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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

December, 1939

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

January 5, 1940

Memorandum for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of December 1939:

000 - General

010 - Unusual weather conditions again prevailed in December and it was not until the twelfth of the month that any of the roads were closed to travel, the latest in all park history. On December 10 the superintendent made a trip around the entire Grand Loop without chains, a condition previously unheard of, but the following day a storm temporarily closed Sylvan Pass and on the twelfth the east entrance road and the Muraven Pass roads were closed for the winter. On the nineteenth the Norris-Canyon road and the south entrance roads were closed, leaving open to travel only the highway from Gardiner to Mammoth to Madison Junction to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone, and from Mammoth to Tower Junction and the northeast entrance, which latter road will be kept open throughout the winter to permit Cooke residents an opportunity to get in and out from their homes and to open to the public the wildlife show along the north side of the park. On the twenty-second of the month the road from Madison Junction to Old Faithful was closed to travel and the last of the entrance roads was closed on the thirty-first when travel was discontinued from Mammoth to West Yellowstone.

Because of the late travel this year the C. A. Hamilton store at Old Faithful remained open until December 4, which is the latest that any operations, outside of Mammoth, have been open in the park.

020 - General Weather Conditions

December 1939 was the mildest December on record at Mammoth in a half century, the monthly mean temperature being 9.2° above normal. The former record for the highest daily maximum temperature was 47°; however, on December 5 a high of 58° was recorded, followed by 52° on the seventh, 42° on the tenth and 50° on the eleventh. The fall drought continued until mid-month when snowfall set in on nearly every day, and total snowfall for the month was up to normal. This is the first month since last March to have slightly more than normal precipitation. Temperatures below zero were

registered on the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth. Continuous snow cover on the ground did not begin this season until December 11, but it accumulated to somewhat more than six inches depth by the end of the month.

<u>Station</u>	<u>COMPARATIVE SNOW DEPTHS</u>	
	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>
Snake River	41"	14"
Cascade Creek	37"	23"
Bechler	37"	20"
Buffalo Lake	34"	30"
West Entrance	19"	9"
Madison Junction	12"	18"
Sportsman Lake	36"	
Tower Falls	7"	7"
Lewis River Divide	64"	25"
Harebell Creek	53"	24"
Boundary Creek	37"	30"
South Riverside	55"	33"
Callatin	14"	8"
Old Faithful	24"	11"
Slough Creek	13"	11"
Wannoth	1.3"	6.1"

100 - Administrative

110 - Superintendent's Special Activities

Superintendent Rogers remained in the park until December 17, when he left on annual leave for Denver. One trip was made around the loop and toward Mary Lake with Park Naturalist Bauer on the tenth, and on the fifteenth the superintendent accompanied by Assistant Superintendent Emmert made a trip to Livingston to confer with Dr. Windsor regarding the new medical contract.

Following the departure of Superintendent Rogers, Assistant Superintendent Emmert became acting superintendent and during his absence from the park on annual leave from the twenty-fifth to thirty-first Assistant Superintendent Joffe was acting.

120 - Park Inspections

Assistant Regional Forester George Walker who arrived in the park on November 10 in connection with the park's fire protection program departed for Omaha on December 20.

Resident Landscape Architect Sanford Hill, who was assigned to the park throughout the summer, departed for the regional office at Omaha on December 2.

Harry Dunham, regional inspector, arrived in the park via the north gate December 9; departed on the twelfth.

George Bagley, representative in charge of the proposed Isle Royale National Park, arrived in the park via the west gate on December 27 while on annual leave; departed on the thirtieth.

149 - Status of Private Lands

An option was obtained on the Lena Bassett Ross property in the area proposed to be acquired as an addition to the winter range for the wildlife of the park and negotiations were under way by the United States Attorney's office at Billings for the filing of declarations of taking on all private property in the area involved. Abstracts for the Roy Armstrong and Lena Bassett Ross properties were completed by Lewis Terwilliger of Livingston and mailed to the United States Attorney's office at Billings. Information regarding various ownerships of the property involved was obtained by this office and furnished the United States Attorney's office at Billings. Options have now been received and approved for all properties excepting that of Roy Armstrong.

150 - Plans, Maps and Surveys

The Canyon campground topography was completed and plotted, as was the Reese Creek survey. The proposed sewer at Old Faithful was laid out and work started on the plans for the proposed Canyon sewer system.

160 - General Publicity

Several news items regarding special winter activities were sent out from the park during the month.

170 - General Complaints

A few written complaints regarding summer activities were received from some last summer's visitors and these were all taken up with the operators concerned for appropriate investigation and reply.

200 - Maintenance, New Construction and Improvements

210 - Maintenance

Principal work consisted of bracing buildings against snowfall, clearing ice from ditches, and rock patrol on roads.

220 - New Construction

All FWA projects were closed down for the winter with only a small amount of cleanup to be done in the spring.

230 - Special Improvement Activities

HRA - The HRA worked on the Mammoth-Cardiner road sloping cuts and landscaping, and on various other betterment projects.

CCC - The CCC continued work on the campground and started on the service road in the Mammoth area, completed the new elk corral at the Game Ranch, and practically completed the water system at the Buffalo Ranch.

300 - Activities of Other Agencies in the Park

310 - Park Operators

The C. A. Hamilton store at Old Faithful remained open until December 4 to take care of late visitors while the general store at Mammoth remained open throughout the month and will be open during the entire winter to accommodate winter visitors and Mammoth residents.

400 - Interpretation

430 - Research and Observation

431 - Botany

Very little utilization of the northern winter range was made by elk until December 10 or 20 when migrations from the higher altitudes started. By the end of the month approximately three-fourths of the northern elk herd was grazing on winter range.

500 - Use of Park Facilities by the Public

510 - Increase or Decrease in Travel

Mild weather and lack of snow accounted for the increase in travel as roads throughout the park, which normally are closed during the month of December, remained open much later than usual. (See attached report.)

ENTRANCE	1st Entry		Re-entry		Motorcycle		Other Transportation		TOTALS	
	Cars	Pass.	Cars	Pass.	No.	Pass.	No.	People	Vehicles	Pass.
North	122	351	336	993	0	0	0	0	508	1344
West	93	304	59	184	0	0	0	0	152	488
South	20	54	17	42	0	0	0	0	37	96
Northeast			76	164	0	0	0	0	76	164
East	30	101	70	210	0	0	0	0	100	311
TOTALS	275	810	608	1601	0	0	0	0	691	2411

600 - Protection

610 - Ranger Service

Intensive patrols of park boundaries were continued during December as trappers were active in large areas adjacent to the park. Despite unfavorable weather conditions which caused the elk herds to remain at higher altitudes, many hunters visited the open territory in Park County, Montana, necessitating constant patrols of adjoining park areas.

$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{2} m v^2 \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \dot{y}^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \dot{z}^2 \right)$

1. $\frac{1}{2} \log \frac{1}{2}$

The continued deficiency of snowfall permitted travel over park highways much later than usual, and this late season travel made it necessary to maintain rangers on highway patrol and entrance station duty until late in the month.

620 - Police Protection

Three persons entered pleas of "Guilty" when arraigned before the United States Commissioner on the charge of fishing in closed waters, and fines paid amounted to \$15.00.

630 - Wildlife Protection and Fish Cultural Activities

Trapping Season: The Montana season for trapping marten was opened December 1 to continue until February 1, and additional activities resulted along the west and north boundaries.

Hunting Season: The 1939 hunters' take of elk in Park County, Montana was 91 as compared with 726 in 1938 and the low reduction this year could be attributed directly to mild weather conditions which made it possible for the animals to range in the higher altitudes almost until January 1, 1940. No migrations from the park to open hunting territory occurred; however, at the close of the month four to ten inches of wet snow covered the winter range and it appeared that cold temperatures would cause a heavy crust to form and that a heavy migration of elk to open hunting territory would then occur.

640 - Forest Fire Protection

A large part of the month was devoted to the preparation of the Forest Protection Requirements Report for the park, which work was accomplished with the assistance of a forester assigned to the park for this purpose from the Region II office. Other work consisted of compilation of fire weather data for submission to the U. S. Forest Service. The park is cooperating with Regions I and II by collecting data for the fire danger rating systems used in each Region. The fire atlas was brought up to date, insofar as possible, pending completion of accounting records for December.

680 - Accidents

On December 1, 1939 Francis P. Roylance, Mrs. Arenhouseman, driving a Chevrolet Pickup, lost control of the car on a rough section of road between Norris and Canyon. The car overturned and was badly damaged, but Mr. Roylance suffered only minor bruises.

900 - Miscellaneous

The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen building on December 4. Considerable revision of the constitution and by-laws was proposed, to be voted upon at the January meeting.

The closing date for the filing of applications, December 9, for pending examinations for various skilled positions for the establishment of registers for filling seasonal positions in the park was extended to December 23 due to the small number of applications received.

A six pound girl was born to Assistant Chief Ranger and Mrs. Albert Elliott at the Park Hospital in Livingston on December 11.

Numerous activities occupied the week before Christmas and a program, sponsored by the Yellowstone Park Women's Club, was put on in the Canteen for WRA and CCC employees on the evening of the nineteenth. The program was repeated the following evening for other residents at Mammoth. The school children's program was held in the Canteen on the evening of the twenty-second while the general Christmas program, including a visit from Santa and the distribution of gifts to the children, was held in the Chapel on Christmas Eve, December 24.

The seasonal position of Junior Radio Engineer, filled by Elmo E. Elliott, was made permanent effective December 1.

Glenn P. Muehew, Park clerk, departed from the park on December 21, having been transferred to the Grazing Service, Pawlina, Wyoming.

J. M. Bennett,
Acting Superintendent.

AMD

The following information was obtained from the records of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, regarding the land owned by the United States in the State of California.

(1) The total area of land owned by the United States in the State of California is approximately 100,000,000 acres.

The land is owned by the United States in several different ways. Some of the land is owned by the United States in fee simple, while some is owned by the United States in trust for the benefit of the people of the State of California. Some of the land is owned by the United States in trust for the benefit of the Indians of the State of California.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

~~YELLOWSTONE~~

National Park for the month of

December, 1932

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year	
					Number	Percent

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:

cars first entry	273	3107	32	1332	1275	60.5
cars reentry	603	3213	93	908	2215	224.7
motorcycles						
Total motor vehicles	881	6320	125	2240	3520	124.3
persons entering via motor vehicles	2411	17369	354	7957	9912	124.5
persons entering via other private transportation						
Total persons entering via private transportation	2411	17369	354	7957	9912	124.5

OTHER TRANSPORTATION:

persons entering via stages						
persons entering via trains						
persons entering otherwise						
Total other transportation						
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS	2411	17369	354	7957	9912	124.5

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent

Automobiles in public camps during month
campers in public camps during month

UNITED STATES
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TRAVEL REPORT

National Park for the month of _____

This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Percent Increase or Decrease
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PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:

Persons entering via private transportation				
Persons entering via motor vehicles				
Persons entering via other private transportation	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total persons entering via private transportation	.....	.....	.....	.....

OTHER TRANSPORTATION:

Persons entering via stages	.....	.....	.....	.....
Persons entering via trains	.....	.....	.....	.....
Persons entering otherwise	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total other transportation				
AND TOTAL ALL VISITORS				

This Year	Last Year	Number	Percent Increase
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Persons in public camps during month
Motorcycles in public camps during month

