



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## OWLS OF YELLOWSTONE

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

**INSTRUCTOR:** Katy Duffy, M.S.

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:** Katy Duffy has studied owls, diurnal raptors and other birds in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem by banding, surveying and other techniques for more than 35 years. Katy loves to share her knowledge of avian ecology and identification. She worked for the National Park Service as a supervisory education ranger in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks for 32 years. Katy has a M.S. in ecology from Rutgers University.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** This course is 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 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:** Course begins at the Yellowstone Forever classrooms located in Gardiner, MT.

**PROGRAM DATES & TIMES:** The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024, and goes through Sunday, May 26, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

**LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT:** No lodging is provided for this course, however, there may be limited lodging available through Yellowstone Forever at the Yellowstone Field Overlook Campus. For more information, please contact the Institute at [institute@yellowstone.org](mailto:institute@yellowstone.org). You can also find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging.](#) (Yellowstone River Motel will grant you 10% off their rooms if you mention that you are taking a Yellowstone Forever Field Seminar.)

**MEALS:** This course is not catered. Participants will need to bring their own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field.

**For general information about the facilities, preparation for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.**

## PROGRAM ITINERARY

Are you curious about owls and their mostly nocturnal activity? You will spend classroom time examining owl wings, tails, and feet (on loan from Yellowstone National Park) along with a presentation showing images of owls found in Yellowstone and their preferred habitats. You will also learn the vocalizations owls make when they are seeking a mate. You will then explore owl habitat during an afternoon field trip. That evening, you will conduct a sample owl survey. The following morning, you will explore additional habitat for different owl species.

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**

The program starts with an evening orientation. You will get to know one another and be introduced to the program. Throughout the evening, the itinerary and seminar key concepts will be discussed, as well as what to expect to pack for the field each day.

### **Day 2      Reading the Landscape for Owls, part 1.**

First, you will view a PowerPoint of owl images and owl habitat and listen to owl vocalizations. Then you will spend the early afternoon in the park, seeing owl habitat up-close. Following a late afternoon & dinner break, you will bundle up, take your headlamp, then head back into the park to experience owl time, early evening, to listen for vocalizing owls.

### **Day 3      Reading the Landscape for Owls, part 2.**

You will go to a different part of the park to witness habitat for other owl species. The class will conclude with a summary and end at noon.

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

- Headlamp or flashlight

## RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program.

- 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 general program questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at [institute@yellowstone.org](mailto: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.