Handout H01-1. Reading “Yellowstone in the Afterglow”

Name: ___________________

Instructions: Please use “Yellowstone in the Afterglow” by Mary Anne Franke to answer the following questions in complete sentences.

“A Tale of Two Fires” and “Fire as an Ecological Event”

1. Define each of these terms as it is used in the article: millennium, alleged, subterranean, intrinsic.

2. What are the “two fires” that the author discusses?

3. The author suggests that people should think of Yellowstone as a place that is always changing. What is one of her examples of things that may change?

4. How did most of Yellowstone’s wildlife respond to the fires?

5. What does the author think is the main reason to accept the presence of fires in Yellowstone?

“Fire as a Human Experience”

1. Define each of these terms as it is used in the article: futile, repository, feasible, mission.

2. What were the two conflicting messages (“mixed smoke signals”) that park managers sent during the fires?

3. What did the firefighting efforts accomplish?

4. Describe two of the hardships for people that the fire caused.

5. Why does the author say that it is not logical to eliminate fires?

“Yellowstone in the Year 2000”

1. Define each of these terms as it is used in the article: proximity, aptness, trifling, gateway.

2. The author suggests that the fires were not as “cataclysmic” as other events in Yellowstone. Describe the example she gives.

3. What are dead trees good for?

4. How did the numbers of park visitors change during the year of the fires (1988) and afterward?

5. When this article was written, how were Yellowstone’s managers handling lightning-caused fires?

“The Debate Continues”

1. Define each of these terms as it is used in the article: prescription burn, hazardous fuels, conflagration, incompatible.

2. Describe the first big fire in the West during the year 2000.

3. What was one criticism of government fire management at the end of the summer of 2000?

4. Why does the author consider fires important to Yellowstone?

5. What is the “one indisputable benefit” of the 1988 fires?

“Yellowstone’s Clouded Crystal Ball”

1. Define each of these terms as it is used in the article: quantifiable, runoff, fire breaks, debris flows.

2. How could large fires cause flooding? Have the 1988 fires caused this in Yellowstone?

3. How could large fires cause another “big fire season” in Yellowstone after 1988? Did this happen?

4. What kinds of trees are growing in the areas burned by the 1988 fires?

5. How have people’s attitudes toward wildland fire changed since the 1988 fires?