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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

MONTHLY REPORT

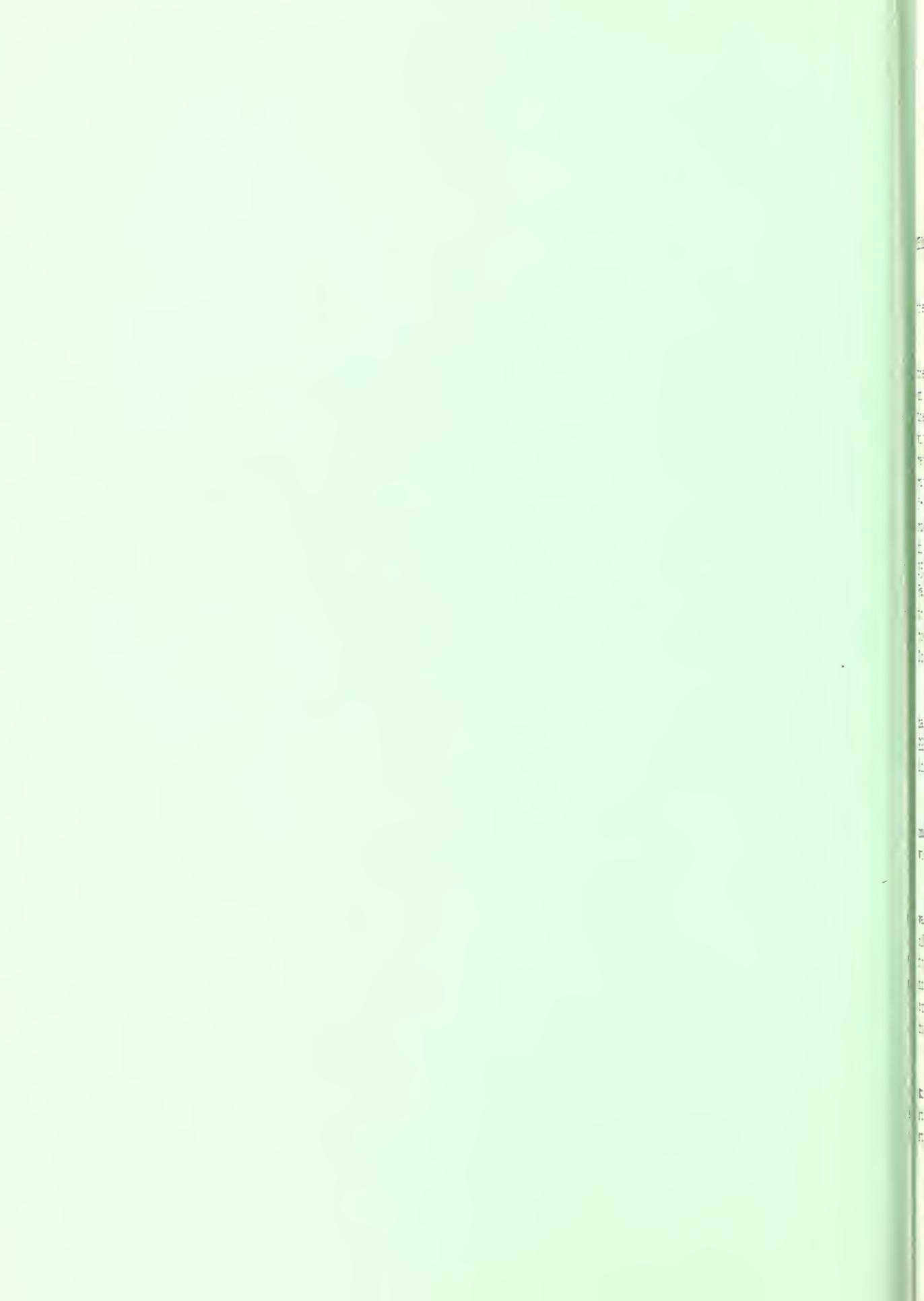
OCTOBER

1943

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

November 3, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

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

Weather Conditions. The first half of the month saw a continuation of the fine Indian Summer days which characterized the month of September, but on the 17th the lower country experienced rain, while snow was prevalent in the higher country. On the 19th the weather turned cold, the ground was covered with snow and the first real bad winter weather was in progress. This storm resulted in the closing of the Red Lodge-Cooke road on the 19th and the Dunraven Pass road was closed on the same day, while the Continental Divide road from Old Faithful to West Thumb was closed on the 22nd. By the 21st all park roads were difficult of travel, chains were essential and tourist travel was discouraged. The east and south gates were closed to tourist travel on the 23rd. There was some travel between Mammoth and West Yellowstone and Old Faithful and between Mammoth and Lake via Norris and Canyon by employees and these highways were still in passable condition by the end of the month. The road from Gardiner to Mammoth and from Mammoth to the northeast entrance and Cooke will be kept open throughout the winter.

There were 12 clear days during the month, 5 partly cloudy and 14 cloudy days. The maximum temperature was 78° on the 4th and the maximum temperature 22° on the 14th. Total precipitation for the month was 1.78 as against 0.64 inches for October 1942.

Special Activities The Superintendent spent the entire month in the park, making only one trip outside thereof to Livingston on October 26 in connection with Yellowstone land matters.

Travel during the first half of the month, while the roads were still open, was comparatively light, a great deal of which consisted of fishermen partaking of the fall fishing. All park streams were closed on October 15 and as most of the roads were closed to tourist travel after the 17th there was comparatively no travel during the next two weeks. The reduction of the value of the gasoline coupons from 4 to 3 gallons, effective October 12, will result in a further reduction of visitors to the park for the duration.

Meals and lodgings were provided at Mammoth by Mrs. Pryor at the general store and coffee shop until October 13 and by Mr. C. A. Hamilton at the general store at Old Faithful until October 24. Mrs. Pryor will keep open her Mammoth store throughout the winter to take care of local residents.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

November 3, 1915.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of October 1915:

Weather Conditions. The first half of the month saw a continuation of the fine Indian summer days which characterized the month of September, but on the 17th the lower country experienced rain, with snow and prevalent in the higher country. On the 19th the weather turned cold, the ground was covered with snow and the first real bad winter weather was in progress. This storm resulted in the closing of the Red Lodge-Cooke road on the 19th and the Park Pass road was closed on the same day, while the Continental Divide road from Old Faithful to West Thumb was closed on the 22nd. By the 24th all park roads were difficult of travel, chairs were essential and tourist travel was discouraged. The east and south roads were closed to tourist travel on the 25th. There was some travel between Mammoth and West Yellowstone and Old Faithful and between Mammoth and Lake via Norris and Lake to Mammoth and these highways were still in passable condition by the end of the month. The road from Gardiner to Mammoth and from Mammoth to the northeast entrance could still be kept open throughout the winter.

There were 12 clear days during the month, 11 partly cloudy and 11 cloudy days. The maximum temperature was 78° on the 15th and the maximum temperature 52° on the 11th. Total precipitation for the month was 1.73 as against 1.67 inches for October 1914.

Special Activities. The Superintendent spent the entire month in the park, making only one trip outside the park to Livingston on October 24 in connection with Yellowstone land matters.

Travel during the first half of the month, while the roads were still open, was comparatively light, a great deal of which consisted of fishermen carrying out the fall fishery. All park streams were closed on October 15 and as most of the roads were closed to tourist travel after the 17th there was comparatively no travel during the next two weeks. The reopening of the roads to tourist travel from 1 to 5 o'clock, effective October 15, will result in a further reduction of visitors to the park for the duration.

Meals and lodgings were provided at Mammoth by Mrs. Pryor at the general store and coffee shop until October 15 and by Mr. C. A. Hamilton at the general store at Old Faithful until October 21. Mrs. Pryor will keep open her Mammoth store throughout the winter to take care of local residents.

The Third War Loan Drive, which closed on October 2, was a huge success in the Yellowstone. With a quota of \$11,800.00 for the park, set by the Wyoming War Finance Committee, the sales credited to the park by that date amounted to \$48,919.34. which was 415% of the quota. To encourage the sale of War Bonds and Stamps in the State of Wyoming, the Yellowstone being considered as a unit of the State in the Drive, the Governor of Wyoming offered a plaque to the unit exceeding its quota by the largest amount. The Yellowstone, by reporting 415% of its quota, far outdistanced its nearest rival, Johnson County, with 159%, so that the park is to receive the Governor's award. In order to include a Wyoming County, the Governor offered later to donate a similar plaque to Johnson County. Final figures compiled for the drive showed the Yellowstone with 435% of its quota.

Two hundred twenty-five soldiers from Fort Harrison, Montana entered the park on October 5, travelling in 23 trucks. The men spent the night camping out at the Old Faithful campground and the following day were taken for a park tour by members of the Naturalist Force. They spent the second night at Old Faithful and left the next day to return to Fort Harrison. This was the second group from Fort Harrison to visit the park for an educational and recreational trip, the first group having been brought in on September 28.

The regular annual meeting of the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association was held in the Park Naturalist's Office on October 8. Assistant Superintendent Johnston, Assistant Chief Rangers Barrows and Evans and Assistant Park Naturalist Brodrick were elected as new Directors, succeeding former Assistant Superintendent Emmert, Chief Ranger LaNoue, District Park Ranger Anderson, and Assistant Park Naturalist Condon.

Former Chief Buffalo Keeper B. C. Lacombe, now living in Spokane, Washington, celebrated his 80th birthday on October 24. Mr. Lacombe served in the Yellowstone from 1916 to 1931 and after leaving the park served as custodian of Craters of the Moon National Monument until 1933, when he was retired. A number of the Yellowstone employees who were here when Mr. Lacombe served in the Park sent him congratulatory messages.

Inspections. Superintendent Paul Franke of Grand Teton visited the park on October 3; Clarence E. Persons, Auditor, N.P.S., Region Four, in south October 3, out west 16th; D. K. Wilson, Explosives Engineer, Bureau of Mines, Rock Springs, Wyoming, in October 7; O. J. Murie, Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Wyoming, in south October 11, out south 18th; Cecil Thomas, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in west October 29.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys Besides routine office work, some time was spent on the preparation of a map of the additions to Yellowstone National Park along the north boundary.

General Publicity. The travel figures for the 1945 travel season were issued on October 13 and copies were distributed. Notices regarding the closing of the park highways were sent to newspapers in the immediate vicinity of the park on the 22nd.

The Third War Loan Drive, which closed on October 31, was a success in the Yellowstone. With a quota of \$11,500.00 for the park, and the Yellowstone War Finance Committee, the sales credited to the park for that date amount to \$18,919.51. To encourage the sale of the bonds, the State of Wyoming, the Yellowstone being considered as a war and stamps in the State of Wyoming, the Governor of Wyoming offered a stamp to the State in the Drive, the Governor of Wyoming, by its action, exceeding the quota by the largest amount. The Yellowstone, with its quota, far outdistanced its nearest rival, Johnson County, which was first to receive the Governor's award. In order to include a Yellowstone, the Governor offered later to donate a similar stamp to Johnson County. Final figures compiled for the drive showed the Yellowstone with 100% of its quota.

Two hundred twenty-five soldiers from Fort Harrison, Montana entered the park on October 2, traveling in 25 trucks. The men spent the night camping out at the Old Faithful campground and the following day were taken to a park tour by members of the Naturalist force. They spent the second night at Old Faithful and left the next day to return to Fort Harrison. This was the second group from Fort Harrison to visit the park for an educational and recreational trip, the first group having been brought in on September 28.

The regular annual meeting of the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association was held in the Park Naturalist's Office on October 3. Assistant District Forester Johnston, Assistant Chief Rangers Barrows and Evans and Assistant Park Naturalist Brockick were elected as new Directors, succeeding former Assistant Superintendent Emmert, Chief Ranger Larson, District Park Ranger Anderson, and Assistant Park Naturalist Gordon.

Former Chief Buffalo Keeper B. C. Macomber, now living in Spokane, Washington, celebrated his 60th birthday on October 24. Mr. Macomber served in the Yellowstone from 1904 to 1921 and after leaving the park served as an officer of the Moose National Monument until 1935, when he was retired. A number of the Yellowstone employees who were here when Mr. Macomber served in the Park sent him congratulatory messages.

Inspections. Superintendent Paul Fenske of Great Teton visited the park on October 2; Clarence E. Persons, Auditor, U. S. Forest Service, in south Idaho; out west 10th; U. K. Wilson, Executive Engineer, Bureau of Forest Service, Wyoming, in October 7; G. L. Mink, District, War and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Wyoming, in south October 11; out south 10th; Carl Thomas, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in west October 22.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys. Besides routine office work, some time was spent on the preparation of a map of the additions to Yellowstone National Park along the north boundary.

General Publicity. The travel figures for the 1935 travel season were issued on October 15 and copies were distributed. Notices regarding the closing of the park highways were sent to newspapers in the immediate vicinity of the park on the 22nd.

Road Maintenance. A small crew of men spent the entire month on clearing the channel of the Gardiner River along the road to Gardiner about three miles north of Mammoth, the rock removed being used as bank protection along the toe of the road slope, and also as a protection from undercutting the concrete retaining wall at this location.

Another small crew of men are removing an old dilapidated log bridge about two miles north of Mammoth on the old road to Gardiner. This bridge will be replaced with a new log structure.

About 90 per cent of the cleanup of CCC Camp No. 1, Mammoth, is completed, this job being charged to account 270 WRA and the work being done by men from our road crews.

Other Maintenance. The regular maintenance work on buildings at Mammoth and in the interior of the park was carried on by the carpenters, painters, and plumbers.

Park Operators. All facilities for the public were closed down on October 21 when Mr. C. A. Hamilton closed his Old Faithful store and left the park. Meals and lodgings were obtainable at the Pryor operations at Mammoth until the 13th. The general store at Mammoth will remain open throughout the winter. The Haynes general store at Mammoth was open throughout the month.

Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the Park on the 11th and departed on the 13th.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Two thousand six hundred forty-four persons entered the park during October, as compared to 4,809 for the same month last year. The total persons entering the park for this travel year is the same, October being the first month of the new travel year.

Eight hundred thirty-six cars entered the Park in October, as compared with 1,687 for the same month in 1942. The total cars entering the park for this travel year is 836, compared to 1,687 for 1942, or a decrease of 50.4%.

Visitors. There were no special visitors to the park during the month.

Ranger Service. The forepart of October was pleasant with good weather. Considerable travel made it necessary to man the gates at all times which, due to limited personnel, made a shortage of manpower for other ranger work.

Most of the Government horses were brought to the pasture during the month.

Three fires were reported during October. One on Falls River was not found, one on Duck Creek originated outside the park and travelled into the park, burning 120 acres of sage, grass and aspen. This fire required the time of four rangers for three days. The third was a grass fire on Daly Creek.

Three rangers moved to their winter stations during the month.

Road Maintenance. A small crew of men spent the entire month of October along the channel of the Gardner River along the road to Gardiner about three miles north of Mammoth, the rock removed being used as bank protection along the toe of the road slope, and also as a protection from undercutting the concrete retaining wall at this location.

Another small crew of men are removing an old dilapidated log bridge about two miles north of Mammoth on the old road to Gardiner. This bridge will be replaced with a new log structure.

About 90 per cent of the cleanup of CCC Camp No. 1, Mammoth, is completed, this job being charged to account 270 WRA and the work being done by men from our road crews.

Other Maintenance. The regular maintenance work on buildings at Mammoth and in the interior of the park was carried on by the carpenters, electricians, and plumbers.

Park Operators. All facilities for the public were closed down on October 24 when Mr. C. A. Hamilton closed his Old Hatfield store and left the park. Meals and lodgings were obtainable at the tourist operations at Mammoth until the 15th. The general store at Mammoth will remain open through out the winter. The Payne's general store at Mammoth was open throughout the month.

Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the park on the 15th and departed on the 17th.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Two thousand six hundred forty-four persons entered the park during October, as compared to 1,809 for the same month last year. The total persons entering the park for this month is the same, October being the first month of the new travel year.

Eight hundred thirty-six cars entered the park in October, as compared with 1,687 for the same month in 1915. The total cars entering the park for this travel year is 836, compared to 1,687 for 1915, or a decrease of 851.

Visitors. There were no special visitors to the park during the month.

Ranger Service. The forecast of October was pleasant with good weather. Considerable travel made it necessary to man the gates at all times which, due to limited personnel, made a shortage of manpower for other ranger work.

Most of the Government horses were brought to the pasture during the month.

Three fires were reported during October. One on Fallis River was not found, one on Duck Creek originated outside the park and travelled into the park, burning 120 acres of sage, grass and aspen. This fire reported the time of four rangers for three days. The third was a grass fire on Dally Creek.

Three rangers moved to their winter stations during the month.

Considerable compensatory time accumulated during the fire season was taken by those rangers affected.

The permanent ranger force numbered 26 during the month, as no positions were vacated or filled.

Police Protection. Jack Gillison and Ernest W. Green, ages 14 and 16, respectively, were apprehended near the east entrance after they had entered a government building. These boys were turned over to Undersheriff Noah Riley of Park County, Wyoming where they were wanted for stealing an automobile.

Accidents. Two accidents involving one car each occurred during the month.

Wildlife Administration. Bison. Bison numbering from 240 to 300 drifted into the lower Lamar Valley and Horseshoe Areas after mid-October and remained during the storm period which began on the 18th. One week later the snow had melted in the lower valleys and the bison returned to higher country. No detailed observations were made of other herds in the park, although scattered animals were seen.

Pronghorn. During the period of inclement weather nearly all of the bands of pronghorn left the Lamar and Tower Falls areas and by the end of the month were beginning to concentrated between Blacktail and the Game Ranch, the largest numbers being noted in the Game Ranch fields. One band of 38 animals was seen in a ranch field five miles north of the park boundary.

Elk. During early October the elk remained generally on the high ranges but began migrating in large numbers during the period of October 18 to 26. Approximately 150 head were seen in the Game Ranch fields and larger bands along the Lamar River, Soda Butte Creek and Blacktail. As the early snow disappeared the elk were observed to be scattered along the upper limits of the fall and winter range where abundant feed is available. No migration of elk from the northern herd to open hunting areas was observed.

Hunting Season. Hunting was generally poor in Park County where the elk season opened on October 15 and the only elk taken by hunters were those which spent the summer outside the park. The game checking station will not be placed in operation until sometime in November and the local game warden could not be reached to secure information regarding the kill which so far is small. By the end of October, hunters had taken a total of 22 elk in the Slouth Creek, Hell-roaring and Buffalo Creek area where the season opened on September 15. This total consisted of 5 bulls, 14 cows, and 3 calves.

Hunters were quite successful in Gallatin County where the season also opened on October 15. The results through October 31 were:

West Yellowstone Area:	30 elk	3 deer
Gallatin Drainage	105 elk	14 deer
(Squaw Creek Checking Station)		

It is quite probable that the desired reduction of 350 to 400 head of the Gallatin herd will be effected before the Montana Fish and Game Commission closes the season.

The October storms left up to 14 inches of snow in the higher parts of the park, and adjacent areas and this caused a sharp rise in the Kill of Elk in Wyoming areas east and south of the park. The season in Teton County was scheduled to close on October 31 but this has been extended to November 15 to effect the needed reduction of the southern herd. Hunters have reached the hunting areas in large numbers and probably will take the necessary number of elk, particularly in the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission makes a further extension of the hunting season. Satisfactory kills were made of elk, deer and moose in the Grosvenor Forest east of the park, but as in Teton County, accurate figures will not be available until after the season closes and the Forest Service and State of Wyoming reports are prepared.

Bears. No bear incidents were reported during the month and few black bears were seen. Several grizzlies were observed in Hayden Valley, Pelican Valley and the northern part of the park. One large grizzly was killed by a hunter in the Jardine area.

Fish Culture. Superintendent William Dunn of the Lake Hatchery closed the Fish and Wildlife Service fish culture operation in the park on October 18.

The Fish and Wildlife Service delivered 40,000 No. 1 1/2 rainbow trout for the Madison River and 20,000 of the same species and six for Nez Perce Creek on October 5.

The Madison River was closed to fishing at sunset September 30 and all other park waters were closed at sunset of October 15.

Forest Fire Protection. Two reportable forest fires occurred in the park during the month, one on October 6 and the other on October 11. Both were started from cigarettes or other unextinguished material discarded from passing automobiles. One fire was started on lands outside of the park and burned into the park, covering 120 acres of park land. Both fires were started in grassland, and only a small amount of forest was damaged. Rain and snowstorms during the last half of the month, reduced the fire danger to a minimum.

As a fire prevention measure, most of the dump grounds where combustible rubbish has accumulated were burned out during the month. This work has not been entirely completed due to lack of personnel to accomplish some of the larger projects but the work that has been accomplished will alleviate, to a large extent, the danger of forest fires starting from hot ashes and burning embers placed in established dump grounds.

Miscellaneous. Watsonman-Lanitor Francis J. Coy was married to Miss Selma of Bozeman, Montana at Townsend, Montana on October 2.

The first winter meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 105 was held in the canteen on October 11.

Edmund F. Rogers,  
Superintendent.

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