10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

* YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK *

September
1943

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 6, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of September 1943:

Weather Conditions. The park has never enjoyed more beautiful fall weather than was experienced during the month of September. Practically every day of the month brought forth perfect Indian Summer weather and our fall colors, which are so characteristic of this country, were unusually beautiful this year. The usual equinoctial storm did not seem to materialize this year and there were no storms of any consequence. The weather was ideal for those who visited the park, as conditions were very comfortable for travel and all of the roads in the park, as well as approach roads, were in good condition. However, travel was inadvisable over the Red Lodge-Cooke road for the first two or three days of the month due to a snowstorm on August 31.

There were 15 clear days during the month, 7 partly cloudy, and 6 cloudy days. The maximum temperature was 81° on September 12 and 13 and the minimum temperature 24° on the 9th. Total precipitation for the month was .70 inch, as against 1.23 inches for September 1942.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers spent the entire month in the park and made only one trip outside, on September 7, to meet members of the Congressional Appropriation Committee who were visiting the park. He spent the night of the 7th in Livingston.

Yellowstone Park's travel year ended on September 30 and despite all the restrictions on travel due to the war, it was surprising and interesting to note that a total of 64,144 persons visited the park, as against 191,830 for 1942, a loss of 66.5%. Nineteen thousand three hundred and forty-six motor vehicles entered the park, as against 58,095 in 1942. There was an average of 3.332 passengers in each car. Seven thousand three hundred and seventy-nine men in uniform were admitted into the park during the travel year. Every State in the Union was represented in the Yellowstone travel and in addition 18 cars were recorded from Canada, 4 from Hawaii, 3 from Mexico and 1 from Alaska. Montana was at the head of the list, with 2,157 cars, Wyoming was second with 1,643 cars, Idaho third with 1,503 cars, Utah fourth with 661 cars, and California fifth with 625 cars. The next five highest States were Washington, Minnesota,

Illinois, Colorado and Texas. The west entrance recorded the largest number of visitors, 21,435, the east entrance was second with 18,317, the north entrance third with 11,728, the south fourth with 9,600 and the northeast fifth with 3,063. The northeast entrance did not open to travel until July 28. Ten thousand eight hundred and four persons visited the park in September, as against 20,733 in September 1942.

Accommodations were provided at the C. A. Hamilton store at Old Faithful throughout the month and meals were obtainable at Mammoth at the Pryor general store and lodgings were available above her curio shop. The Fishing Bridge tourist cabins closed on September 7 and the boat operations at Fishing Bridge were discontinued on the same date. The Haynes Old Faithful shop closed on September 7. The general store at Fishing Bridge closed on September 10.

The star mail route was discontinued on September 9.

The collection of the motor vehicle license fee was discontinued beginning September 8 and hours at the gates were changed from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The new school term started on September 7 and two teachers, Mrs. Irene Evans and Mrs. Rose French, were employed, their salaries being paid by members of the community having children in school.

Some 430 soldiers from Fort Harrison, Montana entered the park on September 28 and spent the night at Old Faithful. The following day the party was taken around the park under the guidance of Park Naturalist Mauer and Assistant Park Naturalist Brodrick and they returned to Old Faithful for the night. The party left via the northeast entrance the following day. This crew had been engaged on a project of collecting scrap in Montana and the park trip was given as a reward for their efforts and as a recreational bivouac. Because of the benefit derived by the members from this trip and due to the excellent treatment accorded them, a request was made by the commanding officer at Fort Harrison to bring another group in on October 5.

Yellowstone made an unusual record in the Third War Loan Drive and exceeded all expectations in fulfilling its quota. The park was designated as a unit of the Wyoming War Finance Committee and a quota of $11,800 was set, as against a quota of $7,000 in the Second War Loan Drive in April. Governor Hunt of Wyoming offered a plaque to the County or unit in Wyoming exceeding its quota by the largest amount and when the drive ended Yellowstone was able to report the sale of $48,919.34 in Bonds and Stamps, or 415% of its quota. While the figures from the other Counties had not been completed, it is believed that Yellowstone is well at the top and may be awarded the Governor's plaque. Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe was chairman of the Yellowstone Park War Finance Committee.

Representatives of the Absaroka Wildlife Conservation Committee, which was organized in the park last spring to cooperate on wildlife matters affecting the park and Park County, Montana, rode the range in the park on September 25 to get first hand information on range conditions. Those who attended were quartered

in the Lamar Station and were divided into three groups for the horseback trips over the range. A meeting was held on Sunday morning, September 26, for a discussion of matters affecting the organization. Members of the Montana State Fish and Game Department and the U. S. Forest Service were also represented at the meeting, as were several ranchers residing between the park and Livingston who are affected by elk migrations.

Inspections. Paul Franke, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, in south September 1 to meet Engineer Surney to take him to Tetons; C. L. Putnam, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue, Helena, in north September 7 to assist in preparation of income tax reports; Regional Engineer William E. Robertson in north September 8, out north 15th; Lieutenant Colonel Jesse S. Marshall, District Commander, 7th Command, Denver, in east September 21 for discussion of use of soldiers as fire fighters; Chief Landscape Architect T. C. Vint and Associate Regional Director Howard W. Baker in south September 26, out north 29th.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The Park Engineer spent the entire month in the field. The usual routine office work was carried on.

General Publicity. No press releases or pictures were sent out from the park during the month.

Road Maintenance. Maintenance activities were on a reduced scale, the Mammoth, Canyon and Gallatin crews being the only ones out during the entire month. Work is being completed and closed down for the winter. Snow stakes have been set and buildings braced. The Canyon crew placed some additional guard rail in the Canyon area. Oil was mixed in the pits and a supply is on hand for patching during the 1944 summer season. A footbridge was built over the Gardiner River about one mile south of the north entrance to replace a bridge washed out during the high water in the spring.

Two of the regular maintenance crews were moved to the Red Lodge-Cooke road. Four washouts were repaired and numerous rock slides were removed from the ditches. A one-half yard shovel was rented from the Public Roads Administration for this job. The work accomplished was of an emergency nature to protect the roadbed from excessive damage during the coming winter and spring. There still remains large quantities of rocks in the ditches that should be removed when more funds and opportunity permit. An allotment of $2,500 was received for the work done.

Other maintenance. The carpenters, plumbers, painters and electricians engaged on various maintenance jobs on the buildings around Mammoth and in other sections of the park.

Park Operators. Mr. C. A. Hamilton continued his operations at his Old Faithful store throughout the month, as did Mrs. Pryor at Mammoth. The Fishing Bridge tourist cabins were closed on September 7 and the store at Fishing Bridge on September 10. Boat operations at Fishing Bridge were discontinued on September 7 and the Haynes Old Faithful shop was closed on the same date.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Ten thousand eight hundred and four persons entered the park during September, as compared to 20,733 during the same month last year. The total persons entering the park for this travel year is 64,144 compared to 191,830 persons for 1942 or a decrease of 66.5%.

Three thousand and three hundred cars entered the park in September, as compared with 6,642 for the same month of 1942. The total cars entering the park for this travel year is 19,346 compared to 58,093 for 1942, or a decrease of 38,747 or 66.6%.

Visitors. Struthers Burt, nationally known author and Jackson Hole dude rancher and Ralph L. Phelps, National Park Service enthusiast, in south September 1, out south 2nd.

Congressmen Michael J. Kirwan of Ohio, William F. Norrell of Arkansas, and Ben F. Jensen of Iowa, members of the Sub-Committee handling Interior Department appropriations of the House Appropriations Committee, and William E. Warne, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, in north September 8, out north 11th.

Ranger Service. The month of September was very pleasant with much good weather which greatly facilitated the fall work for the ranger department.

Seven rangers moved to their winter stations during the month. Snowshoe rations were packed to several remote cabins and necessary work was performed to get these places in order for the winter. Considerable trail and telephone maintenance was accomplished, especially in the Bechler and Lake District.

A wood detail composed of 4 park rangers started work at Canyon on September 13. This crew is cutting wood for the ranger stations. On September 27 they moved to the stockpile at Old Faithful and resumed work there.

All seasonal rangers had been terminated by September 15.

All lookout stations were abandoned for the season by September 14.

One permanent park ranger resigned effective September 2 leaving the force number 26.

Police Protection. One law enforcement case was held before the U. S. Commissioner during the month.

Accidents. No automobile accidents occurred during the month of September.

Wildlife Administration. Ecological Studies - Northern Winter Range. District Park Ranger Grimm and Assistant Park Naturalist McDougall completed practically all of their field work on the northern winter range. Their tentative findings indicate that the plant density has decreased approximately 6% from the 1941 high and that the volume of forage produced on the range this season

is approximately 15% below that of 1941. The extremely dry and hot weather of the late summer and early fall has caused the plants--particularly of the weed type--to dry and shrink to an abnormal extent. The forage in some areas is extremely brittle and prone to break off when trampled by animals. This condition was somewhat relieved by rains at the beginning and end of the month.

Elk. The elk remain scattered in small bands at higher elevation and have not shown a tendency to begin their fall migration. Rangers report that the numbers of elk observed in such important summer range areas as Hayden Valley, Pelican Valley and the upper Lamar, are noticeably less than in former years which probably reflects the reduction accomplished last winter. The condition of the elk observed is very good.

Buffalo. A herd of approximately 250 buffalo have been observed as far down as the Horseshoe area below the Lamar Station but had apparently drifted back to higher range at the close of the month.

Antelope. Antelope observed appear to be in excellent condition and are widely scattered. However, numerous small bands have spent the entire summer on the lower range between Mammoth and the old Sternitz place where they make year-long use of forage on the more critical portion of the winter game range.

Mountain Lion. On September 20 Park Ranger Thomas F. Ela reported seeing a mature mountain lion about two miles west of the junction of the Grebe Lake road with the Norris-Canyon road. The lion was observed at rather close range and was positively identified.

A truck driver employed by a refining company reported seeing a lion between Lake and West Thumb. He was closely questioned by park rangers and was very positive of his identification of the animal. Such reports strongly indicate that the lion may be staging a comeback in this park.

Bears. Few bears have been seen in or near inhabited areas or along the roads this month. Several were seen by rangers in areas well removed from the usual points of concentration indicating that they are becoming well distributed and are returning to their normal habits.

Only one bear incident was reported for September. This was a property damage report resulting from damage to an employee's car parked near Madison Junction.

Following is a comparative tabulation of bear incidents for the 1942 and 1943 seasons.

(See next page for tabulation)

Comparative Bear Injuries and Damages

Period - Season to October 1

	1942					1943				
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season to Date	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Season to Date
Personal Injuries	9	7	12	0	28	1	1	3	0	5
Property Damages	24	45	46	2	117	4	16	17	1	38
Total Incidents	33	52	58	2	145	5	17	20	1	43
Bears Killed for Control	9	44	28	1	82	1	6	6	0	13*

*No grizzlies have been killed as control measures during 1943.

Fishing. The Madison River was closed to fishing at sunset on September 30. Other park waters will remain open until October 15.

Forest Fire Protection. No reportable forest fires occurred in the park during this month although the measured fire danger remained comparatively high and several severe lightning storms occurred. Only one known fire was started and it was extinguished by the rain which followed the lightning strike.

All primary fire lookout stations were closed by September 15 and in view of the prevailing high fire danger, would have been manned somewhat later but there were no men available for this purpose. The fire guard was retained in service until the close of the month to assist with servicing and repairing equipment which had been used on fires during the season. All used equipment was brought to the headquarters fire cache at Mammoth and all servicing and repair work, except some work requiring special skills, was completed.

Miscellaneous. Delores Bauer, Clerk, left for Chicago on September 7 for transfer to the Director's Office. Chief Clerk Richard J. Smith departed on September 26 for Crater Lake National Park for transfer as Chief Clerk to that area.

A daughter was born to District Park Ranger and Mrs. Les Coleman at Jackson, Wyoming on September 14. The new arrival was named Gail Hamilton.

Hugh Peyton, Assistant Chief Park Ranger and Earl M. Semingsen, District Park Ranger, who are now on military furlough through enlistment in the Coast Guard, spent several days in the park on furlough.

Edmund J. Rogers,
Superintendent.

CC- Region Two
JJ/san