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(May 1929)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

	ROGERS	
✓	EMMERT	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	NELSON	
	SMITH	
	MACBETH	
	SHORE	
✓	LANUCE	
	BARROWS	
	SKINNER	
	ELLIOTT	
	PEYTON	
✓	BAJER	
	LOND	
	ROBINSON	

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

April 1942

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 6—7410

May 7, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for the Director

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of April 1942:

Weather Conditions. The weather during the month was typical for April. The spring was rather backward, with considerable flurries of snow during the month and no really warm weather. There were only 4 clear days, 11 partly cloudy and 15 cloudy days. The prevailing winds were from the southwest for 21 days of the month. The maximum temperature was 69° on the 20th and the minimum temperature 22° on the 24th and 27th. Total precipitation for the month was 1.09 inches.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers left Washington for Denver on April 1, arriving in Denver on the third. He left Denver by personal car on the 15th, arriving in the park via the east gate on the 16th. He remained in the Yellowstone the remainder of the month. Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe attended a meeting of Montanans, Inc. in Helena on April 10th and 11th.

The north and west gates were open to admit motorists on April 1, as was the case last year, but the east gate was open to travel on April 15, the earliest in the park's history. Last year this road was opened April 23. The south gate was expected to open for visitors on May 1 and the Continental Divide and Dunraven Pass roads on May 10. The south gate was opened last year on May 1. As no federal funds are available this year for opening the Red Lodge-Cooke Highway, it appears as if nature will have to take its own course on this road unless it can be opened by either the Montana or Wyoming Highway Departments.

Despite the fact that the east entrance road was opened earlier this year and the park highways were in good condition for travel the tire and car rationing was already evidencing a decided drop in travel. Only 654 cars entered the park in April with 1,669 passengers as against 1,660 cars and 4,340 people in April 1941. By the end of the month the total travel for the season since October 1, 1941 was 17,439 persons as against 24,900 a year ago, a loss of 29.9%. The travel so far this year is composed mostly of people going to defense jobs, those visiting men in the Service, Army personnel and others

merely passing through the park. There were very few legitimate tourists and this condition is expected to continue throughout the season, due principally to the tire and car rationing. The general store at Old Faithful opened on April 2 to furnish meals and lodgings, while the Lake store opened on April 15. The store at Old Faithful had only 34 overnight guests for the entire month of April as against 141 in 1941. The Lake store, which opened this year on April 15 as against April 20 last year, had 6 overnight guests as compared to 16 the previous year.

A new wage scale which increased the wages in all per diem positions to more nearly meet the wages paid by other government organizations, operators and contractors in the immediate vicinity of the park, was made effective on April 1. A new meal rate schedule was made effective also on that date which provided for meals by the month at $1.20 per day and single meals at 55¢ each.

Army Day was celebrated in the park on April 6 with appropriate ceremonies being held in the Canteen building. United States Commissioner T. Paul Wilcox was principal speaker, while songs were sung and the salute to the Flag given by the children of the grade schools. The ceremonies ended with the lowering of the Flag at the school house.

On April 13 a memorandum was received from the Director, dated March 31, approving the closing of certain operations in the park for the summer. This provided for closing all of the lodges, the facilities at West Thumb and Camp Roosevelt as well as the boating operations at West Thumb and Bridge Bay. Following receipt of same, a meeting was held with Messrs. Moorman and Child of the Yellowstone Park Company on April 17 and the following dates were arrived at for openings for the 1942 season: Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge tourist cabins and cafeterias, May 27; Canyon tourist cabins and cafeteria, June 3; Mammoth tourist cabins, June 10; Old Faithful, Canyon and Mammoth hotels, June 20.

The Mammoth C.C.C. Camp held open house on Sunday, April 19, to commemorate the Ninth Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Fourth Selective Service Registration for men between the ages of 45 and 65 was held in the park on April 25th, 26th and 27th. Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe acted as chief registrar, assisted by District Park Ranger Evans, Associate Resident Engineer Wohlbrandt, and District Park Ranger Jacobson. Messrs. Joffe and Evans handled the registration at Mammoth while Messrs. Wohlbrandt and Jacobson registered the men in the interior of the park. There was a total of 62 registrations, 31 at Mammoth and 31 in the interior of the park.

Inspections. William M. Long, investigator, Civil Service District Office, Denver, in April 8. J. L. Bossemeyer, Manager, United States Travel Bureau, San Francisco, arrived via West Yellowstone April 8 and departed via the north gate on the same day. Charles C. Fiske, Junior Engineer, Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in April 27. Alma S. Saplin, Junior Examiner, Civil Service District Office, Denver, in via south gate April 30.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Other than the regular office routine, the map files were checked and a new index system started.

Snow depths were measured behind the snow plows, profiles plotted, and snow yardage removal computed. General supervision of the C.C.C. program was carried out, including the placement of grade stakes on the Mammoth Service Road and walks in the Mammoth Employees' Cabin area.

General Publicity. In an endeavor to curtail on publicity and save on mimeograph paper and stencils, no general press releases were issued from the park. However, one or two news items were furnished local papers and the Associated Press and United Press, the latter associations arranging for general distribution through their services. It is expected to follow this procedure throughout the summer and it is not contemplated that a Publicity Director will be engaged this season. The park has had a Publicity Director employed by the park operators each summer for more than 20 years.

Road Maintenance. Maintenance crews were organized and placed at Madison Junction, Lake, and the East Entrance. These crews were kept busy opening culverts, cleaning ditches, and removing numerous rock slides from the roads. Several large snow slides closed the East Entrance to Lake section for a short time. This made it necessary to have the snow plow return to this section three times after the snow was first removed.

The favorable conditions for plowing snow continued throughout the month. The plows continued from Lake to the south entrance and on to Moran. Service areas and roads were opened at Thumb and the south entrance Ranger Station. The Thumb to Old Faithful section was cleared and a good share of the Canyon to Tower Falls section. The plows are still ahead of the 1941 schedule and should have all roads but the Washburn section open by the 6th of May.

New Construction. Work contined on Project 401, Mammoth Comfort Station, and consisted mostly of walks and cleanup.

Special Improvement Activities. On April 12 32 new enrollees arrived, bringing the camp strength of the Mammoth camp up to 170 men. Intensive fire training was started, and about two-thirds of the camp

has received three days of this work. A section of the Yellowstone River Trail above Gardiner, Montana, was repaired. Maintenance of the Nursery was started, together with spring planting. The rock crusher was operated during the entire month, much of the material being used on the Mammoth Service Road. Work continued on the Mammoth Service Road.

Park Operators. Gar Helppie, Manager for Hamilton Stores, Inc., arrived in the park on April 1 and opened the Old Faithful store on the second. The Lake store was opened on the 15th. The Gardiner Transportation shops started operations on April 1. On April 13 approval was received for the closing of all lodges and the facilities at West Thumb and Camp Roosevelt, as well as the boat operations at West Thumb and Bridge Bay. Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, visited the park on April 23 for a conference with the Superintendent, and J. E. Haynes arrived on April 30.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Sixteen hundred and sixty-nine persons entered the park during April of this year as compared to 4,340 during April of 1941. The total persons entering the park for this travel year to date is 17,439 as compared with 24,900 for 1941, a decrease of 7,461 or -29.9%.

Six hundred and fifty-four motor vehicles entered the park in April of this year as compared to 1,660 during the same month of 1941. The total motor vehicles entering the park for this travel year to date is 5,712 as compared with 8,741 for 1941, a decrease of 3,029 or -34.6%.

Travel by Entrances for Month

Entrance	First Entry Cars	First Entry Pass.	Re-Entry Cars	Re-Entry Pass.	Totals Cars	Totals Pass.
South	-		-		-	
North	153	384	86	220	239	604
West	205	564	28	88	233	652
East	103	222	2	4	105	226
Northeast	7	14	70	173	77	187
Totals	468	1184	186	485	654	1669

No entries under "Motorcycles" or "Other Transportation"

Ranger Service. As park snow plows cleared the highways of snow four of the five entrance stations and two interior district ranger stations were manned by protection division personnel. Other duties

performed by this division were highway patrols, special daily Mammoth area patrols, cooperative State and Federal snow course measurements, completing the revision of park ranger administrative manual, assignment of district and park ranger personnel for 1942 travel season, preliminary planning and organization for the scheduled fire training school to be conducted in May and planning civilian defense first-aid course for park employees and residents.

Police Protection. No law enforcement cases were held before the United States Commissioner this month. No law enforcement cases have been held before the U. S. Commissioner since January 1, 1942.

Wildlife Administration and Ranches. Bears. Bears aroused from hibernation during the month and appeared throughout the park. By April 12 a large black bear had established himself at a roadside location near the beaver dams between Mammoth and Norris near which he has been seen almost daily. Bears around Old Faithful, Lake and Mammoth became more numerous and active during the latter part of the month.

Bighorns. With rapid receding of winter snow and widening of range areas, the bighorns became widely scattered and began to drift back to their higher summer feeding grounds. Practically all of those observed during the month were in apparent good physical condition.

Buffalo. Slaughter of 183 buffalo was completed on the early afternoon of April 6 and all carcasses were shipped by the 7th. Due to mild temperatures during the last week of this operation, meat remained soft and difficult to handle but no spoilage had occurred up to the time of loading. Carcasses were hauled daily to iced freight refrigerator cars at Gardiner and, as far as has been learned, shipments went through in good order. The last 48 animals slaughtered were transported to their destination by truck.

Following the termination of slaughter operations, the following live shipments were made:

Allotted to	Date Received	2-yr.-old Bulls	3-yr.-old Bulls	Total Buffalo
Crow Indian Agency	4-11-42	6		6
Crow Indian Agency	4-17-42	6		6
San Rafael Grazing Dist.	4-17-42	1	4	5
Totals		13	4	17

For the summer show herd, 20 large buffalo bulls and 11 cows were held in corrals. All other animals were released to the range. By the close of the month 7 calves had been born to the 11 cows and it

performed by this activity were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] were done previously, supervision [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

appeared that the calf crop from this small group would be 100 per cent.

Twenty-one new calves had been counted on the open range by the end of April. A complete census will be made in May, after which a general report covering the winter's observations and operations will be submitted.

Elk. The elk migration to summer range was well underway during the last two weeks of the month. Known winter losses to date total about 50 animals but it is likely that additional deaths will occur and further observations are planned.

Recent observations indicate that the Gallatin elk herd came through the winter in fair to good condition. Two men, Faye Covey and Clyde Howard, employed on a Pittman-Robinson project, spent the winter in the Gallatin area on the forest adjoining the park and were engaged in range, elk distribution and other studies. From counts made during the winter, their estimate of the present size of this herd is 2,750.

On April 11 a true and albino elk was observed near Crown Butte in the Gallatin area by Assistant Chief Rangers Barrows and Skinner and Dr. Hadleigh Marsh of the Montana State Veterinary Research Laboratory of Bozeman. Observation was made from a point less than one-eighth mile distant from the animal and with the aid of field glasses. This animal, a young cow, was completely white (as white as a white horse), except for a slight shading of bluish-gray down the front position of the shoulders. The animal was among a group of about twenty elk, from which it stood out in distinct contrast While a number of cream-colored elk have been reported upon different occasions in the past, this is the first authentic case within the vicinity of the park where the animal appeared to be a true albino.

Fox. On April 13 District Ranger Arthur Jacobson observed a red fox crossing the road at Golden Gate.

Trumpeter Swans. A number of individuals were observed in the Horseshoe area on various ponds along the Lamar River as early as April 6. On April 17 a pair of trumpeters was seen on a pond not far from Trumpeter Lake where it is likely that they will nest again this season.

Geese. Numerous gaggles of Canada geese in Elk Park, Gibbon Meadows and along the Madison and Firehole Rivers were of special interest to the few travelers upon the opening of roads in April. These geese, in marked contrast to those usually seen beyond the park boundaries, have no special fear of man and may be approached and observed closely during this mating period.

appeared that the next step from this would prove [illegible] each.

Twenty-one new [illegible] had been [illegible] on the open range by the end of April. A complete account will be made in May, after which a general report covering the winter's observations and operations will be submitted.

Elk. The elk migration to summer ranges was well under way during the last two weeks of the month. [illegible] and further observations are planned.

Recent observations indicate that the animals had come through the winter in fair to good condition. Two men, [illegible], employed by a [illegible], [illegible] in the [illegible] area adjoining the park and were engaged in range, [illegible] distribution and [illegible] of [illegible]. [illegible] made during the winter, their estimate of the present size of the herd is [illegible].

On April 21 a [illegible] was observed [illegible] in the [illegible] area by [illegible] Chief Ranger [illegible] and Dr. [illegible] of the [illegible] Laboratory at [illegible]. [illegible] this animal, a young [illegible], was completely white [illegible] as a white [illegible], except for a slight [illegible] of [illegible] along the [illegible] position of the [illegible]. The animal was [illegible] of about twenty [illegible]. [illegible] a number of [illegible]-colored [illegible] have been reported upon different occasions in the past, this is the first authentic [illegible] in the vicinity of the park where the animal appeared [illegible].

Fox. On April 23 [illegible] observed a red fox [illegible] the road at [illegible].

Trumpeter Swans. A number of [illegible] were observed on [illegible] along the [illegible] as early as April 6. On April 11 a pair of Trumpeters was seen [illegible] far from Trumpeter Lake where it is likely that they will nest again this season.

Bears. [illegible] reports of [illegible] during [illegible] of [illegible] through to the few [illegible] upon the [illegible] in April. [illegible], [illegible] to [illegible] that [illegible] have no special fear of man and may be [illegible] and observed closely during this mating period.

Fish Culture. Edward M. Tuttle, Superintendent of the Lake Fish Hatchery station, returned from Albuquerque, New Mexico, about the middle of the month and, with one assistant, began maintenance work preparatory to spawning and other fish cultural operations in the park.

Some 3 to 4-inch Rainbow trout fingerlings, developed during the winter at the Ennis, Montana, Federal hatchery, were planted in the Madison River, Nez Perce Creek and Goose Lake during the last days of the month.

It is expected that the 2 to 3-inch Loch Leven fingerling scheduled for planting in the Madison, Gibbon and Firehole River drainages will be planted in early May from Ennis by means of Fish and Wildlife Service trucks.

Ranches. Letters were sent to a number of Civil Service irrigators and it is planned to place one at the Buffalo Ranch and one at the Game Ranch early in May for the irrigation of hay and grass lands in these areas.

Forestry. A crew of C.C.C. enrollees started working at the forest nursery on April 15 under the supervision of Park Ranger Watson. The work on this project during the month consisted of removal of snow fences, removal of mulch from transplant beds, preparation of soil for sowing grass seed, lifting trees for transplanting and other general maintenance in preparation for closing the project by June 1. About 140 trees and shrubs were planted in the Mammoth area as replacements of previous plantings which failed to survive.

Forest Fire Protection. The forest fire protection activities consisted in training C.C.C. enrollees for fire fighting, acquiring man days for trail maintenance, checking trail maintenance, corresponding with fire guard applicants, corresponding with other agencies concerning fire school attendance, and completion of Fire Fighting Plan and Guide. Two groups of C.C.C. enrollees of 50 men each were given fire training for 3 days. Conferences were held with the C.C.C. Company Commander relative to a stampede crew at Old Faithful. All fire pumps at Mammoth have been tested by the mechanical section and parts ordered for repair of those needed. The 1½ ton truck assigned to Lake has been overhauled and dual wheels added. Arrangements have been made to have the power for the pump moved to the rear of this truck. The large fish tank truck has been moved from Norris and a power pumper will be attached to this for fire use. Five mules were purchased with C.C.C. funds to fill out the fire pack strings.

Accidents. One minor automobile accident was investigated this month involving a park operator's delivery truck and a private automobile. A total of four automobile accidents have been investigated since January 1, 1942.

Fish Hatchery. [illegible], superintendent of the [illegible] Hatchery, returned from [illegible], New Mexico, after the middle of the month and, with one assistant, began maintenance work preparatory to spawning and other fish cultural operations in the [illegible].

[illegible] during the winter at the [illegible] the Indians [illegible] of [illegible].

It is expected that [illegible] for planting in the [illegible] will be planted in early May from stock in excess of [illegible].

Grazing. [illegible] at the same time early in May for the [illegible] in these areas.

Forestry. A crew of [illegible] forest nursery on April [illegible] under the supervision of [illegible]. The work of this project during the month consisted of removal of [illegible], removal of mulch from transplant beds, preparation of soil for sowing grass seed, lifting trees for transplanting and [illegible] the nursery areas as replacements of previous plantings which failed to survive.

Forest Fire Protection. [illegible] fire [illegible] for fire fighting [illegible] with fire [illegible] and [illegible] fire [illegible] funds in [illegible].

Accidents. [illegible] 1942.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on April 6.

Clerk LeRoy VanCott and Miss Ruth Johannesen of Murray, Utah were married in the Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City on April 17. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon visiting Zion and Bryce National Parks and will make their home at Mammoth. Mr. VanCott is employed in the Park Naturalist Office.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for stenographer and typist on April 25. There were three contestants.

Superintendent.

cc- Region Two Headquarters.