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# Invisible Boundaries: The Greater Yellowstone Elk Migration Project

Joe Riis

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

**THURSDAY, JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2015, 5:30pm**

***“Invisible Boundaries:  
The Greater Yellowstone elk migration project”***

**Joe Riis, Wildlife Photojournalist, and  
National Geographic Contributing Photographer**

Each spring in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), thousands of elk migrate from far-flung winter ranges in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, to high-elevation summer ranges in Yellowstone National Park (YNP). Migratory elk link the ecosystem's outermost lands to the core wilderness. Their abundance sustains diverse carnivores and scavengers, attracts tens of millions of dollars to local economies, and inspires national and global conceptions of the beloved YNP wilderness. These migrations define the GYE, both ecologically and culturally. But the elk migrations of the GYE are remarkably poorly known, even as they face a growing array of ecological changes and conservation challenges. This project is a partnership between wildlife photojournalist Joe Riis and ecologist Arthur Middleton to uncover, study, and promote the trans-boundary conservation of GYE migrations. By reaching beyond the scientific process to reveal the lives of migrating animals, this project encourages the public to re-imagine the GYE as a fully migratory ecosystem -- and with the GYE as a global stage, encourages all nations to see their parks and protected areas as profoundly dependent upon lands and communities far beyond their boundaries. In this seminar, Riis will share pictures and stories from this on-going field project.



***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.***