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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Bikes. Babes. Beauty.

Spring 'tis the Season to Experience West Yellowstone's Bike Trails and Wildlife

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT, May 23, 2007 – Bikes, babes, beauty isn't a slogan for a motorcycle tour, although riding a chopper is certainly one of the many ways to experience West Yellowstone in spring. Lodging deals are as abundant as wildflowers this time of year, ski trails are being converted to mountain biking trails and wild animals are giving birth to their young.

West Yellowstone is home to hundreds of miles of single-track mountain bike trails, which is a great alternative to experience the region's beauty. Cyclists may enjoy 'the block,' a 64-mile loop which travels through two states, over two mountain passes and winds around three lakes. The Rendezvous Ski Trails, accessible right from West Yellowstone, are also open to cyclists and mountain bike enthusiasts.

"West Yellowstone is a gateway to Yellowstone National Park, which provides habitat for protected species like grizzlies and trumpeter swans." says Marysue Costello, West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce director. "Spring visitors really enjoy seeing our newborn 'babes,' like bison, bear, elk and deer. And, it is not yet commonly known that the park's west entrance is now open to motor vehicles."

A mother black bear has been seen raising her two cubs in the Tower area of the park while bison calves born this spring are growing and are beginning to frolic in Yellowstone's meadows. "While seeing the baby animals is exciting, for safety reasons it is important for visitors be cautious," says Costello. "Keeping your distance not only helps you stay safe, it allows you to observe the animal's natural activities."

Bald eagle nests can be seen in tall trees near the water around 'Quake Lake, only 21 miles from West Yellowstone. Bighorn sheep have recently given birth and a herd of ewes and lambs can often be observed along the roadway through the Madison River Canyon to the Earthquake Visitors Center. Moose, pronghorn antelope, elk and their babies are common near the town of West Yellowstone.

West Yellowstone's wildflowers are starting to bloom. Hikers will enjoy wearing out their boots on more than 1,100 miles of wilderness trails accessible from West Yellowstone. Blossoming monkey flowers, baneberry, columbine, clematis, and larkspur can be found in May, June, and July. Fishing season for most of the park begins on May 31, 2007. Anglers are cautioned to bring a heavy line to fish the Madison River, a blue-ribbon trout stream located just fourteen miles from West Yellowstone.

Winter and summer are the heaviest seasons for tourism, so visitors should consider a spring vacation or even just a weekend visit to West Yellowstone in the next month. For information on lodging, tours of Yellowstone and recreation outside of the park, contact the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce at 406.646.7701 or visit www.destinationyellowstone.com. To view a map that shows the location of West Yellowstone's baby animals, visit <http://www.nps.gov/yell/playourvisit/upload/Yell259.pdf>

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