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(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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FILE NO. 207.02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

October

1942

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

November 5, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities of Yellowstone National Park for the month of October 1942:

Weather Conditions. The weather during the month was very favorable for travel but there were comparatively few visitors due to the restrictions on travel occasioned by tire and car rationing. On many of the days during the month beautiful Indian Summer weather prevailed and the storms were of short duration. From the 11th to the 16th the weather was unsettled with some rain and snow. Similar conditions prevailed on the 21st and 22nd and at the end of the month a storm was in progress which was of such proportions as to possibly result in the closing of the roads. All roads throughout the park and all entrance roads remained open and in good condition for travel throughout the month, with the exception of the northeast entrance road which was closed on October 12. This road will not reopen this year. Last year it was closed on October 1. The maximum temperature for the month was 76° on the 9th, the minimum 9° on the 29th. Total precipitation amounted to 0.64 inch. There were 13 clear days, 13 cloudy, and 5 partly cloudy.

Special Activities. The Superintendent left the park for Denver on October 10 on annual leave but while away transacted considerable business pertaining to the park and made a trip to Omaha to confer with the Regional Director. He returned to the park on the 21st. During the month trips outside the park were made on October 2 with Resident Landscape Architect Hill and FRA Engineer Bond to Moran to look over road matters; on October 7 to Cody with Messrs. Ahmert and LaNoue to confer with Mr. C. S. Rachford of the Heart Mountain Relocation Project on the allotment of elk meat to the project; on October 27 with Mr. J. E. Haynes to the Flying D Ranch south of Bozeman to confer with Mr. W. M. Nichols of the Yellowstone Park Company; and on October 30 to Billings with Mr. Joffe to attend the Dude Ranchers' Convention. He expected to return from Billings on November 1.

The regular annual meeting of the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association was held on October 1 in the office of the Park Naturalist. Due to the enlistment in the Coast Guard of Hugh Peyton, one of the Directors of the Association, District Park Ranger Frank Anderson was elected to succeed him.

The fishing season closed in the park at sundown on October 15.

The scrap metal collection work which was started in September was discontinued at the close of October due to adverse weather conditions. Approximately 220 tons of scrap were collected and hauled to Gardiner, Montana by National Park Service trucks and personnel and two W.P.A. trucks which were assigned to the park for two weeks. It was turned over to the Park County Montana Scrap Metal Salvage Committee for sorting and shipping and most of it had been shipped out of Gardiner by the close of the month. All scrap collected was from old dump grounds which had been abandoned and not obliterated, surplus salvage materials which were in storage, and from various old development sites which had been abandoned but not thoroughly cleaned up. No attempts were made to excavate and salvage scrap metals from any of the dump grounds in the park which are now in use. The Yellowstone Park Company contributed some additional 130 tons of scrap, making about 350 tons collected in the park which averaged more than a ton per person for residents of the park and is considered a record for the entire country.

Inspections. Guy Robertson, Assistant Director, Heart Mountain Relocation Project, in October 27 to look over CCC camps to be dismantled and turned over to that area. These include Cascade, Nez Perce and one of the Mammoth Camps.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. A considerable portion of the time of the engineering force during the month was given over to the scrap metal salvage program. Final field data was obtained for P.C.P. forms and the Plans on the Shelf program.

General Publicity. With the approval of the Director, the travel figures and the news story covering same were sent out to the publicity and travel mailing lists on October 14. A press release was also sent out the same date regarding the park scrap drive.

The annual report for the 1942 fiscal year was prepared in October and mailed to the Director on October 29.

General Complaints. A summary of complaints received during the season was prepared and sent to the Director on October 16. The reports showed two complaints against the high prices of cabin accommodations, one for lack of cabin accommodations, two for transportation rates, one for charges for wood, two for indifferent and discourteous treatment by employees, one for discrimination, and five miscellaneous. The number of complaints registered was considered very low, taking into account the shortage of personnel and extremely difficult operating conditions due to the war.

Road Maintenance. Section maintenance crews were reduced three during the month and completed setting of snow fences and snow stakes. A general maintenance patrol was maintained over the entire road system.

New Construction. All work contemplated for the present on Project 401, Canyon Power System, was completed during the month. Accomplishment consisted of a general cleanup around the power house, installation of the transformers and the 5,000 gallon fuel tank.

Park Operators. Hamilton's Lake store was closed on October 15 and the only remaining accommodations were at the general store at Old Faithful which continued operations until the end of the month. A small number of visitors sought meals and lodgings at the Hamilton Stores this year as compared with other years, due to the extremely light travel. The general store and gasoline filling station at Mammoth remained open throughout the month and will be open during the entire winter to take care of Mammoth residents.

Cooperating Governmental Agencies. All contract work on major road projects was closed down before the end of the month. S. A. Studer & Sons had completed their work on the West Thumb Development but the final mat had not been placed on the Old Faithful-Isa Lake section under contract to Peter Kiewit Sons' Company. PWA Engineers Cowan and Anderson left the park on October 22. Engineer Bond, the last of the PWA Engineers in the park, remained until the end of the month.

A field study of the proposed emergency landing field between Thorofare Creek and the Yellowstone River on the south boundary was made on October 29 by Assistant Chief Ranger Barrows in company with District Ranger Dana Cox of the Teton National Forest. No major improvement work is necessary for the use of this site and recommendations are being made to the Regional Office.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Four thousand eight hundred nine persons visited the park during the month of October as against 8,456 for the same month in 1941, a loss of 3,647 or -43.1%. First-entry cars showed a loss of 1,251 or -45.0% and re-entry cars showed a loss of 152 cars or -38.3%. There was a loss of 1,383 car entries, or -45.0% and a loss of 3,647 persons entering via motor vehicle, or -43.1%. One hundred eighty-eight men in uniform were admitted.

Visitors. There were no special visitors during the month.

Ranger Service. Ranger work for the month consisted of hunting patrol of park boundaries, rationing of patrol cabins with the exception of those located near public highways, and checking station work. Hunting, however, was rather light along the boundary line especially along the west boundary where cars have been used extensively in the past. The checking stations were maintained throughout the month. Due to the fact that there are thirteen vacancies in the ranger force, including two assistant chiefs, three district park rangers and eight park rangers, the protection work was greatly impaired. In addition to these men the protection force has lost the packmaster, the buffalo

herder and the assistant buffalo keeper. The latter has been on compensation for a long period and there is no prospect of his returning to duty for some time. We are attempting to fill as many of these positions as possible but it does not appear as though more than a part of these men can be replaced.

Police Protection. Two law enforcement cases were held before the United States Commissioner. One involved one person in a speeding case who was fined $10.00. The other case involved one person charged with having in his possession an unsealed firearm who was given a five day jail sentence (suspended) and the gun was ordered confiscated.

Wildlife Protection. Bears. One case of property damage and one injury by bears was reported during October. The grizzly which caused the damage was a very old female which was later trapped and shot as a control measure.

Bear injuries for the 1942 season totaled 29 and property damages totaled 118. Bears killed as control measures totaled 83. This consisted of 55 blacks and 28 grizzlies.

Coyotes. An abnormally large number of coyotes has been observed in the Mammoth community area this fall. Two deer have been killed by coyotes on the lawn in the immediate vicinity of the residences and some of the coyotes have made it a habit to frequent the community area during the daylight hours. Three of the more persistent animals were killed as a control measure and it may be necessary to remove some few additional coyotes to correct this condition.

Elk. No severe storms have occurred this fall to force a migration of elk to the lower elevations and outside the park to open hunting territory. Hunters in the Gardiner-Jardine had little success but the Gallatin area has produced a fair kill.

Following is a summary of elk and deer taken by hunters in the Northern and Gallatin areas to the end of October:

	Deer	Elk
Northern Area		
Gardiner-Jardine	25	21
Cooke		1
Gallatin Area		
Gallatin	83	75
West Yellowstone	1	15

One bull moose and one grizzly bear were killed illegally in the Jardine area.

Trail Maintenance. A trail bridge across Grevice Creek was replaced by a five man crew, October 20 to 24.

Forest Fire Protection. The Mammoth fire cache was closed October 2 and temporary personnel were terminated. Fire equipment was inventoried and the Forest Service equipment rented during the summer was shipped to Spokane, Washington October 13. Some work was done on the fire atlas during the month.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on October 5.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for Stenographer-Typist on October 27. There were two competitors.

Superintendent.

cc- Region Two Hdqtrs.