tists studying Yellowstone NP earthquake clusters

well, KPAX (Missoula, Mont. television), 11-4-13

ELLOWSTONE- Western Montana and Yellowstone National Park are certainly no strangers t
kes, but this summer several clusters of earthquakes were raising the eyebrows of scientists.

t summer marked an event that in many respects was normal around Yellowstone National Park
kes. But, there was one exception- the sheer number of earthquakes that shook the area.

30 small magnitude earthquakes occurred between Sept. 10 and Sept. 16 with different epicente
he park- these clusters of earthquakes are known as swarms.

ake swarm is swarm in indeed a cluster of earthquakes without one large outstandng event," Di
quake Studies at Montana Tech, Mike Stickney said

ake clusters kind of come in two flavors," he added. "One is a main shock-aftershock sequence
shock is a big earthquake followed by smaller earthquakes that typically die away with time."

m is just is a bunch of earthquakes without any outstanding earthquake. You get numerous earth
ilar magnitude in that sequence of events," Stickney said

bles that hit Yellowstone in September all into the second category. "They were actually very d
if you were looking at seismograph centered near the epicenter of those earthquakes,"Stickney
d

ould be two, three or four-minute earthquakes going off every minute. Most of those were tiny
de one or smaller earthquakes," he continued

at's more- visitors to the park may not have even known it was happening. "Depending on how e
e about the animals they might not have even noticed the earthquake," Stickney said.

that there are fairly logical explanations, and one of them isn't necessarily that Yellowstone's vo
ack to life

s good evidence to suggest that as magma, the molten rock at depth, cools, and crystallizes, it rel
water and gasses and those make their way out through fractures in the earth to the surface we s
ermal features in the park," Stickney told us