10-23
May 1929)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROBERTS	
	WRIGHT	
✓	JONES	
✓	NELSON	
	SMITH	
	MADSEN	
	STORM	
✓	LANGLEY	
	BARTONS	
	SKINNER	
	ELLIOTT	
	PARKER	
✓	Condon	
	LOWD	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

February, 1942

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 6—7410

March 4, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Director:

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

Weather conditions. Conditions during the month were about normal although there were a number of cold days and more stormy days than a year ago. About the middle of the month a cold spell occurred which lasted only three or four days, with a minimum temperature of 19° below zero recorded on the 18th. The snowfall was above normal and there was still considerable snow on the ground at Mammoth at the end of the month, whereas a year ago at the same time practically all snow around park headquarters had disappeared. All roads into the interior of the park were closed, with the exception of the section from Mammoth to the northeast entrance and Cooke, which was kept open for the benefit of Cooke and Silver Gate residents and to afford access to winter ski fields and an opportunity for winter visitors to view and photograph the wildlife.

The maximum temperature for the month was 39° on February 1 and the minimum temperature, -19° on the 18th. A temperature of 42° below zero was recorded at the south entrance on the night of the 17th. Total precipitation recorded for the month was .69 inches and the total snowfall, 6.52 inches. There were five clear days, 9 partly cloudy, and 14 cloudy days in February. On Groundhog Day, February 2, the weather was cloudy but warm.

The following tabulation shows the snow depths in inches near the close of February for a number of locations in the park over a 10-year period:

Location	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	10-year average
Buffalo Ranch	24	3	11	27	20	18	14	17	13	18	16.5
Beehler River	79	43	42	87	70	59	82	64	57	56	63.9
Northeast Entrance	41	31	20	36	40	35	38	34	16	34	32.5
Gallatin	38	20	25	36	30	32	26	18	19	30	27.5
Lake	38	20	20	38	28	40	26	31	31	34	30.6
Mammoth	12.4	0.0	6.5	20	8	7	6	8.6	2.1	7	7.8
Old Faithful	64	31	24	56	—	—	42	40	27	35	38.8
Snake River	70	41	38	76	58	44	62	49	52	43	53.3
Tower Falls	24	4	18	30	21	22	14	13	14	16	17.4
West Yellowstone	45	23	31	55	50	39	40	52	33	39	38.7

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was in Washington, D.C. most of the month on special assignment in the office of the Director. However, from January 28 to February 6 he accompanied Mr. Cable on a trip to Rapid City, South Dakota, St. Paul, Minnesota and Madison, Wisconsin on Park Operators' matters. Assistant Superintendent Emmert was acting during his absence from the park, except for the period from February 5 to 20th when he was absent on a trip to Omaha, Nebraska, Fort Marquette, Illinois and points in Missouri in connection with R.D.A. matters for the Regional Office. Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe was acting during Mr. Emmert's absence.

On February 9 all clocks and other timepieces in the park were advanced one hour, placing the park on mountain war time.

The third registration under the Selective Service Act was conducted in the park on February 16. The Superintendent's Office in the Administration Building was used for the registration and assistant to the Superintendent Joffe and District Park Ranger Evans acted as registrars. 32 persons were registered. Authority was granted by the Selective Service officials in Wyoming to register park employees at isolated stations by either radio or telephone and four persons availed themselves of this privilege in order to avoid making long ski trips to reach the registration office.

The fourth annual Montana Day celebration for the park was held on February 22. Although the occasion received sufficient publicity the crowd in attendance was very disappointing, due perhaps to the bad weather and the effect of the tire rationing on automobile travel. Only 92 cars, carrying 294 persons, were checked in at the north gate, whereas last year 558 automobiles, carrying 2300 persons, were registered. As in previous years, the Gardiner Commercial Club served hot dogs and coffee for those in attendance, using the bunkhouse at the Buffalo Ranch. Many of those who came to the park, made up mostly of persons residing in the immediate vicinity, took advantage of the excellent skiing near Undine Falls and enjoyed this winter sport. A fine display of wildlife was enjoyed by those who made the trip to the Buffalo Ranch.

February 23, the day following Washington's Birthday, which this year fell on Sunday, while officially a legal holiday, was declared by the Secretary as a work day due to the emergency.

Mr. A. F. Ingebretson, Deputy Collector, Internal Revenue Service, Helena, came to the park on February 18 and assisted park employees in the preparation of their income tax forms. This cooperation on the part of the Internal Revenue Service was very beneficial to the park people.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. No field work was accomplished during the month. Routine office work was in connection with files, study of Master Plans of proposed projects, preparation of shuttle cards,

P. C. P. forms, and the preliminary budget for road maintenance activities for the balance of the year. Two final reports were prepared during the month.

General Publicity. Several press releases were issued in connection with the Montana Day celebration, while two special articles on the park were prepared for the Special Wyoming Edition of the Casper Tribune-Herald by Messrs. Joffe and Condon.

Maintenance. General patrol maintenance was carried on in the headquarters area and on the Gardiner-Cooke section. Heavy winds with light snow made it necessary to send the plows through to Cooke five times during the month. Two days' work were required with the plows on parking areas at the Buffalo Ranch in preparation for Montana Day.

New Construction. Work continued on Project 491, Mammoth Comfort Station, with the installation of the various items of fixed equipment. Painting will be started during the coming month.

Special Improvement Activities. An average work strength of less than fifty men was available during the month, and several inclement days prohibited any accomplishment. Erection of the crushing plant below the Game Ranch was nearly completed, and the plant will probably be in operation during the coming month. Work continued with the interior finish of the employees' quarters, and a small amount of stone for the culvert headwalls below the power house was also roughed out.

Park Operators. On February 6 telegraphic advice was received from the Washington Office that the packet tour rates for the Yellowstone Park Company for 1942 were approved.

The 1942 rate schedule for Dr. Kimisor was submitted to Washington for approval on the 16th.

A meeting of park operators, scheduled to be held in Washington with the Director on February 18, was postponed until March 25. Operations for the coming summer are to be discussed and approved at this meeting.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. 768 persons entered the park during February 1942 as compared to 4,708 during the same month in 1941. The total persons entering for this travel year to date is 15,183 as compared with 18,642 for 1941, a decrease of -3,459 people or -18.6%.

248 cars entered the park in February 1942 as compared to 1,273 during February of 1941. The total cars entering for this travel year to date is 4,745 as compared with 6,276 for 1941, a decrease of -1,531 cars or -24.5%.

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Ranger Service. Ranger activities for the month consisted of: ski and snowshoe patrols to snowbound sections and boundaries of the park, boundary hunting patrols, live elk trapping and shipping operations, ranger report and entrance station manual revisions, additions to the wildlife index, special daily Mammoth area patrols, cooperative State and Federal snow course measurements, highway patrols and week-end ski field duty.

Police Protection. No law enforcement cases were held before the United States Commissioner this month.

Wildlife Protection, Ranches and Inspections. Bighorn: A bighorn lamb was found dead along the road between Mammoth and Gardiner on February 23. It is probable that this animal was struck by an automobile, although post mortem examination did not disclose any bruises or broken bones. Lungs, liver and a portion of the skin from neck and shoulders were forwarded to the Bear River Wildlife Disease Research Station for laboratory examination.

Buffalo: In mid-February rangers patrolling in the Lake district reported counting 256 buffalo in the Pelican Valley area. These animals were foraging in 30 inches of packed snow and several animals were noted to be in very poor condition.

In late January 27 buffalo were counted in the Old Faithful district and 74 in the Canyon district, principally along upper Alum Creek. These animals were in good condition.

Signs noted in all of the above areas indicated to observers that some buffalo in addition to those actually seen were wintering in the various areas.

The Lamar Valley buffalo herd is scattered rather widely from Hellroaring slopes to Cache Creek.

Feeding of buffalo in the Lamar Valley was begun on February 10, and the maximum number on the feeding grounds at any one time during the month was 323. A total of 57.5 tons of hay was fed.

Requests have been received for a total of 17 live buffalo and it is planned to fill approved requests sometime in March.

Deer: A total of 26 deer were trapped in the Mammoth elk trap and transported to the Lamar Canyon, 25 miles from Mammoth. Although somewhat difficult to handle, the animals were transplanted without serious injury, except in the case of one fawn which was trampled in the truck rack and may die. Upon release the deer remained in a group and began exploration of their new surroundings. The transplanting was undertaken as an experiment with the objective of improving the health of the animals, which were subsisting to large degree upon the Mammoth refuse and garbage dump, and to reduce

destructive browsing of landscape shrubbery in the Mammoth area. With moderation of weather conditions at the close of the month, deer began to scatter and were reluctant to enter the catching corral. It is possible, however, that a few additional deer can be corralled and removed from this locality.

Elk: Several shipments of live elk were made during the month, including two crated females which were shipped to the Jardin Zoologico de Buenos Aires, Argentina, on February 26. Elk reduction figures are not yet complete and will be subject to some revision. However, a tentative summary of reduction figures to date is given below:

Killed by hunters, plus some illegal kills and accidental deaths..... 2,061

Live Shipments

Jan. 23 - Rocky Mountain Sportsmen's Assn., Butte, Montana.....	24
Jan. 26 - Idaho Falls, (Idaho) City Park.....	1
Jan. 26 - Sheridan (Wyoming) City Park.....	3
Feb. 2 - Knowlton Sportsmen, Knowlton, Montana....	25
Feb. 4 - Rocky Mtn. Sportsmen's Assn., Butte, Montana.....	18
Feb. 9 - Rocky Mtn. Sportsmen's Assn., Butte, Montana.....	18
Feb. 12 - C. V. Barton (private park).. Merrill, Oregon.....	10
Feb. 17 - Killdeer Town Criers (Sportsmen), Killdeer, North Dakota.....	26
Feb. 26 - Jardin Zoologico, Buenos Aires.....	2
Total Live Shipments.....	127
*Grand Total Reduction to Date.....	2,188

*Does not include a number of animals accidentally killed and certain revisions which may be made in hunters' kill totals.

As reported in January, 38 elk, mostly older animals, were tested on January 22, 23 and 24, for Brucellosis infection with negative results. Dr. E. M. Quortrup of the Fish and Wildlife Service was requested to conduct further tests on February 19, but due to shortage of funds for this purpose he stated that he would be unable to do the work. Accordingly, the services of Dr. Howard Welch of the Montana State Veterinary Research Laboratory were obtained and blood samples from 48 animals were taken on February 19. Dr. Welch subsequently reported that all of these animals were negative to test, except two bull calves which showed a "hot" reaction. A check of the records revealed that these calves, identified by tags Nos. 723 and 790, had been vaccinated previously by Dr. Sudheimer and released on February 5. Records showed that two

additional calves had been tested also by Mr. Rudheimer. The animals had reentered the Gardiner trap and were retested by mistake. Thus, tests of 32 elk during this winter show only negative results.

Fish Culture: Several adjustments in the fish planting plan for 1942 have been necessary due to new arrangements being worked out by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U. S. Forest Service and the State of Montana regarding the development of fish stock to larger size and the zoning of hatchery stock from the Bozeman, Ennis and Emigrant hatcheries. As soon as necessary revisions can be completed the 1942 plan will be submitted.

Accidents. No automobile accidents were reported this month.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 265 was held on February 2.

The Mammoth mess house was closed on February 15, due to insufficient patronage and it is not expected that the operations will be resumed until there are sufficient employees in the park to pay for operating this activity.

Acting Superintendent.

cc- Region Two Headquarters.

During the past month many mule deer have been trapped in the Mammoth elk trap and trucked to the Lamar Valley where they have been released.

Photo by Condon Feb. 9, 1942

The mule deer still reigns as a favorite with all lovers of wildlife.

Photo by Condon Feb. 9, 1942