





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

✓	JONES	<i>JJ</i>
✓	JONES	<i>JJ</i>
✓	SMITH	<i>JS</i>
	WALKER	
	SMITH	
	QUINN	
	SOMERHILL	
✓	BAUER	<i>AB</i>
✓	BARROWS	<i>MB</i>
	ELLIOTT	<i>EL</i>
	WATSON	<i>W</i>
✓	CHAMBERLAIN	<i>SC</i>
	WOLFRUM	<i>W</i>
	ROBERTSON	

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

February  
1944

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NEWTON B. DRURY,  
*Director.*



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

March 3, 1944.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of February 1944:

Weather Conditions. The weather during February compared favorably with February a year ago and showed a marked increase in precipitation over the past two months. A total of 21.5 inches of snowfall was recorded at Mammoth during the month with 1.31 inches precipitation, as against 21 inches of snowfall and .90 inch precipitation a year ago. Sub-zero temperatures occurred on three days, -9° on the 10th, -7° on the 15th and -5° on the 17th. The maximum temperature for the month was 44° on the third and the minimum -9° on the 10th. There were 11 inches of snow on the ground at Mammoth on the last day of the month. There were 15 cloudy days during February, 8 partly cloudy and 7 clear days. The greatest amount of precipitation recorded for a 24-hour period was .68 inch on the 9th in the form of 8 inches of snow. Precipitation was recorded on 12 days.

The lowest temperature for the park was -30° at West Yellowstone on the 15th, while the highest was 47° at Bechler on the 3rd. In contrast with the preceding 3 winter months, considerable snowfall was recorded over the entire park but a marked deficiency for the entire winter still exists.

A snow survey of the Snake River Drainage Area made by the Reclamation Service showed that the snowfall was 65% of normal (mean annual) and the water content was 52.3%. Present conditions compared to the lowest year (1931) showed the mean snow depth over the entire area as 37.8 inches for 1944 and 25.0 inches for 1931 and the mean water content 9.0 inches for 1944 as against 5.2 inches for 1931. This indicated increase (during February, amounting to a gain, on an accumulative basis, of 67% of normal for the Snake River drainage. Despite this gain the Reclamation Service observer forecasts "greatly reduced stream flow early in the 1944 season."

A comparison of snow depths at the end of the month for the past 10 years at some points in the park follows:

Location	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Buffalo Ranch	11	27	20	18	14	17	13	18	30.5	10
Bechler River	42	87	70	59	82	64	57	56	90	46.5
Northeast Entrance	20	36	40	35	38	34	16	34	50	18.5
Gallatin	25	36	30	32	26	18	19	30	40	13
Lake	20	38	28	40	26	31	31	34	68	26
Mammoth	6.5	20	8	7	6	8.6	2.1	7	22	10
Old Faithful	24	56	--	--	42	40	27	35	79	34

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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

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Year	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
Visitors	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000	1050	1100
Animals	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110
Plants	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000	1050	1100

<u>Location</u>	<u>1935</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>
Snake River	38	76	58	44	62	49	52	43	--	38
Tower Falls	18	30	21	22	14	13	14	16	52	15
West Yellowstone	31	35	50	39	40	32	33	39	76	28

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was in Denver on official business connected with the park until February 15 when he left to return to the Yellowstone. He arrived back in Mammoth on the evening of the 16th. On February 27, accompanied by Chief Ranger Barrows, a trip was made to Helena to meet with the Montana State Fish and Game Commission on wildlife matters affecting the park. They returned on the 29th.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston was Acting Superintendent in the absence of Superintendent Rogers and he made a trip to Laurel, Montana on the 15th to meet the Superintendent and bring him back to the park. On February 5 Messrs. Johnston, Bauer, Joffe, Kohlbrandt and Soule attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting in Livingston at which Governor Ford of Montana spoke on water conservation and on the 7th Acting Superintendent Johnston attended a rotary meeting in Livingston with Messrs. Bauer, Joffe and Judge Wilcox.

The Fourth War Loan Drive, which started on January 18, was successfully concluded in the park on February 29. While February 1, was the official closing, purchases made for the remainder of the month were credited in the drive. Yellowstone finished with credited sales amounting to \$35,971.38, as against its quota assigned by the Wyoming State War Finance Committee of \$12,600.00, or 285%. Sales to National Park Service employees alone totalled \$20,002.50 against the Interdepartmental quota of \$6,638.85, or 301%. Because of its outstanding performance in connection with the Fourth War Loan, the Yellowstone was again the winner, as it was in the Third War Loan drive, of a plaque offered by the Governor of Wyoming for the county or unit exceeding its quota by the largest amount. The park received a quota flag on February 11 for having exceeded its quota in this drive, which flag was placed on display in the Mammoth Post Office.

The buffalo reduction program, which started in the park on January 10, was completed on February 5 and a total of 400 animals was taken from the herd, 397 through slaughter in the corrals at the Buffalo Ranch and 3 through live shipments, two to the Circle Y Farm at Barney, So. Dakota and one young bull to W. L. Cline at Manhattan, Montana. The reduction operations went off in excellent shape and weather throughout was very favorable. Also, the park was fortunate in obtaining two excellent butchers, Lyle and Walter Selden of Billings, to handle the butchering work. All of the meat and hides resulting from the slaughter in the park was furnished to various Indian agencies in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota and Kansas.

The elk hunting season in Park County will close on March 1. The mild weather and snow conditions favorable to the elk were responsible for few animals leaving the park boundaries and the success of the season, from the standpoint of the hunters, was in direct contrast to a year ago. Only 12 animals were accounted for as having been taken by hunters to the end of February, as against a kill of 6,539 elk killed by hunters during the 1942-43 season, which

Year	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
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The following table shows the results of the various experiments conducted during the year 1910. The first column shows the date of the experiment, the second column shows the name of the experimenter, and the third column shows the results of the experiment. The results are given in terms of the number of plants that survived and the number of plants that died.

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season closed on January 14, 1943. Trapping for live shipments began on February 9 and was concluded on the 23rd. Because of the favorable conditions for the animals, it was difficult to entice elk into the trapping pens and only 9 suitable for shipment were captured. One of these was shipped to Marshfield, Wisconsin and eight were sent to Bear River, Montana. Because of the inability of the park to trap a sufficient number, some of the requests received for live elk were not filled.

Gilbert Lee and Frank W. McCarthy, Deputy Collectors for the Internal Revenue Bureau, Helena, spent all day Saturday, February 5, and the morning of Sunday, February 6, assisting Yellowstone and Gardiner residents in the preparation of their 1943 income tax returns. The assistance rendered by these men was very helpful to our park people and the cooperation on the part of the Internal Revenue Bureau is very much appreciated.

On February 25 the park received word that several former Park Service employees, who enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard in the fall and early winter of 1942, had received promotions from Ensign to Lieutenant (j.g.). These include Assistant Chief Rangers Hugh Peyton and Curtis K. Skinner, District Park Rangers Earl M. Samingsen, John F. Jay and Wayne B. Alcorn, and Park Rangers Frank Kowski, William W. Nyquist and Walter C. Cassill. Ted Tuttle, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who has been employed at the Lake Fish Hatchery for a number of years and who enlisted about the same time as the National Park Service men, was also among those promoted. All of the Park Service men who enlisted in the Coast Guard, as well as those who have gone into other branches of the service, are giving good accounts of themselves.

Members of the Yellowstone family were greatly shocked when they learned on February 15 of the death of Mr. George Moskey, Chief Counsel for the National Park Service, and his wife, in their apartment in Chicago. Mr. Moskey visited the park on several occasions during his more than 20 years of service with the National Park Service and had been very helpful in many legal matters affecting the Yellowstone.

Inspections. Gilbert Lee and Frank W. McCarthy, Deputy Collectors, Internal Revenue Bureau, Helena, arrived in the park on February 4, to assist Park Service employees in the preparation of the 1943 Income Tax Returns, departed on the 6th; E. H. Quortrup, in Charge, Bear River Wildlife Disease Research Station, Brigham, Utah, who arrived in the park on January 28 to test buffalo, departed on February 6; Arne Comer, Geological Survey, in February 18 to read water gauges and obtain stream measurements; A. S. Luce, Superintendent, Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, in February 25, out 26th.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. A map was prepared for Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, showing location of recent findings on possible route used by General Custer from Bier Point to Custer Battlefield.

Several proposals for addition to the Project Construction program were prepared. Compilation of information required for use on the shuttle cards for work done in the past season was completed.

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General Publicity. A press release on the completion of the buffalo reduction program in the park was issued on February 4 and mailed to newspapers in the surrounding states. A special article on the park, requested by the Casper Tribune-Herald, for its special annual edition, was prepared by assistant to the Superintendent Joffe and sent to the paper on February 16. Several pictures were furnished, to be used in the special edition.

Park Naturalist Bauer showed several reels of park wildlife movies at a meeting of the Park County Rod and Gun Club in Livingston on February 16.

Road Maintenance. Several light snowstorms developed through the month, but only about 6 inches of snow fell at any one storm. The push type plow was used on six different days to clear the road. The snowfall at Cooke has been but very little more than the fall at Mammoth. No day labor was required this month.

Many frost boils are showing up between Gardiner and Cooke. Indications are that more patching of the oil mat will be required this spring than a year ago.

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

Park Operators. The general store at Mammoth remained open to take care of park residents.

J. E. Haynes, the authorized park photographer, visited the park from February 3 to 6.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Two hundred seventy-two persons entered the park during February as compared with 142 for the same month in 1943. The total visitors entering the park for the travel year is 3,729, as compared with 5,781 for 1943, a decrease of 35.5%.

Ninety-four cars entered the park in February as compared with 141 for the same month in 1943. The total cars for this travel year is 1,194, as compared with 2,035 for 1943, or a decrease of 41.3%.

Visitors. There were no special visitors in the park during the month.

Ranger Service. Regular protection patrols visited most of the more remote areas of the park during February, where the rangers conducted snow surveys, observed wildlife conditions, and performed other protection duties. Travel conditions were most unfavorable as loose, unpacked snow produced the most difficult skiing encountered in more than a decade.

Other protection division activities consisted of completing the bison reduction, trapping and shipping live elk, hunting patrols of the north boundary, and repairing and servicing of equipment.

Chief Ranger Barrows made inspections of the West Yellowstone, Bechler and Snake River Districts.

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Police Protection. No law enforcement cases were had during the month. The Plymouth sedan confiscated from Donald L. Stratton, who was arrested with Dewey Parker for unlawfully hunting and attempting to kill, frighten or capture elk within the boundaries of the park on December 11, 1933, was returned to Mr. Stratton upon advice from U. S. Commissioner T. Paul Wilcox on February 10.

Accidents. No automobile accidents occurred in the park during February.

Wildlife Administration - Bison. The slaughter of bison at the Buffalo Ranch was completed during the afternoon of February 5. A total of 597 animals was disposed of by that means this year and with the addition of 3 live shipments a total of 1,000 animals was taken from the Lamar herd. Shipments of meat and hides to various Indian agencies were made during the month as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>No. Shipped</u>	<u>Date shipped</u>	<u>Shipped by</u>
Ft. Totten	10	2/1/44	Freight, L. C. L.
Rocky Boy's	5	2/1/44	Express
Cheyenne River	20	2/2/44	Freight, L. C. L.
Standing Rock	19	2/3/44	Freight, L. C. L.
Plandresu	7	2/4/44	Freight, L. C. L.
Blackfeet	53	2/7/44	Freight, L. C. L.

On February 5 three live buffalo were loaded in the receivers' crates on the receivers' trucks at the Buffalo Ranch and shipped as follows:

J. F. Nagel, Circle Y Farm, Barney, No. Dakota	2 two-year-old cows
W. L. Cline, Manhattan, Montana	1 two-year old bull

The three buffalo shipped alive were found to be free of brucellosis by Dr. E. E. Quortrup, who tested and vaccinated them.

Snow depths in the Lamar Valley averaged approximately 14 inches at the end of the month. The snow remained loose and the bison were observed to be securing ample food without undue difficulty. The animals did not concentrate on the fields and feeding did not appear to be necessary.

Elk - Hunting Season. Very few elk from the northern Yellowstone herd left the park during February. The estimated total kill for the season is 125, according to the local Deputy Game Warden. The open hunting season on elk in Park County, Montana will close on March 1.

Elk Trapping and Shipping Operations. The trapping of live elk started on February 9 and a total of 13 animals was captured. Three were old bulls which were released, one cow was killed when she crashed through the corral fence, and the remaining 9 animals were shipped alive. Due to unfavorable conditions for trapping live elk during a light winter, such as the present one, the operation was discontinued on February 23.

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Agency	Address	Phone	Remarks
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Post Office	2	2	
Post Office	30	30	
Post Office	12	12	
Post Office	7	7	
Post Office	25	25	

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The following shipments of live elk were made during the morning of February 23:

City of Marshfield, Wisconsin	1 spike bull
Warren L. Hughes, Warm River, Montana	7 cows and 1 calf

Dr. Howard Welch, Montana Veterinary Research Laboratory, Bozeman, Montana, vaccinated the 9 animals for brucellosis before they were loaded. He was accompanied to the park by Dr. Hadleigh Marsh.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union Local No. 455 was held in the Canteen on February 7. A Dutch lunch was served in connection with the meeting to welcome in the new officers for the year.

Two new employees arrived in the park during the month, Mrs. Frances J. Ayers on February 4, and Miss C. Wilma Smith on February 29. Both are clerks, Mrs. Ayers succeeding Alice Dvarishkis who was transferred to the U. S. Maritime Commission, and Miss Smith succeeding Hazel W. Kerr, who departed on February 18 for transfer to the Director's Office in Chicago.

Church services were held in the Chapel on Sunday, February 19. The services were under the direction of Bishop Alfred Kieglar of the Wyoming diocese of the Episcopal Church. He was assisted by Archdeacon DeSil and Reverend John B. McLaughlin of the Episcopal Church in Cody.

Edmund B. Rogers,  
Superintendent.

cc- Region Two

File

JJ/san







