10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

✓	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
✓	[illegible]	
✓	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
✓	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
	ELLIOTT	
	EVANS	
✓	BAUER	
✓	Wohlbrandt	
	ROBINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

February

1943

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room.

Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 4, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

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

Weather Conditions. A considerable contrast from the previous month, the month of February was about normal with some stormy days and heavy snow during the early part thereof. Beginning on the twelfth the weather warmed considerably and until the twenty-second, when another storm hit, the days were clear and warm with some thawing. Sub-zero temperatures occurred on the 9th with -4° and on the 25th when -8° was recorded. The unusually heavy snow settled but very little and conditions remained unfavorable from the standpoint of the wildlife. The maximum temperature during the month was 51° on the 20th and 21st and the minimum -8° on the 25th. There were 9 clear, 10 partly cloudy and 9 cloudy days during February. The total precipitation at Mammoth was .90 inches with a total snowfall of 21 inches.

A comparison of snow depths at some of the main points in the park covering a period of ten years follows:

Location	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Buffalo Ranch	3	11	27	20	18	14	17	13	18	30.5
Bechler River	43	42	87	70	59	82	64	57	56	90
Northeast Entrance	31	20	36	40	35	38	34	16	34	50
Gallatin	20	25	36	30	32	26	18	19	30	40
Lake	20	20	38	28	40	26	31	31	34	68
Mammoth	0.0	6.5	20	8	7	6	8.6	2.1	7	22
Old Faithful	31	24	56	--	--	42	40	27	33	79
Snake River	41	38	76	58	44	62	49	52	43	--
Tower Falls	4	18	30	21	22	14	13	14	16	32
West Yellowstone	23	31	55	50	39	40	32	33	39	76

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers remained in the park throughout the month, making a trip to Livingston on February 1 with assistant superintendent Emmert to confer with Dr. Windsor, the park medical officer.

Assistant superintendent Emmert received telephonic advice from the Director from Chicago on February 26 that his appointment as superintendent of Hot Springs National Park had been approved by the Secretary and he was directed to report to the Director's office in Chicago on March 9 for advice in connection with his reporting to Hot Springs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

Six distinct earth tremors were reported by the winterkeeper, Jack Croney, at Old Faithful on February 5. The first of these was a short tremor at 5:15 a.m., others at 6:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. All were quite noticeable. The hardest quake occurred at 9:15 a.m., which was reported to have lasted about a minute. The last tremor was a slight one at 9:30 a.m. No damage was reported and the shocks apparently had no effect on Old Faithful or any of the other geysers.

Chief Ranger LaNoue resigned as a member of the Yellowstone Park ration board on February 5 and foreman-plumber Wyman R. Benson was appointed as his successor. Three additional members to the board were recommended, assistant chief ranger W. Leon Evans, senior storekeeper William A. Wright and J. E. Haynes, the authorized park photographer. Their appointments had not been approved by the end of the month.

The Montana Day Celebration, usually held in February, was discontinued this year due to the war. Such celebrations were held in the park during the past four years and gave visitors from nearby communities an opportunity to view the park in winter and observe and photograph the wildlife.

Mr. A. P. Engebretson, Deputy Collector, Internal Revenue Service, Helena, came to the park on February 8 to assist park employees in the preparation of their income tax returns. This cooperation on the part of the Internal Revenue Service was very beneficial to park residents. Mr. Engebretson performed similar service the previous year.

Inspections. T. O. Miller, assistant engineer, U.S.G.S., Boise, Idaho, in February 6 to read water gauges; Victor A. Olsen, investigator and field representative, Selective Service System, Camps Operations Division, Washington, D. C., in February 20 in connection with C.P.S. camp in park, out February 22; Dr. A. B. Hatch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon, in February 28 in connection with elk count.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. The greater part of the park engineer's time for the month was spent in working up final construction reports and preparing data for form 10-352, Completion Report, for C.C.C. jobs in the park. Data for both the final reports and the C.C.C. reports was very meager and resulted in much investigation.

The project construction program for Devils Tower National Monument was compiled.

In addition to normal office routine, a considerable analysis of the present status of the work under the park engineer and planning for the coming months of this fiscal year was accomplished, with reconstruction of office system to some extent.

Associate Park Engineer Philip H. Wohlbrandt was promoted to the vacancy in the position of park engineer, effective February 16, created by the death of Cecil A. Lord.

The electric motor starters were reported to be [illegible]. [illegible] at 1:15 (EST) on February 5. The first of these was a [illegible] [illegible] seen, others at [illegible] were and [illegible]. [illegible] the largest [illegible] reported at [illegible], which was [illegible] about 4 minutes. The last [illegible] was a [illegible] [illegible] reported and the [illegible] apparently had no effect on [illegible] or the other [illegible].

Chief Ranger [illegible] reported to a member of the [illegible] board on February 5 [illegible] [illegible] seen [illegible] on the occasion. These additional members to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] range [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] Lynne, the [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] approved by the [illegible] [illegible].

The [illegible] of [illegible], usually [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] this year due to the [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] past four years and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] value the park to [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible].

Mr. J. T. [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] come to the park on February 5 to assist park employees in the preparation of their income tax returns. This [illegible] on the part of [illegible] [illegible] service was very beneficial to park residents. Mr. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] service the previous year.

Interpretive. T. H. Miller, assistant [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] in February [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] representative, [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Publicity. The 1942 Annual Report, which was mimeographed the latter part of January, was distributed on February 3. No press releases were sent out during the month but a special article on travel for the Casper Tribune-Herald was prepared and sent that paper on February 26.

Road Maintenance. Winter weather continued throughout the month. It was necessary to operate one or two snow plows most of the month to keep the roads around Mammoth and to Cooke open to travel. Some of the areas around Mammoth required the use of a bulldozer to clear the snow for necessary operation and protection.

Ditches and culverts were opened on the Mammoth-Gardiner road. During a few days of thawing weather a few small earth slides developed along the Gardiner River canyon and the use of trees and rock was required for bank protection. High water is anticipated which may cause some difficulty in the spring.

New Construction. The work of reconstruction of quarters No. 9, at Mammoth, damaged by fire, is practically complete with the exception of outside painting.

Park Operators. The general store at Mammoth remained open throughout the month to accommodate Mammoth residents. The point rationing system is to go into effect beginning March 1 and the general store has prepared for the new procedure.

Dr. Alfred Lueck, representing the park medical officer, Dr. Windsor, visited the park on February 26 to examine the Mammoth school children.

Cooperating Governmental Agencies. No contract work was underway during the month.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. One hundred and forty-two persons entered the park during February as compared to 766 during the same month in 1942. The total persons entering for this travel year to date is 5,781 as compared with 15,183 for 1942, a decrease of -9402 people or -61.9%.

Forty-four cars entered the park in February as compared to 248 during the same month in 1942. The total cars entering for this travel year to date is 2,034 as compared with 4,745 for 1942, a decrease of -2711 or -57.1%.

Ranger Service. The unusually heavy snowfall during the winter caused most of the buildings in the interior of the park to become heavily loaded with snow. Rangers were sent to all the isolated stations and a good share of the month was occupied in the removal of this snow.

Toward the end of the month those rangers who had returned to headquarters made preliminary elk counts to familiarize themselves with the various units. On the last day of the month and to be extended through March 1 the general count was conducted of the northern elk herd with park rangers, State Fish and Game Department and Forest Service representatives participating.

One ranger vacancy was filled by Lorin G. Kautz who entered on duty February 23.

A snoplane rented from Fred Abercrombie of Jackson, Wyoming was brought into the park by district park ranger Hugh Ebert on February 18 via the south gate, reaching headquarters on the 19th. This snoplane was used to make an inspection of snow conditions and deliver rations to Old Faithful and outlying stations. It was principally brought into the park to experiment with such a machine for possible future use here with the idea of purchasing such a machine later.

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

Wildlife Protection. Buffalo. At the end of February a total of 607 buffalo were counted on the feed grounds at Lamar. Other small bunches were scattered over the northern winter range as follows: Gardiner to Hellroaring, 33, Hellroaring to the Horseshoe, 12, and Blacktail to Tower Falls, 16. A few scattered individuals are not included in the above.

A herd of 27 buffalo has been seen frequently between Gardiner and Yankee Jim Canyon, from 10 to 15 miles outside the park. A few have been reported more than 30 miles down the Yellowstone River from Gardiner, near Wanigan. During the elk count on February 28 a total of 34 buffalo were seen outside the park. This is an unusual condition and has been occasioned by the severe winter and deep snow.

Deer. Thirteen deer were trapped at Mammoth and transported to the Game Ranch area. These deer have persisted in remaining around the buildings at Mammoth and had caused considerable damage to the trees and shrubbery. Some had died from starvation since they refused to leave the community area and forage on the hillsides where some forage was available.

A record of dead deer is being kept and will be summarized next spring.

Elk. Cold weather and frequent storms during late January and early February were most unfavorable for the elk and other large animals. The condition of these animals in the park generally deteriorated during February, although some warmer weather and clear skies during the last half of the month provided some relief as exposed slopes furnished additional forage. Some losses were observed and efforts were made to locate and tag the carcasses of dead elk. However, since the heaviest losses usually occur during late March and April, it will be necessary to make a careful search of the winter range this spring to determine the extent of the winter losses.

A large amount of time was devoted to the preparation of plans for conducting a census of the northern Yellowstone elk herd. The National Park Service took the initiative in this matter and was given the closest cooperation by the Forest Service and the Montana Fish and Game Department. It was first planned to conduct the census on March 3 and 4 but in order to take advantage of a period of favorable weather the count was actually started on February 28.

The State of Montana furnished 8 men, the same number was furnished by the Forest Service, while the National Park Service furnished 18. Dr. A. B. Hatch, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, who accompanied the State men, assisted with the counting.

Four outlying areas of the park were counted prior to February 28, and park rangers covered their counting units carefully before the regular count to familiarize themselves with the units and to gather information necessary to complete the plans for the census undertaking.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on February 1.

J. W. Emmert,
Acting Superintendent.

cc- Region Two
JJ/san