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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

207-02.3

	ROGERS
✓	JOHNSTON
✓	JOFFE
✓	ANDERSON
	NOVICKI
	GILLUM
	QUIST
	BIRD
✓	BAUER
✓	BARROWS
	ELLIOTT
✓	EVANS
	CHAPMAN
	SKINNER
✓	WOHLERANDT
	ROBINSON

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

MONTLHY REPORT

FOR

MARCH

1946

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 6—7410

April 5, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of March 1946:

Weather Conditions. Weather conditions prevailing throughout the Park were typical of normal March weather. Snowfall and precipitation were about normal at all stations from which reports were received. Total precipitation for the month at Mammoth was 2.56 inches. Records show that there were ten clear days, and the remainder of the month was cloudy or partly cloudy. There was only one night during the month when the temperature did not drop below freezing.

An exceptionally brilliant aurora borealis was observed on the night of March 28. Atmospheric conditions prevented satisfactory radio communication with Custer Battlefield, Devils Tower and Grand Teton throughout almost one-half of the month.

Following is a tabulation of snow depths from some of the main points in the Park at the end of March for the past ten years:

Location	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Lamar	19"	20"	6"	8"	3"	11"	28"	10"	-	10"
Northeast	42"	32"	25"	23"	17"	29"	59"	29"	24"	25"
Gallatin	-	-	12"	10"	16"	24"	40"	22"	10"	43"
Lake	35"	62"	27"	28"	22"	29"	60"	33"	29"	41"
Lewis R. Divide	92"	104"	89"	87"	54"	45"	135"	75"	84"	116"
Mammoth	1"	2"	-	-	-	-	19"	12"	-	12"
Old Faithful	-	51"	21"	28"	18"	27"	70"	30"	37"	55"
Snake River	54"	69"	46"	36"	32"	40"	70"	40"	51"	52"
Tower Falls	17"	21"	10"	6"	8"	14"	35"	22"	4"	18"
West Yellowstone	39"	51"	23"	24"	30"	30"	36"	29"	27"	39"

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers returned to the Park from Denver on March 1, and spent the remainder of the month in the Park, making a trip to Helena on March 7 to confer with Governor Ford and Chief Engineer Holmes on maintenance of the Red Lodge-Cooke highway, and a trip to Livingston on March 26 with Messrs. Johnston and Joffe to attend a luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Rogers was the speaker for the program, talking on the 1946 operations for the Park.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston was on annual leave from March 3 to 19. Chief Ranger Barrows was on annual leave from March 6 throughout the month, Assistant Chief Ranger Skinner being designated as Acting Chief Ranger.

For the month of March we are glad to report the return of four Yellowstone employees, after completion of their military service. Park Naturalist David DeL. Condon returned to his old job here on March 1, after being away since February 8, 1943. He transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park in February 1943, and served with the Navy beginning June 15, 1944. District Park Ranger Wayne B. Alcorn returned to duty on March 5, after having served with the Coast Guard since November 2, 1942. Park Ranger V. Verde Watson returned on March 11, after serving with the Coast Guard since October 13, 1943, and Park Ranger William A. Nyquist returned on March 28, after serving with the Coast Guard from October 2, 1942.

The services of Park Ranger Ray A. Lavender were terminated on March 8, due to reduction in force. Park Ranger Hollis R. Hope's services were also terminated, on March 11, due to reduction in force.

The first Civil Service examination under the new temporary Civil Service regulations was announced for typists and stenographers by the 13th Civil Service Region on March 19. The closing date for receipt of applications was March 26. Four Yellowstone employees now holding war service appointments have applied for the examination which will be held by our Local Civil Service Board in the Park.

Julius A. Krug entered on duty as Secretary of the Interior on March 18, succeeding Harold L. Ickes.

On March 22, President Truman signed a bill, S. 1185, changing the official designation of Custer Battlefield National Cemetery to Custer Battlefield National Monument.

A Red Cross membership drive was conducted in the Park during March, for which 111 people contributed a total of $199.50. Receipts for the drive were turned over to the Park County Chairman, Montana, and will be included in the Park County quota.

The number of individual requests for Park literature, answered by use of a form letter and copy of the 1942 folder, almost doubled during March when 689 such requests were handled. The number of letters requiring a special reply and letters from chambers of commerce and automobile clubs throughout the country continued to increase accordingly.

Letters of inquiry from students and other persons seeking vacation employment continued to pour into the Superintendent's Office. A total of 432 was answered by a form letter referring them to the concessioners, while letters from veterans, and qualified applicants were answered by regular letter. The concessioners also continue to receive a record-breaking number of applications.

Inspections. Cecil Thomas and Tom Lethlean, Assistant Engineers, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, were in on March 13 for river gauge readings. Superintendent and Mrs. Luce, Custer Battlefield National Monument, were in on March 25, and left on March 26.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Park Engineer Wohlbrandt returned to Yellowstone National Park on March 9, after spending several days at the Region Two Office and Rocky Mountain National Park in connection with the roads and trails program.

Almost the entire month was spent in preparing the road maintenance program and another week will be required for its completion.

The Canyon Power System is the only active construction project, but no work has been started; however, some material is on order.

General Publicity. On March 5, publicity photographs were mailed to the Carter Oil Company, Billings, Montana, and to Mr. Fordyce, Outdoorsman Magazine, St. Joseph, Missouri. Pictures and information on 1946 park operations were furnished the Denver Post on March 29.

The Yellowstone Park Company's folder "B" for the 1946 season was reviewed on March 11.

Road Maintenance. Two heavy snowstorms and a number of light ones hit during the month. Plowing has been nearly continuous - when snow was not falling, high winds were blowing and drifting the snow, however, the weather has been mild and the snow is settling and melting. It was necessary to take a patrol grader to Cooke to remove a hard crust of ice from the streets. Most of the road surface is bare from Gardiner to Cooke.

A large hole developed in the road in front of Pryor's Store here at Mammoth which required approximately 50 cubic yards of material to fill.

A number of culverts on the road from Mammoth to Cooke have been completely filled by ice, requiring removal. We use a wood fire because no equipment is available.

Concessioners. The 1946 rates for Hamilton Stores, Inc., were approved by the Acting Director on March 11.

Mr. F. E. Kammermeyer, Superintendent of Transportation, Yellowstone Park Company, opened the shops at Gardiner on March 1. Mr. Joe Bill, in charge of the Yellowstone Park Company's print shop, arrived in Mammoth on March 2, to commence work.

On March 18 and 19, a conference was held in the Superintendent's Office with Yellowstone Park Company officials (Huntley Child, E. H. Moorman, F. E. Kammermeyer, John Egger, and B. O. Hallin) regarding the opening of the Park. A tentative schedule for opening of roads and accommodations for visitors was agreed upon.

Mr. J. E. Haynes, Park photographer, was in the area on March 11.

The business concession permit covering medical service to be rendered by Drs. Windsor and Lueck was approved by the Acting Director on March 19, and rates for medical service were approved on March 21, 1946.

Research and Observations. Five grizzly bear skulls were brought up from the storehouse, cleaned, assembled and labeled. The data on these specimens have been placed in our files.

Work on the drawings of birds and mammals of Yellowstone National Park was carried on during the month.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Nine hundred seventy-four persons entered the park during March as compared with 153 for the same month in 1945. The total number of persons entering the Park for the travel year, 18,677, as compared with 5,087 for 1945, shows an increase of 267 per cent.

Three hundred sixteen motor vehicles entered the Park during March as compared with 56 for March 1945. Total cars for this travel year, 6,726, as compared with 1,688 for March 1945, shows an increase of 293.1 per cent.

Visitors. Franz Lipp, photographer and landscape architect, from Chicago, in on March 7 to take winter game pictures; out March 31.

Ranger Service. Assistant Chief Ranger Ranger M. Leon Evans was away from the Park all during the month. He graduated from the F.B.I. Academy's Thirty-First Session in Washington, D. C. on March 29.

Rangers made regular ski patrols to some of the interior stations of the park and along the boundaries throughout the month. Snow observations were made in cooperation with the Reclamation Service and with the other interested Government agencies.

Wildlife. BISON. A census was made of bison in all areas in the park during the past month. The following tabulation indicates the total number observed during the 1945 census as compared with this one:

	1945	1946
Lamar Area	445	348
Other Areas	487	443
Total	932	791

In connection with the bison census, an interesting observation was made when rangers on patrol discovered at least 9 bison frozen in the ice in the Yellowstone River approximately 5 miles below Fishing Bridge. It appeared that these animals had attempted to cross the river and had either broken through the ice or had been unable to climb out on the opposite side

of the river. At the time they were first observed the heads and the humps of the 9 dead animals were frozen solidly in the ice-jammed river.

BIGHORN SHEEP. Observations for the census of Bighorn sheep were made in all known areas of the winter range except in the Gallatin area. All of the animals seen were in good condition. Following is a tabulation showing the total number of animals counted as compared with 1945:

1946	1945
176	136

The tabulation above reflects only the number of animals which were counted in the Northern Yellowstone winter range and does not include sheep which are probably present on areas outside the park on the Yellowstone watershed.

DEER. An effort was made to count the deer within the park, but at the time the count was made the weather conditions were somewhat unfavorable. A total of 516 animals was counted inside the park and it is believed that a number of deer which have been considered as part of the Yellowstone Park population are now to be found in National Forest areas adjacent to the Park. No effort was made to count or estimate the number of deer outside the Park.

PRONGHORN. A census was made of the pronghorn or antelope herd within the park and in areas directly adjacent to the park boundary. The actual count is reported in the following tabulation which shows the 1946 count as compared to the count made in 1945:

1946	1945
698	773

ELK. On March 12 and 13, an effort was made to cover the entire winter range for the purpose of determining the number of elk both inside the park and outside. The count was made in cooperation with the Montana State Fish and Game Department, the United States Forest Service, and the Absaroka Conservation Committee. A total of 8513 animals was actually counted. Weather conditions were not ideal for complete observation and good visibility at the time the count was made, but it is believed, by all concerned, that the count is reasonably accurate.

Forestry and Fire Protection. A considerable amount of time was devoted to maintenance of equipment and supplies in the Fire Tool Cache and to studies involving lookout evaluations and fire detection possibilities.

Accidents. Only one accident was recorded during the month, involving two National Park Service employees whose automobiles collided on a sharp curve near Mammoth. There was some minor damage to each vehicle, but no personal injuries resulted.

Miscellaneous: The regular monthly meeting of the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 465, was held at the Canteen on March 4.

Warren H. Hutchings, former Buffalo Keeper in Yellowstone from May 1926 to September 1927, died at the Park Hospital in Livingston, Montana, on March 9, at the age of 63. He was buried in Livingston on March 13.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

In Sextuplicate.

cc: Region Two (in duplicate)
File (2)

JJ/cws

Bighorn Ram and Lambs - [illegible], Yorba Park - [illegible]

Bull Elk near Mammoth - March 9, 1946. [illegible]ion
Yellowstone National Park

Bison Bull on the range near Crescent Hill. March 10, 1946. Gardiner
Yellowstone National Park

Young Bighorn Ram - Mt. Sheep herd - March 25, 1964. Gardiner
Yellowstone Netlor [illegible]