

## Nature Mapping Interim Newsletter Programs February 2015

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### **Nature Mappers,**

As we put together a year-end report for our next enews, we wanted to inform you of some time-sensitive programs and opportunities which you may wish to participate in. And we encourage you to enter any remaining observations for 2014 so they may be included in our end-of-the year data. Thank you!

### **Moose Day 2015**

**Moose Day Sign up – We will be holding our 7th Annual Moose Day, Saturday, February 28, 7 a.m. - noon.** Nature Mapping's Moose Day is an annual event that brings together trained citizen scientists and professional biologists to spend a wintry morning scouring Jackson Hole for moose observations. Moose Day is a collaboration between Nature Mapping and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), with the goal of gathering information on moose distribution and population trends. We use standard Nature Mapping protocols recording the location, number, gender, and approximate age of all of the moose we see in pre-assigned areas. Not only is this a fun and educational event for everyone involved, but the observations provide valuable data to the WGFD. Moose Day observations help fill a data gap for private lands in town and in rural subdivisions, lands which the WGFD does not actively survey. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Frances Clark: [frances@jhwildlife.org](mailto:frances@jhwildlife.org) (photo by Gigi Halloran)

Also, we will hold a **Moose Day Training, Monday, February 23, 5:30-7:00 p.m., JH & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, 532 N. Cache St. Jackson.** Aly Courtemanch and Ben Wise of Wyoming Game and Fish will review how to determine moose age and gender; moose ecology, and hot topics, such as diseases.

### **December 2014 Data - Paul Hood**

**Total Observers:** 30 **Most Observations:** Deb Patla/Susan Marsh: each 45; Rene Melville 23; Andy Carson 19 - Thank you all. Keep on Mapping!

Mammals:	127 observations	18 species	448 individuals
Birds:	151 observations	33 species	694 individuals
Total:	275 observations	51 species	1142 individuals

**Projects:** Backyard – 178, Casual Observations – 97

**Notes:** Unusual mammal species: Weasel family: American marten (1), long-tailed (5) and short-tailed (4) weasel and wolverine (1). Birds: Winter specialties included Northern Shrike (1), Evening (4) and Pine Grosbeaks (8) at lower elevations and feeders; Snow Bunting (2), Sharp-tailed Grouse (2). Great Horned Owls were often heard, if not seen (7). Atypical for the season—

summer birds: Red-winged Blackbird (1) and Wilson's Snipe (1). (Note: not all observations have been verified.)

### **New Nature Mappers**

On Thursday evening, January 14, Aly Courtemanch and Frances Clark trained 16 Nature Mappers, including four professional naturalists, several 20-30 year-long residents, and a couple of new arrivals to Jackson Hole. Trainees came equipped with smartphones and iPads and were savvy with GIS tools. They adapted readily to our "new" form which is in fact now over a year old. They are already adding observations to our data base. Thank you: David, Amy, Josh, Taylor, Cathy, Benj, Marjie, Brian, Joannie, Amy, Henry, Kathryn, Kathi, Shane, Whitney, Ron. Welcome to the Nature Mapping community.

We will plan another training soon. Spread the word and let us know of anyone interested.

### **Upcoming Programs**

There is a rich array of programs of interest to Nature Mappers coming up:

**Thursday, February 5, 6:30 p.m. Haida Gwaii by Sea Kayak with Beverly Boynton – Parks and Rec Center, 155 E. Gill Ave., Jackson, \$5.** Gwaii Haanas is a Canadian National Park located in southernmost Haida Gwaii, an archipelago 75 miles off the mainland of northern British Columbia. Gwaii Haanas is a wild place without cell phones, roads or commercial development; it is protected from mountaintop to ocean depth. A small group of Jacksonites spent three weeks sea kayaking on the leeward east side, where the temperate rain forest meets the sea. The ecology here is complex, from the tundra of the rugged San Christoval Range down to the intertidal zones of the Pacific Ocean. The native Haida Nation has created and maintained a culture tightly intertwined with the land and sea, and are key to any understanding of this beautiful area. Join Nature Mapper Beverly Boynton in her presentation of this powerful place. A presentation of the Dept. of Parks and Recreation Armchair Adventure Series.

**Tuesday, February 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Wolf Monitoring and Research in Grand Teton National Park sponsored by JH Bird and Nature Club, Teton County Library in Ordway Auditorium B.** John Stephenson will present on wolves in Grand Teton National Park and provide an update on packs that use the park and a summary of predation studies from 2010-2014. John Stephenson is a wildlife biologist at Grand Teton National Park and has worked on a variety of wildlife subjects in the park since 2008. He graduated from Middlebury College in 1998 with a degree in Biology and received his M.S. from the University of Idaho in 2008. (We are unable to show the previously announced film at this time - sorry).

Also of interest on the same night same place (Ah, so much to do in JH!):

**Tuesday, February 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Public forum on summer trails located in the Cache and Game Creek area near Jackson. Teton County Library Ordway Auditorium A.** The Jackson Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Friends of Pathways, and Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance will host information stations covering topics such as the district-wide non-motorized trail assessment, public response to trail changes proposed in August 2014, preliminary wildlife analysis for the Skyline trail, the science behind trail impact, and overall management direction for the Cache Game area including how change over time would be monitored. The forum will also include a public discussion to identify educational and stewardship ideas to help achieve the vision of the area to provide "accessible non-motorized day use opportunities with an emphasis on promoting community stewardship, healthy lifestyles, and connection with nature". Luther Propst and Susan Marsh will provide opening remarks to kick off the discussion.

Note seating capacity is limited in the library's auditorium. Come early to assure a seat.

**National Elk Refuge is hosting a several programs on wildlife winter behavior and celebrating two upcoming holidays.** For more information on [February programs at the National Elk Refuge](#), call [\(307\) 201.5400](tel:3072015400). The Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center is located at 532 N. Cache Street in Jackson.

**Tuesday, February 3, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Full Moon Walk** - Conversations will focus on the night sky, the effects of light on wildlife, and ecological consequences of human development in the area of Miller Butte. Parking will be limited, so carpooling is recommended. **Reservations are required** and can be made by calling [\(307\) 201-5400](tel:3072015400). Participants are asked to bring a flashlight or headlamp. Refreshments and warm beverages will be provided at the end of the program.

**Friday, February 13 – Saturday, February 14, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, and 2:30 p.m. Romance on the Refuge** - Celebrate Valentine's Day at the visitor center During the short program, visitors will learn about the astonishing courtship flight of the bald eagle, listen to bull elk bugling, and watch the strut of a greater sage-grouse. Guests will also receive a handout featuring seven refuge animals that mate for life.

**Saturday, February 14, 10:00 am to 12:00 p.m. Free Refuge Excursion** - Participants will move to various locations on the refuge and discuss how animals adapt to Jackson Hole winters. The program will begin in the visitor center theater, where a temporary exhibit features a variety of photographs portray animals that either migrate, hibernate, or adapt in response to nature's coldest season. The exhibit will be up from February 3 –28.

**Sunday, February 15 – Tuesday, February 17. Mardi Gras and masks** go together like peanut butter and jelly; it's hard to think about one without the other. Celebrate Mardi Gras in style by listening to Cajun music while making your very own animal mask, inspired by wildlife found on the National Elk Refuge.



#### **Save the Date**

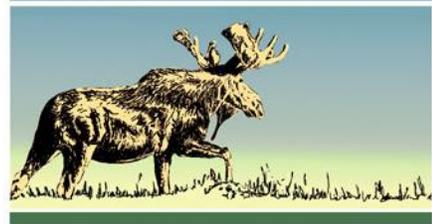
**Tuesday, March 24, Annual Nature Mapping Potluck with Guest Speaker David Quamman, Center for the Arts.** This is a fun gathering of Nature Mapper volunteers and other community members interested in wildlife. David Quamman is an American science, nature, and travel writer and the author of fifteen books. He has written for *Outside Magazine*, *National Geographic*, and *The New York Times*, to name a few publications. His most recent book is *Spillover: Animal Infections ant the Next Human Pandemic*. Topic and time TBA.

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Nature Mapping is a program of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation and is sponsored by the Meg and Bert Raynes Fund and other generous contributors.

JACKSON HOLE



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F O U N D A T I O N

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