



## Fire History and Fire Ecology in Yellowstone – A Field Tour

**OCTOBER 1 AND 2, 2015**

### **PRESENTERS**

Brian Harvey, Postdoc, University of Colorado-Boulder  
Monica Turner, Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Cathy Whitlock, Professor, Montana State University  
Dave McWethy, Research Professor, Montana State University

### **LOCAL SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERT PARTICIPANTS**

Roy Renkin, Acting Chief, Vegetation and Resource Operations, Yellowstone National Park  
Ann Rodman, Branch Chief, Physical Science, Yellowstone National Park  
Todd Opperman, Deputy FMO, Yellowstone National Park  
Becky Smith, Fire Ecologist, Yellowstone National Park  
Bill Mayer, Fuels Specialist, Yellowstone National Park  
Diane Abendroth, Fire Ecologist, Teton Interagency Fire  
Tom Olliff, Coordinator, Great Northern Landscape Cooperative  
Mary Taber, Fire Ecologist, University of Idaho/WFM RD&A  
Julie Shea, Fire / Fuels Planner, Custer Gallatin National Forest  
Jon White, Fuels AFMO, Caribou-Targhee NF  
Travis Belote, Research Ecologist, The Wilderness Society

### **MEALS PROVIDED**

Lunch on both October 1 and 2 (Sandwiches from Gardiner Market, snacks, and water)

**Overview** – This tour is expected to stimulate discussion and learning around the following topics: historical fire regimes of Yellowstone, factors that influence post-fire recovery, and potential ecological consequences of increased fire frequency with a warming climate.

**Objectives** – This event is designed to create dialogue among scientists and managers and to put fire ecology research in the context of real-life limitations and situations that influence decision making and planning.

### **Day 1 –**

- 10:00 am – Meet at the Visitor's Center in Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park – Welcome and introductions
  
- 10:30 am – Arrive at Site 1 – Blacktail Pond/Frog Rock Area and discuss paleofire history of lodgepole pine in Yellowstone's Northern Range



12:00 pm – Arrive at Site 2 – Mt. Washburn North Loop Rd to have lunch (provided) and get to know each other

12:45 pm – Remain at the Mt. Washburn site and discuss the paleofire history of whitebark pine and the multiple stressors affecting whitebark pine forests

3:00 pm – Arrive at Site 3 – Cygnet Lake pullout and discuss paleofire history of lodgepole pine and contrast it with that of Site 1

5:30 pm – Return to Mammoth

7:30 pm – Meet for an evening get-together and dinner at K-Bar Pizza located at 202 Main St. in Gardiner, MT. Meet in the reserved room for buffet-style dining (cost of \$12/person)

**Day 2 –**

8:00 am – Meet at Comfort Inn located at 107 Hellroaring St., Gardiner, MT (at 7:45 am)  
Visitor's Center in Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park (at 8:00 am)

8:00- 9:00 am – Keep your eyes open for wildlife, we'll go slowly, watch for wildlife, and stop for photo opportunities

9:00 am – Arrive at Site 1 – Madison River drainage area to discuss reasons for the high density of serotinous lodgepole pine regeneration following the 1988 fires

11:00 am – Arrive at Site 2 – Norris Canyon Rd. and Grebe Lake trailhead to discuss reasons for the low density of serotinous lodgepole pine regeneration following the 1988 fires; have lunch (provided) and visit

12:30 pm – Arrive at Site 3 – Cygnet Fire - a 1988 burned site that burned again in the 2012 Cygnet Fire to discuss effects of repeated fire and what more frequent future fires may mean for the Park

1:00 pm – Arrive at Site 4 – Blowdown + Fire interpretive site - a 1984 blowdown site that was burned in the 1988 fires; discuss disturbance interactions and regeneration

3:00 pm – Return to Mammoth and travel safely home or enjoy more time in the Park

