

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

✓	ROGERS	MM
✓	EMERT	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	NELSON	X 10
	SMITH	
	MAGBETH	
✓	SALE	
✓	LANSON	7
	BARROWS	MB
	SKINNER	
	ALLEN	
✓	PEYTON	
✓	BAUER	CWB
	LOID	
	ROBINSON	long

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

March, 1942

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

April 6, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

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

Weather Conditions. Weather during the month was typical for March. The first part of the month was quite warm but most of March was raw and disagreeable with the snow melting not too rapidly. However, by the end of the month much of the snow around Mammoth had disappeared.

The maximum temperature for the month was 49° on the 30th while the minimum temperature was 1° on the 20th. Total precipitation recorded was 0.35 inches. There were 12 clear days during the month, 6 partly cloudy and 13 cloudy.

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

Location	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	Average
Arctic	20	7	68	24	19	20	6	8	3	11	19.9
Arctic	71	15	61	84.1	68	91.4	49	56	40	57.5	49.2
Arctic	36	30	34	40	42	32	25	23.4	17	29	30.8
Arctic	36	18	36	36	7	7	12	10	16	24	23.6
Arctic	28	16	36	33	35	62	27	28	22	29	33.6
Arctic River											
Arctic Divide	106	7	7	7	92	104	89	87	54	45	82.4
Arctic	0	0	6.8	10.9	1.0	2.0	Drifts	0	0	0	2.0
Arctic	46	20	52	72.5	7	51	21	28	18	27	33.5
Arctic River	99	26	94	80	54	69	46	56	32	40	49.6
Arctic Falls	20	7	12	28	17	21	10	6	8	13.8	15.1
Arctic Yellowstone	42	7	41	52	39	51	23	24	30	30	40.9

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was in Washington throughout the month on a special assignment. Assistant Superintendent Swert was acting during his absence. Mr. Swert made a trip to Helena on the 19th to meet with representatives of a number of government agencies for a discussion of the various phases of the war program. He also made a trip to West Yellowstone on the 25th to look over highway conditions.

April 3, 1887

Superintendent of the State

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, very truly,
J. M. Smith

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Year	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	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Park Naturalist C. Max Bauer returned on March 9 from a special three months' assignment in Death Valley National Monument.

While the snowplows started out last year early in March to open the roads and had reached Old Faithful on the 18th and West Yellowstone on the 24th they did not start opening the highways this year until the 16th. However, the condition of the snow was such that plowing was quite easy and the plows reached West Yellowstone on the 19th and Old Faithful on the 21st. Travel was permitted over the Mammoth-West Yellowstone road on the 20th and to Old Faithful on the 23rd. The snowplows reached Canyon on the 25th and by the end of the month they were at Lake and were making ready to open the section to the east entrance. While the roads are being opened early there has been very little travel over them and it is not expected that they will receive much early travel.

The first real trial of the operation of a snowplane for travel in the park was made by Glen Simmons of the Reclamation Service on March 17. Accompanied by Park Ranger Stevens the couple made the trip by snowplane from the south entrance to Old Faithful in 2 hours and 35 minutes and were at West Yellowstone 7 hours and 15 minutes from the time of their departure. Considerable time was spent at the Old Faithful region in getting the vehicle over the dry ground.

Due to the war and the uncertainty of park travel, a meeting of operators of several of the larger parks was held with the Director in Washington on March 25. The Yellowstone was represented by W. W. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, and following the meeting on March 27 Mr. Nichols requested authority to operate only the Mammoth, Old Faithful and Canyon Hotels, the Mammoth, Old Faithful, Fishing Bridge and Canyon tourist cabins and cafeterias and the boat docks at Lake and Fishing Bridge. Authority was requested to close all of the lodges and the tourist cabins at West Thumb and Camp Roosevelt and the cafeteria at West Thumb as well as the boat operations at Thumb and Bridge Bay. The request was concurred in by Superintendent Rogers and it is expected that operations will be carried on for the summer along this line.

Inspections. Captain E. C. Luce, Superintendent of Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, was in the park from March 2 to 10; Woodrow W. Kelly, Field Examiner, 15th Civil Service District, Denver, in March 13 to investigate several former employees; Charles C. Fiske, Junior Engineer, Geological Survey, Boise, in March 14 for water gauge measurements; Frank Childs, Regional Forester, Region Two, Omaha, in and out March 16; Dr. E. R. Quortrup, Fish and Wildlife Service, Brigham City, Utah, in March 22 to test buffalo.

Status of Private Lands. On March 16 the U. S. District Judge, District of Montana, Helena, denied a motion for a new trial in the case of the U. S. vs. Roy E. Armstrong et al. involving 225 acres of land in Park County adjoining the park.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Work for the most part was of a routine office nature preparing for the coming season and bringing up to date all data on last season's work. Work in the field included topography of the Hesse Creek area on the North boundary and preparation of a general layout plan for the development of this area. Supervision of the CCC program also required a considerable amount of work in the field.

General Publicity. Several press releases were sent out during the month but we are somewhat curtailing our publicity program due to the war, the necessity for conserving mimeograph paper and stencils, and the general tendency of the public to criticize non-defense agencies in the expenditure of funds.

Maintenance. The usual patrol maintenance was carried on over the Gardiner-Cooke section and at Headquarters area. Only two trips of the snowplow were required on this section. The usual organization for snow removal on the park road system started operation on March 16. Sections open at the end of this month were Mammoth to East Yellowstone and the section from Madison to Old Faithful. Returning to Morris, the plows started toward the east side and on the last day of the month had cleared the main road to Lake and the various subsidiary and service roads in the Canyon and the lake areas. Snow depths were considerably more than last year, but conditions have been ideal so that with a two-week later start, we are still nearly a week ahead of last year's schedule of sections cleared.

New Construction. The Mammoth Museum Comfort Station was the only physical improvement project active during the month. Only small crews were intermittently at work on the project during the month, but progress was satisfactory and the Comfort Station will be ready for use for the early season.

Special Improvement Activities. With a limited work strength, fairly good progress was made on CCC projects during the month. The employee's cottage was completed with the exception of landscaping around the house and is now occupied.

Work continued at the quarry site with limited production due to frost conditions, and the crushing plant was in operation with a highly satisfactory output. Crushed surfacing material from this operation is being used on the service road through the employee residential area.

Park Operators. On March 5 our Washington Office authorized the closing of the Haynes Picture Shop in the Mammoth auto camp for the season, due to the war. A request for closing the Mammoth auto camp cafeteria and general store was made by Mrs. Pryor on March 20 and this was approved by the Director on March 31.

The 1942 approved rates for Haynes Picture Shops, Inc. was received on March 9 and for the Yellowstone Park Company on the 30th.

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Increase or Decrease in Travel. 587 persons entered the park during March 1942 as compared to 1,918 during the same month in 1941. The total persons entering the park for this travel year to date is 15,779 as compared with 20,560 for 1941 or a decrease of -4,790 people or -23.3%.

313 motor vehicles entered the park in March 1942 as compared to 805 during the same month in 1941. The total motor vehicles entering the park for this travel year to date is 5,058 as compared with 7,361 for 1941, a decrease of -2,303 motor vehicles or -31.1%.

Ranger Service. Ranger activities for the month consisted of ski and snow shoe patrol, limited highway patrols over the main park highways, special daily Mammoth area patrols, week-end ski field duty, co-operative State and Federal snow course measurements, park ranger administrative manual revisions, analysis report of traffic accidents during 1941, bison reduction by slaughter, standardization of ranger station first-aid kits, recruiting of seasonal ranger and fire guard personnel, preliminary organization plans for civilian defense, and preparation of plans to conserve all uses of motor vehicles and tires assigned to the Protection Division by limiting hours of use and maintaining reduced mileage quotas although not neglecting the increased amount of protection that the area will require.

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

Wildlife Protection and Fish Cultural Activities. Beaver. First bear tracks were reported on March 24 and 25 in two different sections of the Tower Falls district.

Bighorns. During the period March 9-12 an attempt was made to obtain a census of the bighorns. However, due to unfavorable weather conditions for counting and the fact that personnel was needed on more pressing projects, complete coverage of the bighorn range was not accomplished. Observations made during this period are set forth below as a matter of record, but the figures should be regarded as incomplete for each of the areas listed. In addition, some important sections of the bighorn range were not visited at all.

Bighorn Observations - 1942

<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>Counting Area</u>	<u>Deer</u>	<u>Antelope</u>	<u>Beaver</u>	<u>Unclassified</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mar. 6	Stevens	Snake River Sta.	2		1		3
Mar. 9	Coleman	Sect. Mt. Sverts	9	4	6		19
Mar. 9	Jay	Sect. Mt. Sverts	34	19	6		59
Mar. 9	Skinner	Mammoth-Lava Cr.			7		7
Mar. 9	Jacobson) Sewingsen)	Golden Gate			3		3
Mar. 11	Skinner) Harrons)	Mid-Specimen Ridge	7	1	1	2	11
Mar. 11	Art Olson	Duckard's Flat			1		1
" 9-12	Anderson)						
" -12	Nelson)	Tower Falls Sect.	19	8	6		33
Mar. 12	Crowell	Druid Slope	2		1		3
	TOTALS		73	32	32	2	139

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the position of the various groups of the population. It is a very good example of a general survey of a country and its people.

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Subsequent to these observations, District Ranger Frank Anderson reported seeing an additional eleven bighorns in the Tower Falls district.

Total known bighorn mortalities this winter are five. One ewe severely infested with scab mites was killed in February and skin specimens sent to laboratories for examination. On March 25 a lamb heavily infested with scab mites was killed also and the entire carcass was forwarded to the Bear River Wildlife Disease Research Station. Three animals, a female lamb and two rams found during the period February - March, all apparently died from verminous pneumonia, according to laboratory examination of lung specimens.

With the above exceptions, most of the bighorns observed this winter appeared to be in a healthy condition.

Buffalo. Plans for reducing the Lamar Valley buffalo herd by 200 animals were begun on March 6. About two weeks was required to lure the animals into corrals, to accomplish testing and vaccination for live shipments and to arrange for butchering and distribution of carcasses.

The actual butchering process was contracted for a low bid price of \$1.25 per animal and this work was begun on March 25. Butchering of the animals proceeded for the remainder of the month at the average rate of 17 per day, as compared to 11 for last year. The carcasses were trucked daily to refrigerator cars at Gardiner. At the present rate slaughter operations will be completed about April 6.

Following the disposal of carcasses, between 17 and 20 live shipments will be made.

Elk. Elk have remained widely scattered over the northern winter range, with some 1500 foraging outside the park boundaries to the north. Numerous winter mortalities were observed during the latter part of the month and many over-age animals were in poor condition. It is expected that a considerable number of deaths will occur in April and that total winter losses will exceed those of the past two years.

Fish Culture. The 1942 fish planting plan was submitted during the month.

Range Study. The 1941 range study report, prepared by Park Ranger Walter H. Cammell, was submitted in late March. This report was prepared in typewritten form only and distribution was limited to the Washington and Region Two offices.

Forest Fire Protection. Arrangements have been made to hold the civilian defense and fire school on May 18 to 23. Invitations have been extended to officials of the surrounding protective agencies to participate.

Action was taken on one small grass fire, unreportable, near the park line on the Yellowstone River. The fire was one-tenth acre in size and five CCC enrollees were used to control and mop it up.

The final draft for the Yellowstone Fire Fighting Plan and Guide has been read and approved for completion.

Accidents. Two minor automobile accidents occurred on March 26 and both involved a privately-owned vehicle and a Government-owned vehicle.

Miscellaneous. The regular meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on March 2.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for clerk-stenographer on March 10. There was one contestant.

Acting Superintendent.

cc- Region Two Headquarters.

