

Snow delays Grand Teton opening

By Staff, Wyoming Business Report

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MOOSE – A lingering, substantial snowpack in the Jenny Lake area of Grand Teton National Park has led the Park Service to delay opening of many facilities there. Three to four feet of snow, as well as freezing overnight temperatures that may affect water pipes contributed to the decision to delay opening of the popular site.

According to the Park Service, all trails in the south Jenny Lake area are snow-covered and icy, including the pathways to and from the lakeshore and around the buildings. Trails on the west shore of Jenny Lake are buried under eight to ten feet of snow, and hiking is not recommended at this time.

Public campsites will be available starting Friday, May 9; however, the Signal Mountain campground is limited to self-contained RV sites only because the tent sites, grills and picnic tables are still buried under several feet of snow.

The Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center is open year-round; the Colter Bay Visitor Center will open on Saturday, May 10 as planned.

The gravel parking lot for the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve is partially snow-covered and saturated with moisture; therefore, use of the parking lot will not be possible until the surface is clear of snow, dries, and hardens enough to support vehicles without being damaged. Weather conditions will determine the length of time required for this temporary restriction.

Although Moose-Wilson Road within Grand Teton National Park opened to vehicular traffic for the 2008 summer season on May 1, motorists are advised to plan for a temporary travel closure on this road from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 9. The closure is necessary to prepare for and apply a dust abatement product to the gravel portion of the road from the Granite Canyon trailhead parking area for a distance of 1.5 miles north. This temporary closure precludes the ability to make a "through trip" on the Moose-Wilson Road. The roadwork schedule and closure may change or be delayed due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Local residents and park visitors are advised to make travel plans accordingly and detour away from the Moose-Wilson Road during the closure on Friday, May 9th.