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WINTER – Suggested Yellowstone Clothing List

Unpredictability is again the watchword during Yellowstone's winter. Snow transforms and sculpts the landscape into softened uncluttered vistas, and influences everything from bison and elk survival to water for Great Plains farmers. Shortened days and temperatures that can range from 35 degrees below in the mornings to 35 degrees above in the early afternoon are part of the dynamic nature of Yellowstone in winter. The cold makes it a harsh, unwelcoming and potentially dangerous environment, necessitating appropriate preparation and clothing; the layer principle is again the ideal.

For further information go to: www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/weather.htm

Suggested Packing List

- Insulating underwear: capilene, polypropylene or wool.
- Midweight insulating layer: a light fleece or wool shirt/pullover.
- Heavyweight insulating layer: wool, down or heavy fleece jacket.
- Pants: wool or fleece snow pants. NO COTTON.
- Waterproof, windproof and breathable outer layer – jacket and pants.
- Insulating Hat that covers your ears + a neck gaiter.
- Gloves: lightweight glove liners + heavy wool/fleece gloves or mittens.
- Socks: Extra heavy winter weight expedition wool. NO COTTON.
- Gaiters: knee-high.
- Pocket hand and foot warmers.
- Insulated boots. *
- Bathing suit – in case we decide to take a dip in Boiling River or Chico Hot Springs.
- Sunscreen and Chapstick.
- Water Bottle and small thermos flask.
- Headlamp.

* Boots must have water repellent layers outside, thick insulation inside and be large enough to fit over thick socks and leave space around the toes. My winter boots are a full size larger than my summer ones. General hiking boots will not provide adequate insulation.

Tight boots are the surest way to get painfully cold feet!