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The Evolution of Problem-solving Abilities in Carnivores: Badgers and Bears to Snow Leopards and Spotted Hyenas”

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**University of Wyoming – National Park Service
2015 Harlow Summer Seminars at the AMK Ranch**

THURSDAY, JULY 30th 2015, 5:30pm

***“The evolution of problem-solving abilities in carnivores:
Badgers and bears to snow leopards and spotted hyenas”***

**Sarah Benson-Amram, Assistant Professor
University of Wyoming**

How do you give a hyena an IQ test? How do you design an IQ test that is fair for both a 1-pound dwarf mongoose and an 850-pound polar bear? In this talk, Dr. Sarah Benson-Amram will discuss her attempts to solve these problems. Specifically, this talk will summarize several research projects: one study that investigated whether wild spotted hyenas can count the number of intruders in their territory, a second project that examined whether wild and captive spotted hyenas can solve a puzzle they have never seen before and identified what distinguished successful from unsuccessful individuals, and a third project that investigated the problem-solving abilities of 43 species of carnivores in zoos and asked whether a species' brain size predicts its ability to solve a novel problem.



Barbecue at 5:30 with hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, chips, salads and dessert for a \$5 donation. The talk starts at 6:30 in the historic Berol Lodge at the AMK Ranch. Turn right when entering Leek's Marina parking lot in Grand Teton National Park. Reservations not required.