Thematic Map Design and the Atlas of Yellowstone

James E. Meacham, University of Oregon

jmeacham@uoregon.edu

The recently published Atlas of Yellowstone is the first comprehensive atlas of a U.S. national park, and provides a data rich, authoritative reference volume for the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) including Grand Teton National Park. The atlas contains hundreds of maps, images, and data graphics. The atlas uses a wide variety of thematic mapping and graphing methodologies, ranging from raster hydrographs to visualize 100-years of daily flows, to kernel density techniques for portraying wolf pack distributions and conflicts, to temporal small multiples to understand variations in long-term climate change. This presentation will cover the breadth of design approaches used to communicate the remarkable diversity, complexity, richness, and global importance of the mountainous Yellowstone region. The Atlas of Yellowstone serves to educate the public, inform park staff, and help build a constituency for the park through its persuasive blend of science and art. In addition, examples from an off-shoot project of current research work on the representation of ungulate wildlife migration patterns in the GYA and Wyoming will be presented.