

## Visibility Conference Wednesday Afternoon Excursion Details and Bus Schedule

You will want good walking shoes, drinking water and a light jacket during the four excursion options. Day time temperature will reach 60 to 65 and night lows will be about freezing during the conference. It will be cold (down to the upper 40s) during the Night Sky program. You will want to bring a warmer coat, and possible some gloves for that event. The warmer coat may be left on the bus until you get to Colter Bay. Read the Grand Teton map provided to each of you for additional details on hiking and wildlife in the Park.

### **Bus 1: Hike Option 1: *Webcam Visibility and Wet Deposition Site and Heron Pond and Swan Lake Hike***

The bus will be a 38 passenger Coach (Teton Stage Line # 1128). It is scheduled to leave the Snow King Hotel entrance at 12:15 pm. **Pick up your Box Lunch before you board the bus.** It will drive directly to the Webcam Visibility and Wet Deposition Site. The route will be North on US-191 to the Gros Ventre Rd, 7.6 mi. Then continue on Gros Ventre Rd to Ditch Creek Rd (about 9.8 mi) then right on Ditch Creek Road, about 1.0 mi, the location of the Kelly Campus of Teton Science Schools. The webcam and wet deposition site is just to the west of the Kelly Campus. Ranger Shan Burson will meet you at the small parking lot on the left about a block before you reach the Campus. Total travel time is about 30 min.

After your visit at the site, the bus will return along Ditch Creek Road, turn right on Gros Venetre Road (~1 mi) Then left onto Antelope Flats Road and continue onto US 91 (~5 mi). Turn right on US 91 and travel 27 mi (34 min) to Colter Bay Village Road. Follow Colter Bay Road through the Village and turn left on the loop road at the end of the entrance road. In about 2 blocks you will come to the Hermitage Point Trailhead. This is the start of the Heron Pond and Swan Lake Loop trail for a 3.0 mile round trip 2 hour easy walk (200 feet elevation change) to Heron Pond and Swan Lake. Details are on the Colter Bay information brochure in your packet. The loop trail to the Pond and Lake takes you through lodge pole pine forests. You can expect to see waterfowl and possibly beaver or moose. **Never hike alone, but always be with a buddy or in a small group.** The bus will return at 4:30 sharp to take you the 3/4 miles to the Visitors Center and to the 5:30 Fireside at the Amphitheater just north of the Visitor Center. If you get back before the bus you may walk to the Visitors Center on your own, but be sure someone knows you have gone ahead.

### **Bus 2. Hike Option 2: *Bradley Lake -Taggart Lake – Beaver Creek Loop***

The bus will be a 54 passenger Coach (Teton Stage Line # 1126). **Pick up your Box Lunch before you board the bus.** It is scheduled to leave the Snow King Hotel entrance at 12:15 pm. It will drive directly to the Taggart Lake Trailhead. The route will be North on US-191 10.8 mi to the Moose Junction (Teton Park Road) where it will turn left and follow Teton Park Road 3.5 mi to the Taggart Lake Trailhead. Travel time about 30 min. There you will enjoy the most challenging hike of the four options, but the trail will take you into stunning mountain country below South Teton. Details are on the Taggart & Bradley Lakes brochure in your packet. The complete loop is an 800 ft. elevation change, moderate 5.9 mile 4 hour hike. The hike can be

shorten by returning directly from Taggart Lake rather than taking the Beaver Creek Loop trail. **Never hike alone, but always be with a buddy or in a small group.** The bus will return to pick you up, leaving at 4:45 sharp and bring the group to Colter Bay Visitor Center, traveling 17.4 mi on Teton Park Road past Jenny Lake and then north on US 191 to the Colter Bay Village Road and to the Visitor Center at the end of the Road on the right. Total travel to Colter Bay is 24 mi, 28 Min. The 5:30 Fireside will be in the Amphitheatre just north of the Visitor Center.

### **Bus 3. Hike Option 3: *Jenny Lake***

The bus will be a 47 passenger Coach (Teton Stage Line # 1124). **Pick up your Box Lunch before you board the bus.** It is scheduled to leave the Snow King Hotel entrance at 12:15 pm. It will drive directly to the Jenny Lake Visitor Center. This bus will divide into two groups at Jenny Lake. The trail routes for both groups are on the Cascade Canyon brochure in your packet. The route will be North on US-191 10.8 mi to the Moose Junction (Teton Park Road) where it will turn left and follow Teton Park Road 8.2 mi to the Jenny Lake Visitor Center, arriving about 40 minutes after leaving Snow King.

Here the group who have elected to hike around Jenny Lake will exit the bus. From the visitor center walk clockwise around the lake 2.4 miles to Cascade Canyon. There you would hike 1 mile with a 500 ft. elevation gain to Inspiration Point. You could bypass the 500 ft. climb by staying on the lower trail. Either way, you then continue around Jenny Lake on the Jenny Lake Trail to the String Lake parking lot/picnic area where you will meet the bus. **Never hike alone, but always be with a buddy or in a small group.** Total (4.2 miles) hike time (including the hike to Inspiration Point) would be about 3 to 3 ½ hours with an elevation change of about 500 feet. The hike and elevation change would be less for those who do not go to Inspiration Point.

After dropping off the Jenny lake group, the bus will then travel 2.9 miles north to Jenny Lake Road and take Jenny Lake Road 4.5 mi to the String Lake Picnic Area. The second group would start at the String Lake Picnic area and either take the 325 ft. elevation change 3.7 mile trail around String Lake or a shorter nearly flat 1.8 mile round trip hike past the shore of String Lake to Leigh Lake and return without going around String Lake, ending up to meet the bus back at the String Lake parking lot/picnic area. Total hike time would be 2 to 3 hours for the hike around String Lake and 1 ½ to 2 hours for the shorter Leigh Lake hike. **Never hike alone, but always be with a buddy or in a small group.**

The bus will pick both groups up at the String Lake parking lot/picnic area, leaving at 4:45 sharp and bring the group to Colter Bay Visitor Center, traveling 1.7 mi on Jenny Lake Road and then north 10.1 mi on Teton Park Road and then north on US 191 to the Colter Bay Village Road and to the Visitor Center at the end of the Road on the right. Total travel to Colter Bay is 18 mi, 30 min. The 5:30 Fireside will be in the Amphitheatre just north of the Visitor Center.

### **Bus 4. Hike Option 4: *Historical Tour***

The bus will be a 14 passenger vehicle (Teton Stage Line # 1106). **Pick up your Box Lunch before you board the bus.** It is scheduled to leave the Snow King Hotel entrance at 12:15 pm. Those who select this option will visit four historical sites, each with the possibility of a short

stroll and views of the majestic Tetons. You will have a brochure on each stop. The route will first take you North on US-191 10.8 mi to the Moose Junction (Teton Park Road) where you will turn left and follow Teton Park Road 1.2 mi to the Menor's Ferry Road, arriving about 23 minutes after leaving Snow King. The first stop would be at Menor's Ferry and Historic District for a short walk to Menor Cabin and Store, the Ferry and the Maude Nobel's cabin. The second stop would be 0.5 back down the Teton Park Road to the nearby Murie Ranch, National Historic Site, the home of naturalist brothers Olaus and Adolf who greatly influenced the development of our concepts of wilderness and wildlife management in the last century. The bus would return to Highway 99 then travel to travel 1.7 mi to the Antelope Flats Road and then 2.2 miles to the Mormon Row Historic District, settled in the 1890's. Returning to Highway 99 the bus would travel 14 miles north to the Cunningham Cabin Historic site, a homestead cabin from about 1890. Short walks are possible at each site. The bus will then travel 16 miles to the Colter Bay Visitor Center. The 5:30 Fireside will be in the Amphitheatre just north of the Visitor Center.

At 5:30 PM the Park Service will treat us with a Fireside about the Park in the outdoor amphitheater next to the Colter Bay Visitor Center.

**When you leave the bus to go to the Fireside, take all of your belongings. You will travel on different buses after the Fireside.**

From 6:30-8:00 PM you will be free to have dinner on your own. Buses will leave from the Colter Bay Visitors Center at 6:45. Information on restaurants in the Colter Bay area, at Jackson Lake Lodge (Bus 3) or Signal Mountain Lodge (Bus 2), both within 10 miles of the Colter Bay Visitor Center, are on the next page. If needed, Bus 1 will also take a group to Signal Mountain. Bus 4 will be available to take those needing assistance to the restaurants at Colter Bay. If you want to go to the Mural Room at Jackson Lake Lodge, you must make reservations for 7:00 pm. Buses will take groups interested in dinner at one of these locations away from Colter Bay to and from the location for dinner, with a return to the Night Sky Program located at the Picnic Area just north of the Colter Bay Visitor Center. The night sky program will begin at 8:00 pm and run until 10:00 pm. However, it is quite acceptable if some groups going to dinner away from Colter Bay arrive back at Coulter Bay after 8:00 as that will stagger the groups using the scopes so that the wait for a scope is shortened. Buses at the site will return on a staggered schedule as they are full to the Snow King Hotel, an hour journey.

For those who want to know, Wednesday, September 28 will be 3 days short of a new moon. The moon will set at 6:16 pm. Sunset will occur at 7:10 pm and twilight will last until 7:37 pm. Temperatures during the afternoon should be in the low to mid 60s. By the end of the Night Sky Program the temperature could drop to the upper 40s. The current prediction (based on data and input from Rob Farber on September 18) is for clear skies with no precipitation on Wednesday and partly cloudy during the rest of the conference. There may be some haze due to the Berry Fire which is burning (this was written on September 18) in the Park at the northern tip of Jackson Lake but Robert Hoyle (Grand Teton Night Sky director) anticipates it will moderate by then.



Map with details of the Coulter Bay area. Indicated are the location of the Visitor Center, the Amphitheater to the left of the Visitor Center and the location of Colter Bay Restaurants and the General Store. The night sky program will be held at the Picnic Area.

To the right is a map of the nearby area where we will go for dinner. Dinner options follow:

**At Colter Bay Village**

- Ranch House                      Dinner 5:30 – 9:00
- Ranch House Bar                11:30 am – 12:30 am
- The General Store (deli section)

Buses will take attendees to the following two locations:

**At Jackson Lake Lodge, 13 min, 6 miles**

- Mural Room                      5:30 – 9:30
- Reservations Required (307)-543-3463. Make your reservation NO LATER than 7:00 pm, preferably earlier.
- Pioneer Grill                      5:30 – 10:00 pm

**At Signal Mountain Lodge, 20 min, 10 miles**

Peaks Restaurant and Trapper Grill or Trapper Bar (both have the same menu).

