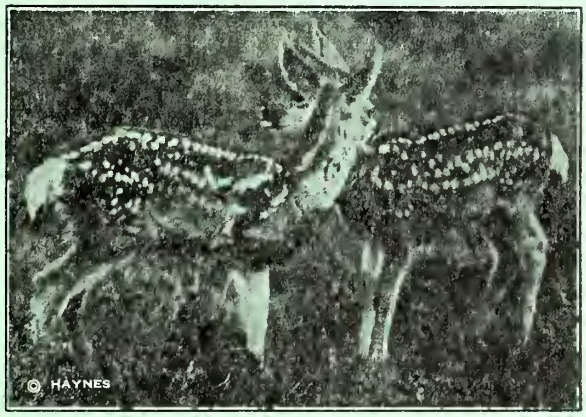
United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service

ANNUAL REPORT

1945



Yellowstone National Park

Edmund B. Rogers, Superintendent

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

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YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTHLY REPORT

For

JANUARY

1945

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

: OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 5, 1945.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of January 1945:

Weather Conditions. The unusually mild weather of December continued throughout most of January, and there was comparatively little precipitation. The same condition existed during the months of December and January a year ago, but the park experienced its heaviest snowfall during February and March. The weather at Mammoth was extremely mild and there were no long cold spells, although much colder weather and a number of snowstorms were recorded in the interior of the park. Sub-zero temperatures were recorded on only two days during the month, 4° below zero on January 20, and 7° below on the 21st. West Yellowstone reported -24° on the 27th. The light snowfall required very little road opening, but the section from Gardiner to Mammoth and Cooke was kept open throughout the month.

Total precipitation for the month was .58 inch, as against .30 inch a year ago and 3.40 inches in January 1943. The mean precipitation for January is 1.22 inches. The maximum temperature for the month was 45° on the 10th and the minimum -7° on the 21st. There were 11 clear days, 11 cloudy and 9 partly cloudy.

Snow depths for most points in the interior of the park were in excess of a year ago. A comparison of snow depths for the past 5 years at some of the points in the park at the end of the month is as follows:

Comparative Snow Depths 1941 - 1945

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Buffalo Ranch	10"	19"	30"	4"	10.5"
Bechler River	42	49	-	31	43
Cooke	-	29	54	13.9	20.7
East Entrance	-	16	-	16	20
Lewis River Divide	64	54.9	-	39.6	52
Mammoth	-	6	36	5	5
Old Faithful	20	28	93	19	20
Snake River	44	29.7	-	24	35
Tower Falls	-	13	36	11	13.5
West Yellowstone	30	29	83	12	22

(Continued on next page)

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Comparative Snow Depths 1941 - 1945 (Cont.)

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Sportsman Lake	50"	26"	51"	26"	[illegible]"
South Riverside	50	42	80	24	30
Cascade Creek	-	-	-	36	52
Grassy Lake	-	-	119	36	34
Aster Creek	-	-	-	36	36
Coulter Creek	-	-	-	26	36
Madison Junction	16	-	30	13	16
Heart Lake	-	-	-	12	8
Gallatin	18	20	34	10	14

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was away from the park during the entire month. Most of the time was spent in Denver on official business. On January 7 he left Denver for Omaha to attend a conference of Region Two Superintendents, returning to Denver on the 17th. The conference started on January 8 and was concluded on the 13th. During the conference Mr. Rogers showed a Yellowstone movie of park features and wildlife.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston was acting during Mr. Rogers' absence from the park. On January 3 Acting Superintendent Johnston, Park Engineer Wohlbrandt and Master Plumber Wiggins visited the Montana State College at Bozeman to get information regarding heating systems. On January 8 a trip was made to Livingston with Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe and Chief Clerk Soule, to confer with Dr. Windsor regarding his medical contract. The three also attended Rotary. On the afternoon of January 11 a trip was made to Livingston with Messrs. Joffe, Barrows, Elliott, and Wohlbrandt to attend a special meeting of the Livingston Chamber of Commerce. Messrs. Johnston, Barrows and Evans left the park on January 11 for Helena, to attend the annual meeting of the Montana Wildlife Federation and to confer with the Montana Fish and Game Commissioners on stream pollution matters and fish cultural activities. They returned on the evening of the 21st.

A new meal rate was made effective January 1. The new rates are $1.35 per day or 65¢ per meal.

A new system of leave recording was made effective, throughout the Government service on January 1. However, as the forms necessary for the new system did not reach this park until about the middle of the month, it was impossible to start their use at the first of the year. The new system will be in effect beginning February 1.

Two Yellowstone employees were inducted into the armed forces during the month, Assistant Chief Ranger William S. Chapman on January 16, and District Park Ranger Lloyd J. Astle on January 23. As Mr. Astle was stationed at Bechler River, which is isolated due to snow, it was necessary to send the rotary snowplow from Mammoth to the Bechler River station via West Yellowstone, Montana to move him and his family. It required the services of two men, a pickup truck and the Snogo 4 full days, in order to get Mr. Astle to his Selective Service Board for induction.

On January 26 word was received from Hugh Peyton, Lt. (j.g.), U. S. Coast Guard, that he was to be released from the Service within a few days and desired to return to his former position in the Yellowstone. Prior to enlistment, Lt. Peyton was an Assistant Chief Ranger here.

Inspections. William Dunn, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bozeman, in charge, Yellowstone fish operations, and Jack Chipman, Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bozeman Hatchery, in January 29 for discussion proposed fish planting program for 1945.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. A proposed utilities layout was designed for Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, and a preliminary plan was made for the proposed new sewer system in the new Canyon development area. Work was underway on the compilation of road maintenance data of the previous season.

General Publicity. No press releases were issued during the month. Several bear pictures were sent to the Campfire Club of America, which were requested for the purpose of illustrating an article by former Director Horace M. Albright, for the club's magazine, "Backlog."

Road Maintenance. Maintenance for the month was light, due to very light snowfall. The push type plows made 4 trips to Cooke and all snow has been removed the full width of the roadbed. Approximately 2 feet of snow is at Cooke.

It was necessary to open the road to the Bechler River Ranger Station, as reported under "Special Activities."

Several culverts have been freezing and giving trouble in the Lamar area. A steam culvert thawer is needed to handle this situation.

Several of the steeper hills were sanded regularly and daily rock patrol was made in the Gardiner canyon. The rotary broom was used to remove two light snows from the more dangerous curves and hills in the Mammoth to Gardiner section. Numerous frost boils are developing on the way from Gardiner to Cooke.

Other Maintenance. Routine maintenance on buildings was carried on at Mammoth by the carpenters, painters and plumbers.

Park Operators. Mr. J. A. Haynes, who made a trip to the park on December 31, remained until January 2. Another hurried visit was made to the park on January 27.

Letters were received from both H. K. Nichols and C. A. Hamilton, recommending that no operations be open in the park for the 1945 season, due to the difficult labor situation, the saving of gasoline and tires, and the desire of the Government to keep people from traveling. It is expected that Superintendent Rogers will discuss this matter with the Director and Regional Director Merriam when they meet in Chicago on February 5. The general store at Mammoth remained open throughout the month to take care of local residents.

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Chief Naturalist Mauer, who was on annual leave beginning December 5, returned to duty on January 10.

Considerable time was spent during the month by members of the Naturalist Division in the preparation of a new Ranger-Naturalist Manual.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Two hundred eighty-nine persons entered the park during January, as compared with 386 for the same month in 1944. The total persons entering the park for the travel year is 4,606, as compared with 3,457 persons for 1944, an increase of 33.2 per cent.

One hundred two cars entered the park in January 1945, as compared with 113 for the same month in 1944. The total cars for this travel year is 1,518, as compared with 1,100 for 1944, an increase of 38.0.

Visitors. Congressman Harold Knutson of Minnesota and John M. Murdock of Arizona visited the park on the afternoon of January 24 and were able to get as far as the Buffalo Ranch. A Montana State patrolman brought them to the park from Livingston, where they had been in attendance at the funeral of Congressman James F. O'Connor.

Joe Fleming, Commander, Merchant Marine, in January 31; made trip to Buffalo Ranch.

Ranger Service. Patrols of the interior of the park and the more remote sections of the boundaries were made during the month. Most of the patrol cabins were visited during the month and snow depths taken at the usual locations. The waterfowl census was taken in connection with regular patrols. Skiing conditions were fair to good in the southern part of the park and at higher elevations, but very poor in some sections where there was little snow, that being granular, making travel on skis very difficult. The snoplane was used in connection with the Lake and Old Faithful district patrols.

Attempts were made to trap live elk at Mammoth and the Game Ranch, but was discontinued as few elk visited the lower areas where the traps are located. Trapping efforts will be resumed if conditions improve.

The wildlife index was brought up to date by rangers stationed at headquarters.

Rangers constructed a new pair of skis for the snoplane and these are expected to improve the performance of the machine.

Police Protection. No violations occurred during January. U. S. Commissioner T. Paul Wilcox was absent from the park on annual leave. He expects to return on February 10.

Wildlife Administration - Waterfowl Census. A census of the waterfowls in the park was taken during the period of January 3 to January 5, in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, which conducted a nation-wide survey

of waterfowl resources. The census dates were considerably earlier than in past years, and this resulted in a larger count in this park, due to the fact that Yellowstone Lake had not frozen over. At the request of Fish and Wildlife Service officials, park rangers also counted the waterfowls in the Hebgen Lake area west of the park boundary. Results of the census in the park are as follows:

Mallard	717	Goldeneye, American	3118
Baldpate.	24	Canada Goose	336
Green-winged Teal .	22	Swan, Trumpeter	85
Mergansers	164	Bufflehead	140
Goldeneye, Barrows .	75	Misc. Ducks, unidentified . .	2608

Elk Hunting Season, Park County, Montana. A total of 166 elk was recorded at the Flanigan Game Checking Station through January 27. It is estimated that 275 elk have been taken during the entire open season, as those taken during the early season in the Slough Creek and Bellrearing areas and by local hunters, are not included in the checking station report.

Snowfall recorded during January was below normal and the comparatively light snow depths on the northern winter range left considerable natural forage available. Some bands of elk moved to lower elevations, but only small numbers crossed the park boundary to enter open hunting territory.

Bison. Bison were able to forage on the open range during the entire month and none were fed at Lamar. The snow became wind-crusted in some areas, and this snow condition apparently caused the animals to shift to sections of the range where the snow remained loose.

Accidents. No accidents were reported during the month.

Forestry. A compilation of forest fire detection records for the 14-year period 1931 through 1944, was completed during the month and a map overlay was prepared showing all fires which occurred during that period, whether they were caused by lightning or were man-caused, and whether they were discovered by lookouts, park employees, or tourists.

Some data were also assembled on fire suppression costs, with a view toward determining the approximate cost per man day for the suppression of large fires. Consideration was given to fires which are accessible by road and fires in isolated areas where supplies and equipment must be transported by pack animals or delivered by airplane. This study is not yet completed.

Tracings were made of the maps of the proposed white pine blister rust control areas at Mammoth, Mount Washburn, and Craig Pass. Several prints were made from the tracings.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 1463 was held in the Canteen on January 8. Newly elected officers for the ensuing year consist of: Thomas M. Thompson, President; Phil Wohlbrandt, Vice-President; Parke Soule, Secretary-Treasurer; Louis Filoh, Guardian; Board of Directors: Fred Hissen, Elmer Armstrong, Joe Joffe, William Hardis and Elmer Loer. The park medical service was discussed,

particularly the phase that participation therein was optional with the employees. Various members expressed their views on the subject. The union sponsored a dance in the Canteen on January 13.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Armstrong at the Chico, Montana Hospital on January 11. Mr. Armstrong is a per diem truck driver.

On January 13 a baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Fillmore in the Park Hospital in Livingston. Mr. Fillmore is also a truck driver.

Fred T. Johnston,
Acting Superintendent.

cc- Region Two

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JJ/san

ELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING