



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge

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NATIONAL ELK REFUGE ANNOUNCES SUMMER SCHEDULE OF FACILITIES

Refuge Manager Steve Kallin announced today the schedule changes for public facilities on the National Elk Refuge for the 2009 summer season.

The Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, located at 532 N. Cache Street in Jackson, Wyoming, will expand its hours to 8:00 AM through 7:00 PM beginning Saturday, May 23. The multi-agency visitor center is staffed by personnel from the National Elk Refuge, Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce, Grand Teton Association, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and Grand Teton National Park. The popular facility offers a variety of displays, videos and interpretive talks as well as an extensive bookstore. The center also serves as a location to obtain area maps and visitor service information such as lodging, dining, scenic drives, and area recreational activities.

Beginning Sunday, May 24, a roving naturalist will be located on the visitor center's upper viewing deck from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily to assist with wildlife viewing and bird watching. A spotting scope, binoculars, and field guides will be provided. The roving naturalist program offers visitors an opportunity to informally visit with volunteer refuge staff and learn more about the wildlife inhabiting the area. Guests to the visitor center will also have an opportunity to learn about Jackson Hole animals at the "Feature Creature" program offered daily at 10:15 AM. The short, 15-minute presentations give glimpses into the lives and homes of some of the area's most famous wild residents. The program is free of charge; no reservations are necessary.

Sunday, May 24 also marks the 2009 summer season opening date of the historic Miller House, located approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of the National Elk Refuge entrance on East Broadway Street in Jackson. The Miller House will be open to the public from 10:00 AM through 4:00 PM daily, including weekends, through Labor Day. The Miller Ranch represents the coming together of settlement, ranching and conservation in the Jackson Hole valley. The home site and surrounding land was the first piece of property purchased for the National Elk Refuge, established in 1912. The Miller House will be showcasing several new homesteading displays this summer. Summer naturalists will be on duty daily to talk about the history of the refuge and the key role the Miller Ranch played in local conservation efforts.

For additional information about activities or services at the National Elk Refuge, please call the refuge Administrative Offices at 307.733.9212 or visit www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge.

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www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge