The GYCC Sustainable Operations Subcommittee, in partnership with Montana State University (MSU), created a guide to landscaping with less water.

**Greater Yellowstone Area Xeriscaping**

“Across the West, including the GYA, water is regarded as an incredibly valuable resource that we all share and have the responsibility to use wisely,” said Jane Ruchman, xeriscaping guide project leader. “About half of the water used during the summer, especially in urban areas, goes toward maintaining our landscaping. There is a common misconception that xeriscaping means using only cactus and rocks, however it is possible to save water and still have attractive and functional landscaping,” she said.

The guide includes methods of landscaping to conserve water, along with some suggested low water-use plants that do well in the GYA.

Photos of beautifully designed xeriscaping in the GYA may help to inspire landowners to successfully convert some or all of their landscaping to xeriscaping.

Lead authors were Jane Ruchman (Gallatin NF), Kaye Suzuki (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF) and Tracy Dougher (MSU).

**Second Annual GYCC Terrestrial Invasive Species Work Days**

Over 70 partners from around the GYA teamed up for the second annual GYCC Terrestrial Invasive Species Work Days, August 6-8, 2013.

Weed warriors from three states gathered in the majestic Beartooth Mountains of Montana and Wyoming. Crews covered nearly 10 miles of river banks, 10 miles of power line routes and about 5 miles of forest trails and roads.

In addition to treating the usual suspects, crews found several unexpected weeds:
* The first roadside infestation of common tansy alongside the Beartooth Highway.
* The first detection of absinth wormwood along the Upper Clark’s Fork River.
* The first known occurrence of tall buttercup in the Cooke City area of Montana.

“This event surpassed all of our expectations,” said Josh Shorb, an event host and Park County Wyoming Weed and Pest Control District supervisor. “I’d like to sincerely thank all the volunteers and agencies who participated in this project. It was an amazing effort from everybody.”
GYCC Subcommittee – Fire Management Advisory Group (FMAG)

The GYA Fire Management Advisory Group (FMAG) is the longest standing GYCC subcommittee. It initially formed between the NPS and USFS after the 1988 fire season illuminated the need for improved coordination on fire management issues.

In 1990, the team developed an interagency fire management planning and coordination guide (updated as needed). USFWS and BLM now participate. Current Chair is Scott Schuster, Custer NF.

The fire managers meet before and after each fire season to:
- Coordinate fire management planning within the GYA.
- Review fire resources and fire fighting capability among members.
- Keep current on emerging issues.

The fire managers hold weekly conference calls in the fire season to identify firefighting and fire supervision resources that could be shared or are in short supply; inform members of fire danger trends; inform members of wildfire related social and political issues that may affect multiple units; and keep one another informed of GYA fire activity.

The FMAG catalyzed development of long standing relationships among GYA fire managers, a key to successfully planning for and managing GYA wildfires. Each year several wildfires burn across multiple jurisdictions with a coordinated strategy and tactical response.

GYCC Funded Project - Remote Operated Web-linked Cameras

The GYA includes the most remote areas in the lower 48 states. Wildfire detection, long-duration fire management and monitoring protected area closures often require helicopters or snow-machines to access isolated areas. This equipment can be expensive to use, exposes people to risk, impinges sensitive soundscapes and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

Webcams can give managers a view into these landscapes while saving time, personnel exposure, fuel, and carbon emissions. The Bridger-Teton NF is developing a network of permanent and temporary remotely operated web-linked cameras. This technology allows the operator to change the camera view from the office and stream live video over a website. The Forest is using webcams to monitor fire activity, wildlife and area closures.

In summer 2012 with two cameras, the Forest estimates it saved about 50 hours of helicopter flight time, reduced exposure for pilots and fire personnel, saved $46,750, saved 1,750 gallons of jet fuel, and avoided approximately 18.5 tons of CO2 emissions.

Keeping up with GYA People

Moving On
Dave Myers recently transferred from Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Supervisor to Forest Supervisor of the Shasta-Trinity NF in Redding, CA. Tim Garcia is acting BDNF Forest Supervisor.

Chuck Mark, previous Beaverhead-Deerlodge Deputy Forest Supervisor was promoted to Forest Supervisor of the Salmon-Challis NF in Salmon, ID.

Jacque Buchanan moved from Bridger-Teton Forest Supervisor to USFS Region 2 Regional Director of Renewable Resources in Golden, CO.

New Faces
The National Elk Refuge welcomed new Deputy Manager Cris Dippel in June. Cris had managed a National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Colorado and Utah comprised of Browns Park and Ouray national wildlife refuges and the Colorado River Wildlife Management Area.

Delissa Minnick is new BLM Cody Assistant Field Office Manager; in place of recently retired Fred McDonald. Delissa comes from the BLM Wyoming State Office.

New USFS District Rangers include Ron Schlader at Dubois, ID (Caribou-Targhee NF), Rob Hoelscher at Big Piney, WY (Bridger Teton NF) and Susan Stressor North Zone in Cody, WY (Shoshone NF).

New Committee Chairs
GYA Wildlife Biologists have formed a subcommittee. Its first leaders are Chair Tammy Fletcher (Caribou-Targhee NF) and Vice-Chair Diane Probasco (Shoshone NF).

Thank you to outgoing Chair Tobin Kelley (Bridger-Teton NF) of the GYA Fire Management Advisory Group.
Meet the GYCC Managers - Clint Kyhl, Bridger-Teton NF

Clint Kyhl joined the Bridger-Teton NF in late July 2013 as Forest Supervisor. He previously served as Deputy Forest Supervisor from the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in north-central Washington. Clint started working for the USFS in 1983, soon after graduating from Iowa State University where he got a degree in Forest Resource Management. He has worked on national forests in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and Washington state. He held positions as a Forester, District Ranger and as Incident Commander for the Bark Beetle Incident Management Team in northern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. Clint Kyhl is married to Sharon Kyhl, who has also served in a variety of USFS positions. Both of their two grown sons attended the University of Wyoming. Clint is looking forward to getting to know the GYA and getting involved with the GYCC.

Publications, Plans, Reports and Web Tools

The Climate Analyzer: Greater Yellowstone

Make custom graphs and tables with weather data updated every 24 hours.

Data Sources
- National Weather Service COOP Network
- Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS)
- NRCS Snow-Telemetry (SNOTEL)
- USGS Stream Gage

The GYA Climate Explorer

Downscaled climate change data for the GYA


Web tool prepared by Walking Shadow Ecology.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

- October 7-8, 2013. GYCC Whitebark Pine Subcommittee meeting in Moran, WY.
- October 8-10, 2013. GY Trumpeter Swan Working Group meeting in Lakeview, MT.
- October 22-23, 2013. GYCC Terrestrial Invasive Species Subcommittee meeting in West Yellowstone, MT.
- October 23-24, 2013. GYA Aquatic Invasive Species Cooperative meeting in West Yellowstone, MT.
- October 28, 2013. GYCC Climate Change Adaptation Subcommittee video meeting.
- November 4-6, 2013. GYCC Managers executive retreat in Bozeman, MT.
- November 6-7, 2013. Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (YES) Grizzly Bear meeting in Bozeman, MT.
- November 6, 2013. GYCC Wildlife Subcommittee meeting in Bozeman, MT.

GYCC / Subcommittee Meeting Information is posted as available at: http://www.fedgycc.org/gycc_meetingsandevents.htm
The GYCC was formed to pursue opportunities of mutual cooperation and coordination in the management of core federal lands within the GYA.

The GYCC includes federal land managers from national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and BLM managed lands across the GYA.

Together, these agencies manage 15 million acres of federal land in the largest, essentially intact natural area in the lower 48 states.

**Roles and Members of the GYCC and IGBC/YES**

The GYCC and the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee (YES) of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) share many members and meet consecutively at their twice yearly meetings. To help explain recurrent questions about the role and membership of each coordinating group, the diagram outlines each group and highlights common members in red.

**IGBC: Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee**

*Help ensure recovery of viable grizzly bear populations and their habitats in the lower 48 States.*

**GYCC: Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee**

*Facilitates cooperative federal land management in the GYA.*

**GYCC: Park Superintendents, Forest Supervisors, BLM District/Field Office Managers, USFWS Refuge Managers**

**GYCC Subcommittees**

*Advance priority ecosystem issues.*

**YES: Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee**

*Help ensure recovery of the grizzly in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.*

**GYCC Park Superintendents, Forest Supervisors, BLM District/Field Office Managers**

US Fish and Wildlife Service; ID, MT, WY
U. S. Geological Survey, IGBST Leader
Fish and Game Regional Supervisors; ID, MT, WY
Shoshone Bannock Tribes
Shoshone & Arapahoe Tribes
Idaho County Commissioner
Montana County Commissioner
Wyoming County Commissioner