YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

BEARS OF GREATER YELLOWSTONE

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Sue Consolo-Murphy, M.S. & Mark Haroldson

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Sue Consolo-Murphy worked with the National Park Service for nearly 40-years and retired as the chief of science and resource management at Grand Teton National Park. During her career she worked to monitor or restore wildlife such as swift fox, black-footed ferrets, bighorn sheep, and beaver, native habitat restoration, dam removal for native fish passage, and cultural resources including historic structures and archives. In 20 years at Yellowstone she helped with wolf restoration, experienced the 1988 wildfires, and edited *Yellowstone Science* and other resource publications She was the 2013 recipient of the NPS Director's Award for Excellence in Natural Resource Management and a 2008 honoree of the IGBC's awards for significant contributions to grizzly bear recovery.

Mark Haroldson has been involved in grizzly and black bear research and management since 1976, working for the University of Montana, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Hornocker Wildlife Institute. He has worked for the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem since 1984, where he is currently a USGS Supervisory Wildlife Biologist. He has authored or co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and 10 book chapters on a variety of topics related to grizzly bear ecology and population dynamics. His recent work has involved such diverse subjects as population estimation, energetics, nutrition, range expansion, bear-human interactions, and disease. Mark is also a member of the IUCN, Bear Specialist Group, North American Bear Expert Team.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 2** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 600 feet. Some off trail hiking possible.*

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If you cannot meet the activity level expectations during your program, you may be restricted from participation in daily outings. We will not alter program itineraries or activities to accommodate participants who cannot meet the expectations of the stated activity level.*

LOCATION: Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Yellowstone National Park, WY

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2023, and ends on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2023, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 9, 2023

MEALS: You will need to bring your own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field with you.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

This is a combination classroom and field course aimed at increasing understanding and appreciation for grizzly bears in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem--their biology, their ecological role, and interrelations with other species in the ecosystem (including humans), the long and evolving history of their management, and how to enhance observing them and safely recreating and living in bear country.

The main objectives are to 1) provide opportunities (no guarantee, of course!) to see bears in the wild and learn about their habitat, sign, and tracks to enhance searching success; 2) discuss grizzly bear biology and management in the greater Yellowstone area over the past few decades; 3) learn about bear-human conflicts and behaviors to enhance the safety of both species; and 4) have fun! The course begins with a general introduction to bear biology and history and progresses in time and depth of information throughout the 2+-day course, ending with a update on the status of the ecosystem's grizzly bear population and current issues in science and management.

While there is a natural focus on Yellowstone National Park as central to the history and recovery of this population, this course aims to promote understanding and appreciation of grizzly bears throughout the ecosystem and for the issues that challenge both bears and humans now and in the future.

- *Sue Consolo-Murphy*

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction.
The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.

Day 1 **Welcome and Orientation**

7:00 p.m. Welcome, logistics, meet the participants, introduction to basic bear biology and management.

Day 2 **Field Excursions and Class Time**

The first morning the class will meet at the classroom parking area and be out in the field at first light looking for wildlife. We will return to the Buffalo Ranch for breakfast.

After breakfast, there will be a classroom talk about bear food habits, after which the group will leave for a long field day out in the park, exploring bear habitat and looking to see as much as possible! There will be several short walks which involve some off-trail travel. Lunch and dinner will be 'on the road' before returning to the ranch to rest and catch up on sleep.

In the field, the instructor prefers the class time to be as interactive as possible. She will direct the discussion to the things that the class most wants to learn about bears, their relationships with humans in the GYE, and focus on how to safely recreate in bear habitat. There will be a demonstration and opportunity for each participant to test-fire (inert) bear spray during the field trip.

Day 3 - 4 **Field Excursions and Class Time**

Depending on the previous success with bear viewing, there will be an optional early morning search for wildlife close to the Lamar Buffalo Ranch. After breakfast, the group is invited to participate in a final field trip, including a hike not to exceed three miles round trip. We will return to the ranch for lunch and conclude with a classroom talk summarizing the state of Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem bear conservation and challenges for their future.
Class will conclude by 4:00 p.m.

Day 5 Check out by 9:00 a.m.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information document.

Items specific to this course are:

- ☐ Journal - or notebook
- ☐ Writing utensil

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program. Most publications are available at Yellowstone Forever's online store at shop.yellowstone.org Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

Websites

- https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bearrefs.htm
- https://www.usgs.gov/science/interagency-grizzly-bear-study-team

Books

- Schullery, Paul. 1992. *The Bears of Yellowstone*. High Plains Publishing Co.
- Herrero, Steve. 2002 or revised editions. *Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance*. Lyons Press.
- Multiple authors. 2015. *Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem*. Yellowstone Science: Vol.23 (2).
- P. J. White, K. A. Gunther, and F. T. van Manen, editors. 2017. *Yellowstone grizzly bears: Ecology and conservation of an icon of wildness*. Yellowstone Forever. 273pp.

WHOM TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400

- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm

- If running late for a program, please contact 406-848-2400