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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	SOULE	
	MASSETH	
	SHOMEY	
	QUIST	
	SOMERVILLE	
✓	BAUER	
✓	BARROWS	
✓	ELLIOTT	
✓	EVANS	
✓	CHAPMAN	
✓	WOHLBRANDT	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MAY
1944

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 5, 1934.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of May 1934:

Weather Conditions. The weather during the month was about normal for May. The early part of the month saw little precipitation and the country was becoming quite dry following the very mild winter. However, 1.08 inches of rain fell on May 18 and the situation with regard to the fire hazard was considerably improved. The snow in the higher country melted very rapidly and there was no exceedingly high water in the streams, which was opposite from conditions last May. The maximum temperature for the month was 77° on May 15 and the minimum 24° on May 4. Total precipitation for May was 2.40 inches, as against 2.43 inches for the same month a year ago. There were 8 clear days during the month, 5 partly cloudy and 8 cloudy.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the park, with the exception of trips to Helena, Montana on May 11 and 12 to confer with Yellowstone Park Company officials on their operations for the summer and to Glacier Park from the 26th to 29th for a special investigation. Assistant Superintendent Johnston was Acting Superintendent in his absence.

The snowplows started opening the roads on May 1, as against May 5 last year. Because of the light condition of the snow and the small amount remaining in the park, the plows were able to make much better time than scheduled, despite the fact that only one eight-hour shift was operated. The plows reached Old Faithful and West Yellowstone on May 2, Canyon May 4, Lake May 9, south gate May 15, Thumb to Old Faithful May 17, east gate May 22, and Dunraven Pass from Canyon to Tower Falls May 24. The road outside the park from Moran to the south entrance was reported open on May 9 and the Sunlight Basin road from Cody to Cooke on May 18. Travel was permitted over the West Yellowstone road on May 15, Madison Junction to Old Faithful on the 17th, Norris to Canyon and Lake, Continental Divide and south entrance roads on the 22nd, Dunraven Pass on the 29th and the Lake to east entrance road on May 30.

The ice went out of Yellowstone Lake on May 21.

Mr. C. A. Hamilton arrived in the park on May 16 and immediately opened his accommodations at Old Faithful for meals and lodgings. The general store at Mammoth started taking care of overnight guests and served meals on May 17 and the Fishing Bridge store took care of overnight guests beginning May 29. The Haynes Shop at Mammoth opened on May 23 and the Old Faithful shop on the 28th.

The fishing season opened on May 30 and excellent catches were reported in practically all lakes and streams fished.

A meeting of the Absaroka Conservation Committee was held in the park on May 6 and 7. Members started arriving on the afternoon of the 6th and were taken for an inspection trip over the winter game range in the vicinity of the game ranch in the afternoon and to the Buffalo Ranch in the evening. A reel of park movies was shown to the group following their return from the Buffalo Ranch. The entire morning and part of the afternoon of May 7 was devoted to the general meeting, which was held in the Canteen. A fine representative group was present, considerably larger than last year, and the minutes of the meeting have been received from the secretary and furnished the Director and Region Two Office.

A conference of park rangers and fire school was conducted in the Canteen the week of May 8-13. The conference was concluded with a banquet in the mess house and dance in the canteen on the last evening.

The grade school at Mammoth closed on May 26 with appropriate commencement exercises in the Canteen. Four pupils, Peter Soule, Joan Peterson, Alice Hochstrasser and Eunice Ayers graduated.

Inspections. Victor H. Cahalane, Biologist, N.P.S., Chicago, in May 3, out 12th; O. J. Murie, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Wyoming, in May 5, out 10th; returned 20th; Tom O. Miller, Biological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in May 8 to read water gauges, out 11th; Paul Franke, Superintendent, and Paul Judge, Chief Ranger, Grand Teton National Park, J. Barton Herschler, Chief Ranger, Rocky Mountain National Park, Lon Garrison, Assistant Superintendent, Glacier National Park, and Jess Lombard, Dinosaur National Monument, passed through the park on May 28, returning from Region Two fire school held in Glacier National Park.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The engineering force spent considerable time in assembling data for deferred maintenance report and assembling forms, report blanks and supplies for road maintenance foremen.

General Publicity. A "Accommodations and Services" circular, showing facilities and operations in the park for the 1944 season, was issued on the 17th and copies were distributed to Chambers of Commerce, tourist bureaus and newspapers in adjoining states. A copy is attached.

Road Maintenance. Snow removal operations started on May 1. The usual equipment consisting of the two rotary snowplows and the occasional use of one of the push plows handled the entire operation. The blanket of snow was below normal and there was practically no ice, which made the snowplowing operations almost ideal.

The plows operated only one eight-hour shift per day and, instead of the six weeks anticipated for the plowing, the work was completed on May 26, or in a little less than four weeks.

Snow depths ran from 6 inches to 36 inches with a few drifts in Sylvan and Dunraven passes up to 96 inches. The plowing was done in the following sequence:

Mammoth to Madison to West Entrance
Madison to Old Faithful
Norris to Canyon to Lake to Thumb to South Entrance
West Thumb to Old Faithful
Lake to East Entrance
Canyon to Tower Falls

There was very little run-off from the melting snow and all roads went through the winter in good shape.

During the month road maintenance crews were placed at Gallatin, Madison, Canyon, West Thumb and East Entrance. All camps that we plan to operate this year are now on the job except South Forest, which is to open June 1. The labor problem has been rather tight, but with the close of school, we hope to fill the remaining jobs with high school boys.

The Mammoth to Norris road was closed by a rock slide at Golden Gate for a short time Sunday, May 21.

The same day floating ice from Yellowstone Lake began to pile up against Fishing Bridge. It was necessary to break up the ice jam with powder and very little damage was done to the bridge.

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

Park Operators. Mr. J. E. Haynes arrived in the park on May 12. He opened his shop at Mammoth on the 23rd and at Old Faithful on the 28th.

Mr. C. A. Hamilton arrived in the park on the 16th and immediately opened his accommodations at Old Faithful for overnight guests. His Fishing Bridge store was opened to take care of overnight guests on the night of the 29th.

The general store at Mammoth was open throughout the month to take care of local residents, and meals and overnight lodgings were provided beginning on the 17th.

Messrs. W. M. Nichols and E. H. Moorman of the Yellowstone Park Company arrived in the park on the 19th for an inspection of their facilities. They departed on the 19th.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Two thousand two hundred and fifty-eight persons entered the park during May as compared with 1,516 for the same month in 1943. The total persons entering the park for the travel year is 6,622 as compared to 7,753 persons for 1943, a decrease of 14.6 per cent.

Snow depths ran from 6 inches to 30 inches with a few drifts in places and Tuesday years up to 36 inches. The playing was done in the following sequence:

Sawyer to Hodiamont to West Stevens
Hodiamont to Old Faithful
Morris to Sawyer to Lake to Jewel to South Stevens
West Stevens to Old Faithful
Lake to East Stevens
Sawyer to Lower Falls

There was very little run-off from the melting snow and all ponds were through the winter in good shape.

During the month road maintenance crews were placed at Gallatin, Sawyer, Canyon, West Yellowstone and East Entrance. All indications that we plan to operate this year are now on the job except North Fork, which is to open June 1. The labor problem has been rather tight, but with the close of school, we hope to fill the remaining jobs with high school boys.

The section to Morris road was closed by a rock slide at Yellowstone for a short time Tuesday, May 21.

The men for blasting the rock slide were taken to Gallatin to repair the Gallatin bridge. It was necessary to bolt on the top joints and very little damage was done to the bridge.

Other maintenance. The regular maintenance work on buildings at headquarters was carried on by the carpenters, painters and painters.

Park Superintendent. Mr. A. L. Sayers arrived in the park on May 27. He opened his office at Mammoth on the 29th and at Old Faithful on the 30th.

Mr. H. M. Hamilton arrived in the park on the 30th and immediately assumed his responsibilities as the District Ranger assigned. The Gallatin Bridge store was opened to the public on Friday, June 2, and the Old Faithful store.

The general store at Mammoth was open throughout the month to take care of local residents, and meals and overnight lodging were furnished beginning on the 17th.

Messrs. V. M. Bidwell and C. H. Coonan of the Yellowstone Park Company arrived in the park on the 19th for an inspection of their facilities. They departed on the 19th.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Two thousand two hundred and fifty-eight persons entered the park during May as compared with 1,941 for the same month in 1933. The total persons entering the park for the travel year is 6,[illegible] as compared to 1,733 persons for 1933, a decrease of 1.6 per cent.

Six hundred ninety cars entered the park in May as compared with 520 for the same month in 1943. The total cars for this travel year, 2,049 as compared with 2,658 for 1943, shows a decrease of 22.9 per cent.

Visitors. Mrs. Helena Huntington Smith Pringle, author and magazine writer, in May 15 to get material and pictures for an article on buffalo for Collier's magazine; out 16th.

Police Protection. No law enforcement cases were held during the month.

Accidents. No automobile accidents occurred during May.

Ranger Service. A majority of the summer moves were made by the end of the month.

Trail maintenance was carried on over much of the month due to the early departure of winter snows.

Some telephone maintenance was accomplished by the Protection Division. One ranger assisted the Electrical Department for a week in line maintenance work.

Nearly all the ranger personnel attended a six day ranger and fire conference held at Mammoth on May 8 to 13, inclusive. Five Yellowstone rangers also attended the Glacier Fire School held in Glacier National Park during the week of May 22 to 27.

The park gates were all opened to the public by the 30th of the month. Gate duty, information service, formation and fishing patrols were necessary most of the last half of the month, especially over the Memorial Day holiday.

Maintenance of the large pasture at Blacktail Deer Creek was accomplished by two rangers over a period of a week.

Until the arrival of the regular grounds man in June, distribution of hose and preliminary work on the grounds at headquarters has been done by the Mammoth District Ranger.

Wildlife Administration. Elk. The Absaroka Conservation Committee, which held its regular spring meeting in the park on May 7, voted to recommend to the Montana Fish and Game Commission that 3,000 elk be removed from the northern Yellowstone herd by public hunting outside the park during the 1944-45 season. The proposed kill would reduce the herd to approximately 7,000 animals.

Large numbers of elk remained on the northern winter range during most of the month but migrations to the summer range were well underway by the end of May. The first elk calf was reported on May 22.

Bison. On May 24, 25 and 26 a total of 59 bison calves were counted in the Lamar herd in addition to 340 older animals.

A report covering the status of the bison in the park was completed and submitted at the end of May.

[illegible] bunting nicely were measured the [illegible] [illegible] for the same month in 1949. The actual case for this [illegible], [illegible] compared with 2,000 for 1949, [illegible] a [illegible] of [illegible] work.

Tailors. Mrs. Helen Sunderland [illegible], author, [illegible] writer, in May 1[illegible] to get material and [illegible] for a [illegible] on [illegible] Collier's magazine [illegible].

Police Protection. As the enforcement [illegible] [illegible]

Incidents. [illegible] accidents occurred during [illegible].

Ranger Service. [illegible] the ranger [illegible] [illegible] the month.

Trail maintenance was carried on over much of the month due to the early departure of winter snow.

Some telephone maintenance was accomplished by the [illegible] [illegible] the ranger assisted the electrical [illegible] for a week in time [illegible] work.

Nearly all the ranger personnel [illegible] [illegible] Forestry Day at Bismarck on May 6 to 13, inclusive. The [illegible] also attended the Minister Play Council [illegible] in Chicago [illegible] the week of May 22 to 27.

The park rules were all posted to the public by the [illegible] of the month. Safe duty, information service, [illegible] and [illegible] most of the last half of the month, especially over the [illegible].

Patrolmen of the large [illegible] [illegible] by two rangers over a period of a week.

Until the arrival of the regular [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] work on the [illegible] [illegible] month [illegible].

Utility improvements. [illegible] Commission Committee, which [illegible] the regular spring meeting in the park on May 1, [illegible] to [illegible] the Southern Pine and Cedar Company [illegible] 1,000 [illegible] from the northern [illegible] by public hunting [illegible] the park during the [illegible] assessment. The proposed [illegible] will reduce the [illegible] approximately 1,000 animals.

Large numbers of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the month but [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] by the end of May. The first [illegible] was [illegible].

Rain. On May [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] a total of [illegible] [illegible] in the lower Bird in addition to the [illegible].

I report covering the status of the [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] at the end of May.

Bears. O. J. Murie returned to the park on May 20 and has been engaged in continuing his studies of the habits of park bears since that date.

Two incidents involving property damage by grizzly bears were reported. Both incidents involved the entering of Yellowstone Park Company buildings and damage was extensive in one instance.

Range Conditions. A deficiency of soil moisture over the lower winter range was the subject of considerable concern during the first half of the month, but a series of storms which began on May 17 provided ample precipitation and the growth of range vegetation since that time has been highly satisfactory.

Fish Culture and Fishing. Superintendent William Dunn of the Yellowstone Lake Station began work with a small crew on May 9 and the first blackspotted trout eggs were taken to Pelican Creek on May 25. The Grebe Lake station was opened on May 26 to secure grayling eggs for shipment. No grayling will be planted in park waters this year.

Building Fire Protection. Mammoth Fire Department. New and revised personnel assignments for the Mammoth Fire Department were made to fill vacancies and to insure the availability of full crews. Crews were given training in specific assigned functions and plans were made to provide regular training periods for all crews during the summer and fall months.

Emphasis has been placed on providing fire extinguishers for all buildings needing additional protection. Two and one-half gallon foam type extinguishers were installed in all of the heating plants at Mammoth and non-freezing type extinguishers have been placed in storage buildings formerly without first-aid protection. This added protection was largely made possible by the transfer of extinguishers from C.C.C. property lists.

Building fire hazard inspections of buildings in the interior of the park were made promptly after the buildings were occupied for the season. Non-freezing extinguishers are provided at all road camp gasoline pumps.

Forestry. Five days of the week of May 8-13 were devoted to a fire protection training school for all of the members of the Protection Division. Various subjects dealing with forest and building fire control were discussed. There was a lively interest shown by the entire group throughout the training period and everyone who attended expressed the opinion that the school was highly successful.

Two small grass fires occurred during the month. One was man-caused and the other resulted from a lightning strike. Both were controlled with but negligible damage resulting.

One fire guard was employed on May 27 and assigned to the Mammoth fire tool cache.

Several employees, who will later be placed as fire guards or seasonal rangers, were hired and assigned to trail maintenance work during the month. Some work was accomplished toward rerouting a particularly steep section of the trail to Crevice Ranger Station and other trails in the Mammoth, Tower Falls, and West Yellowstone Districts were repaired and cleared of fallen trees.

Several fire guard positions were still unfilled at the close of the month, although numerous applications had been received and offers of employment has been made to applicants for all positions.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union Local No. 465 was held in the Canteen on May 1.

Mothers Day services were held in the Chapel by the Sunday School children on May 11.

Edmund S. Rogers,
Superintendent.

Encl.
cc- Region Two
JJ/san

MAIL

Only the main post office at Mammoth Hot Springs, the park headquarters, will be open. Mail must be called for at this post office.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Telephone booths for long distance and park service available at the Haynes Picture Shop at Mammoth, Hamilton general store at Old Faithful and Hamilton general store and tourist cabins (after June 24) at Fishing Bridge.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE

No telegraph stations will be operated in the park. Incoming telegrams for the park will be received at the Northern Pacific Depot at Gardiner and 'phoned int the park. Outgoing telegrams from the park will be 'phoned to the telegraph offic in the depot at Gardiner.

MEDICAL SERVICE

The Mammoth hospital will not be operated. Nurses available at Mammoth and Fishing Bridge.

LAUNDRY

No laundry service will be available in the park.

CHURCH SERVICES

No regularly scheduled church services in the park. Ministers from Livingston will conduct services in the chapel at Mammoth about once a month.

FISHING

Fishing Season: May 30 to October 15, except in special areas. NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED. Boats for rent at Fishing Bridge (beginning June 10). Fishing regulations available at ranger stations and contained in 1942 folder, which are available at park entrances and ranger stations.

MUSEUMS

The museum at Mammoth Hot Springs will be open beginning June 20 on scheduled hours. No guide or lecture service. Self-guiding trails at Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful.

HOURS FOR GATES

The park gates will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. until further notice.

CAMPGROUNDS

The following campgrounds will be open for campers: Madison Junction; Lewis Lake; Pebble Creek; Mammoth; Indian Creek; Lava Creek; Old Faithful; Fishing Bridge; West Thumb.

The following campgrounds will not be open: Snake River; Canyon; Tower Falls Yellowstone Cascades; Specimen Creek; Norris.

LITERATURE

As funds are not available for the publication of a Government folder for the 1944 season and due to changing conditions, the 1942 folder for the park, containing a good map, general regulations and information on the park features, will be available at all entrance and ranger stations.

FIREWOOD

For sale at tourist cabins at Fishing Bridge beginning June 24.

ENTRANCE FEE

The regular $3.00 motor vehicle license fee and $1.00 house trailer fee will be charged.

MAXIMUM SPEED 35 MILES - STRICTLY ENFORCED. DON'T FEED THE BEARS!

Edmund B. Rogers

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.