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# Bob Watson Photography

*Reflecting The Spirit of Nature*

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## *September 1, 2024 Newsletter - No. 153*

You may access all 153 of my Monthly Newsletters by clicking on my Blog.

## SPRING IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

## (Click On Any Image To Enlarge)

Grand Sunset in the Spring at Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

The sun sets on the Snake River and Grand Tetons

Last view of the sun before dipping behind the Grand Tetons, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

This past spring, I visited Grand Teton National Park (“the Tetons”). I ‘ve explored and photographed in the Tetons a couple times before, but never in the spring. This spring, I was there on 5/11 through 5/15. My intent was to go early enough to still have plenty of snow on the mountains, and I wasn’t disappointed. Most snow in the valley had melted, but the amount of snow on the mountains and foothills was amazing, and for the most part, all lakes were

still frozen.

My last visit to the Tetons was in autumn of 2015. I published 2 previous Monthly Newsletters (No. 47 and 48) relating to that trip. If you would like, you may view them at the following links:

No. 47

No. 48

The iconic Tetons are unmistakable majestic mountains. The scenes with the nearby lakes and rivers make these mountains some of the most photographed in the World. Fortunately, I've photographed in the Tetons enough that my photographs warrant their own Gallery on my website. You may view my entire Gallery of the Tetons at the following link:

Grand Teton National Park Gallery

I truly loved being in the Tetons early in the spring. There was only one lodging inside the National Park that was opened when I arrived and I stayed there in a cabin on its first night opening and throughout my stay. I had stayed there before and new the location was one of my favorites. The crowds of people that can often frequent the Tetons in other parts of the summer and fall did not exist. The weather was terrific. It got very cool at night, but many days hovered in the mid 60s. This visit was also pre-mosquito season, which can be extremely wicked as the temperatures warm. The only drawback I found was that not all roads and trails were open while I was there. The National Park Service opens these little by little and it was just too early in the season for all to be open.

I was fortunate to observe various wildlife daily, including Grizzley Bear, Bison, Moose and Elk). Surprising, were the number of Elk observed in the valley, referred to as Jackson Hole. Just outside the Tetons is the National Elk Refuge ("the Refuge"). The Refuge is 24,700 acres of grasslands, wetlands and forest conserved to support a diverse assembly of plants and animals, including large herds of Elk. Durning late spring and early summer, most Elk will follow the receding snow line up to their summer ranges in higher elevations located in the Tetons and Bridger Teton National Forest. From October through December, deepening snow pushes them down from their summer ranges to seek food and shelter at the lower elevations in the Jackson Hole part of the Refuge. Although their migration from the Jackson Hole part of the Refuge back to their summer ranges had started while I was there, hundreds of Elk were still scattered throughout the valley. I've always viewed Elk in the Tetons, but viewing this many was a real treat; however, a bit of a driving hazard near dusk.

As with each of my previous trips, I thoroughly enjoyed my photography trip to the Tetons. There is just so much beauty to behold, one's senses are on overload the entire time. I've spent time there in the spring and autumn. Might a visit in the Winter be in my future?

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*Thanks for letting me share my photography with you.*

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