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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.
207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

MARCH, 1947

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 1947 MONTHLY NARRATIVE REPORT ON
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

April 7, 1947

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of March 1947.

Weather Conditions. Unsettled weather conditions prevailed throughout the Park as could be expected during the month. A total of 1.35 inches of precipitation fell at Mammoth, mostly in the form of snow, but several showers were recorded in the closing days.

Mammoth and Tower Falls reported maximum temperatures of 54 degrees on the 17th, and as usual West Yellowstone recorded the lowest temperature in the Park, -35 degrees on the first.

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	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	10-yr. Ave.
Lamar	20"	6"	8"	3"	11"	28"	10"	-	10"	8"	11.6
Northeast	32	25	23	17	29	59	29	24	25	33	29.6
Gallatin	-	12	10	16	24	40	22	10	43	29	22.9
Lake	62	27	28	22	29	60	33	29	41	41	37.2
Lewis R. Divide	104	89	87	54	45	135	75	84	116	120	90.9
Mammoth	2	-	-	-	-	19	12	-	12	4	9.8
Old Faithful	51	21	28	18	27	70	30	37	55	51	38.8
Snake River	69	46	36	32	40	70	40	51	52	53	48.9
Tower Falls	21	10	6	8	14	35	22	4	18	13	15.1
West Yellowstone	31	23	24	30	30	36	29	27	39	38	32.7

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers left Chicago on March 1, and after two weeks' assignment in Denver, he returned to the Park on March 16. He had been away from the Park since November 9.

March 1, 1947, marked the 75th anniversary of the creation of Yellowstone National Park. The Act of March 1, 1872, making this the first national park, was signed by President Ulysses S. Grant. While no ceremonies are planned at this time for the Park itself, several of the communities near the Park, particularly Cody, Wyoming, and Livingston, Montana, are planning celebrations to commemorate this outstanding date in Yellowstone history. The Livingston Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a horseback and camping trip through the Park, following the Howard Eaton trail, and to include members of various riding clubs, dude ranchers and guests, and others interested in taking this unusual ride for

this special occasion. Quite a number of applications are already being received by the Livingston Chamber of Commerce from persons desiring to make this trip.

Chief Ranger LaNoue and Assistant Chief Ranger Skinner were in Helena, Montana, March 9-11, for a meeting with the Montana Fish and Game Commission on wildlife matters, particularly the Northern Yellowstone elk herd.

Regional Director Merriam, and Chief Recreational Planner Edwards came in the Park on March 13. Superintendent J. R. Emmert, of Glacier National Park, arrived for a conference on March 14. All three officials left for their respective stations on March 15.

Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe, Chief Ranger LaNoue, Chief Clerk Anderson and Accounting Clerk Bird left the Park on March 13, via Government car, to attend the conference of chief clerks, chief rangers, and field auditors held in the Director's Office March 17 to 21. They stopped at the Region Two Office for a brief visit and returned to the Park March 26. They reported a most successful conference and much valuable information was received by all those in attendance. They were particularly complimentary of the fine manner in which the Chicago officials handled and discussed the various subjects.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston and Chief Park Naturalist Condon attended a meeting and banquet sponsored by the Big Timber Rod and Gun Club on March 19, at which a talk was given by Mr. Condon and Park movies were shown.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston and Park Engineer Mohlbrandt left the Park on March 24 for a trip to Denver and Salt Lake City to arrange for obtaining surplus equipment needed by the Park. They expect to be gone for about two weeks, returning April 3.

On March 21, the Superintendent appointed a new school board for the Mammoth Community School, effective May 1, 1947, consisting of R. Verde Watson, Chairman, Mrs. Elmer Armstrong, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Beate T. White, Member.

Former Chief Ranger Barrows left the Park with his family March 5, moving to their new home in Omaha, Nebraska, where Mr. Barrows is now employed as Forester.

The Local Civil Service Board conducted an examination for Clerk on the morning of March 28, with three contestants.

U. S. Commissioner T. Paul Wilcox returned to the Park on March 29, after being away on annual leave for a month.

Stanley R. Jackson returned to duty from furlough to his old position of Clerk-Stenographer, CAF-3, in preparation for taking over the Clerk-Stenographer, CAF-4, position in the Superintendent's Office, vice Mrs. Wilma S. Haines, who plans to resign early in April.

Inspections. Superintendent E. S. Luce, of Custer SHM, and Mrs. Luce were in the Park March 4-7 to get necessary supplies and discuss monument problems. Assistant Regional Forester Maynard Barrows left the Park on March 5, after assignment in Yellowstone since February 25. William Dunn, Superintendent of

this special occasion. While a member of [illegible] party [illegible] solved by the Livingston Chamber of Commerce [illegible] to make this trip.

Chief Ranger Lewis and Assistant Chief Ranger [illegible] Montana, March 2-4, for [illegible] on wildlife matters, particularly the Northern [illegible].

[illegible] the Park on March 15. [illegible] Superintendent [illegible] of Glacier National Park arrived for a conference on March [illegible]. [illegible] respective stations on March [illegible].

Assistant to the Superintendent [illegible], Chief Ranger [illegible] Engineer and Landscape Architect [illegible] left the Park on March [illegible] to attend the conference of Chief [illegible] in the Director's Office [illegible] for a brief visit and returned to the Park [illegible]. [illegible] successful conference [illegible] in attendance. They [illegible] the [illegible] officials [illegible].

Assistant [illegible] a meeting and banquet sponsored by the [illegible] at which a talk was given by [illegible].

Assistant [illegible] Park on March 20 for a trip to [illegible] surplus equipment [illegible] returning April 3.

On March 27, the Superintendent [illegible] Community Council, effective May 1, 1946, [illegible] area. [illegible]

Former Chief Ranger [illegible] left the Park [illegible] to their new home in [illegible], Nebraska, [illegible] Forester.

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Inspections. Superintendent [illegible] in the [illegible] necessary [illegible] Assistant Regional Director [illegible] left the Park [illegible] headquarters at Yellowstone since [illegible]

the Yellowstone Lake Fish Hatchery Station, F&WS, Bozeman, was in March 7 to get wage scale information. R. W. Revell and J. E. Spafford, USGS, Boise, were in March 15 for stream gauge reading. John C. Buchanan, U. S. Civil Service Investigator, Seattle Washington, was in March 19 to interview rangers. James Urquhart, Supervisor of Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman, and J. K. Dwinelle, Assistant Supervisor, in for conference with the Superintendent March 28. Mr. Walter R. (Barney) Rankin, Director of State Parks in Montana, was in the Park March 18 to discuss museums and exhibits.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys. The Project Construction Programs for Custer BNM and Yellowstone National Park were revised. Plans were prepared for a portable type wooden walk to be used around the thermal areas here in Yellowstone. Plans were also prepared for installation of a new pressure tank at Custer BNM, the tank to be installed under Major Repair and Rehabilitation program.

Superintendent Luce, of Custer BNM, visited with us for a short time and went over road and sign problems.

General Publicity. A special article on Yellowstone administration was prepared by Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe and submitted to the Director's Office on March 6 for inclusion in the Diamond Jubilee Series.

Free publications on hand at the end of March numbered 20,750 (3,500 received from GPO during the month) of the 1946 Information Folder in the CRO storeroom and 3,750 in the Museum storeroom, also 3,500 Location Map No. 5 at the Museum. A breakdown of sales publications by title and number was attached to the Report of the Naturalist Division.

Road Maintenance. Snow plowing was normal during the first of the month, but during the latter half warm weather softened the snow crust on the road surface so that it was necessary to use patrol graders to remove much of this packed snow.

The runoff has been quite rapid and it was necessary to put on a maintenance crew at Mammoth to take care of the situation. A number of culverts are too small to carry the drainage and some small damage has resulted to the road shoulders where the water ran across the road. Surface damage to the road, Gardiner to Cooke, is considerable and it is heavier this spring than was anticipated. A section of the road in front of the Mammoth Post Office has broken to such an extent that reprocessing at this location will need be done this year. Between Mammoth and Tower Fall numerous breaks are developing. Tower Fall to Lamar Canyon has some bad breaks, some of which are 200 yards long. Much of this damage to the road surface is from the heavy hauling of ore from the mills at Cooke to Gardiner. A restricted load limit was placed on this road as soon as the frost started to come out of the ground.

A road crew is stationed at Mammoth only, consisting of two permanent motor equipment operators, one truck driver and two laborers, also one grader operator.

At present we have 17 dump trucks, including three of the large dumps with snow plow attachments, available for road maintenance; 38 to 40 are required for effective operation.

New Construction. Work continued throughout the month on projects 401.2, 401.3 and 401.4, temporary houses made from CCC buildings at Mammoth. All three houses have been shingled. One has practically all the interior finish except floor.

An allotment of $15,000 for wooden walks for the thermal areas was received. No work has been started on this job, but bids were received for material and a proposal has been accepted subject to necessary ratification by the Director's Office.

Concessioners. Mr. J. E. Haynes was in the Park on March 3 and again on March 17. Contract I-1p-210, for Haynes, Inc., was extended for one year from January 1 to December 31, 1947, approved by Assistant Secretary Warner W. Gardner.

Dr. Alfred M. Lueck, of Park Hospital, Livingston, was in the Park March 19 to discuss medical service with the Superintendent.

Mimeographed copies of approved rates for the Yellowstone Park Company, 1947 season, were received on March 3. Mr. Huntley Child, Jr., of the Yellowstone Park Company, and Mr. Trevor Povah of Hamilton Stores, Inc., were in the Superintendent's office on March 21 for a conference regarding opening of roads and various facilities of the Park operators.

Gasoline prices in the Park were increased ½¢ per gallon, effective March 27, to meet an increase in tank wagon prices by that amount.

Mr. Harry F. Byrne, newly-appointed service station manager for the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the Park March 31 to confer with the Park Service officials regarding improved methods of operation for service stations for the Yellowstone. A greatly improved plan was outlined for the 1947 season.

Schedule of basic rates for the 1947 season for Pryor & Trischman approved by the action of the Director March 27, 1947.

Interpretive Services. On March 19 a program sponsored by the Big Timber Rod and Gun Club was presented to 312 school children in the Big Timber theater. That evening a similar program, consisting of a talk and motion pictures, was presented to 180 members of the Club at their annual banquet.

During the month several people have viewed the exhibits in the Mammoth Museum.

Motion pictures were presented to the Mammoth community in the canteen twice during the month with an attendance of about 35 people at each program.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. A series of historical pictures pertaining to the Custer BBM were copied and black and white slides were made from the negatives prepared. These will be added to the Park file of photographs and slides.

A detailed inventory of the bird specimens, both mounted and study skins, in the Yellowstone Park museums was prepared and submitted to Olin S. Pettingill of Carleton College at Northfield, Minnesota, who is conducting a comprehensive study of bird collections.

Research and Observations. Park Naturalist Bredrick continued his research work and preparation of the book on birds of Yellowstone.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of five hundred sixty-nine persons entered the Park during the month, which is only 58.42 per cent of the travel recorded for March of 1946. The decline is even more pronounced for the travel year to date as 1947 travel is only 51.94 per cent of the 1946 figure for the corresponding period.

Motor vehicles entering during March totaled 252, which is 72.41 per cent of the vehicular travel in March 1946. For the travel season to date only 54.5 per cent as many vehicles have entered the Park as in the same period of 1946.

Ranger Service. Ranger activities consisted of ski patrols of Park boundaries and interior areas of the Park to observe wildlife conditions, remove snow from government buildings, record snow depths and general protection work. The wildlife card index file was made current with the addition of all pertinent data accumulated during the past year. Snow course readings were made in cooperation with other governmental agencies. Counts of bison and bighorns were made over the northern park areas and regular checks of dead animals were made to determine winter losses.

Extensive revisions of the Yellowstone Park Ranger's Administrative, Report and Checking Station Manual were completed and copies of the revisions furnished all holders of these manuals, including other parks, the four Regional Offices and the Director's Office.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ANTELOPE. During the latter part of the month counts were made over all available antelope range and present size of the herd estimated at 545. The animals were migrating up country at close of the period and appeared to be in generally good condition.

BIGHORN. Observations of these animals were made in the three ranger districts along the northern area of the Park, but surveys were not completed and will be continued into next month. Animals seen to date total 135 (Mammoth Dist.-67, Tower Falls Dist.-43, Lamar Dist.-25). Those seen in the Mammoth District were in fair to good condition. In the Tower Falls and Lamar districts their condition was reported good and very good, respectively. Five deaths from various causes have been reported.

BUFFALO. Buffalo in the Lamar and Lower Yellowstone river valleys were hard-pressed for forage throughout the month because of crusted snow and icy condition of the range. A few drifted down the Yellowstone and outside the Park as far as Yankee Jim Canyon. A small group migrated to the Blacktail Deer Creek and Mammoth areas, and 12 head drifted to the Game Ranch area. These latter animals were rounded up by horseback riders and pushed back toward Mammoth to prevent them from drifting out of the Park.

A census of the buffalo in the northern area of the Park was made during the period March 4 to 7, inclusive, with a total of 442 seen. These included 183 bulls, 154 cows, 68 calves and 37 mixed cows and calves. Census was made in the Old Faithful-Madison Junction area during February, resulting in a total count of 101. No count has been attempted in the Hayden Valley and Pelican Creek areas.

Research and Conservation. Both subsurface [illegible] work and preparation of the book or [illegible] of Indiana.

Journeys or Passages in Travel. A [illegible] of the [illegible] observed the [illegible] the month, which is [illegible] reported for [illegible] of [illegible]. The decline is [illegible] year to date as [illegible] travel is only [illegible] corresponding period.

Motor vehicles entering [illegible] of the vehicular travel in [illegible]. For the [illegible] 2,463 [illegible] used as many vehicles have entered the park as [illegible] 1,940.

Lower [illegible]. [illegible] boundaries and [illegible] made [illegible] [illegible] among from government [illegible]. [illegible] The wildlife [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] data accumulated during the [illegible] cooperation with other government [illegible] were made over the northern [illegible] [illegible] made to determine winter losses.

Accessory [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] all [illegible] of these [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] and the Director's Office.

Wildlife and Fish [illegible]. [illegible] of the month [illegible] were [illegible] all available [illegible] of the hard [illegible] [illegible] the period not [illegible] to be in generally good condition.

Roads. [illegible] trucks along the [illegible] area of the park, but [illegible] will be continued into next month. [illegible] Fish.-17, lower [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] Bridges were in fair to good condition. [illegible] their condition was reported good and [illegible] various damage have been reported.

Lookout. Patrols in the lower [illegible] hard-pressed for [illegible] [illegible] conditions of the range. [illegible] as far as Jacobs [illegible]. A small group [illegible] area [illegible] and 12 [illegible] [illegible] were [illegible] prevent them from drifting out of the park.

[illegible] of the buffalo in the [illegible] the period March 5 to 7, inclusive, with a count of [illegible]. [illegible] 187 bulls, 1[illegible] cows, 22 calves and 37 [illegible]. [illegible] in the Old Faithful-Madison [illegible] [illegible] cows of 1[illegible]. [illegible] lower areas.

There have been seven known deaths from various causes, five in the Lamar area, one at Tower Falls and one at Lake.

Most buffalo seen have been reported in poor flesh, but abnormal winter loss is not anticipated.

COYOTES. No additional ear-tagged coyotes were taken during March. Only one of these marked animals was seen (Soda Butte Creek area).

DEER. Deer are in rather poor flesh and a few deaths have occurred. However, excessive winter losses are not expected.

ELK. A definite up country migration was under way at close of the month. Exceptionally heavy use of available winter range has been made this winter, and most of the animals are in only fair condition. Known winter losses to date total 58, and it is expected that additional losses during April will somewhat exceed those of the previous year.

In the West Yellowstone and Gallatin areas outside the Park elk are being artificially fed by the Montana Fish and Game Commission at insistence of local sportsmen's organizations. A group of about 65 animals has been fed at Duck Creek since March 1 and feeding was begun along the Gallatin River on March 15. Some of the hay being used for this purpose is of very poor quality and it has been estimated that only about 3/4 lb. of hay per day per elk is being doled out. Some deaths have occurred in these feeding areas. It is estimated that not more than 100 elk are within the Park in the Gallatin area at the present time. Range has been heavily utilized and the animals are in only fair condition.

TRUMPETER SWAN. A pair of trumpeter swans was observed on a small pond near Mammoth on March 30.

RANCH OPERATIONS. Six Army pack mules were obtained from surplus, making a valuable addition to the Park's packstock. The park horse and mule herd now numbers 99 animals, and six horses are being wintered for Grand Teton National Park. Two unserviceable horses were condemned and will be sold on bid during April.

Three- and four-year-old colts, raised at Lamar, are being broken to ride and the four-year-olds will be placed in service this summer. Other activities carried on at Lamar Station during the month included general care and feeding of the horse and mule herd, preparation of stalls and feeding mangers for brood mares expected to foal in April and May, repair of corrals and equipment, preparation of irrigation headgates, drainage of the area and miscellaneous maintenance.

About 34 tons of hay was fed to 101 head of stock in March and the hay supply on hand was about 86.5 tons at the end of the period. It appears that this will be sufficient to carry the animals through until the next hay harvest.

Forest Fire Protection. Offers of employment were made to 22 fire control aide applicants. By the end of the month 14 men had accepted positions for the coming season and eight had not committed themselves.

There were [illegible] area, one at Tower Falls and one at Lava.

Most buffalo [illegible] have been [illegible] loss is not anticipated.

[illegible]. No additional [illegible] coyotes [illegible] one of these [illegible] animals [illegible].

DEER. Deer are in rather good flesh [illegible]. However, excessive winter losses are not expected.

ELK. A definite [illegible] exceptionally heavy [illegible] most of the animals are in only fair condition. [illegible] total 36, and it is expected [illegible] exceed those of the previous year.

In the West Yellowstone [illegible] artificially fed [illegible] sportsmen's organizations [illegible] Creek [illegible] some of the [illegible] been estimated that only about [illegible] elk. [illegible] It is [illegible] not more than 100 elk were within the [illegible] time. [illegible]

[illegible]. A pair of trumpeter [illegible] near Mammoth on [illegible].

[illegible] valuable addition [illegible] numbers 70 animals, [illegible] April.

Three- and four-year-old [illegible] carried on at Lamar [illegible] of the horse [illegible] marks expected [illegible] paration of [illegible].

[illegible] supply on hand [illegible] this will be sufficient [illegible].

Forest Fire Protection. [illegible] side enclosure. By the end of the month [illegible] snowy season and [illegible].

Work was done on revisions for the Forest Requirements Report; the Superintendent's Annual Report of Forest Fire Fighting Equipment was prepared; and the report of the status of FP and FP accounts was prepared and submitted to the Region.

A Yellowstone Park Fire Organization Plan was prepared. This plan will be used this season in dispatching personnel for forest fire fighting.

Building Fire Protection. Two fires in Government buildings were reported during the month. One on March 1, which damaged a small pump house at Bechler River Ranger Station, was caused by an over-heated stove. Damage was negligible.

The other fire occurred on March 14 in the attic of quarters building No. 5 at Mammoth. The exact cause of this fire has not been determined, but all indications point to spontaneous ignition. Damage to the building is estimated at about $2,500. The fire was confined to the attic rooms of the building, and there was very little property loss and no personal injuries.

Accidents. One motor vehicle accident was reported during the month. The accident occurred on March 1 about two miles inside the north gate and involved a truck, owned by the McLaren Mining Company of Cooke, Montana, which swerved to avoid another car and was unable to stop quickly on the icy road and went into the Gardiner River. Although the truck overturned, the driver was fortunate enough to escape with minor bruises.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 465, was held at the Canteen on March 3.

The annual National Red Cross Fund drive, conducted in the Park during March, was very successful. Final figures are not available at this writing, but it appears that the average contribution will be well over one dollar per person.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

In quintuple.

cc: Region Two (in duplicate).
File (2)
JJ/srj