

PRESS RELEASE

Tri-State Recreation, Parks and Trails Conference Set For October 6-9

Professionals, advocates, volunteers and businesses from Montana, Idaho and Wyoming will meet October 6 - 9 in West Yellowstone, Montana for the Tri-State Parks, Recreation and Trails Conference at the Holiday Inn West Yellowstone. The conference is sponsored by the Montana Recreation and Parks Association, Idaho Recreation and Parks Association, Wyoming Recreation and Parks Association and with assistance from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

The theme: *Parks, Pathways and Partnerships* will feature opening keynote addresses by the state park directors from Montana, Idaho and Wyoming; and representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and National Park Service. They will discuss the status of recreation, parks and trails programs during the current economic recession and discuss alternatives for enhancing programs and building partnerships.

Confirmed sessions include a Nature Deficit Disorder Workshop, best practices in recreation resource planning, skate park design and management, accessibility standards, vandalism and park law enforcement, bicycle and OHV safety education, safe routes to schools and share the road programs, economic impacts and travel planning. Additional presentations and field trips will round out the conference. Exhibitors will be on hand displaying the latest technology and trends in park and recreation equipment and services. Don't miss this conference if you want information about the latest information on trends, future outlook for parks and recreation, and what you can do to achieve long-range program stability and enhancement!

"People from across the region who are interested in developing and maintaining parks, recreation and trails programs at the local, state and national levels won't want to miss this opportunity to learn and share together," said Doug Habermann, President of Montana Recreation and Parks Association. "Park, recreation and trails professionals, planners, engineers, landscape architects, consultants, advocates and the general public will benefit."

Registration for the conference begins in April. For a copy of the *Call For Presentations*, go to the Montana Recreation and Parks Association web page at www.mtrpa.info/ or for more information contact Bob Walker at 406-933-5326, or email mttrails@bresnan.net.