



VISITOR INFORMATION

Theodore Roosevelt
National Park

South Unit

Visitor Center Hours

8:00-4:30 MST

North Unit

Visitor Center Hours

9:00 am -5:30pm CST

7 days a week beginning

April 5, 2009

Painted Canyon

8:30am 4:30pm MST

(will re-open April 1, 2009

weather permitting)

Knife River Indian Villages

National Historic Site

8:00 am -4:30 pm MST

Upper Souris NWR

8:00 am - 4:30 pm CDT

Monday-Friday

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1, 2009

(Weather Permitting)

Painted Canyon Visitor Center will be Opening for the season.

April 3, 2009

North Unit Visitor Center will be Open 7 days a week.

April 25, 2009

Nat'l Park Junior Ranger Day

May 16, 2009

Knife River Birdwalk & Photography Workshop

May 31, 2009

South Unit & Painted Canyon visitor centers will go to extended summer hours.

South Unit 8:00-6:00 MST

Painted Canyon 8:30-6:00 MST

June 6, 2009

Upper Souris NWR fishing day for individual's with special needs.

June 7, 2009

TRNHA's 55th Annual Birdwalk in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt NP.

Elk Issues in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

by: Valerie Naylor-Park Superintendent

Dealing with the elk issue in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a complex undertaking. The park must find a solution that is efficient, cost-effective, and reasonable for dealing with the elk. The concerns of the public across the nation, as well as the concerns of landowners, visitors, and others must be taken into consideration. The park must follow and policy in working through the issue.

agement plan. Audiences in Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Mandan, and Medora listened to presentations, asked



questions, and made comments about the alternatives being considered in the plan.

As you know, much of the media attention on this issue has involved hunting in the park. **However, the park cannot consider hunting without a change in federal law.** The National Park Service does not lobby Congress,

and is not interested in changing the law regarding hunting in national parks at this time.

Here are some important points relating to the elk issue that may be contrary to popular belief:

- 1) The current number of elk in the park is approximately 875, not the much higher numbers that have been widely rumored.
- 2) Although the number of elk in the park is over the park's population objective, we have seen no measurable changes to park vegetation to date. We started the planning process early and have had the luxury of time to be thorough in developing alternatives. We are not in a crisis situation as is often reported.

Continued on page 2

After several years of preparation, the park released an Elk Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement on December 17. The comment period ended on March 19. From February 23-28, the staff traveled around North Dakota to host public meetings about the elk man-

Check out these Great Items!

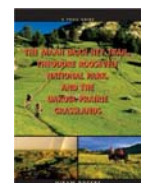
Junior Ranger Hat
\$10.95



National Geographic Trails Illustrated Topographic Map to Theodore Roosevelt National Park
\$9.95



Trail Guide to the Maah Daah Hey Trail, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands by: Hiram Rogers
\$15.00



A great guide to some of North Dakota's most beautiful areas.

Ranger Recommends



Judie Chrobak-Cox showing her favorite book in the bookstore of the South Unit.

Welcome to Ranger Recommends!

April's featured Ranger is Judie Chrobak-Cox. Judie is the district Interpretive Ranger in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Judie has spent many years working for the National Park Service and we have been lucky enough to have her here the past few years. Her vast knowledge of wildlife and nature has helped

many visitors and employees learn about the area and park.

Judie highly recommends *Kaufman's Focus Book: Mammals of North America* by: Kenn Kaufman

Judie says: "Great field guide for identification of a wide variety of animals from bats to whales. Uses actual photos instead of drawings. A wonderful accompaniment for wildlife watching in the park or anywhere in North America

that your travels may take you."

If you are interested in purchasing this book please visit one of our Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Bookstores or visit our online bookstore at:

www.trnha.org/bookstorehome.htm

Mammals of North America

Regular price: \$20.00
Members price: \$17.00

Member Only Special

April's members only coupon is for the book, *Wildfire: A Reader*, which is currently available at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, or by contacting us at 701-623-4884.

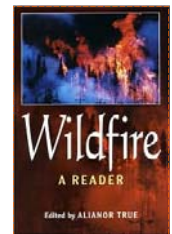
Wildfire: A Reader is an outstanding collection of essays on wildfire and fire ecology. A great book for those who are interested in better understanding the ways nature benefits from fire.

APRIL'S MEMBER ONLY COUPON IS FOR....

Wildfire: A Reader

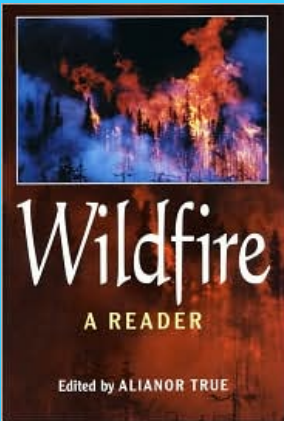
SALE PRICE: \$8.96

(Price listed is before membership 15% discount for a final price of \$7.62)



Must show coupon and membership card in TRNHA bookstore or contact TRNHA (701) 623-4884 to order by mail.

EXPIRES April 30, 2009



Elk Issues in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

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- 3) Although the ND Game and Fish Department supports hunting in the park and has a difference of opinion with the park on this issue, the park continues to work with NDGFD on a variety of projects.
- 4) There is no elegant and universally popular solution to the elk issue in the park. Every alternative has its drawbacks. No matter what the final outcome, some major segment of the population will likely be displeased.

The comments from the public are cur-

rently being analyzed and addressed. The next step will be to identify a preferred alternative for managing the elk population. The park could select any of the alternatives that have been proposed, or some combination of them. When the preferred alternative is selected, there will be another short public comment period.

The park expects to finalize the EIS and have a decision document at the end of the year. It is likely that some action will be

taken in 2010.



If you have questions, park staff are more than willing to discuss this issue with interested persons.

Flooding in North Dakota

The month of March has proved to be a struggle for many North Dakota residents and business owners with just about every river and creek flowing out of their banks. Numerous homes, business, and roads have been flooded due to ice jamming up in various spots throughout the state. President Obama has declared North Dakota a federal disaster area as mandatory evacuation order has been put into affect in many areas of the state.

The following pictures have been collected from various sources throughout North Dakota.

Annie, one of Doug Stensguard's dogs, looks out over what used to be a 5-acre yard and a building that is now flooded by the rising Red River March 24, 2009 in Fargo, N.D. (Carolyn Kaster/AP Photo)



Flooding of the Knife River near the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Submitted by Park Staff



Rising water traps a group of cattle on high ground east of Linton, N.D., March 23, 2009. (Tom Stromme/The Tribune/AP Photo)



High water from the flooding Beaver Creek covers a car on the south side of Linton, N.D., March 23, 2009. Beaver Creek, the Knife River in Hazen and Spring Creek in Zap were at record flood stage. (Tom Stromme/The Tribune/AP Photo)



Large sheets of ice jam the swollen Missouri River north of Bismarck, N.D. Extensive flooding in low lying areas is forcing residents in communities close to the river to evacuate. (Tom Stromme/The Bismarck Tribune/AP Photo)



Tracy's Top 8

Common Animal's of Theodore Roosevelt National Park that aren't always seen.

1. **Mountain Lion** - these large predators are found in some of the more rugged areas of park and are rarely seen.
2. **Elk** - often times these large animals can be seen in the early morning and evening hours off Buck Hill in the South Unit.
3. **Bobcat** - this predator hunts in the evening making it hard to find him in the daylight hours.
4. **Big Horn Sheep** - not very common in the South Unit (only sometimes passing through) but are often seen on the rugged hill sides of the North Unit.
5. **Prairie Rattle Snakes** - the only poisonous snakes found in the area and can often be found in prairie dog towns or sunning themselves on trails.
6. **Pronghorn** - this incredibly alert and quick animal often roams in and out of the park but can be seen throughout the year in various locations.
7. **Beaver** - though this animal is not always seen you can often see signs of him along the river in the form of dams and freshly cut trees.
8. **Coyotes** - are often herd but are only seen once in a while and usually hunting for dinner in a prairie dog town.

REMEMBER ALL Wildlife is Dangerous so please use caution when viewing.

North Dakota History & Facts Quiz

1. A great entertainer, born and raised in a sod house on a small farmstead near Strasburg. _____
2. The largest natural body of water in North Dakota, also known as the Perch Capital of the World. _____
3. Features the world's largest metal sculptures produced by artist Gary Greff. _____
4. Straddles the international Boundary between North Dakota and the Canadian province of Manitoba. _____
5. The world's largest Holstein Cow, standing 38 feet tall, 50 feet long and weighs six tons. _____
6. The geographical center of North America. A tall stone obelisk marks the location. _____
7. Home of Rusty the Turtle, a two-ton sculpture of a turtle near the entrance to the city. _____
8. After the death of his mother and wife on the same day, traveled to the Dakota Territory to hunt bison. _____
9. Home of the World's Largest Buffalo Monument. _____
10. A Sioux word meaning friends or allies. _____

Word Bank

Rugby
Jamestown
Salem Sue
Dakota
Enchanted Highway

Theodore Roosevelt
Turtle Lake
Lawrence Welk
International Peace Garden
Devils Lake



"The joy of living is his who has the heart to demand it."
Theodore Roosevelt, 1916

Answer Key: 1. Lawrence Welk 2. Devils Lake 3. Enchanted Highway 4. International Peace Garden 5. Salem Sue 6. Rugby 7. Turtle Lake 8. Theodore Roosevelt 9. Jamestown 10. Dakota