



UW-NPS Research Center

RESOURCE BRIEF

Importance

The University of Wyoming-National Park Service (UW-NPS) Research Center, located at the historic AMK Ranch in Grand Teton National Park, is a field research facility. It provides researchers in the biological, physical and social sciences an enhanced opportunity to work in the diverse environments of the park and surrounding Greater Yellowstone region. One of the greatest strengths of the UW-NPS Research Center is its focus on issues vital to understanding complex interactions and human influences on regional ecosystems. Independent research efforts link water, soil, climate and geological formations to plant and animal distribution and abundance. Geologists and geophysicists find its unique setting fertile ground for research. In addition, a clearer understanding of area history is emerging through the work of historians, archeologists, cultural anthropologists and sociologists.



Berol Lodge at UW-NPS Research Center

Status and Trend

Since its inception in 1946, the UW-NPS Research Center has supported more than 600 projects resulting in approximately 1,000 published papers that have addressed the biological, physical and cultural resources of Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, and nearby national forests. Since 1984, the NPS and UW have awarded \$3.5 million for research solicited via formal requests

on topics of interest to scientists, resource managers and administrators in the NPS and the academic community. These studies have dealt with questions of applied science that have direct management importance and basic science.

Service Activity

Although research is its principle mission, the US-NPS Research Center performs an important educational role by sponsoring symposia, conferences and workshops throughout the season, and hosting several student interns co-funded with the park. In 2004, 2006, and 2009, the center and the park co-sponsored a two-day resource symposium where employees of land management agencies and research partners could learn about current research results and management applications. In 2009, the park and UW began negotiating a new agreement to guide growth in the research program and operation of the historical facilities. UW provides a resident director and staff to maintain and host researchers from late May to late September each year.



HANK HARLOW

Researcher in lab at UW-NPS Research Center

The research center also offers a weekly summer seminar series to an audience of residents, park staff and visitors. This popular evening forum provides attendees an opportunity to interact informally with researchers from around the country and learn about their regional research projects and findings in an inspiring setting on the shores of Jackson Lake.

