

YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Park Project Spotlight



Yellowstone Forever is the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. Our mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance Yellowstone through education and philanthropy.

Yellowstone Forever builds upon a nearly 100-year legacy that began in 1933 with the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association. We connect people to Yellowstone National Park through outstanding visitor experiences and educational programs, and translate those experiences into lifelong support and philanthropic investments that Protect Yellowstone's Ecosystem and Wildlife; Preserve Yellowstone's Heritage, History, and Trails; and Enhance Visitor Experiences and Education.



YELLOWSTONE AT A GLANCE



1872 Yellowstone becomes the world's first national park

2.2M acres of wilderness and wildlife habitat

4M annual visits

10K hydrothermal features, more than the rest of the world's combined

67 species of mammals, the greatest concentration in the lower 48 states

1.1K miles of trails and boardwalks

PROTECT

YELLOWSTONE'S ECOSYSTEM AND WILDLIFE

Bison Conservation and Transfer Program



We envision a future where wild bison are restored to tribal lands and other conservation areas across the West—a future where Yellowstone bison roam freely outside the park boundary without large-scale slaughter and hazing operations. The Bison Conservation and Transfer Program will prevent the slaughter of hundreds of Yellowstone bison, support the culture and economy of Native Americans, and preserve the unique Yellowstone bison genome. Yellowstone Forever is helping fund the expansion of bison quarantine facilities that will increase the number of bison that are eligible for transfer to tribal lands and other conservation areas, and ensure the protection of this iconic species.

PROTECT

YELLOWSTONE'S ECOSYSTEM AND WILDLIFE

Native Fish Conservation Program



Predatory and non-native lake trout were discovered in Yellowstone Lake in 1994. Since that discovery these predatory fish have depleted 90% of the four million native Yellowstone cutthroat trout that once thrived in the lake. As Yellowstone cutthroat trout—once a reliable food source—disappeared, grizzly bears, bald eagles, ospreys, otters, and dozens of other native species were negatively impacted. The Native Fish Conservation Program is making progress in its effort to remove the non-native lake trout from the ecosystem. Biologists are encouraged by increases in Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the lake, streams, and tributaries, and have documented grizzly bears feeding on the protein-rich food source. Yellowstone Forever is raising money to fund this important work to conserve the native cutthroat trout and protect an important keystone species for wildlife in Yellowstone.

PROTECT

YELLOWSTONE'S ECOSYSTEM AND WILDLIFE

Yellowstone Wolf Project



Between 1995 and 1996, 31 gray wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone after nearly 70 years of absence. Since then, the Yellowstone Wolf Project has played an important role in monitoring the park's wolf population and the public's understanding of wild wolves in the park. This program is one of the most detailed studies of a large carnivore in the world. With the return of wolves, Yellowstone's large carnivore community is fully restored and wolves are once again playing a critical role in Yellowstone's natural ecological processes. Year-round field research helps biologists gain data on a broad range of topics, including population dynamics, predator-prey interactions, social behavior, genetics, disease, multi-carnivore competition, ecosystem impacts, and human-wolf relationships. Since the program began, Yellowstone Forever has provided approximately 60% of the project's yearly budget through private funds.

PROTECT

YELLOWSTONE'S ECOSYSTEM AND WILDLIFE

Yellowstone Cougar Project



The Yellowstone Cougar Project monitors Yellowstone's top feline predator—the elusive cougar—by integrating year-round fieldwork with cutting-edge tools. Funding from Yellowstone Forever is used to monitor population trends, predation patterns, habitat selection, and behavior using tools like GPS accelerometer collars, remote cameras, and noninvasive genetic surveys. This knowledge helps answer questions regarding the role cougars play in predator-prey dynamics and competition with wolves and bears, and how Yellowstone's predator diversity influences the park's ecology. The Yellowstone Cougar Project relies on donations from Yellowstone Forever supporters and corporate partners to fund the technology and skilled field staff needed for this crucial research project.

PROTECT

YELLOWSTONE'S ECOSYSTEM AND WILDLIFE

Yellowstone Bear Box Program



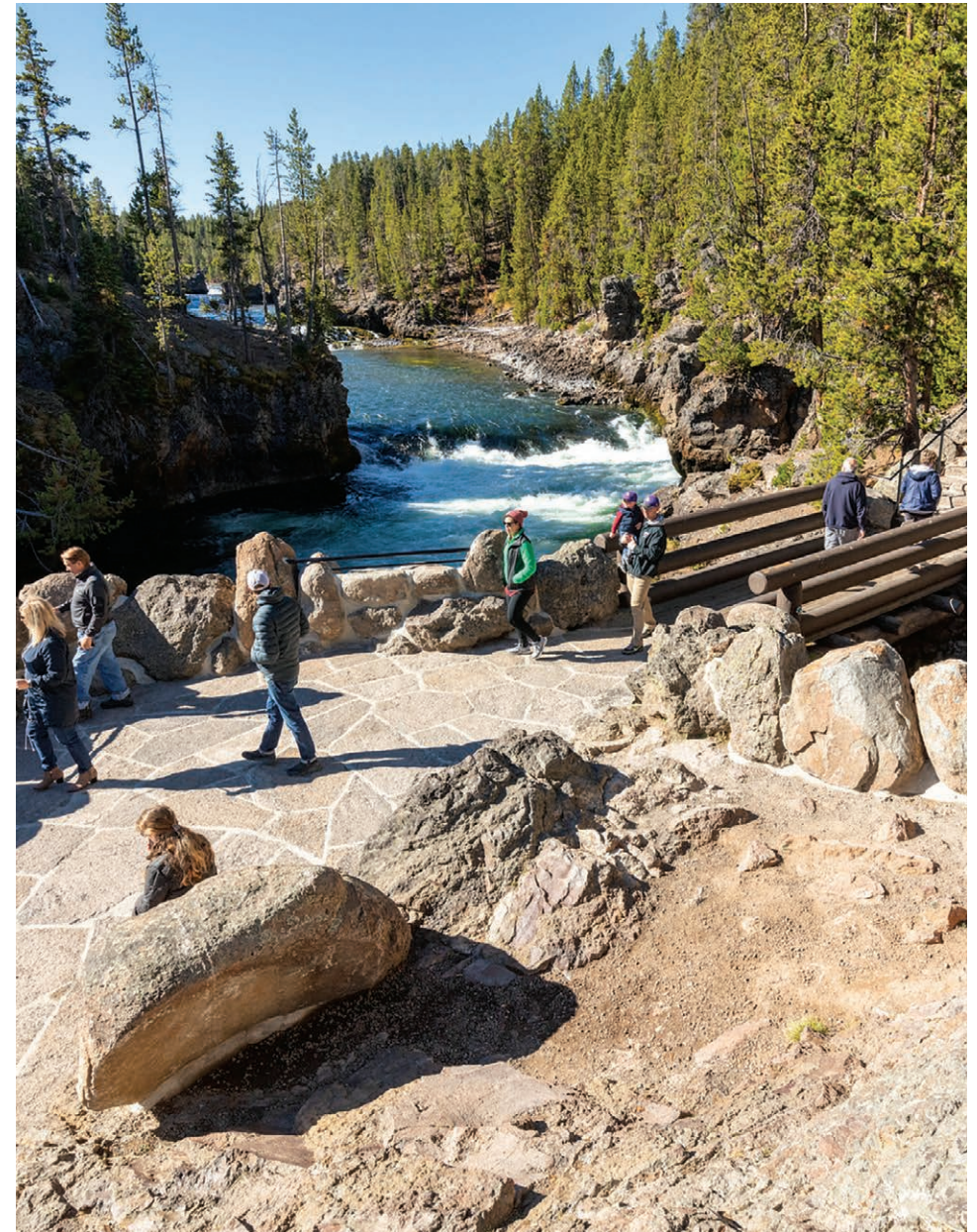
Preventing bears from obtaining human food is one of the top priorities of Yellowstone's wildlife managers. Bears that gain access to human food eventually become more aggressive toward humans and may need to be removed from the population. Installing bear-proof food storage boxes in Yellowstone's campgrounds improves visitor safety and prevents bears from accessing human food. These steel boxes allow campers to store food, dishes, and other scent-producing items in a secure and locked location, helping ensure a safe camping experience for humans and bears. With the help of generous supporters, Yellowstone Forever has funded the installation of 985 bear boxes in the park and is continuing to raise funds to install storage boxes in the remaining 900+ campsites.

PRESERVE

YELLOWSTONE'S HERITAGE, HISTORY, AND TRAILS

Trails and Boardwalks

Millions of visitors come to Yellowstone National Park each year to experience the vast beauty and wonder the park has to offer. There are over 1,000 miles of backcountry and frontcountry trails throughout the park, and many of these trails have fallen into disrepair. Substantial foot traffic, severe weather, and debilitating soil erosion have taken their toll. Yellowstone Forever is helping fund the restoration and repair of Yellowstone's heavily used network of trails, so they are protected and safe for all who wish to enjoy them, now and for years to come.



Trails and Boardwalks

PRESERVE

YELLOWSTONE'S HERITAGE, HISTORY, AND TRAILS

Annual Stock Purchase Program

The use of horses and mules for transportation of people, equipment, and supplies in the backcountry is critical for Yellowstone's operations, from ranger patrols and trail work to research studies. These animals are vital during the summer and fall seasons to support ranger travel and operations throughout the park. Yellowstone Forever's annual support of this project provides the funds needed to purchase new horses and mules, and to reduce the average "working life" of stock to minimize animal injuries.



ENHANCE

VISITOR EXPERIENCES AND EDUCATION

Youth Education Initiatives



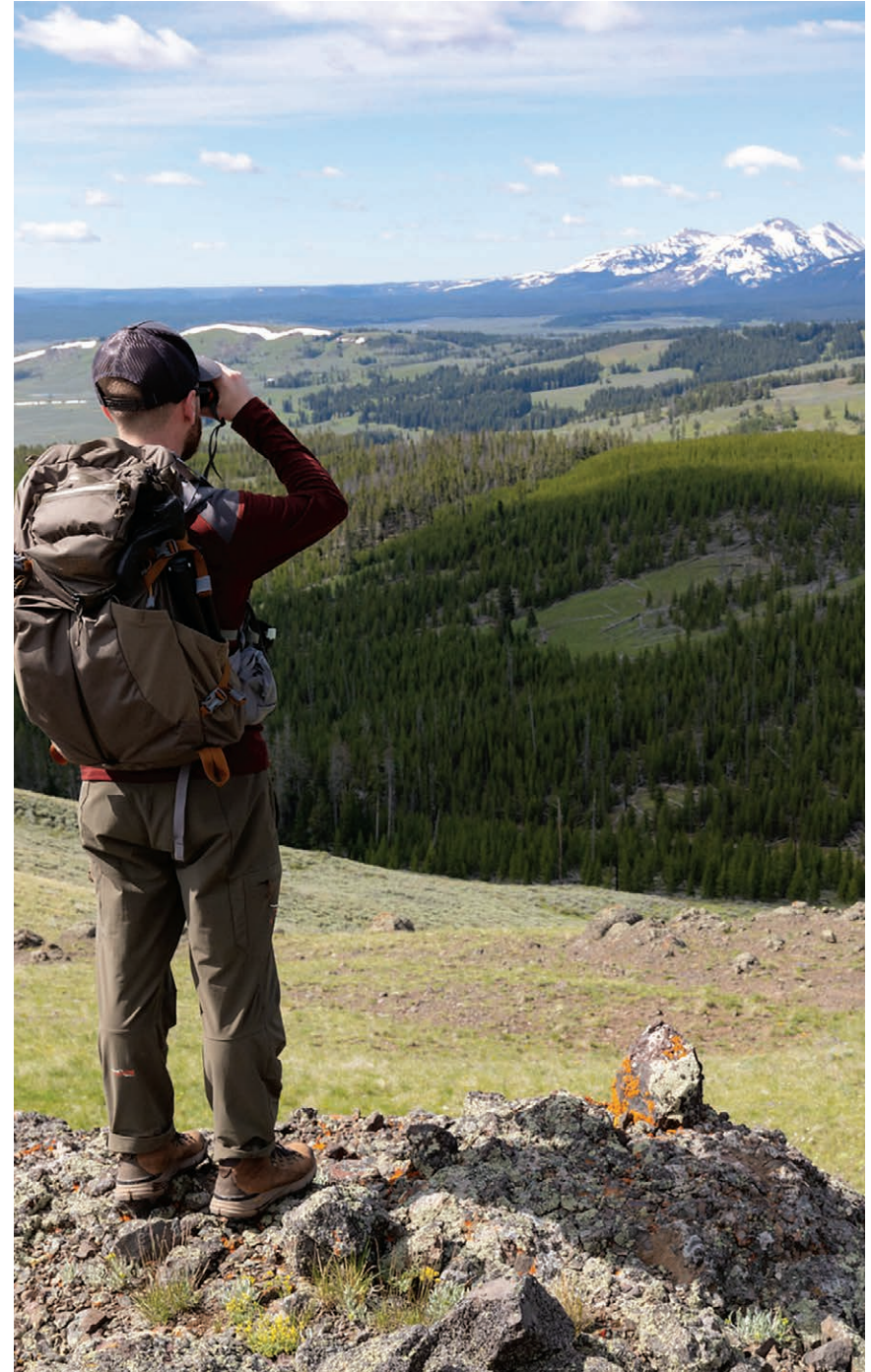
Yellowstone National Park is a living classroom, with endless opportunities to learn about everything from Native history to hydrothermal chemistry. The future of Yellowstone depends on the next generation of stewards who will preserve and protect the park for posterity. From witnessing Old Faithful erupt to glimpsing a majestic grizzly bear, Yellowstone sparks a passion for learning and an appreciation of nature that lasts a lifetime. Each year, children, teens, and college students participate in multiday to monthlong education, leadership, and recreation programs, including Expedition Yellowstone and the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps. Yellowstone Forever's donors are helping bring more young people to Yellowstone—and Yellowstone to more young people—than ever before.

ENHANCE

VISITOR EXPERIENCES AND EDUCATION

Visitor and Wildlife Safety Education

Millions of visitors come to Yellowstone National Park each year. While some have extensive experience hiking and camping in the backcountry, many have never stepped foot in such a wild place. With unsurpassed national park visitation, it's more important than ever to have programs in place that allow for natural resource preservation while connecting millions of visitors to the wonders of the natural world. Through the Visitor and Wildlife Safety Education Program, rangers educate visitors about wildlife safety and natural history, thereby reducing injuries, preventing fatalities, and helping maintain wildlife in their natural habitat. Funding from Yellowstone Forever provides vital education to park visitors that protects them and the wildlife they encounter.



Visitor and Wildlife Safety Education



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