

WILSON,

continued from Page B1

Time for the big blow. We join a couple hundred of our "newest best friends" and try to get that "best photo of the day."

Our drive home is as beautiful as it was earlier, more bison, more water fowl.

Our next day's visit is the 'must see' Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone.

A beautiful complex has been built to help educate the public about these too often misunderstood—but magnificent—species.

Two large outdoor facilities—landscaped buy an Oregon company—have been designed for each species' native habitat. Visitors have ample opportunities to observe both species.

Some interesting studies have taken place with the grizzlies. Over the years, bears breaking into garbage cans in parks has been a major problem. So, they bring in different prototypes to observe bears

trying to tear into them. Bear-proof models are the result.

A camping cooler is being tested today. We watch as a bear sits down, pulls the cooler over and carefully inspects it. He uses his claws to try several seams. He gives up, and a powerful swat sends it flying.

Another interesting program to stimulate the bears involves grade school children. They hide the bear's food for the day. Kids can then watch the bears search for the food.

In the wolf facility a video shows how a collard female, and her pack, chase down elk and bison in deep snow.

Our final day will be to look for different species of wildlife. We head north to Mammoth Hot Springs and the animal-rich Lamar Valley.

It will be a long day. The ladies pack a lunch.

Armed with cameras and binoculars, we get an early start. We have been warned we will experience five miles of construction and 30 minute delays.

We get off to a good start. As we climb in elevation, we are driving through heavy timber and road side snow 3-4

feet deep. Here comes seven or eight bison plodding down the middle of the road, three cars patiently following, hoping to pass. No way are these critters going to hit that heavy snow just for a measly car.

We stop and they pass by, literally two feet from our car.

In Yellowstone you rarely have to spot wildlife. Look for brake lights, people jumping out of cars and scrambling for cameras and optics. Just try your best not to get hit by a car, or a wide-eyed tourist trying to walk and view through the lens of an iPhone at the same time.

Our first mad scramble is two huge grizzlies in a meadow, mowing down grass at a good, safe distance of 200 yards.

Mammoth Hot Springs is a little village nestled in the north central part of the park, offering all the amenities visitors need.

Here elk simply take advantage of the green grass and shade to nap and chew their cud.

Main attraction is the Mammoth Hot Springs terrace. Mineral-laden hot water

from deep beneath the earth's crust finds its way to the earth surface and builds tier upon tier of cascading stone. Thousands of gallons of water well up and deposit large amounts of travertine daily. Consequently, the surface is ever growing and changing colors. A network of elevated walkways provides up-close points for observation.

From Mammoth we head for the wildlife-rich Lamar Valley.

In the vast reaches of this valley, bison are counted by herds rather than individually. Lush grasslands are fed by countless snow-fed streams. Rolling hills form stair steps to rugged timber/snow covered peaks. Ideal wildlife habitat.

We keep searching bison herds for babies. Finally we find one, then another and another. They seem to pop out of the sagebrush, but they are 100 yards away. Jo and Ron keep trying to zoom in for shots.

Calves do not look like the adults at all. A fuzzy, reddish-brown coat is nothing like the shaggy black coats of their

parents. These little guys are only a day or so old. Legs are wobbly. They take a few steps and flop down in a cloud of dust.

The herd begins to move toward the road below us. We move to intercept them. Before long we have bison in front of us, behind us, walking by within a few feet on each side. They never even look at us. So much for the "Keep 100 yards away from bison." We feel somewhat secure in our vehicle.

Jo and Ron are experiencing a photographer's dream. Jo captures a baby getting dinner. Ron catches one in midair in its clumsy attempt to cross a small creek.

Further down the road, another small crowd. Spotting scopes are mounted as they search a rocky point across the canyon.

"Wolf den," the friendly young lady excitedly explains, but our binoculars are not powerful enough to locate them. "Come look through the scope," the nice young man offers. "Between those

two trees. Two of them sitting there."

We strain to distinguish the two forms. Heat waves, distance, and not high quality optics, make it difficult.

We thank them for sharing and move on.

Further down the valley, more clusters of cameras and optics. A herd of record book Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, a trophy buck antelope, then a monster bull elk with velvet-covered antlers just beginning to branch.

We pause at a spectacular viewpoint of the valley. A raging river is pouring through a narrow chute below. We are in awe of this majestic creation of nature that has been preserved forever for visitors to enjoy.

Today, Mother Nature has given us the kind of day we have dreamed about.

We have seen and photographed the wildlife we hoped for. We have a 90-mile drive back to town. We have had a great day.

It's time to leave Yellowstone as a special memory.

DOUTT,

continued from Page B1

"It meant a lot to me," Doutt said. "It was one of my big goals in the back of my mind all season and I was super excited when I got it. I couldn't have done it without my teammates and my coaches throughout the years. I'm super thankful for my parents for supporting me throughout the years and coaching me and both of the coaches (Derick Handley and Elizabeth Doran) I had in high school did a lot to help me to get to where I am and I definitely wouldn't be the athlete that I am without them. It showed that all the work that I put into basketball paid off and I was super excited that other people noticed."

The highlight of the season came when Doutt hit a jump shot at the buzzer to win 30-29 at Forest Grove.

"It was a stack play and I was actually supposed to go more towards the basket," Doutt said. "People were supposed to set screens but I read the play and I went to the opposite side of the hoop because no one was over there and my teammate set a really good screen and the girl wasn't able to get around it at all. I got a really quick shot off and luckily it went in. I thought it was going to be short when I released it and I was freaking out but everyone

screamed and jumped up and it was crazy. The adrenaline rush was crazy. I was in shock for forever and I couldn't stop smiling."

Doult's sister, Leah, a freshman on the team, threw the inbounds pass on the play.

"My family was super excited because we're a really big basketball family and my parents were super happy for us and me and my sister were screaming in the car afterwards and listening to music really loud," Doult said. "We were really pumped up. It was super exciting."

Doult then played in the Northwest Shootout, an all-star game of Oregon versus Washington's best seniors.

"I made a lot of new friends and they were all very fun and easy to get along with," Doult said. "It was a really good weekend. And it was great to play against some really good competition. I got to guard some really good players. It was a really fun experience to see what I could do and play against some really good players."

On the track, Doult finished second in the 800-meter run at the Greater Valley Conference

Championships as both a freshman and sophomore. Her best finish at state was 13th.

After a stress fracture

shortened her junior track season, Doult returned to place third in the 800 at the district meet as a senior.

Youth basketball camps June 18-21

McNary High School will host girls and boys basketball camps on June 18-21.

The boys camp, led by varsity head coach Ryan Kirch, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon for incoming third through fifth graders and from 1 to 4 p.m. for sixth through ninth graders.

Cost is \$55 and includes a camp T-shirt. Campers should be dressed in proper attire—gym shoes and athletic gear. Do not bring valuables, money or jewelry as McNary will not be responsible for lost goods.

The girls camp, led by varsity head coach Elizabeth Doran, is scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m. and open to girls entering second through ninth grade. Cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt.

Questions can be sent to Kirch at rkirch@hotmail.com and to Doran at coach.liz-doran@gmail.com.

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