICY AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The National Park Service (NPS) welcomes your interest in considering national parks for your research site. The NPS is responsible for protecting in perpetuity and regulating use of our National Park areas (parks, monuments, battlefields, seashores, recreation areas, etc.). Preserving park resources unimpaired and providing appropriate visitor uses of parks require a full understanding of park natural resource components, their interrelationships and processes, and visitor interests that can be obtained only by the long-term accumulation and analysis of information produced by science. The NPS has a research mandate to provide management with that understanding, using the highest quality science and information. Superintendents recognize that timely and reliable scientific information is essential for sound decisions and interpretive programming. NPS welcomes proposals for scientific studies designed to increase understanding of the human and ecological processes and resources in parks and proposals that seek to use the unique values of parks to develop scientific understanding for public benefit.

When is a permit required?

A Scientific Research and Collecting Permit is required for most scientific activities pertaining to natural resources or social science studies in National Park Service areas that involve fieldwork, specimen collection, and/or have the potential to disturb resources or visitors. When permits are required for scientific activities pertaining solely to cultural resources, including archeology, ethnography, history, cultural museum objects, cultural landscapes, and historic and prehistoric structures, other permit procedures apply. The park's Research Permit Office can provide copies of NPS research-related permit applications and information regarding other permits. Federally funded collection of information from the public, such as when formal surveys are used, may require approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

NPS superintendents may authorize their staff to carry out official duties without requiring an NPS research and collecting permit. NPS staff must comply appropriately with professional standards and with all conditions normally associated with research and collecting permits issued by the park.

Additional required permits, approvals, and agreements

In some cases, other federal or state agency permits or approvals may be required before NPS staff can process an application for a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit. Examples include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service threatened and endangered species permits and migratory bird permits and approvals by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. It is the responsibility of the principal investigator to provide NPS with copies of such permits when they submit an application. Applicants are encouraged to contact park staff to determine if additional permits may be required in conjunction with a proposed study.

Separate agreements between the investigator and NPS are required when proposed studies or collected specimens are intended to support commercial research activities.

Who may apply?

Any individual may apply if he/she has qualifications and experience to conduct scientific studies or represents a reputable scientific or educational institution or a federal, tribal, or state agency.

When to apply?

We recommend that you apply at least 90 days in advance of your first planned field activities. Projects requiring access to restricted locations or proposing activities with sensitive resources, such as endangered species or cultural sites, usually require extensive review and can require 90 days or longer for a permitting decision. Simple applications can often be approved more quickly.

How and where to apply?

An individual may obtain application materials online at https://irma.nps.gov/rprs or by contacting the park in which the work will be conducted. Addresses for NPS areas are listed on the NPS Internet web site (www.nps.gov) or may be obtained by contacting the NPS Public Affairs Office via telephone number 202-208-4747. All application materials must be submitted to the NPS area in which you plan to work. You may submit this information via Internet or traditional postal service.

Study proposals

Applications for Scientific Research and Collecting Permits must include a research proposal. Proposals must include, as appropriate, all elements outlined in the separate document *Guidelines to Researchers for Study Proposals.*

Review of proposals

Each proposal will be reviewed for compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and other laws, regulations, and policies. The superintendent may also require internal and/or external scientific review, depending on the complexity and sensitivity of the work being proposed and other factors. Specific details about the

review process may be included with the application materials provided by that park.

Facilitating a favorable decision

The superintendent makes a decision to approve a permit based on an evaluation of favorable and unfavorable factors (see examples, below), and on an assessment of perceived risks and benefits. While park managers will work with applicants to arrive at a mutually acceptable research design, there may be activities where no acceptable mitigating measures are possible, and the application may be denied.

The time and effort required to review the permit application and accompanying study proposal will be proportional to the type and magnitude of the proposed research. For example, a single visit for a non-manipulative research project will often require a relatively simple proposal and the permitting decision should be relatively fast. A highly manipulative or intrusive investigation, however, with the potential to affect non-renewable, rare, or delicate resources, needing detailed planning or logistics, would receive more extensive review. Some of the predisposing factors that influence permitting decisions are outlined below.

Favorable factors

The proposed research:

- contributes information useful to an increased understanding of park resources, and thereby contributes to effective management and/or interpretation of park resources; provides for scheduled sharing of information with park staff, including any manuscripts, publications, maps, databases, etc., which the researcher is willing to share;
- addresses problems or questions of importance to science or society and shows promise of making an important contribution to humankind's knowledge of the subject matter;
- involves a principal investigator and support team with a record of accomplishments in the proposed field of investigation and with a demonstrated ability to work cooperatively and safely, and to accomplish the desired tasks within a reasonable time frame;
- provides for the investigator(s) to prepare occasional summaries of findings for public use, such as seminars and brochures;
- minimizes disruption to the park's natural and cultural resources, to park operations, and to visitors;
- discusses plans for the cataloging and care of collected specimens;
- clearly anticipates logistical needs and provides detail about provisions for meeting those needs; and
- is supported academically and financially, making it highly likely that all fieldwork, analyses, and reporting will be completed within a reasonable time frame.

Unfavorable factors

The proposed research:

- involves activities that adversely affect the experiences of park visitors;
- shows potential for adverse impact on the park's natural, cultural, or scenic resources, and particularly to non-renewable resources such as archeological and fossil sites or

special-status species (the entire range of adverse impacts that will be considered also includes construction and support activities, trash disposal, trail conditions, and mechanized equipment use in sensitive areas);
- shows potential for creating high risk of hazard to the researchers, other park visitors, or environments adjacent to the park;
- involves extensive collecting of natural materials or unnecessary replication of existing voucher collections; requires substantial logistical, administrative, curatorial, or project monitoring support by park staff; or provides insufficient lead time to allow necessary review and consultation;
- is to be conducted by a principal investigator lacking scientific institutional affiliation and/or recognized experience conducting scientific research; and
- lacks adequate scientific detail and justification to support the study objectives and methods.

Park response

The principal investigator should receive notice of the approval or rejection of the application by written correspondence via mail or email. If modifications or changes in a study proposal initially deemed unacceptable would make the proposal acceptable, the park may suggest them at this time. If the application is rejected, the applicant may consult with the appropriate NPS Regional Science Advisor to clarify issues and assess the potential for reconsideration by the park.

Permittee response

If your permit request is approved by the park, you will receive a copy of the permit that you must sign and return to the park via mail or email. Once the park receives a copy of the permit that you have signed, appropriate NPS officials will validate it and return an approved copy to you. You must carry a copy of the approved permit at all times while performing your research or collecting in the park.

Permit stipulations

General Conditions (requirements and restrictions) will be attached to all Scientific Research and Collecting Permits issued. These conditions must be adhered to by permit recipients. Additional Park-specific Conditions may also be included that address unique park resources or activities. An NPS permit is valid only for the activities authorized in the permit. The principal investigator must notify the NPS in writing of any proposed changes. Requests for significant changes may necessitate re-evaluation of the permit conditions or development of a revised proposal.

Access permit requirements

Some NPS areas require access permits for off-road travel, camping, and other activities. Access to many areas is limited and popular destinations can be booked several months in advance. Please contact the park's Research and Collecting Permit Office to obtain information on any needed access permits.

Research Products and Deliverables

Researchers working in NPS areas are required to complete an NPS Investigator's Annual Report form for each year of the permit, including the final year. The NPS maintains a system enabling researchers to use the Internet to complete and submit the Investigator's Annual Report. NPS staff will contact permit holders near the beginning of each calendar year to request the prior year's report and explain how to access and use the system. Investigator's Annual Reports are used to consistently document accomplishments of research conducted in parks. Principal investigators are responsible for the content of their reports. NPS staff will not modify reports received unless requested to do so by the principal investigator responsible for the report.

Park research coordinators may request copies of field notes, data, reports, publications and/or other materials resulting from studies conducted in NPS areas. Additional deliverables may be required of studies involving NPS funding or participation.

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act

NPS regulations (36 CFR 2.1) prohibit possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from their natural state in any form animals, plants, paleontological, or mineral resources. NPS regulations (36 CFR 2.5) require researchers wishing to conduct research involving acts prohibited by other regulations, such as CFR 2.1, to obtain a specimen collection permit. The National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-391) encourages use of parks for science, encourages publication of the results of research conducted in parks, and requires that research conducted in parks be consistent with park laws and management policies. This law also requires that research be conducted in a manner that poses no threat to park resources or public enjoyment. National Park Service Management Policies state that research activities that might disturb resources or visitors, that require the waiver of any regulation, or that involve the collection of specimens may be allowed only pursuant to terms and conditions of an appropriate permit.

The information you submit in your Application for a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit will be used by park managers to determine whether or not to issue you a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit. The information you submit in your Investigator's Annual Report will be used by park managers to inform resource management decision-makers, park visitors, the public, and other researchers about the objectives and progress results of your research.

Parks and park records are public assets. The information you submit in your application and in your Investigator's Annual Report is not confidential and will be in the public record and available to the public. If you want to receive and maintain a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit, you must respond to both the Application and Investigator's Annual Report collections of information. If you do not respond to the request for information in the Application, you will not be considered for a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit. If you have received a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit and do not respond to the request for information in the Investigator's Annual Report, your permit may be revoked and you may be denied future permits.

The Application for a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit and the Investigator's Annual Report are two parts of one complete process dealing with conducting scientific research and collecting in a unit of the National Park System. The total public reporting burden involved in electronically completing the collection of information process for a single scientific research and collecting activity in a unit of the National Park System includes the burden of reading the informational documents associated with these two information collection forms plus completing and submitting one Application form (approximately 45 minutes), plus the burden of signing and mailing an issued permit back to the park (approximately 15 minutes), plus the burden of completing one associated Investigator's Annual Report form (approximately 15 minutes). Some applicants will experience an additional burden of photocopying and mailing attachments (approximately 15 minutes). Other applicants will experience an additional burden of coordinating with a specimen repository (approximately 30 minutes). The total public reporting burden experienced by a successful permittee for electronically completing this process for a single scientific research and collecting activity in a unit of the National Park System thus is estimated to range between 1.25 and 2.0 hours per year. The total public reporting burden experienced by an unsuccessful applicant for electronically completing this process is estimated to be about 45 minutes per year because the unsuccessful applicant will not be required to complete the Investigator's Annual Report, mail a signed permit, or respond to other portions of the process. The few applicants who complete these forms manually are expected to experience a somewhat larger annual reporting burden. Direct any comments you may have regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection process or of its two forms to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503; and to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.

Guidelines to Researchers for Study Proposals

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Your proposal should include each of the required information items listed below, in enough detail that an educated non-specialist can understand exactly what you plan to do. If you have already prepared a relevant proposal for a funding application or similar document, then your original proposal likely will satisfy National Park Service (NPS) proposal requirements. The primary area where new information may be necessary concerns the ability of the park to assess what, if any, impacts your research may have on park resources. You should compare your original proposal to these guidelines to be certain that you have provided all the required information. If additional information is required, you can provide it in a cover letter or supplement to your proposal, as appropriate. If a required topic does not apply to your proposed study, simply list the topic and write "not applicable."

The length of your proposal depends primarily on the complexity of the work planned. In some cases, a proposal may consist of a couple of pages for a study expected to have no significant impact on park resources or visitor experiences. However, proposals for lengthy or complex research problems, for extensive collecting, and for work with special status species or sensitive cultural resources are typically longer, more detailed, and well-organized. Incomplete, disorganized, or illegible proposals may be returned for revision.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. **Title**

B. **Date of proposal**

C. **Investigators -** Provide the name, title, address, telephone number, email address, and institutional affiliation of the principal investigator and the name and affiliation of all additional investigators listed in the proposal.

D. **Table of contents** - Recommended for long or complicated proposals.

E. **Abstract** - Provide a brief summary description of the proposed project. Include up to five keywords that can be used by the NPS to quickly identify the proposal subject (for example, microbiology, geology, ecology).

II. **OVERVIEW** - Summarize the proposed project by describing in general the problem or issue being investigated as well as any previous pertinent research.

A. **Statement of issue** - Describe the issue to be investigated and its importance and relevance to science and to the park. Provide relevant background information that clarifies the need for the project and why it is valuable for the research and/or collecting to be conducted in the park.

B. **Literature summary** - Summarize the relevant literature regarding the issue, problem, or questions that will be investigated.

C. **Scope of study** - Describe the overall geographic and scientific scope of the project.

D. **Intended use of results** - Describe how the products will be used, including any anticipated commercial use.

III. **OBJECTIVES/HYPOTHESES TO BE TESTED** - Describe the specific objectives of the proposed project. Where appropriate, the objectives should be stated as specific hypotheses to be tested.

IV. **METHODS** - Describe how the proposed methods and analytical techniques will achieve the study objectives or test the stated hypothesis/question. Provide pertinent literature citations.

A. **Description of study area** – Clearly describe the study area in terms of park name(s), geographic location(s), and place names. Provide maps, park names, or geographic coordinates as appropriate. Indicate whether your work will take place in an area designated or managed as Recommended Wilderness by the NPS.

B. **Procedures** - Describe the proposed study design that addresses the stated objectives and hypotheses. Explain the methods and protocols to be employed in the field and laboratory.

C. **Collections** - Describe the type, size, and quantity of specimens or materials to be collected, sampled, or captured, and your plans to remove them from the collecting site. If you are aware specimens of the proposed types already exist in a repository, explain why additional collecting is necessary. Provide scientific nomenclature where possible. Provide information on all other applicable federal or state permits where required.

D. **Analysis** - Explain how the data from the study will be analyzed to meet the stated objectives or test the hypotheses. Include any statistical techniques or mathematical models necessary to the understanding of the analysis.

E. **Schedule** - Provide a schedule that includes start of project, approximate dates or seasons of fieldwork, analysis, reporting, and completion dates.

F. **Budget -** Briefly outline the expenses associated with this project and identify your expected funding source(s). Include the anticipated costs pertaining to the cataloging of collected and permanently retained specimens or materials.

V. **PRODUCTS**

A. **Publications and reports** - Describe the expected publications or reports that will be generated as part of this study.

B. **Collections** – Describe the proposed disposition of collected specimens or materials. If you propose that the NPS lend the specimens or samples to a non-NPS institution for long-term storage, identify that institution and give a brief justification for this proposal.

C. **Data and other materials** - Describe any other products to be generated as part of the project, such as, photographs, maps, models, handouts, exhibits, software presentations, raw data, GIS coverages, or videos, and the proposed disposition of these materials. If data are to be collected from the public as part of this study, provide a copy of the data collection instrument (survey, questionnaire, interview protocol, etc.).

VI. **LITERATURE CITED** - Include full bibliographic citations for all reports and publications referenced in the proposal.

VII. **QUALIFICATIONS -** Provide a background summary or curriculum vitae for the principal investigator and other investigators listed in the proposal. Identify their training and qualifications relevant to the proposed project and their ability to conduct field activities in the environment of the proposed study area. Describe previous research and collecting in NPS areas, including study and permit numbers if available.

VIII. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND SPECIAL CONCERNS** - Provide information on the following topics where applicable. Attach copies of any supporting documentation that will facilitate processing of your application, such as other required federal and state permits, copies of peer reviews, letters of support and funding commitments, and certifications. Collection of information from the public when federal funds are used may require approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Upon your request, the NPS Social Science Program will advise you on steps needed to obtain this OMB approval.

A. **Safety** - Describe any known potentially hazardous activities, such as electrofishing, rock climbing, scuba diving, boating, aircraft use, wilderness travel, wildlife capture, handling or immobilization, use of explosives, etc.

B. **Access to study sites** - Describe the proposed method and frequency of travel to and within the study site(s). Explain any need to enter restricted areas. Describe duration, location, and number of participants for planned backcountry camping.

C. **Use of mechanized and other equipment** - Describe any field equipment, markers, or supply caches by type, number, and location. You should explain how long they are to be left in the field. Include photos of field equipment.

D. **Chemical use** - Identify any chemicals and hazardous material that you propose using within the park. Indicate the purpose, method of application, and amount to be used. Describe plans for storage, transfer, and disposal of these materials and describe steps to remediate accidental releases into the environment. Attach copies of Material Safety Data Sheets.

E. **Ground disturbance** - Describe the type, location, area, depth, number, and distribution of expected ground-disturbing activities, such as soil pits, cores, stakes, or latrines. Describe plans for site restoration of significantly affected areas. Proposals that entail ground disturbance may require an archeological survey and special clearance prior to approval of the study.

F. **Animal welfare** - For vertebrate species that require review by your Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) according to the Animal Welfare Act, please include a photocopy of the study protocol and IACUC review form and approval.

For vertebrate species not requiring IACUC review, describe your protocol for any capture, holding, marking, tagging, tissue sampling, or other handling of these animals (including the training and qualifications of personnel relevant to animal handling and care). Please discuss alternative techniques considered and outline any procedures to alleviate pain or distress. Include contingency plans to be implemented in the event of accidental injury to or death of the animal.

G. **NPS assistance** - Describe any NPS field assistance you would like to receive to complete the proposed study, such as use of equipment or facilities or assistance from staff.

H. **Wilderness "minimum requirement" protocols** - If some or all of your activities will be conducted within a location administered by the NPS wilderness, your proposal should describe how the project adheres to wilderness "minimum requirement" and "minimum tool" concepts.

Principal Investigator Request for Peer Review

I plan to submit the attached proposal to the National Park Service as part of my application for a Yellowstone Scientific Research and Collecting Permit. In this request, I am asking you to provide me with a peer review of my proposal for inclusion when I submit it to the National Park Service.

If you agree to conduct a peer review of my proposal, I request that your peer review provide for each of the following five broad statements and final summary assessment any specific, constructive comments that you may find appropriate about my proposal's weaknesses, strengths, and opportunities for improvement.

NAME, TITLE, and INSTITUTION of peer reviewer submitting this Peer Review:

TITLE of proposal being reviewed:

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR of proposal:

A. Statement of Objectives and Hypotheses (The proposal provides clear, well-defined and developed objectives and hypotheses that are appropriate for the subject of the study.)

B. Study Design (The study design demonstrates a clear ability for the proposed work to address the objectives and hypotheses, based on appropriateness of the sampling or survey methods and techniques, data analysis techniques, logistics, and innovation in addressing the stated problem.)

C. Management Potential (The proposal appears likely to produce information that can contribute to informing park management or, more generally, resource conservation either directly or by complementing findings of other recently completed or ongoing studies.)

D. Publication Potential (Scientific studies conducted in units of the National Park System are expected to contribute to the body of scientific knowledge. This proposal has good potential for producing findings and conclusions that are publishable in scientific journals or other outlets.)

E. Scientific Qualifications of Project Personnel (The personnel conducting the proposed study demonstrate the appropriate professional training, experience, and history of productivity needed to conduct and report the proposed activity.)

F. Overall Evaluation and Additional Comments (A summary of the proposal's overall strengths and weaknesses, including any areas not discussed earlier, together with specific, constructive suggestions as to how weaknesses may be strengthened, follows. An overall scientific assessment for this proposal in the range from totally unacceptable to fully acceptable follows.)

Note that documents you prepare that are received by the National Park Service become federal records and may be released to the public in the event of a request for federal records made under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Mandatory Curatorial Responsibilities
Yellowstone National Park

Revised, 11/2019

Your collecting permit outlines your curatorial responsibilities as the collector (see **Conditions** section of permit). Please be advised: **All specimens, as well as their derivatives and byproducts, remain the property of the United States Federal Government. Therefore, if you collect specimens, they must:**

- **be logged and tracked into a specimen track sheet**
- **specimens not destroyed through analysis must be accessioned and cataloged into the National Park Service's Interior Collection Management System (ICMS) according to NPS standards;**
- **bear National Park Service (NPS) accession and catalog numbers (in accordance with 36 CFR section 2.5).**

Before you begin collecting:

1. Call Yellowstone National Park Curator's office (307) 344-2565 to obtain a tracking sheet and an accession number for collected material *that will be suitable for long term retention*. If you are unsure if your collections will be "suitable" for long term retention, please call for clarification. The accession number links all of the specimens, data, and meta-data in one collection.*****
2. Obtain approval for the final repository for the park owned specimens. The proposed repository for specimens collected must be discussed with the Curator's office as part of the permit application process. Please note that the NPS does not loan specimens to individuals – institutional sponsorship is required.*
3. All research projects generating museum collection specimens should have a funding component to address curation requirements. To ensure that adequate funding for the cataloging, initial preservation and storage requirements (archival supplies, potential conservation work, etc.) are accomplished, it is imperative that anticipated curation costs be discussed at that time.

***Please note: Specimens may not leave the park until an accession number is issued and the repository approved.**

When you are finished collecting:

1. Contact the Curator's office by February 28th of the year following the completion of the first year of collecting to obtain catalog numbers for specimens that will be retained. **When you call, please have the following information ready:**
    - Your permit number;
    - Dates collecting began and ended;*****
    - Number of specimens collected (estimates are acceptable for large collections until an accurate count is completed);
    - The name and complete address of the approved repository (unless returning specimens to YNP);
    - The name, title, and contact information of the responsible official tasked with the care and management of the specimens at the approved repository

where the specimens will be housed (unless you are planning to return the materials to Yellowstone for long term storage).

***If additional collections are made in subsequent years, you are required to contact the Curator's office EVERY YEAR YOU COLLECT. Accession and catalog numbers are assigned on an annual basis. If you have already been assigned an accession number from previous year's collections, regardless of whether or not the collection was done under the same permit for the same continuing project, remember to contact the Curator's office after collection has concluded.**

2. Catalog the specimens into the NPS's Interior Collection Management System (ICMS). If you are already using a cataloging system that is compatible with ICMS (Excel, Access, etc...), the Curator's office may approve the database or workbook for use as an alternative to ICMS. If you are processing your collections using an Access database or an excel spreadsheet, a common delineated file format can be mapped and data can be dumped directly into ICMS using instructions in the handout, "Data File Submission," provided by the museum registrar.

3. You must label the specimens with either NPS labels or archival quality labels (such as acid-free paper or Tyvek, imprinted with archivally stable ink). All labels MUST contain Yellowstone National Park catalog numbers in a permanent manner, in this format: **YELL 99999.**

4. Upon completion of analysis, any specimens that are to be permanently retained, along with your associated documentation, are to be stored in an approved repository or Yellowstone National Park's collection facility, the Heritage & Research Center. If the specimens will be housed at a non-NPS repository, the Curator's office will issue a loan agreement form to be signed by the individual responsible for the specimens. ***All specimens, as well as their derivatives and byproducts, are the property of the United States.*** **NPS policy requires that long-term loans be renewed every 10 years.**

Please submit an electronic copy of completed ICMS catalog records, records from an approved database, or the excel spreadsheet template (provided by the curator) to the Curator's office within a year of final data collection (unless other arrangements have been made with the curation staff).

Send copies of all of your field records (notes, maps, images, etc.) and final reports or publications to the Yellowstone Curator's office within a year of final data collection.

If you will have trouble meeting these deadlines, call or write the Curator's office at the address below to make other arrangements.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE CURATOR'S OFFICE AT ANY TIME DURING THIS PROCESS. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF YOUR PERMIT AND MAKE COMPLIANCE AS EASY AS POSSIBLE.

Museum Registrar
Yellowstone National Park
National Park Service
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190

Telephone: (307) 344-2565

Fax: (406) 848-9958
Email: yell_museum@nps.gov

The Curator's Office is located in the Heritage & Research Center, located next to the Gardiner School and near the Yellowstone Arch in Gardiner, Montana at 20 Old Yellowstone Trail.

11/2019

General Conditions for Scientific Research and Collecting Permit

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1. **Authority** - The permittee is granted privileges covered under this permit subject to the supervision of the superintendent or a designee, and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the National Park System area and other federal and state laws. A National Park Service (NPS) representative may accompany the permittee in the field to ensure compliance with regulations.

2. **Responsibility** - The permittee is responsible for ensuring that all persons working on the project adhere to permit conditions and applicable NPS regulations.

3. **False information** - The permittee is prohibited from giving false information that is used to issue this permit. To do so will be considered a breach of conditions and be grounds for revocation of this permit and other applicable penalties.

4. **Assignment** - This permit may not be transferred or assigned. Additional investigators and field assistants are to be coordinated by the person(s) named in the permit and should carry a copy of the permit while they are working in the park. The principal investigator shall notify the park's Research and Collecting Permit Office when there are desired changes in the approved study protocols or methods, changes in the affiliation or status of the principal investigator, or modification of the name of any project member.

5. **Revocation** - This permit may be terminated for breach of any condition. The permittee may consult with the appropriate NPS Regional Science Advisor to clarify issues resulting in a revoked permit and the potential for reinstatement by the park superintendent or a designee.

6. **Collection of specimens (including materials)** - No specimens (including materials) may be collected unless authorized on the Scientific Research and Collecting permit.

The general conditions for specimen collections are:

- Collection of archeological materials without a valid Federal Archeology Permit is prohibited.
- Collection of federally listed threatened or endangered species without a valid U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species permit is prohibited.
- Collection methods shall not attract undue attention or cause unapproved damage, depletion, or disturbance to the environment and other park resources, such as historic sites.
- New specimens must be reported to the NPS annually or more frequently if required by the park issuing the permit. Minimum information for annual reporting includes specimen classification,

number of specimens collected, location collected, specimen status (e.g., herbarium sheet, preserved in alcohol/formalin, tanned and mounted, dried and boxed, etc.), and current location.

- Collected specimens that are not consumed in analysis or discarded after scientific analysis remain federal property. The NPS reserves the right to designate the repositories of all specimens removed from the park and to approve or restrict reassignment of specimens from one repository to another. Because specimens are Federal property, they shall not be destroyed or discarded without prior NPS authorization.
- Each specimen (or groups of specimens labeled as a group) that is retained permanently must bear NPS labels and must be accessioned and cataloged in the NPS National Catalog. Unless exempted by additional park-specific stipulations, the permittee will complete the labels and catalog records and will provide accession information. It is the permittee's responsibility to contact the park for cataloging instructions and specimen labels as well as instructions on repository designation for the specimens.
- Collected specimens may be used for scientific or educational purposes only, and shall be dedicated to public benefit and be accessible to the public in accordance with NPS policies and procedures.
- Any specimens collected under this permit, any components of any specimens (including but not limited to natural organisms, enzymes or other bioactive molecules, genetic materials, or seeds), and research results derived from collected specimens are to be used for scientific or educational purposes only, and may not be used for commercial or other revenue-generating purposes unless the permittee has entered into a Cooperative Research And Development Agreement (CRADA) or other approved benefit-sharing agreement with the NPS. The sale of collected research specimens or other unauthorized transfers to third parties is prohibited. Furthermore, if the permittee sells or otherwise transfers collected specimens, any components thereof, or any products or research results developed from such specimens or their components without a CRADA or other approved benefit-sharing agreement with NPS, permittee will pay the NPS a royalty rate of twenty percent (20%) of gross revenue from such sales or other revenues. In addition to such royalty, the NPS may seek other damages to which the NPS may be entitled including but not limited to injunctive relief against the permittee.

7. **Reports -** The permittee is required to submit an Investigator's Annual Report and copies of final reports, publications, and other materials resulting from the study. Instructions for how and when to submit an annual report will be provided by NPS staff. Park research coordinators will analyze study proposals to determine whether copies of field notes, databases, maps, photos, and/or other materials may also be requested. The permittee is responsible for the content of reports and data provided to the National Park Service.

8. **Confidentiality** - The permittee agrees to keep the specific location of sensitive park resources confidential. Sensitive resources include threatened species, endangered species, and rare species, archeological sites, caves, fossil sites, minerals, commercially valuable resources, and sacred ceremonial sites.

9. **Methods of travel** - Travel within the park is restricted to only those methods that are available to the general public unless otherwise specified in additional stipulations associated with this permit.

10. **Other permits** - The permittee must obtain all other required permit(s) to conduct the specified project.

11. **Insurance** - If liability insurance is required by the NPS for this project, then documentation must be provided that it has been obtained and is current in all respects before this permit is considered valid.

12. **Mechanized equipment** - No use of mechanized equipment in designated, proposed, or potential wilderness areas is allowed unless authorized by the superintendent or a designee in additional specific conditions associated with this permit.

13. **NPS participation** - The permittee should not anticipate assistance from the NPS unless specific arrangements are made and documented in either an additional stipulation attached to this permit or in other separate written agreements.

14. **Permanent markers and field equipment -** The permittee is required to remove all markers or equipment from the field after the completion of the study or prior to the expiration date of this permit. The superintendent or a designee may modify this requirement through additional park specific conditions that may be attached to this permit. Additional conditions regarding the positioning and identification of markers and field equipment may be issued by staff at individual parks.

15. **Access to park and restricted areas** - Approval for any activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas is allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit.

16. **Notification** - The permittee is required to contact the park's Research and Collecting Permit Office (or other offices if indicated in the stipulations associated with this permit) prior to initiating any fieldwork authorized by this permit. Ideally this contact should occur at least one week prior to the initial visit to the park.

17. **Expiration date** - Permits expire on the date listed. Nothing in this permit shall be construed as granting any exclusive research privileges or automatic right to continue, extend, or renew this or any other line of research under new permit(s).

18. **Other stipulations** - This permit includes by reference all stipulations listed in the application materials or in additional attachments to this permit provided by the superintendent or a designee. Breach of any of the terms of this permit will be grounds for revocation of this permit and denial of future permits.

Yellowstone Permit Conditions

1. You are responsible for the research activities of your staff. Ensure that field staff adhere to all conditions of your permit. Field staff must possess a copy of your permit at all times while in the field.

2. You are required to post your research trip itineraries online no later than the Sunday prior to your trip at https://irma.nps.gov/rprs/. Once in the park, report all emergencies by calling 911.

3. You are required to have a Safety Plan on file that addresses the range of activities you will encounter while working in Yellowstone. All field staff must review the Safety Plan prior to beginning work. At a minimum, a safety plan shall cover a) training requirements and documentation that personnel have received appropriate training (e.g. bear safety, bear spray use, thermal area safety, fording streams); b) work party size (hiking in groups of 3 or more is recommended in bear country); c) safety equipment (e.g. bear spray for each person, rain gear, heat resistant gloves, extendable pole for sampling hot springs); d) trip itinerary with daily activities and travel patterns; e) worker check-in. Note: in addition to completing the online researcher check-in per Yellowstone Condition #2, it is advised that all field personnel designate an emergency contact (e.g. supervisor, co-worker) whom they will check-in with at the end of each field day or session. This designated emergency contact will know the trip details and will contact emergency services (911) and the Research Permit Office (307-344-2239) in the event field staff fail to make contact.

4. While conducting fieldwork, researchers are prohibited from possessing firearms (unless authorized by the Superintendent). Researchers are also prohibited from bringing firearms into government buildings or government vehicles (cars, boats, aircraft).

5. Unless authorized on your permit, you must conduct research out of public view. If you have obtained permission to work in public view, it will be noted in your permit-specific conditions.

6. If you are approved to collect specimens (either to be permanently retained or destroyed through analysis), contact the Yellowstone Curator's Office (307-344-2565) to report your collections annually. Specimens must be tracked and an inventory provided to Yellowstone (count, type, and location) by February 28th following the permit year. Prior to collecting specimens, a repository form must be completed and on file. Any permanently retained specimens must bear accession and catalog numbers, and include the required metadata per the NPS's catalog system.

7. All equipment left in the field, including plot markers, must be specifically authorized in advance. Label all equipment with your name, phone number, and the words "Research Study #XXXX." You must record equipment coordinates with GPS.

8. Your research permit does not authorize you to enter closed or restricted areas in Yellowstone. Examples include most service roads, carcass dump sites, bear management areas, thermal areas, some bird nesting areas, wolf den sites, and trout spawning areas.

9. Cultural resources must not be adversely impacted by your research activities. Ground disturbance (e.g. digging) must be specifically authorized in advance. Report any archeological findings (artifacts, historical trash, rock cairns) to the Research Permit Office.

10. The Permittee agrees to notify the Chief of Resources of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) of every subject discovery or invention that relates in any respect to research results derived from YNP research studies or use of any research specimens or other materials collected from YNP, or that may be patentable or otherwise protected under the intellectual property (IP) laws of the United States or other jurisdiction. Notification must occur within sixty (60) days of the time that an inventor or other agent of the Permittee reports such a subject discovery or invention to the person(s) responsible for patent or other proprietary rights matters in the Permittee's organization. Additionally, the Permittee agrees to notify the Chief of Resources of Yellowstone within thirty (30) days of filing any patent application or other IP claim in the United States or other country that relates in any respect to research results or other discoveries or inventions derived from YNP research studies or any research specimens or other materials collected from YNP. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "subject discovery or invention" means any discovery or invention related to or derived from YNP research studies, or research specimens or other materials collected from YNP. All invention disclosures shall be marked as confidential under 35 U.S.C. Section 205.

11. Any use, including social media, websites, newspapers, periodicals, etc. of photos or videos from within closed areas or of research taking place in closed areas is prohibited without prior NPS approval. All filming associated with this permit must be reviewed and approved in advance by the park's Film Permit Office. A Film Permit may be required. Filming of certain research activities may be used for education in a classroom setting or on private educational platforms which are password protected and the footage must clearly state that the research was conducted under a Yellowstone Research Permit. For more information, contact Rachel_Cudmore@nps.gov or 307-344-2722.

12. Each year, you are required to submit electronic copies of journal articles, theses, and dissertations that result from your permit to the Research Permit Office.

13. You may not leave chemicals in the park, including in lab spaces, offices, or storage areas.

Yell 705
Information Paper No. BMO-5
Kerry A. Gunther, Wildlife Biologist
Bear Management Office
Yellowstone National Park, March 2003

Bear Management Area Program
Yellowstone National Park

During the six-year period 1967-1972, use of the backcountry in Yellowstone National Park (YNP) more than doubled. From 1973-1977, backcountry recreational use increased by another 53%. As use of YNP's backcountry increased, park managers became concerned over the potential impact high levels of recreational use might have on grizzly bear activity in backcountry areas. Craighead (1980) recommended delineation of critical bear habitat in the Yellowstone ecosystem and restriction of certain types of human activity within these areas. In 1983, the park implemented a Bear Management Area program, which restricts recreational use in areas with seasonal concentrations of grizzly bears. The goals behind these restrictions were to: 1) minimize bear/human interactions that may lead to habituation of bears to people; habituation often results in the bear being removed from the population due to concern for human safety, 2) prevent human-caused displacement of bears from prime food sources, and 3) decrease the risk of bear-caused human injury in areas with high levels of bear activity (National Park Service, 1982).

1. Minimize bear/human interactions that may lead to habituation of bears to people.

Repeated exposure to and interactions with humans may lead to habituation of bears to people. Habituated bears are often perceived as threats to human safety and removed from the population. When a bear is habituated to humans, people are more likely to inadvertently approach within its "individual distance" and be charged (Jope 1983). Habituation also increases the chances of bears becoming conditioned to human foods or garbage. Habituation combined with food conditioning has been associated with a large number of bear-caused human injuries (Herrero 1985). Bear Management Areas promote the type of bear behavior tolerated by people; wary bears that avoid human activities. By reducing bear/human interactions in areas with seasonal concentrations of grizzly bears, Bear Management Area restrictions may reduce the number of habituated bears and the need to remove these bears from the population.

2. Prevent human-caused displacement of bears from prime food sources.

Schleyer (1983) reported that grizzly bears generally avoided areas of human activity and reacted to disturbance by moving elsewhere. Schleyer (1983) also reported that following a disturbance by humans, bears moved a minimum of 3.2 km before stopping and remaining in an area. Human-caused displacement of bears from habitat near recreational developments (Mattson and Henry 1987, Reinhart and Mattson 1990), roads (Green and Mattson 1988), backcountry campsites (Gunther 1990), and recreational trails in nonforested areas (Gunther 1990) has been documented. Human-caused displacement of bears from important foraging areas may result in an overall

reduction of habitat effectiveness and carrying capacity. Bear Management Area restrictions help prevent high levels of recreational activity from displacing bears from areas of important bear habitat.

3. Reduce the risk of human injury in areas with a high level of bear activity.

During the last 23 years (1980-2002), bears have injured 32 people within YNP. Grizzly bears and black bears were involved in 25 (78%) and 4 (13%) of the injuries, respectively. The species of bear could not be determined for 3 (9%) of the injuries. Three injuries occurred within a developed area, 2 occurred during a bear management handling accident, and 27 occurred in backcountry areas. Of the people injured while hiking, 57% were hiking off-trail. All (100%) backcountry hiking injuries involved people hiking in groups of less than 3 people. Bear Management Area restrictions reduce the chance of bear/human encounters and the risk of bear-caused human injury in areas with known seasonal concentrations of grizzly bears.

Sixteen Bear Management Areas encompassing 464,638 acres (21% of YNP) have been designated within YNP. This includes 206,100 acres where off-trail travel is prohibited, 161,211 acres closed to human entry on a seasonal basis, 63,867 acres restricted to day-use-only, and 33,460 acres that are closed to human entry for part of the summer, then restricted to day-use-only for the remainder of the summer.

The park service plans to evaluate the success of the Bear Management Area program periodically. As new data becomes available, some areas may be added or deleted from the system. Restrictions for each area will be adjusted to provide maximum potential benefit for the bear, while still providing park visitors a reasonable opportunity to safely enjoy the park's backcountry.

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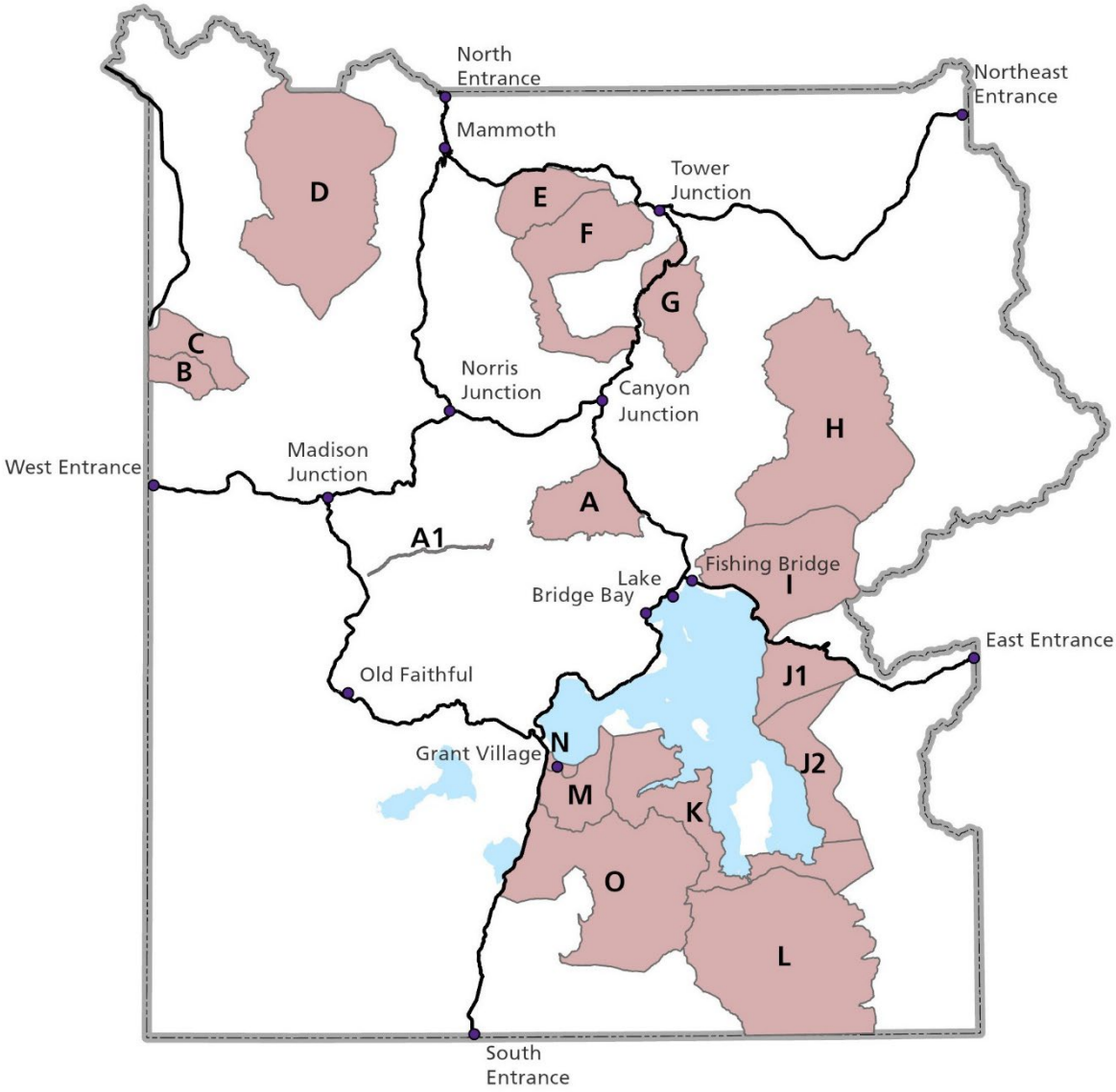
Reinhart, D.P., and D.J. Mattson 1990. Bear use of cutthroat trout spawning streams in Yellowstone National Park. Int. Conf. Bear Res. and Manage. 8:343-350.
Schleyer, B.O. 1983. Activity patterns of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem and their reproductive behavior, predation and the use of carrion. M.S. Thesis. Mont. State Univ., Bozeman. 130pp.

Bear Management Area Map & Key

Unless otherwise specified below, the following areas will be closed to all public access for bear management activities during their prescribed dates. Additionally, all areas will open at 8am MST on the date listed.



A. Hayden Valley BMA.

- From July 15-Sept. 15, travel is allowed only on designated trails (off-trail travel is prohibited).

A1. The Mary Mountain Trail.

- 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 BMA.

- Area is closed March 10 throughthe 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/Richards 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 BMA.

- 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).10 through June 30.

D. Gallatin BMA.

- From May 1 through November 10, travel is allowed only on designated trails with the exception that travel is allowed on the three designated routes along the ridgeline of Electric Peak (off-trail travel is prohibited).

E. Blacktail BMA.

- Area is closed March 10 through June 30.

F. Washburn BMA.

- 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 or Bear Management Office for permit information.

G. Antelope BMA.

- Area is closed March 10 through November 10. The Dunraven Road and related turnouts are open.

H. Mirror Plateau BMA.

- From May 15 through November 10, the area is closed to camping 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 BMA.

- 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 BMA.

- From April 1 through August 10, travel is only allowed on the east shore from Nine-mile trailhead to Park Point. Campsite 5H1 is open (no travel from site). All other campsites and all other trails are closed and off-trail travel is prohibited. On August 11, all campsites and trails open and off-trail travel is permitted.

J2. Clear Creek BMA.

- From April 1 through July 14, travel is allowed only 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 and trails open and off-trail travel is permitted.

K. Lake Spawn BMA.

- From May 15 through July 14, no off-trail travel is allowed and the 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). All other campsites are closed. On July 15 all campsites and trails open and off trail-travel is permitted.

L. Two Ocean BMA.

- 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.

M. Riddle and Solution BMA.

- Area is closed April 30 through July 14.

N. Grant Village BMA.

- 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 BMA.

- Area is closed April 1 through June 30.