



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2006 06-16

Joan Anzelmo/Jackie Skaggs
(307) 739-3415 or 739-3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Second Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship Awarded

Grand Teton National Park and the Grand Teton Natural History Association are pleased to announce that Ericka Pilcher, graduate research assistant at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, received the Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship for 2006. Pilcher is the second recipient of an Evison Fellowship. She plans to use her award to initiate research study on managing natural soundscapes in national parks.

Protecting natural soundscapes is a goal set forth by the NPS. Through management policies, the Service preserves natural soundscapes and restores degraded soundscapes to natural conditions wherever possible. In order to manage soundscapes in national parks, scientifically credible and standardized approaches are essential. The purpose of Pilcher's research project is to develop reliable standards for measuring, maintaining and managing natural sounds in Grand Teton National Park. Pilcher plans to identify sounds heard by visitors at specific park locations, evaluate their reactions to natural and adverse sounds, and develop indicators to set standards for both quality soundscapes and visitor experiences.

The Evison Fellowship was established in memory of Boyd Evison after his death in October, 2002. Evison retired in 1994 from an exemplary 42-year career with the National Park Service (NPS) and soon after began a second career as executive director for the Grand Teton Natural History Association (GTNHA), a non-profit – and primary – park partner dedicated to aiding interpretive, educational, and research programs for Grand Teton National Park.

The Evison Fellowship was created to honor Boyd's extensive and dedicated service to both the NPS and GTNHA. The goal of the fellowship is to encourage scientific and conservation-related research in national parks. It invites highly motivated, graduate students to conduct research within Grand Teton and the Greater Yellowstone Area; and it supports study leading to a master's or Ph.D. degree in the biosciences, geosciences or social sciences. Upon program completion, the Evison Fellow will provide a copy of his/her thesis to GTNHA.

Evison Fellowships may provide tuition assistance and a yearly stipend to cover travel and field research costs. Grand Teton offers housing and office space for students during field sessions. To inquire about applying for a Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship, or to donate funds toward this program, please contact Jan Lynch, executive director, Grand Teton Natural History Association at P.O. Box 170, Moose, Wyoming, 83012.

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