



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

LAMAR VALLEY WOLF WEEK – SESSION 5

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – WINTER 2023/24

INSTRUCTOR: Sam Archibald, MEM

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Sam Archibald is a Lead Field Educator for Yellowstone Forever. After completing his B.A. in history, Sam served with the US Peace Corps, working with an Ecuadorian nonprofit organization to develop outdoor leadership and environmental education programs for youth. Sam has continued to focus on outdoor education, joining the National Park Service as a Crew Leader for the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps and earning his master's degree in Environmental Management. Sam is grateful for every day he gets to spend out in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and looks forward to the continual discoveries offered by this wild and wonderful landscape.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is activity level 2 and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared for hikes on snow-packed trails, or snowshoe or ski trips, up to 3 miles per day with climbs up to 250 feet.

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If participants cannot meet the activity level expectations during the program, they may be restricted from participation in daily outings. Program itineraries or activities will not be altered 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 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024, and goes through Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024 and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 15, 2024.

MEALS: This course is catered. Any food allergies or dietary restrictions should be noted on the registration form.

SHUTTLES: For an additional fee, an optional Bozeman airport shuttle is provided for those interested. The shuttle service will pick up participants from the Bozeman International Airport on the first day of the program (Monday, March 11, 2024) with a 1:00 p.m. departure. The shuttle will return participants to the Bozeman International Airport on the last day after check-out (Friday, March 15, 2024) with a departure from the Lamar Buffalo Ranch at 8:00 a.m. Participants opting into the shuttle service, need to ensure their flights will allow for them to be picked up and dropped off during the above timeframes.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Winter General Information](#) document.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

There are few things more iconic than watching wolves within Yellowstone's winter snowscapes. Yellowstone Forever's iconic and ever-popular Winter Wolf Week allows participants to experience firsthand the winter world of wolves. Days will be spent searching for wolves and other charismatic wildlife, both from the roadway and out in the field via snowshoe jaunts. Participants will be led by knowledgeable Yellowstone Forever Lead Field Educators who spend nearly every day out in the field searching for Yellowstone wildlife. Additionally, there will be opportunities to engage with Yellowstone wolf researchers and experts both out in the field and in the evenings at the historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch. Topics covered throughout the week range from wolf behavior, wolf conservation and natural history, and wolf management. This is a premiere opportunity to become familiar with this iconic species whilst based out of the heart of Yellowstone's famed Lamar Valley.

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

Participants are welcome to check into the Lamar Buffalo Ranch starting at 4:00 p.m. Class orientation begins at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

After dinner meet and greet and introduction to the course.

Days 2 - 4

Wildlife Watching

With a focus on wildlife, days will consist of a mixture of early morning roadside wildlife watching and early afternoon wildlife discussions. In the mid-afternoon the class will go for a hike (or snowshoe depending on snowpack) and have lunch in the field. The class will return late in the afternoon for free time and dinner and be followed with an evening presentation.

Guest speakers for the week may include:

- Rick McIntyre, award-winning author, and retired Wolf Project Biological Science Technician
- Kira Cassidy, Yellowstone Wolf Project Research Associate
- Joanna Lambert, Ph.D., canid researcher and tenured professor of animal evolutionary ecology and conservation biology at the University of Colorado – Boulder
- Bob Landis, wildlife cinematographer

Day 5

Check-Out

Breakfast and check out of cabins by 9:00 a.m.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

This course does not require any specific equipment unless participants wish to bring their own snowshoes. For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Winter General Information](#) document.

RECOMMENDED READING

There are books and reference materials at the ranch for the class to enjoy during the stay. In addition to those materials, the following recommended readings are not required but may enhance the visit.

- Smith, Douglas W., et al. *Yellowstone Wolves: Science and Discovery in the World's First National Park*. The University of Chicago Press, 2020.
- Smith, D. and Ferguson, G. *Decade of the Wolf*. Lyons Press, NY, 2005.
- McIntyre, Rick. *Rise of Wolf 8: Witnessing the Triumph of Yellowstone's Underdog*. Greystone Books, 2019.
- McIntyre, Rick. *The Reign of Wolf 21: The Saga of Yellowstone's Legendary Druid Pack*. Greystone Books, 2022.
- Blakeslee, Nate. *American Wolf*. Broadway Books, 2017.
- Lamplugh, Rick. *Deep into Yellowstone: A Year's Immersion into Grandeur and Controversy*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017.
- Nelson, Megan Kate. *Saving Yellowstone: Exploration and Preservation in Reconstruction America*. Scribner, 2022.
- National Park Service. *2023 Resource and Issues Handbook*. NPS, 2023.

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