

2011 Wyoming Toad Field Volunteers

The Service is very appreciative of everyone from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and other organizations that have volunteered to help us with Wyoming toad monitoring again this summer. We are looking forward to a very productive and fun week in beautiful Wyoming. The following provides information about housing facilities, travel, and “what to bring.” If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jan McKee or Jason Palmer at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wyoming Field Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming at:

Office Phone : Jan McKee (307) 772-2374, Ext 242
Jason Palmer (307) 214-1766
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Cheyenne, WY 82009

Mortenson Lake Field Sessions

July 18 to July 22 (SSP meetings on 7/21 and 7/22)
Sign-up deadline: June 13, 2011
August 15 to August 19, 2011
Sign-up deadline: July 8, 2011

Field sessions will be Monday through Friday and the applicant must commit to the entire session. There will be only one training day for each session; Monday. Those who do not attend the training and were not trained last field season will not be able to participate in the surveys. We need a minimum of 10 surveyors and a maximum of 14 surveyors for each survey block to efficiently conduct the surveys.

The Buford Foundation lodging will be open on Monday morning. Those arriving on Sunday will need to stay in a motel in Laramie or Centennial on Sunday evening.

Housing Facilities: The Buford Foundation

Volunteers for the 2011 Wyoming toad field seasons in July and August can use the Buford Foundation facilities. Every summer, the foundation invites children from the Omaha area to attend Camp Confidence wilderness camps. Professionals skilled in managing young people and wilderness experiences direct the camps. The Foundation has been kind enough to invite our volunteers to stay at their facilities. The following are a few photos of the Foundation.







As you can see, The Buford Foundation is a beautiful location in the wilds of Wyoming's Laramie Mountains. The Foundation is located approximately 25 miles west of Laramie, Wyoming. The Buford Foundation Facilities have a house with coed, dormitory-like, sleeping arrangements (sleeps 14) with a common living room area, a kitchen, and bathroom with shower facilities. The kitchen is fully stocked with cooking and eating utensils, a stove for cooking, and a small refrigerator. There is a washer and dryer for laundry, but the dryer is kind of small, so you might have to dry in small batches or hang things out to dry.

Please call Jason Palmer (jason_palmer@fws.gov) to sign up for a volunteer survey session.

Once your place on a survey team has been confirmed, you will be sent a Volunteer Service Agreement form which will need to be completed before you arrive (FAX # 307-772-2358).

Because of the coed nature of the lodging at the Buford Foundation, no one under 18 can stay at lodge.

Things to Bring to Wyoming

Sleeping Bag or linens and pillow

Towels, wash cloth

Sun Protection (sun screen, hat, sunglasses, appropriate clothing)

Warm clothing (layers), it's been known to get pretty cold and even snow during surveys. The elevation is around 8,000 feet.

Rain gear

Field Boots (Irrigation/Wellingtons) note: check with us, we may be able to provide boots

Insect Repellent (and lots of it). Products containing DEET are most effective.

Small back pack or large fanny pack

Water bottle or camel back drinking system

Cameras/Cell Phones/GPS Units

Avid Pit Tag Readers (if your institution has one we can use)

We will provide water and coolers for lunch. If you would like to camp out, there are areas at the Buford Foundation where tents can be set up. You'll need to bring your own camping gear.

Food

Volunteers will need to provide their own food. Food can be purchased at Centennial, Wyoming (about 5 miles from Buford) or Laramie (about 25 miles from Buford). It is likely that Centennial will not have a large selection of food items, but snacks, etc. are available there. Laramie has several grocery stores.

Field Work

Field work will include visual encounter surveys for Wyoming toads and other associated field tasks. Training for survey methods will be provided by the field crew on the first day. As you can see from the photos, the terrain is fairly flat with low-growing vegetation and physical exertion required is low to moderate. There are no large hills, mountains, or slopes to climb, but please keep in mind that Buford is at 8,000 feet and those who live at lower elevations may move a little slower and it could take a day or two to adjust to the altitude.

Travel to Cheyenne and the Buford Foundation

Volunteers can fly into Denver International Airport (DIA) and catch a shuttle to Cheyenne, or rent a car and drive to Laramie, or fly into Denver and connect to a flight to Laramie. At present, there are no shuttles from DIA to Laramie. At this time, there appears to be only one shuttle with service from DIA to Cheyenne; SuperShuttle. Shuttle schedules vary so please check www.SuperShuttle.com for schedules and fares. If you choose to shuttle to Cheyenne, you will need to contact the Wyoming Field Office so that we can arrange for someone to drive you to Laramie when you arrive and get you back to Cheyenne for the shuttle back to DIA.

Maps

If you would like to see more information about the surrounding area, you can search Google Earth for Centennial, Wyoming. The Buford Foundation is about 5 miles east of Centennial.