

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

	FOHRS	
	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	JS
✓	SOULE	
✓	ACRETH	
	SHOULT	
	QUIST	
	SOMERVILLE	
✓	BAUER	CMB
✓	BARROWS	MB
✓	ELLIOTT	MB
✓	EVANS	ZE
✓	CHAPMAN	SP
✓	WOHLBRANDT	PD
	ROBINSON	

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

JANUARY

1944

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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

February 3, 1944.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

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

Weather Conditions. As has been the case during the preceding months this winter, January was comparatively mild, with very little precipitation, in direct contrast with the weather a year ago. Sub-zero temperatures occurred on several nights and early mornings during the first part of the month, but the days usually turned clear and temperatures rose considerably. On January 4 the coldest weather of the month was recorded, -12° , while on the same night the Buffalo Ranch reported -38° , West Yellowstone -27° , Old Faithful -30° and the Northeast Entrance -28° . On January 7 a temperature of -6° was recorded at Mammoth, on January 10 the thermometer recorded -20° , and on January 11 it was -40 . The maximum temperature for the month was 45° on January 21. Total precipitation for the month was .30 inch, as against 3.40 inches in January 1943. There were 11 clear days during the month, 5 partly cloudy and 15 cloudy.

The light snowfall during January required very little use of the snowplow in keeping open the Mammoth-Cooke road. On January 11 a passenger car was driven as far as Obsidian Cliff and on the 20th a light truck went out as far as Beaver Lake, in order to meet the winterkeepers coming in from Canyon. A heavy truck made the trip from Mammoth to Norris without difficulty on January 26. There have been very few years in the history of the park when the snow has been so light in January as to permit travel even as far as Swan Lake Flat from Mammoth.

Because of the light powdery condition of the snow, skiing was extremely poor and the new snowplane was unable to operate satisfactorily on a trial run from Norris on the 26th. A previous trial run in the vicinity of Mammoth, where the snow was more packed, proved successful on January 8.

Snow depths in the interior of the park were comparable with those at Mammoth and this winter has seen one of the lightest snowfalls in many years. A comparison of snow depths at the end of the month for the past 5 years at some points in the park follows:

(See next page)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR 1907

BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1908

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COMPARATIVE SNOW DEPTHS 1940 - 1944

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Buffalo Ranch	19	10	19	30	4
Shler River	40	42	49		31
ake			29	54	13.9
st Entrance	21		16		16
latin	11.5	18	20	34	10
is River Divide	45	64	54.9		39.6
moth	9		6	36	5
l Faithful	17	20	28	93	19
ake River	34	44	29.7		24
er Falls	15		13	36	11
st Yellowstone	18	30	29	83	12
artsman Lake			24		26
oth Riverside			42		24
cade Creek					36
assy Lake				119	36
er Creek					36
alter Creek					26
ison Junction					13
rt Lake					12

Glenn H. Simmons of the Bureau of Reclamation reported that his survey of January 17 and 18 showed the lightest snow cover ever to be measured over the Jackson Lake watershed with the exception of Lewis Divide, Aster Creek and Coulter Creek which was less in 1931 (the lowest year in their records).

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers, who had been away from the park since December 8, when he left for Denver on official business and annual leave, departed from Denver on January 6 for Chicago for assignment and conferences in the Director's Office. He left Chicago on January 25, stopping off at the Regional Office in Omaha for about 3 days and returned to Denver on the 29th. He is expected to return to the Yellowstone about February 10. Assistant Superintendent Johnston was Acting Superintendent in his absence.

The Fourth War Loan Drive got underway on January 18. The Yellowstone, operating as a unit of the Wyoming War Finance Committee, was assigned a quota of \$12,600 as against \$11,800 in the Third War Loan Drive and, despite the fact that there are few in the park other than the regular employees and the park is on a strictly winter basis, by the end of the month a total of \$19,222.50 was credited to park. All but \$5,000 of this amount was sold to individuals. The park's quota was reached within 10 days after the drive started and a quota flag will be awarded. The Yellowstone was the winner of a handsome plaque donated by the Governor of Wyoming in the Third War Loan Drive, reaching 436% of its quota, and has an excellent chance of winning a similar plaque offered by the Governor in the Fourth

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Year	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
1. Freshmen	100	100	100	100	100	100
2. Sophomores	100	100	100	100	100	100
3. Juniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
4. Seniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
5. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
6. Graduates	100	100	100	100	100	100
7. Non-graduates	300	300	300	300	300	300
8. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
9. Freshmen	100	100	100	100	100	100
10. Sophomores	100	100	100	100	100	100
11. Juniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
12. Seniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
13. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
14. Graduates	100	100	100	100	100	100
15. Non-graduates	300	300	300	300	300	300
16. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
17. Freshmen	100	100	100	100	100	100
18. Sophomores	100	100	100	100	100	100
19. Juniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
20. Seniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
21. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
22. Graduates	100	100	100	100	100	100
23. Non-graduates	300	300	300	300	300	300
24. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
25. Freshmen	100	100	100	100	100	100
26. Sophomores	100	100	100	100	100	100
27. Juniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
28. Seniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
29. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
30. Graduates	100	100	100	100	100	100
31. Non-graduates	300	300	300	300	300	300
32. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
33. Freshmen	100	100	100	100	100	100
34. Sophomores	100	100	100	100	100	100
35. Juniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
36. Seniors	100	100	100	100	100	100
37. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400
38. Graduates	100	100	100	100	100	100
39. Non-graduates	300	300	300	300	300	300
40. Total	400	400	400	400	400	400

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 OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
 540 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605
 TEL. 371-2000

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War Loan Drive. Of the 61 permanent employees carried on the rolls for Yellowstone, Custer and Devils Tower, 100 participated in the pay roll deduction plan in January.

The buffalo reduction program involving the Lamar herd occupied the main duties of members of the Protection Division and the killing started on January 10. The park was fortunate in getting two good butchers to handle the butchering and the work progressed without interruption. The record day was January 25 when 23 animals were killed and butchered. By the end of January 339 buffalo of the 400 to be taken from the herd had been killed and dressed for shipment and all work will be completed by February 5, including the shipment of 3 live animals.

On January 10 Superintendent Rogers, Assistant Superintendent Johnston, Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe and Chief Clerk Soule received authorizations to administer oaths in connection with Civil Service appointments and sign other Civil Service papers.

The Park Safety Committee for 1944, consisting of Albert E. Elliott, Chairman, Evelyn Kumor, Clerk, and William Higgins and Robert M. Robinson, Members, was appointed on January 10.

On the same date the Yellowstone Park Board of Survey for 1944 was appointed, consisting of C. Max Bauer, Chairman, William N. Reeve, Clerk, Phil Wohlbrandt and Elmer W. Ames, Members, with Wyman P. Benson and George McMullin, Alternates.

Executive Order 9414, approved January 13, 1944, pertaining to regulations relating to sick and annual leave, appeared in the Federal Register on January 18. A number of worthwhile changes are provided for and the new regulations are effective January 10, 1944.

Inspections. O. J. Murie, Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Wyoming in January 12 in connection with buffalo reduction and elk studies, out 18th; L. O. Quortrup, in charge, Bear River Wildlife Disease Research Station, Brigham, Utah, in January 28 to test buffalo; J. F. Comstock, Property Inspector, Procurement Division, Treasury Department, Denver, in January 31 to inspect surplus property.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. A new scheme for the general layout of the Mammoth area was worked up in the Engineering Division, which provided for separating the utility area from the residential area. A study was made of a possible gravity flow sewerage system for the Canyon area and a rough draft of a possible plan prepared. The possibility of one-way road systems for the Canyon campground was reviewed. The heating layout for the old garage and machine shop at Mammoth was worked on with the Master Plumber. Considerable time was spent on the preparation of a report on park roads, water, sewer, telephone and power systems, showing type, source of supply, date of installation, capacity, etc.

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General Publicity. No press releases were issued during the month but information was furnished a representative of the Salt Lake Tribune in Idaho Falls, Idaho for the preparation of an article in connection with the part the Yellowstone is playing in the War program.

Road Maintenance. Maintenance operations were very light during the month. Removal of rock in the Gardiner Canyon was a regular operation. It was necessary to sand the hills several times during the month. The snowfall was light but the temperature was seldom high enough to thaw.

Three times during the month the snow was removed from the road between Mammoth and Cooke, the push type plows being used each time.

The accumulation of slide material in the Gardiner Canyon became so heavy that it was necessary to use one of the motor patrol blades to clear the road of the material.

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.

Miss Elsie Kane, the nurse assigned to duty at Mammoth vice Mrs. Dwight Richards, entered on duty on January 1.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Three hundred eight-six persons entered the park during January as compared with 215 for the same month in 1943. The total persons entering the park for the travel year is 3,456, as compared to 5,645 persons for 1943, a decrease of -38.7%.

One hundred thirteen cars entered the park in January as compared with 77 for the same month in 1943. The total cars for this travel year is 1,100 as compared to 1,990 for 1943 or a decrease of -44.7%.

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

Ranger Service. Commencing January 10 the buffalo reduction program required the time of eight rangers throughout the remainder of the month. Previous to that time considerable preparation such as baiting the animals into the corrals, coordinating shipments and preparing the slaughter house for operations required the time of several rangers.

In the remote areas ski patrols were maintained in the Snake, Secoler and West Yellowstone Districts. No ski patrols could be made in the northern and central sections of the park due to the reduction activity.

Rangers reported poor skiing due to the dry unpacked condition of the light snow.

These results are shown in the following table:

TABLE 1. Results of the survey of the ...

It is seen from the table that the ...

The data of the survey are as follows:

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TABLE 2. Results of the survey of the ...

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TABLE 5. Results of the survey of the ...

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The data of the survey are as follows:

These results are shown in the following table:

TABLE 6. Results of the survey of the ...

It is seen from the table that the ...

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

Accidents. No automobile accidents occurred during January.

Wildlife Administration. Bison. Extensive observations of the northern winter range accounted for 241 bison in addition to 32 extra animals being held in the corrals at Lamar which will be released as soon as the reduction is completed. This total of 273 is believed to comprise the major portion of the Lamar herd but some additional animals may be accounted for later when areas adjacent to the upper Lamar River are covered in connection with a general census of all bison in the park.

Bison Reduction. The reduction of the Lamar bison herd commenced on January 10 and by the end of the month a total of 339 animals had been slaughtered. There was no selection of the animals killed as the number corraled was only slightly in excess of the 400 to be removed. The butchering contract was awarded to Lyle P. and Walter J. Belden of Billings, Montana.

Meat and hides from the slaughtered bison were allotted to sixteen Indian agencies and the following shipments were made during January:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number Shipped</u>	<u>Date Shipped</u>	<u>Method Of Shipment</u>
Haskell Institute	10	1/2/44	Express
Ft. Berthold	15	1/13/44	Express
Turtle Mountain	15	1/19/44	Agency Trucks
Blackfeet	66	1/20/44	Freight, Carload
Crow Creek	13	1/22/44	Express
Crow Indian	34*	1/24/44	Agency Trucks
Wind River	40	1/24/44	Agency Trucks; Hides, LCI Freight
Rosebud	35	1/27/44	Freight, Carload
Flathead	10	1/28/44	Freight, LCI
Ft. Belknap	15	1/29/44	Agency Truck
Tongue River	30	1/31/44	Freight, Carload

*Includes four carcasses and hides for the Catholic Mission schools.

Dr. E. R. Quortrup of the Bear River Wildlife Disease Research Station arrived in the park on January 28 and will test blood samples taken from all slaughtered bison. He also will test and vaccinate the three bison which will be shipped alive.

Elk. The elk were still in good condition at the end of January and no important down country migrations have occurred. Forage is plentiful and an abundance of the more palatable species remains available. No excessive utilization was noted in any areas and it appears that important stands and aspen reproduction will come through the winter without being utilized by browsing animals.

During the latter half of the month a crust formed on the snow in some limited sections of the winter range. In most instances this crust was light and the underlying snow loose. The elk and other game animals were not appreciably handicapped in securing forage; in fact, practically all of the winter range as well as some areas that are not usually considered winter range were available to and being used by game animals. Attempts to trap live elk were entirely unsuccessful since the animals show no interest in the hay used as bait.

Mr. O. J. Murie, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service arrived in the park on January 12 and remained until the 18th. He devoted most of his time to examinations of the winter range from Pebble Creek to the Game Ranch and conferred with the District Forest Ranger at Gardiner, Montana regarding game matters. He also observed the bison reduction operations at Lamar.

Hunting Season. Few elk were taken by hunters in Park County Montana. The State Fish and Game Department has not operated the game checking station this season but the local deputy game warden estimates the kill for the season at 110.

Antelope. There is little or no snow on the lower parts of the winter range and the antelope are well distributed from Mammoth and Mt. Everts to points several miles below the park boundary. The heavy concentration of these animals in the Game Ranch areas noted earlier was observed to have broken up this month.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 465 was held in the Canteen on January 3. New officers for the 1944 year were elected, consisting of William N. Reeve, President, E. M. Thompson, Vice President, Evelyn Rumor, Secretary-Treasurer and William England, Guardian. The Executive Committee elected consisted of Ladd Shorey, Howard Kocher, Leroy Van Cott, John Bauman and Stanley Fillmore.

Fred T. Johnston,
Acting Superintendent.

cc- Region Two



