

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

✓	ROGERS	MB
	ELBERT	
✓	JOFFE	X
✓	SMITH	MB
	MACGILL	
	SHORLEY	
	QUIST	
	SUPERVILLE	
	LANCUL	
✓	BARRONS	MB 34 HC
✓	ELLIOTT	MB
✓	EVANS	MB
✓	BAJER	MB
✓	HOLLAND	MB
	ROBINSON	

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MONTHLY REPORT

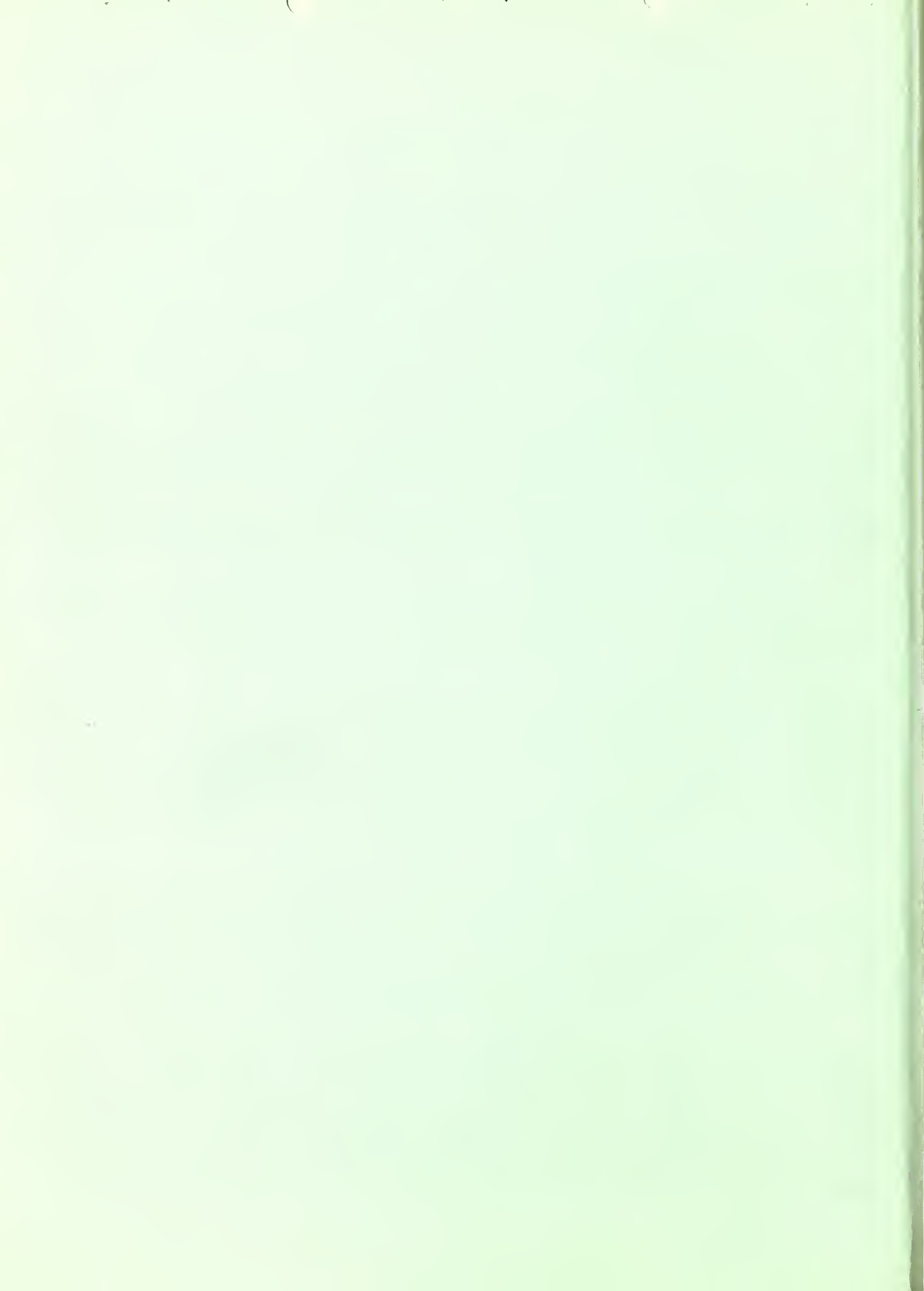
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

APRIL
1943

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 6, 1933.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of April 1933:

Weather Conditions. The weather was very favorable during the fore part of the month and the snow around headquarters disappeared rapidly. Warm days prevailed until about April 20 but during the latter part of the month the weather was unsettled and there was considerable precipitation. The maximum temperature for April was 67° on the 15th and 19th and the minimum temperature 24° on the 12th. The total precipitation for the month was 1.92 inches. There was a total of 8 clear days, 10 partly cloudy, and 12 cloudy days during the month. By the end of April there were only a few snowdrifts around Mammoth.

Snow depths throughout the park diminished rapidly and by the end of the month snow depths were recorded as follows: Lake Ranger Station, 33 inches; Old Faithful, 27 inches; West Yellowstone, 18 inches; Wallatin, 8 inches.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers returned from the Park Hospital in Livingston on April 2, following an operation performed for hernia. However, he did not return to actual duty until April 12. He made no trips outside the park during the month. Assistant Superintendent Smart departed on April 8 for Hot Springs National Park to take over the superintendency of that area. He reported for duty there on April 15. Mr. Smart's position in the Yellowstone is to be filled by the transfer of Fred T. Johnston, Acting Regional Director, Region One, who is to report about the middle of May.

While our snow crews have started out during the past several years in March and April to clear the roads of snow, it is not contemplated to start the plows out this year until May 3, due to decreased operating funds, shortage of personnel, difficulty in securing labor and the prospects of a greatly reduced travel. Travel to the park is not being encouraged this year but the park will be open to take care of such visitors as might be able to reach here.

Arrangements for road openings call for permitting travel between the north and west entrances on May 10. While the Old Faithful, Lake and Canyon roads will be open approximately May 5, June 10 and June 10, respectively, travel is not to be permitted to these areas until May 30, the opening of the fishing season. The east entrance is expected to be open about June 10, the south entrance about June 23, Continental Divide, June 26, and Munro Pass, June 30. As no funds are available for the opening of the Red Lodge-Cooke highway, it may be necessary to allow this road to open of its own accord.

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None of the hotels or lodges will be operating during the 1945 season but such visitors as might be able to reach the park will be accommodated for meals and lodgings at the general stores at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge. The cafeterias will not be open but it may be necessary to open some of the tourist cabins at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge and the coffee shop at Mammoth may be operating. The railroads do not contemplate bringing passengers to the various park gateways but the Northern Pacific will run a bus from its main line at Livingston to the north entrance at Gardiner. The Yellowstone Park Company will not operate its buses during the coming season and travel will, therefore, be restricted to persons having their own cars. The cost of meals and lodgings at the general stores at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge will be as follows: breakfast, 75¢, lunch and dinner, \$1.00 each; single rooms, \$1.50 per night, and double rooms, \$2.50 per night.

Due to an emergency involving a matter of life and death, authority was received from the Director to open the road from Cooke to the B-4 and L-T Ranches, some 12 miles from Cooke, in order to bring out Mrs. Moore, the mother of Mrs. Clarence Linn, wife of the operator of the B-4 Ranch, who was very ill and not expected to live but a few days, as well as to haul feed for some 250 head of starving cattle on the L-T Ranch. The plow was started out from Cooke on April 1 and reached the L-T Ranch on April 7. Mrs. Moore died at 11:00 a.m. on April 5 and her body was brought out from the ranch and taken to the mortuary at Livingston.

Inspections. A. D. Moier, in Charge of Wildlife and Range Management, Region Two, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, in April 28. Mr. Moier is engaged on range study work in the Absaroka National Forest outside the park and will remain in the park until about May 9.

Plans, maps and surveys. Besides the general office routine, considerable time was spent on preparation of road maintenance shuttle cards. Road maintenance progress charts were prepared for each of the major sections designed to show at a glance in graphic form the character of construction and status of the road to date.

The organization of the crews for the season's maintenance program was outlined.

General Publicity. No press releases were sent out from the park during the month.

Road Maintenance. During the fore part of the month the weather was fair, with very little precipitation. During the last week rain and snow predominated, causing a good many rock and earth slides between Gardiner and Tower Falls. At two points on the Mammoth-Morris road, approximately three miles above Mammoth and at one point on the Mammoth to Tower Falls road, approximately 1 1/2 miles from Mammoth, the roads are showing considerable settlement. These points have settled in previous years, but now seem worse than usual. Both areas will require several hundred yards of embankment to be placed. The Gallatin section has probably deteriorated more than any other; heavy traffic and an excess of

moisture having caused the surface to break through in numerous places. At our request, the Montana Highway Department reduced the load limit to 500 pounds per inch of tire, which has somewhat reduced the damage, but the permanent repair of this section will require the placing of a good deal of base course.

The snow crews cleared approximately 12 miles of road beyond Cooke, the work being justified by the emergency of the sickness of Mrs. Moore, mother of the wife of the owner of the B-I Ranch, and also by the shortage of feed for approximately 250 head of cattle on the L-T Ranch. The snow on this section of road averaged approximately 6 feet deep.

A maintenance crew was placed at Tower Falls on the 19th of April.

Snow settlement has been unusually fast during the past month, indicating a possible saving in the snow removal cost for this year.

The Park Engineer made a trip to Custer Battlefield National Cemetery to check over the storm damage caused by ice jams and high water on the Little Bighorn River. The flood water had caused some erosion of the stream bank near the present water intake. It is believed that the damage can be controlled and repaired by the use of a brush mat placed along the damaged section. The water had also caused some damage to the power line where it crosses the Little Bighorn River near Crow Agency. It was recommended that this be repaired by placing a log crib filled with rock around the power pole that was damaged. The general condition of the roads throughout that area was good but much of the area is in need of a new oil mat. While at Custer the Park Engineer discussed with the Custer Superintendent the possibility of a new sewer disposal field and the possibility of moving the water reservoir location.

Park Operators. The general store at Mammoth remained open throughout the month to accommodate Mammoth residents. There was no criticism of the handling of the point rationing by this operator, instructions in connection therewith being furnished by the Yellowstone Park Local Board.

It was definitely decided that no buses will be operating in the park this summer so that travel will be confined entirely to persons having their own transportation.

None of the hotels or lodges will be operating this summer, the only accommodations being available at the general stores at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge. It may be necessary to open some of the tourist cabins at these areas but definite arrangements will be made following a conference in the park with Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, about May 10.

Dr. G. A. Windsor, the authorized medical officer for the park, left for Fairmont, Virginia on April 4, due to ill health and will be gone for several weeks. It is not contemplated to open the hospital in the park during the coming summer. The medical officer has been unable to obtain a resident physician for the park so that the medical service will be handled by nurses at Mammoth, Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge and Dr. Windsor and his assistant in the Park Hospital in Livingston.

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Cooperating Governmental Agencies. No construction work was underway during the month.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. One hundred seventy-one persons entered the park during April as compared to 1,669 during the same month of 1942. The total entering for this travel year to date is 6,137, compared with 17,439 for 1942, a decrease of 11,302 or 64.8%.

Fifty-five cars entered the park in April, as compared to 634 during the same month of 1942. The total cars entering for this travel year to date is 2,138 as compared with 5,712 for 1942, a decrease of -3,574 or -62.6%.

Ranger Service. Ranger work for the month of April was varied.

Regular patrols were made during the earlier part of the month. Snow courses and game observations were made.

At headquarters work in the fire cache was done by several new members of the protection department to acquaint them with the fire tools and equipment. The new men were also alternated in assisting the packmaster condition and repair saddle and pack equipment.

A basic fire protection school for the new personnel was conducted from April 12 to 17.

Chief Ranger LaNoue received orders on April 29 to report to Campuster, Michigan on May 14, for duty as First Lieutenant.

The dead animal counts on the northern winter range were made during the last ten days of the month.

In addition to field work, work was done in the office on the fire atlas and fire weather records by members of the protection department.

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

Wildlife Administration. The annual spring meeting of the Upper Gallatin Conservation Committee held at the Cinnamon Ranger Station on April 6 and 9 was attended by Assistant Chief Ranger W. Leon Evans and District Ranger Arthur Jacobson. The Committee recommended that the Montana Fish and Game Commission provide for an open elk hunting season from October 15 to December 1 with the provision that the season be closed after hunters had secured a kill of from 350 to 400 elk if this were accomplished before December 1. A kill of this size would take the estimated increase from the herd and maintain its size at approximately 2000.

On April 22 Mr. Evans attended a meeting of the Montana Fish and Game Commission at Helena. The purpose of the meeting was to set the big game hunting seasons for next fall. The Commission was advised that the Forest Service was engaged in evaluating the carrying capacity of the available winter game range outside the park and that the extent of the winter losses of elk and

deer could not be determined for about two weeks. It was agreed that the Commission would consider a recommendation regarding the size of the desired hunter's kill for next fall and winter made during the "show-me" trip scheduled for May 8 and 9 which would include representatives from the agencies and organizations concerned with the welfare of the northern Yellowstone elk herd.

Elk. The movement of elk from the winter range in the Absaroka National Forest and the lower portions of the winter range in the park to higher elevations in the park continued throughout April. Most of the elk had left the lower portions of the range by the end of April but some remained, including approximately 400 seen outside the park during late April. Snow receded steadily from the winter range, exposing a plentiful supply of forage in the form of cured grasses which had been covered in November of the past winter. The fact that the elk and other large animals were able to secure this abundant cured forage before the green grass appeared undoubtedly accounts for the fact that the anticipated losses were not excessively high. Had green grass been the first plentiful forage available, the losses would have been quite high. The Montana Fish and Game Department, Forest Service and National Park Service cooperated in counting the carcasses of winter-killed game animals on the winter range during the period of April 19 to 30. Areas outside the park accounted for 398 elk and 474 were found inside, making a total of 872 dead elk found. This count constituted the first effort to accurately and completely cover the winter range for the purpose of determining the extent of winter losses. Some carcasses were undoubtedly missed since it is much more difficult to find all carcasses than to count live animals. It is realized that losses will continue to occur on a reduced scale until sometime in June, but it was not possible to hold the count at a later time. Our experience indicates that it is not practicable to attempt such an intensive count of dead animals each spring, due to the large number of man-days required to complete such a project.

Deer. The winter losses of deer, as indicated by the number of carcasses found on the winter range, were determined along with the elk. Areas outside the park yielded 173 carcasses, while 253 were found inside, making a total of 406. This loss is very heavy and still does not take into account the numerous deer killed by coyotes and it is probable that most of those that died of natural causes early in the winter were also devoured. It is estimated that the deer herd does not exceed 600 this spring.

Buffalo. One large bull which caused considerable trouble to ranchers was shot by a Montana Deputy Game Warden near Big Creek, approximately 15 miles below the town of Gardiner. The carcasses of two buffalo were found on the range outside the park and twelve live animals were seen outside during the count of dead animals. All others had apparently returned to the park.

By April 7 only eleven buffalo remained on the feeding grounds at Lamar so feeding was discontinued on that date. During the balance of April the herd was generally scattered between Lamar and Hellroaring. The first calves were observed on the 21st, but it is possible that they appeared earlier.

Antelope. For more than two months during the most severe part of the winter practically all of the antelope stayed outside the park but they began

moving back into the park during late March. Four were observed above the Lamar Station on April 18 and a week later 28 were counted between Lamar Canyon and Soda Butte. Only 58 carcasses of antelope were counted but as in the case of deer, this figure is probably far short of the actual total loss.

Fish Culture. A tentative fish planting plan for the coming season has been prepared but cannot be completed until the Fish and Wildlife Service decides on the extent of the operations to be carried on this summer at Yellowstone Lake. That Service has advised that the hatchery at Grebe Lake will not be operated this year. Mr. William Dunn, Superintendent of the Lake Hatchery, visited Trout Lake in the Soda Butte area on April 15 to determine how soon it would be possible to commence operations there. No fish have been planted thus far this season.

Rodent Control. The control of ground squirrels suggested by the Public Health Service was carried on only in the Mammoth area during April. A total of 355 of these rodents was disposed of. It is planned to continue these control measures around inhabited areas if a supply of .22 ammunition can be secured.

Forest Fire Protection. General. The first part of the month was devoted to preparation, planning and instruction of the basic building and forest fire protection school held April 12 to 17. Information on food requirements necessary for fire guards and fire control was assembled and submitted. A C.F.O. work program for a five month period was prepared.

Wildlife Protection. The monthly meeting of the Livingston Rod and Gun Club was attended April 15 by Messrs. Joffe, Barrows, Evans, Elliott and Chapman. This club is vitally interested in the northern Yellowstone elk problem.

Forest Fire Protection. Seventeen members of the protection division and one from the naturalist division were trainees at the building and forest fire school held April 12 to 17, while 33 other employees participated in one day of instruction. Eight District and Assistant Chief Rangers served as instructors and attended most of the classes in addition to their teaching duties.

From April 6 to 30, except during the fire school, there were one to three rangers working in the fire cache at Mammoth, servicing fire tools, assembling stampede packs and replacing equipment that will freeze in the standard units. The stampede packs are being standardized into three separate units, one for the crew leader, another for the radio man and the third for the firefighters.

The meeting of the Park County Fire Control Board held in Livingston was attended on April 21 by Chief Ranger Laboue and Assistant Chief Ranger Barrows. The problem of obtaining fire fighters for Yellowstone National Park when the need arises was thoroughly discussed and full cooperation of the local F.F.O. and rural organizations was assured by the board members. The local U. S. Employment Office at Livingston will act as a coordinating center for fire fighters

from other parts of the state and will mobilize at Yellowstone's request, providing this plan is approved by the State Employment Office. As soon as fire fighting wage rates are established, contracts and other information will be distributed to all U. S. Employment Service Offices from whom we may request manpower.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 465 was held in the canteen on April 5.

A meeting with the Yellowstone Park National Board, in which the department heads participated, was held in the Superintendent's Office on April 2.

A wire was received on April 22 advising that the C.P.S. Camp contemplated for the Yellowstone was not to be assigned to this area.

Edmund S. Rogers,
Superintendent.

cc- Region Two

YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK
TO BUREAU
471-

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