10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	ROGERS	
✓	EMMERT	
✓	JOFFE	
	NEILSON	
✓	SMITH	
	McBETH	
	SHONEY	
✓	LANDUS	
	BARROWS	
	SKINNER	
	ELLIOTT	
	PEYTON	
✓	BAUER	
	LORD	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

September
1942

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.

FFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 8, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of September 1942.

Weather Conditions. Unusually high temperatures and lightning storms characterized the first eleven days of September which continued the high fire danger. Twelve fires were reported from September 2 to 12, inclusive. However, on the twelfth a rainy spell began which continued for several days and was responsible for relieving the tension on the serious fire condition which had prevailed for the previous several weeks. This cool weather with some precipitation continued from the twelfth to the seventeenth, following which the weather for the rest of the month was generally clear and the precipitation was light and scattered. The Red Lodge-Cooke highway was closed for more than a day due to the storm on the twelfth. The maximum temperature for the month was 82° on September 3 and the minimum 25° on September 26. The total precipitation for September was 1.23 inches.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the park, making trips outside thereof on September 9, 10, and 11 for a visit with dude ranchers in the Jackson Hole and attendance at the meeting of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners at Moran, and on September 27 to Cody, Wyoming to meet Colonel George A. Bonnet of the Selective Service System.

When the travel season closed on September 30 a total of 191,830 persons had visited the park as against 581,761 the previous year, or a loss of 67%. However, the travel was in excess of 1933, when the park was visited by 161,938 persons, and of 1932, when 157,624 persons entered, a gain of 15.6% and 17.8%, respectively. Travel in September as compared with the same month last year was better than the comparison of the other months of the season, there being a difference of only 52.8% as compared to a loss of 60% in April and May, 61.6% in June, 71.7% in July, and 73.8% in August. The tire rationing, gasoline rationing in the Eastern states, restrictions on bus, rail and airplane travel, and the war in general naturally were responsible for the heavy loss in travel this year as against last year. The loss in travel was likewise reflected in the business of the operators, and it is expected that the revenues of the various operators will approximate the travel decrease.

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All the operations in the park were closed by the end of September with the exception of the general stores and gasoline filling stations at Old Faithful and Lake where meals and lodgings were obtainable, and the general store and gasoline filling station at Mammoth which will remain open throughout the winter. The Mammoth and Canyon repair shops closed on September 1, the Haynes Fishing Bridge store on September 4, the boat operations on the 8th, Haynes Old Faithful store on the 9th, Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge tourist cabins and cafeterias and Old Faithful and Lake repair shops on the 10th, the Haynes Tower Falls and Mammoth stores on the 11th, the Canyon store on the 12th, and the Gardiner repair shop on the 15th. The nurses at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge left on the 10th.

A meeting of the Minute Men and the Group Chairman appointed for the voluntary payroll deduction plan in the Yellowstone was called for September 2, and the soliciting of the employees started the same day. The campaign closed on the 10th, and the report of the Group Chairman showed that out of 105 possible eligibles, 89 had participated, making allotments totaling $1,857.15, or 99.2% of the quota. The allotments made were 11.4% of the gross pay of those participating. By the end of the month, the report showed 101 employees out of a possible 114 participating with 103.5% of the quota. Two thousand sixty-seven dollars and fourteen cents was alloted, or 11.5% of the gross pay of those participating.

The collection of the motor vehicle license fee was discontinued on the morning of the 19th. Due to so many of the rangers leaving to enter the military service and the early departure of most of the temporary rangers, it was necessary to employ the wives of several of our permanent employees to serve as temporary rangers to assist the entrance stations. The collection of the motor vehicle license fee was continued longer than originally anticipated as it was determined that the travel was sufficient to operate the entrance stations and make the collections so as to increase the park's revenues.

Assistant Chief Ranger Peyton enlisted in the United States Coast Guard on September 9 and District Park Ranger Semingsen on the 29th. Assistant Chief Ranger Skinner, District Park Rangers Jay and Alcorn, and Park Rangers Kowski, Syquist, Johnston, Watson, and Gammill all expected to enter this same service early in October. Park Ranger Hawks was inducted into the U. S. Army on September 21. Packmaster Holman was inducted into the U. S. Army on August 25. The entry into the service of these members of the Ranger Force will leave the Protection Department with only about two-thirds of its personnel.

The Madison River was closed to fishing at sunset on September 30. All other lakes and streams will remain open until October 15. Fall fishing was particularly good in the Madison and Firehole Rivers.

Inspections. R. L. Parshall, Soil Conservation Service, Fort Collins, Colorado, in September 4; Theodore S. Kibbee, Regional Fish Culturist and Supervisor for Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Robert P. Boone, in charge of Fish and Wildlife Refuge at Albuquerque, in September 14; Donald B. Alexander, Assistant Regional Director, Region Two, Omaha, and Captain R. S. Rutherford, U. S. Army Engineers, Omaha, in North September 15, out September 17; C. E. Rachford, in charge of the Heart Mountain Relocation Project, Cody, in September 23; J. C. Evenden, Senior Entomologist, Bureau of Entomology, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in September 26; Colonel George A. Bennet, Chief, Appointment and Personnel Division, Selective Service System, Washington, D. C., in September 27.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Work was mostly routine except for data gathered in the Boehler area for preparation of P. C. P. forms for Plans on the Shelf programs.

General Publicity. No press releases or pictures were sent out from the park during the month. An inventory of park publications showed some 225,000 copies of the 1942 folder still on hand, so it was recommended that no new folders be published for 1943.

General Complaints. Only very few complaints were received during the month. All these were answered and copies furnished the Chicago and Omaha offices.

Road Maintenance. The various section crews were getting snow fences and snow stakes preparatory to closing down for the winter. Labor shortage necessitated combining crews and making long hauls from a fewer number of camps. As a comparison only about 30 men were on the maintenance rolls as against 75 for the same period last year.

Park Operators. All operations in the park were closed by the end of the month with the exception of the general stores and gasoline filling stations at Old Faithful and Lake which were open to accommodate late visitors, furnishing meals and lodging. The general store and filling station at Mammoth will be open throughout the winter to take care of permanent residents.

Visitors. Ralph L. Phelps of the Bridgeport Brass Company, San Francisco, California, a national park enthusiast, in September 7; Gustavo V. Vides of San Salvadore, in September 5.

New Construction. Work was continued on Project 481, Canyon Power House, consisting of pouring the concrete floor, installation of plumbing and of interior painting.

Cooperating Government Agencies. Peter Kiewit Sons Company completed the East approach road project and continued work with a small crew on the Ice Lake-Old Faithful section.

Studer and Sons were still working in the West Thumb area and with good weather conditions may complete their work during the coming month.

Ranger Service. Seasonal rangers terminated their services this year at earlier dates than usual, making it necessary to employ seven women in these positions in order to operate the checking stations. Seven permanent rangers took annual leave, beginning on September 19, to investigate enlistment in the Coast Guard and none returned to duty for more than a few days. This serious shortage of personnel and the occurrence of twelve forest fires during early September made it difficult to carry on all regular work. Highway patrols, servicing of patrol cabins, taking inventory of field property and other regular activities were curtailed. Due to a shortage of personnel and the early closing of the accommodations in the park, the sale of permits was discontinued at the close of September 18.

Ranger activities consisted of forest fire suppression, closing and taking inventory of seasonal stations and lookouts, fish planting, trail and telephone line maintenance, servicing patrol cabins for winter, checking station operation and hunting patrols along sections of the park boundaries adjacent to open hunting areas.

Police Protection. Two traffic cases were presented before the United States Commissioner during September Both involved speeding trucks.

Charge	Fines	No. of Persons	No. of Cases
Speeding	$20.00	2	2

One case involving the possible theft of two government-owned tires was under investigation.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. Bears. Bears caused very little trouble during September, only two damages being reported. A statistical summary to October 1, 1942, is given in the table on the following page.

Fishing Planting. All fish plantings scheduled for 1942 were completed during the month. A report on this operation will be submitted at a later date.

Ranches. The 1942 hay crop in the Lamar Valley was measured in stack on September 12. This new hay comprises 311.5 tons.

CCC Activities. Arrangements for disposal of CCC property, materials and camp buildings were completed during the early part of September and by the close of the month much of the property and materials had been removed from the park by the engineers of the War Department.

Comparative Bear Injuries and Damages

Period - Season to October 1

	1942					1941					10-year Average - 1931 - 1940				
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season to Date	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season to Date	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season to Date
Personal Injuries	9	7	12	0	28	6	43	34	7	90	7	22	22	4	55
Property Damage	24	45	46	2	117	17	51	22	12	102	10	57	57	10	134
Total Incidents	33	52	58	2	145	23	94	56	19	192	17	79	79	14	189
Bears killed for Control	9	44	28	1	82	0	18	3	5	26	2	10	17	4	33

Assistant Chief Ranger Curtis K. Skinner who has been in charge of Wildlife Administration in the park since June 1, 1940 left to investigate enlisting with the U. S. Coast Guard at Seattle on September 19 and did not resume these duties. At the close of the month no one had been assigned to this work.

Fire Protection and Trails. General. Effective September 4, Assistant Chief Ranger Barrows was assigned in charge of Forest Fire and Trails as Assistant Chief Ranger Peyton had left the Service to enlist in the Coast Guard.

Trail Maintenance. A three man crew established camp near the junction of Red Creek and Snake River and worked on the clearing of the trail route along Red Creek to Heart Lake until September 8 when the Red Creek Fire No. 2 started. They were employed on this and the Forest Creek Fire until September 12 when the crew was disbanded for the season.

Forest Fire Protection. Seven lightning fires were reported and suppressed during September, four being Class A and three Class B burns. Five other lightning fires were also reported but were not found by the suppression crews. After September 9 no fires were reported in the park.

To date this year 48 reportable fires have occurred in Yellowstone of which 43 were caused by lightning and five were man caused. Crews also hunted for 11 fires that were reported but could not be found. A summary of the fires that have occurred shows 33 in Class A, 12 in Class B and one each in Classes C, D and E. The lightning fire occurrence this year has been heavier and more concentrated over a short period than during any fire season of recent date.

The servicing of fire equipment used during the summer is now practically completed. The services of all seasonal personnel with the exception of one man were terminated during September.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Twenty thousand seven hundred and thirty-three persons entered the park during September of this year as compared to 43,756 during September of 1941. The total persons entering the park for this travel year to date are 191,830 as compared with 581,761 for 1941, a decrease of 389,931, or -67%.

Six thousand six hundred and forty-two motor vehicles entered the park in September of this year as compared to 14,534 during the same month in 1941. The total motor vehicles entering the park for this travel year to date are 58,093 as compared with 172,296 for 1941, a decrease of 114,203, or -66.3%.

September 1942
Travel by Entrances for Month

Entrance	First Entry Cars	First Entry Pass.	Re-Entry Cars	Re-Entry Pass.	Total Cars	Total Pass.
North	817	2422	198	597	1015	3019
West	1709	5322	257	780	1966	6102
East	1534	4639	208	662	1742	5301
South	1131	3451	110	307	1241	3758
Northeast	518	1579	134	410	652	1989
Totals	5709	17413	907	2756	6616	20169

Motorcycles: 26 motorcycles - 38 passengers
Other Transportation:
Bechler: 108
Miscellaneous (horseback, bicycle, hitchhiker, etc.): 34
Rail and bus: 384

Accidents. Four automobile accidents involving privately-owned cars were investigated during the month. No serious personal injuries or extensive property damages were sustained.

Miscellaneous. A son was born to P.W.A. Engineer William S. Mitchell and Isabel M. Mitchell at the Nurses Quarters at Mammoth on September 1. The boy was named Richard Samuel. A son was born to Park Ranger and Mrs. Roy E. Wanson at the Park Hospital in Livingston on September 20.

Superintendent.

cc- Region Two Hdqtrs.
JJ:san