



## GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

### Participating Agencies

#### US Department of the Interior National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park  
John D. Rockefeller, Jr.  
Memorial Parkway  
Yellowstone National Park

#### US Fish & Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge  
Red Rock Lakes  
National Wildlife Refuge

#### Bureau of Land Management

#### US Department of Agriculture

##### Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge  
National Forest  
Bridger-Teton National Forest  
Caribou-Targhee National Forest  
Custer National Forest  
Gallatin National Forest  
Shoshone National Forest

##### Chair

Dan Wenk

##### Executive Coordinator

Virginia Kelly

## Interagency News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**—July 12, 2013

Media Contacts: Leona Rodreick, (406) 683-3984, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest  
Lori Iverson, (307) 733-9212, National Elk Refuge

### New Xeriscaping Guide Available for Landowners

Bozeman, MT – The Sustainable Operations Subcommittee of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC), in partnership with Montana State University (MSU) is releasing a guide to xeriscaping for those interested in landscaping their property in ways to conserve water.

The GYCC asked the Sustainable Operations Subcommittee to develop practical and achievable actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as ways to conserve water. One of the actions identified to accomplish both was xeriscaping. Two subcommittee members partnered with the MSU Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology to create a handbook tailored specifically to the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) that can be used by landowners, nurseries, garden shops, realtors or anyone who wants to landscape in a way that will use less water. 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.

“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, project leader for the xeriscaping guide and landscape architect for the Gallatin National Forest. “About half of the water that is 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 free guide is available online at

<http://www.fedgycc.org/documents/GYA.XeriscapeGuide.pdf>.

The 62 MB brochure may be printed out double sided for easy reference and use. Also at 12 p.m. on Wed. July 17, there will be an informal public presentation and discussion of the guide at the MSU Bozeman Area Research and Teaching Farm, accessed from Garfield Street on the west side of the Bozeman campus. Some of the landscapers who contributed photographs for the guide may be present and attendees will be able to see the MSU test plots with various low water-use turf grasses and perennials.

“Ultimately this guide promotes the wise use of our water resources and that benefits all of us in the long run,” said Ruchman. For more information about the guide, contact Ruchman at (406) 587-6966.

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## **ABOUT THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING**

**COMMITTEE:** The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) includes federal land managers from national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management’s National System of Public Lands across the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA): the largest, essentially intact natural area in the lower 48 states. Together, these agencies manage 15 million acres of federal land. The committee was formed to pursue opportunities of mutual cooperation and coordination in the management of core federal lands within the GYA. Participating federal land managers administer three national parks (Yellowstone, Grand Teton & John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway), two national wildlife refuges (National Elk Refuge, Red Rock Lakes), six national forests (Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Shoshone, Custer, Gallatin, and Beaverhead-Deerlodge), and Bureau of Land Management – administered lands in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Information about the GYCC and links to member agency websites are available at:

<http://www.fedgycc.org/>

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