



East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 3008
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www.eastyellowstonetu.org

May 8th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Location & Time: The Irma Hotel, Governor's Room, Cody, WY; 6:30p.m.

In Attendance (please excuse misspellings – sometimes it's hard to read the roster)

Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Bob Capron, Elaine & Bill Tabacinski, Dave & Cathy Sweet, George Simonton, Kathy Crofts, Tim Wade, Tom Reed, Linda Trask, Ross Gorman, Birney Holberg, Bob & Sherry Vosseller, Laura Burckhardt, Lori Bevenger, Laura & Michael Laughlin, Jim & Diane Blakeslee, Donna & Randy Moore, Katie Pyne, Gregg & Jane Bierei, Cal Jones, Bill & Carrissa Camp, Dean Resscrei, Lynn Cook, Colin Mills, Richard Pontius, Karen & Ed Spearing, Mark Vondersaar, Brandon Lewis

Program – Brandon Lewis, Raptor Program Assistant at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, presented "Soldiers to Rangers: Managing the People and Resources of Yellowstone" about the history of the U.S. Army's early management of our first national park. The following is a summary of the presentation.

- It was quickly recognized after the park was created that it needed protection
- Initially there was civilian management, beginning with P. Norris (would eventually become the park's second superintendent)
 - Norris knew more manpower was needed and hired 6 more people, but 7 people cannot effectively oversee millions of acres of wilderness; more people were needed
- The U.S. Army was assigned the management role; Company M, August 1886
 - 50 Company M soldiers assigned; the number grew to as large as 200
 - Current park headquarters at Mammoth Hot Springs was the army fort
 - Played an important role in establishing many of the park roads still in use today
 - Ranger stations (soldier outposts) were built at the junctions of these roads, with each about 1 day apart (based on travel at that time)
- Roles of soldiers
 - Police force and rule enforcement
 - had to establish rules for the public to follow, for example, relating to timber, mineral deposits, hunting, fishing, wagon size, fires, alcohol, loose stock, and throwing objects into springs and geysers
 - Man who assaulted a female hotel worker had to be held accountable
 - Poaching wildlife was common and had to be controlled
 - Fire fighting
 - there were over 100 fires within the park just in 1888
 - good equipment was lacking
 - Tour guides – overall, soldiers got along well with tourists
 - Wildlife management
 - Stagecoach escorts – to protect against robberies, of which there were 4 recorded ones – coaches traveled in convoys spaced out to reduce dust

- Soldier-morale was lower in the winter which coincided with higher desertion rates and cases of insanity
- Park transition from military control to National Park Service
 - Park under direction of Army until 1918
 - By 1916 it appeared that the U.S. would become involved in WWI (war began 1914, we entered it in 1917), and soldiers would be needed in places other than YNP
 - The National Park Service was established in 1916 and there was a 2 year transition period
 - Some soldiers transferred out of the Army and become Park Rangers, influencing NPS uniform and hat design

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order followed by introductions.

- Tom Reed passed around a thank you note to EYTU from Scott Talbot regarding the chapter's assistance in the Game & Fish Open House

Approval of Minutes of April, 2018 Meeting: a motion was made, seconded, and voted on; motion carried.

Presentation of Treasurer's Report:

- Income: \$1048; \$1000 (distribution of Audubon monies following chapter shut-down), \$25 (family contribution), \$15 (from Larry Smith car detailing business), \$8 (interest)
- Expenses: 0
- Balance: \$111,404, including \$33,280 committed to projects

Committee Updates

Conservation

- Tim Wade attended Game & Fish meeting regarding new regulations
 - Clarks Fork Initiative; catch & release on the Clarks Fork
 - Due to limited number of G&F Wardens public was reminded of and encouraged to use 1-800-STOPPOACHING hotline
 - Public comments due by June 7th and can be delivered on line
- Tim Wade; sign-up sheets passed around for volunteers to help with measurements associated with Clarks Fork re-connectivity study
- Tim Wade and George Simonton are members of the Beartooth Ranch Task Force; Joe Tilden in on the Task Force; goal is to keep the land open to hunters and anglers
- Bob Capron fish screen maintenance update
 - Greybull fish ladder, Upper Sunshine diversion, in operation for 3 weeks
 - North Fork fish screen
 - Assembled and functional but will not be placed in operation until water flows decline
 - Once running, Bob will check screens each week – if anyone wants to see them, let Bob know
 - There are some leaks allowing water under the metal floor – Bob tried to seal with silicone but may have to wait until the fall to correct properly
- Laura Burckhardt – Sunlight Creek update
 - Contractor has proposed solution to bank erosion – channel re-alignment
 - Surveys are complete
 - 30% of the design is due next week (week of May 14th)
 - Start of construction is planned for July with completion expected in October
 - Partly funded by Embrace A Stream Grant through TU
 - Will need Willow replants in the fall

- Dave Sweet; Sediment Tour, June 5th; Willwood Working Group #3
 - Recap of work so far will be presented
 - For more information, see Dave or Laura
 - If you want to attend the tour, need to sign up in advance
- Soldier Creek exclusion fence installation and repair project; Bighorn Mountains; July 16-18
 - 1.5 miles of fencing
 - **Need Volunteers!** No fencing skills or experience required
 - See information distributed by Dave Sweet at previous meeting

Website and Facebook Page – Lorna Anderson – assistance, eg with Facebook posts, is appreciated.

- Be sure to check out the EYTU web site (www.eastyellowstonetu.org) calendar tab for upcoming events – for example, the Soldier Creek fencing project
- If members want to post for sale ads on site, see Lorna

Wyoming Council – Dave Sweet

- Game & Fish Wyoming Outdoor Expo, Casper, May 17th, 18th, & 19th

Unfinished Business:

- EYTU Summer Picnic
 - Amanda Wilson has put deposit on the Trout Creek pavilion at the Buffalo Bill State Park, tentatively for Friday, June 29th
 - A motion was made to have the picnic at a later date at the Horse Creek pavilion on the North Fork of the Shoshone (can't reserve it), with pot luck and chapter will provide chicken
 - 2nd Tuesday in July
 - Motion seconded, voted on, and carried
 - Picnic will start around 3pm with dinner around 6pm
 - Tom Reed will send out email to get potential headcount

New Business:

- Birney Holberg, with Ed from Cody Shooting Complex; fundraising idea:
 - Sporting clay shooting event
 - Can have up to 20 stations – at previous events put on by other organizations, sponsors are obtained for each station
 - \$35 per entry goes to the Complex, so anything over \$35 can go to EYTU
 - Can decide to sign up as teams or individuals
 - Birney will coordinate
 - Tentative date: Saturday, September 29th
 - Motion: have Birney set event up, with budget of \$200 to get organized; motion was seconded, voted on, and it carried.

Other Discussion

- Bill Tabacinski, Kids Fishing Day update
 - June 2nd, Beck Lake
 - Cody Optimist Club, with EYTU, WY G&F, and USFS
 - For kids 14 and under; there will be a variety of activities; event poster was presented
 - Volunteers still needed
 - There will be a volunteer meeting on May 11th at 9am in the Irma Governors Room

- Due to schedule conflicts, we need a replacement EYTU Secretary for the balance of 2018 until 2019 officers are selected
 - Kathy Crofts volunteered (Thanks Kathy!)
- ***New location for EYTU Monthly Meetings***
 - Starting with the September meeting
 - Holiday Inn
 - There will be a menu with around 5 choices (can be changed)
 - Tom Reed will send out an email with more information

Meeting was adjourned – motion for adjournment made, seconded, and voted on; motion carried.

- Adjournment was followed by Birney's Raffle.

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, September 11th at the Holiday Inn (new location and menu)
- Speaker: To Be Determined

Chapter Meeting Guest Presenters, Past, Present, and Future:

- September 2017: Dave Sweet, update on Yellowstone Lake Trout Removal Project
- October 2017: Liz Purdy, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Protecting Yellowstone Gateways from mining
- November 2017: Jeremiah Vardiman, Bighorn Basin agricultural practices
- December 2017: none; Christmas Party and Silent Auction
- January 2018: Cory Toyne of WY TU, will discuss design and construction planning associated with irrigation canal headgate fish screens
- February 2018: Kip Dean and Anne Marie Emery of Bighorn River Alliance, River restoration and preservation
- March 2018: Colton Curtis, Meeteetse HS graduate, will discuss his research on the Greybull River fishery – “Conservation of Native Trout Populations”
- April 2018: Jason Burckhardt, WY G&F, Walleye introduction and suppression at Buffalo Bill Reservoir
- May 2018: Brandon Lewis – From Soldiers to Rangers: The Unique Assignment in Yellowstone National Park
- September 2018 – November 2018: To Be Determined
- December 2018: Annual Christmas Party and Officer Election