

Yellowstone Interpreters Newsletter



NUMBER 9

MAY 1973

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

A PERSONAL WORD FROM THE CHIEF PARK NATURALIST

The time has finally arrived when we know who's going to be who in the Naturalist Division and I can say hello to all of you. For some it has already been a personal greeting to those who have already come to work. I hope each of you, whether returning or coming for the first time, feel the same eagerness to be in Yellowstone as I did a few months ago when I learned of my appointment. We are really privileged to work and live in such a place.

You will find me intensely interested in Yellowstone and the ways you interpret it to the public. Our interpretive program over the years has earned a far-flung reputation, with the extra efforts during the Centennial Year deserving top honors. I wish that I could have shared last summer with you.

This coming summer is very special, too, because it will be the first season of Yellowstone's second century. With that perspective, I offer you my feelings as to the direction our interpretation should take.

Yellowstone has been called - with good reason - "A World Apart." There's no doubt about it, this place is unlike any other place on earth, so coming here is like leaving all familiar things behind. Or is it? How about a theme of "Yellowstone - A World Apart, But a Part of the World" to convey ideas of interaction and interdependence? Can we interpret Yellowstone's great lessons in ecology and geology as well as relate them to prior knowledge and concerns that visitors have about their own homes? Just as Old Faithful's eruption made the lady wonder if she had turned off the stove at home, we might stimulate some thinking about energy and its consumption.

The natural checks and balances which control population of elk, bison, and brine flies ultimately control us, too. Interpretation of the process of living should be basic to our approach, with the goal of having each visitor internalize some of the ecological concepts so well illustrated here. Let's send them home with a souvenir of understanding which is relevant to their more familiar surroundings. Perhaps they will understand not only Yellowstone, but themselves better.

Yellowstone National Park is a prestigious platform from which to speak, and your Service uniform puts you in a spotlight, commanding considerable attention. We have invited you to wear it because of our confidence in your past performance or immediate potential if you are new.

I am looking forward to meeting you and working with such an elite group of interpretive naturalists.



R. Alan Mebane

WHO'S GOING TO BE IN THE NATURALIST DIVISION THIS YEAR?

North District:

Stan Canter - Assistant Chief Park Naturalist

Mammoth:

John Whitman - Mammoth Sub-District Naturalist (and acting North District Naturalist)

Dick Follett, Chuck Milliken, Paul Schullery, Pete Burdine, Laura Lee Morio, (and one vacancy)

Tower:

Bill Baker - Sub-District Naturalist

Tom Pittenger

South District:

Joe Halladay - South District Naturalist

Canyon:

Noel Ary - Sub-District Naturalist

Paul Ausum, Ed Mills, Cawood Gilbert, Bob Schultz, Kathy Schultz,
Joe Richter, Dan Leonard, Rodney Schmidt.

Fishing Bridge:

Bob Jonas - Sub-District Naturalist

Ted Parkinson, Larry Holbrook, Steve Heaton, Harlan Kredit,
Becky Truesdell, Garry Davies, Meredith Lane, Gerald Lasser.

Grant Village:

Ed Leigh - Sub-District Naturalist

Tim Bywater, Lawrence Boe, Pat Fisher, Ronald Dent

West District:

John Stockert - West District Naturalist

Norris:

George Algard - Sub-District Naturalist

Steve Hodapp, Susan Sindt, James Jones, (and one vacancy to be filled)

Old Faithful:

Bob Woody - Old Faithful Sub-District Naturalist

Dick Townsend, Rick Hutchinson, Linda Martin, Arthur Kidwell,
Ruth McNerny, Clayton Nichols, Audrey Calhoun, Francis (Terry)
Darby, Jeff Later, Autumn Owsley, Barbara Burchett, Jerry Carlson,
Ruth Dugdale, Samuel Holbrook, Jim Lenertz (and two vacancies to
be filled).

Linda Martin is now a permanent employee, scheduled for the
Albright Training Center in the fall.

Parkwide:

Bill Lewis - Oral Communications Specialist - Training

Mike Weinblatt - Gateway Television Project

AND SOME NEWS OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT RETURNING:

Wade Evans - now with Virginia State Internal Revenue Service

Kurt Totham - now a seasonal at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi

Louise Baxter - married this spring

George and Larry Marler - at home in Thornton, Idaho where George is finishing his writeups of a few more geysers.

Doug Doolittle - his job at Western Washington State College now includes summers.

Keith Hoofnagle - now an intake trainee into the permanent ranks, spending this summer at Saguro National Monument, Arizona.

Jerry Hollis - accepted new employment at home.

Sam Williams - working in Mexico this summer under a research assistanceship from Colorado State University.

Keith Bennett - at Shenandoah National Park this summer.

Steve Clement - a research assistant for the University of California at Davis this summer.

Ed Lewis - teaching school in Helena.

George Downing - during the winter George had surgery on his other hip. Last word we had was that he is recovering satisfactorily. Due to the fact that his activities must be limited this summer in order that his hip may fully recover, George has taken a disability retirement. We are all going to miss George this year. For many years George has been one of the outstanding interpreters and supervisors on our Yellowstone Interpretive Staff.

.....so we will miss each of these former naturalists and wish them well.

P.S. Some of our seasonals worked as VIP's (Volunteers in Parks) during the winter and spring: Ruth Dugdale, Chuck Milliken, and Chris Judson.

NEW PLANS FOR THIS SUMMER INCLUDE SUCH THINGS AS:

The Gateway Television Project: Our own TV station reaching sets in West Yellowstone to give overnight visitors a preview of possible experiences in the park. This experiment is intended to help incoming visitors plan their stay and get more benefit from their time here. Mile Weinblatt will gather fresh material and blend it with films of Yellowstone for approximately two hours' programming each evening.

Aquatic Interpretation: A number of changes have been made in the fishing regulations this year, two of which are quite notable. First, to promote a better contact with fishermen and to assure that each has a copy of the fishing regulations, a non-fee permit will be required. They will be issued through the same outlets as the Fire and Back Country Use Permits and the Boat Permits. Secondly, the first mile of the Yellowstone River below the lake outlet will be closed to fishing. From that point to the Mud Volcano will be catch and release only. Hayden Valley will be closed as usual and from Alum Creek to the Upper Falls will also be catch and release. Most significant in this, of course, is the closure of Fishing Bridge. Even though we may draw considerable criticism we feel very justified

in this move. We hope to draw attention away from consumptive use and focus on the aesthetic and ecological values of the fisheries resource. It is hoped that fish populations will build up again in the Fishing Bridge area and that it will provide a unique, living, aquatic exhibit. We are programming naturalist duty on the bridge this summer to interpret the ecological story which exists between organisms in this high-elevation water system and the other related life forms native to Yellowstone. We also are planning informational panels to be placed at the bridge as well as exploring the feasibility of an underwater-television interpretive system.

The Mount Washburn Fire Lookout: will double as an interpretive center, operated by Sandy and Gary Vequist. Living quarters will be moved from the lookout cab to the second floor, and visitors allowed up except during emergencies. This will be a prime spot to discuss our policy of allowing natural fires to burn themselves out in selected areas.

The Short-Range AM Radios: which broadcast messages into visitors' automobiles have been changed and improved. The FCC has assigned us 1606 on the dial (you're right - - it's just off the dial , but most radios can receive it) and we are the test area for the United States. If proven effective, it may become the nationwide frequency for public service radio broadcasts. We have improved the antenna and increased the power, so the range of our 34 transmitters has greatly increased.

New Services at Old Faithful: include an evening talk on the Old Faithful Inn patio, an afternoon and evening walk through the Upper Geyser Basin originating at Castle Geyser, and nightly Yellowstone Forums in the visitor center.

North District Activities: The interpretive program for the North District will be essentially the same as last year. Indian Creek Campfire Program will be increased from 4 to 7 nights per week and a twilight nature hike will be given two nights per week, alternating with the Ft. Yellowstone walk.

This summer we hope to have the interpreters leading the Ft. Yellowstone Walk dressed in U. S. Army Cavalry uniforms. Most of the items have been received and hopefully our uniforms will be completed by June.

THINGS HAVE ALSO BEEN HAPPENING THIS WINTER:

The seismograph network in and around Yellowstone has been detecting swarms of earth tremors, and a surprising number have been strong enough to be felt. It probably means that stress is being released gradually. After all, this is one of the most active geologic areas in the world!

Yellowstone's thermal features are always changing, and Ed Hutchinson has been making a careful study of Norris Geyser Basin this winter under contract with the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association. We were able to keep a close eye on the Old Faithful area, too, since we kept the visitor center open and offered interpretive services to over 13,000 visitors who snowmobiled in or rode the snow coaches.

Thermal Activity: There have been a number of interesting thermal changes in the Upper Geyser Basin over the winter. Perhaps of greatest note has been the reactivation of the Daisy Geyser group. Throughout February and during part of March eruptions of Splendid and Daisy were reported at about 10-day intervals. Checks of the area have revealed no footprints in the snow which would indicate any "tampering" with these features.

Sometime during early December Plume Geyser began blowing out a new vent between its own vent and the indicator. This new vent has continued to enlarge over the winter. Recorded intervals between eruptions have shortened to 24 or 25 minutes. Another effect has been to decrease the height of the eruption somewhat since water now emerges from both the main and middle vents.

Giantess Geyser had three active phases over the winter. Two of them occurred during early December and the third on February 19. All of these events coupled with the fact that Old Faithful's average winter interval shortened from 66 minutes to between 63 and 64 minutes would seem to indicate an overall increase in thermal energy of the Upper Geyser Basin.

Old Faithful Winter Operation: Despite an exceptionally mild winter there was plenty of activity at Old Faithful. The heaviest impact occurred over Christmas vacation, but the biggest day in the visitor center came during the Washington Birthday weekend when nearly 600 people came into the building. It hardly seemed like "isolation."! We were glad to see so many people get out on cross country skis or snowshoes to get a truly great winter experience.

In terms of interpretation the evening programs were well attended (over 60% of overnight guests came) and many people also took the snowshoe walk. Due to the mild snowfall, snowshoes were only used on the walk a few times. Chris Judson, who works as an information receptionist at Lake during the summer, helped us out as a VIP from late January through the end of the season.

Campgrounds: Two of Yellowstone's campgrounds will be operated on a reservation basis this year. Ninety percent of the sites in Bridge Bay and Madison campgrounds will be occupied by visitors who have made reservations in advance. The remaining 10 percent will be occupied on a first come, first served basis as usual. Reservations are to be taken and coordinated through the American Express Company. A computer terminal linked to their communication system will be established in Yellowstone. Camping fees plus a nominal registration fee will be paid directly to

the contractor when the reservation is made. Four other national parks will operate part of their campgrounds in the same manner.

Publication: A new publication, The Place Where Hell Bubbled Up - A History of the First National Park, by David Clary is now on sale at visitor centers. We recommend that you read it.

Concessioner: Hamilton Stores, Inc., will begin construction of a new store at Bridge Bay to replace the Lake store which is programmed for removal in a couple of years. The draft environmental impact statement was approved in the Regional Office as a negative declaration, recognizing the fact that the area has already been environmentally disturbed and developed to the point where the proposed development will add negligible impact.

Weather: We had a very light winter as far as snowfall was concerned, but temperatures did reach -47° at Old Faithful in December. Sub-zero was the rule most of the month. With food easy to find, the wildlife fared quite well except for scavengers who found little carrion. Grizzly and black bears have been late emerging this year, so all in all it has been an unusual winter. The roads have been plowed open early because of the relatively easy going.

Archeology: Construction of a new sewer line between Mammoth and Gardiner uncovered a succession of prehistoric Indian campsites to a depth of six feet. Salvage archeology by Dr. Larry Lahren recovered over 1000 artifacts and butchered animal bones; at times the site was used primarily for the manufacture of stone tools. Several of the naturalists volunteered to help with the dig and gained some valuable experience.

Environmental Education: An overnight environmental education workshop was held at Old Faithful for teachers from West Yellowstone, Mammoth and Gardiner schools in late April.

AND WE HAVE A NEW DIRECTOR - MR. RONALD WALKER - Be sure to read the attached writeup about our dynamic new Director. We hope that he will be visiting Yellowstone this summer, and gaining the sure impression that the most famous national park in the world is in good hands. We are counting on you to help convince him and the other millions of visitors of that fact.

Note: Kathy and Bob Schultz will not be with us after all this summer. Instead, they will be leaving July 1 for Costa Rica where they have been assigned to work in one of their park areas under a program sponsored by the Peace Corps. They will be living in San Jose, capitol city of Costa Rica.



newsletter

VOL. 7 Nos. 25 and 26

December 25, 1972

Ronald Walker

Heads NPS

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton on Dec. 13 announced the appointment of Ronald H. Walker, Special Assistant to the President, as the new Director of the National Park Service.

"I have selected Ron Walker" said Secretary Morton, "because he is a dedicated person of unusual talent and ability. He will be a strong successor to Mr. George Hartzog who served well during the nine years of his directorship.

"Ron is totally committed to leading the National Park System into its second Century. The mission of our Park Service to conserve and preserve our natural and historical heritage and to provide educational and recreational opportunities for its millions of visitors is one of the greatest challenges of our time."

Mr. Walker served as an assistant to former Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel during the early days of the first Nixon Administration. In June of 1969, he moved from Interior to the White House to become a Special Assistant to the President. His job at the White House required organizing and directing all Presidential domestic and international travel, including visits to the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

"The President's policies reflected in his Parks for the People program are directed toward a sound balance between preserving

the natural integrity of our vast park lands and the necessary facilities for people to reach them and enjoy them without damage to their environment.

"I am confident," added Secretary Morton, "that Ron Walker will meet this challenge with distinction."

Mr. Walker succeeds George B. Hartzog, Jr. who has served as director since January, 1964, and is retiring on Dec. 31, 1972.

"I am honored and privileged to be appointed the Director of the National Park Service," said Mr. Walker. "The Service has had a distinguished record. The national park movement which began in America with Yellowstone has provided a century of leadership in establishing an environmental ethic and a sense of historical preservation among the nations of the world. It is growing, expanding not only in size but in concepts and in national interest.

"George Hartzog's record of achievement within the Service is a remarkable one. In his 9 years as Director, 78 additions have been made to the National Park System. They represent superb examples of the best of America's natural resources and our country's history.

"The President has often expressed deep interest in the preservation of the natural beauty and resources of this land as well as the sites of historical events that have

shaped this nation. I look forward to the task of carrying out his hopes for the Park Service.

"I look forward to working with the men and women of the National Park Service. Your reputation as superb public servants is one of the hallmarks of the National Park Service. I will count on your support, your advice and your loyalty."

Before going to the White House, Mr. Walker was in the office of the Secretary of the Interior as an Assistant and Special Assistant to the Secretary from March, 1969.

From 1967 to 1969, Mr. Walker was a sales representative with the Hudson Company in Los Angeles, and from 1964 to 1967 was an executive with Allstate Insurance Company in Pasadena, California. From 1961 to 1964 he served as an officer with the United States Army in Okinawa.

Mr. Walker was born July 25, 1937 in Bryan, Texas and was reared in India and the Middle East while his father was employed by the United States Government and the Ford Foundation. He returned to the United States in 1956 to attend the University of Arizona from which he received a B.A. degree in 1960, and was named in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

The Walkers, who have three children, live in Potomac, Md. Mrs. Walker is the former Anne Collins.

Yellowstone National Park

ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT May 1, 1972 to April 30, 1973

Narrative Statement

Prepared by
Edmund J. Bucknall, Resources Management Specialist

GENERAL

The past winter saw two attempts by the press to discredit the elk management program, one through distortion of the facts concerning a proposed post-season hunt north of the park and the other with a blatant fable claiming a "secret" butchering of 5000 elk. The first was circulated through the wire services and created a brief flurry of public reaction, but the second fortunately went no further than the papers' own subscribers. Both stories died quietly when queries were answered with the simple truth.

The fatality caused by a grizzly attack last June was expected to generate public opposition to these bears, but the only reaction was in criticism of our killing the bear. This, plus the apparent willingness to accept our elk management program once it was sensibly explained, seems to illustrate a growing appreciation of a natural ecosystem for its own special values. A simple statement of our Congressional Mandate to maintain a natural area, and a careful evaluation of the natural versus the artificial seems to convince any except the purely mercenary that a relatively untouched ecosystem is worth retaining.

A great deal of interest is shown in the endangered species, especially the predators, since many seem to realize that the best hope for these animals is within the national parks.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Both temperatures and precipitation for the entire year averaged very close to normal, but wide monthly deviations in precipitation produced very wet weather in August and September and relatively light snowpack during the winter. Water content of snow this spring was averaging about three-fourths of normal. Cold temperatures were experienced in December and January, but relatively mild temperatures prevailed during the remainder of the winter.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF ANIMALS

Light snowpack this winter enabled most ungulates to forage over a much wider range than usual, with most of these animals appearing in good to excellent condition at this time. A very light winterkill made things difficult for scavengers, however. Carrion is very scarce at this time, and any available carcass is picked clean often within 24 hours.

Winter calf-cow ratios for the northern herd were 33:100. This represents a continued expected decline as elk population densities increase. Based upon post data, ratios of 20-30 calves/100 cows can be expected for herds of 10,000 or more animals.

RANGE CONDITIONS

Measurements of range condition, trend, and forage utilization are being continued, but are still undergoing analysis. Historical photos of the northern range suggest that much of the vegetative change which has occurred on the northern range reflects a reduction in frequency of natural fires. Fire should be "restored" to as much of the northern range as possible.

CENSUSES AND TREND COUNTS

Bighorn

The high count for bighorn sheep was 287, taken on March 9 and 15 between Reese Creek and Mt. Norris. This is fewer than counted last year, but is close to the average for the past several years. Counts have been made only in the northern portion of the park, and in conjunction with elk census flights.

Pronghorn

The high count for the winter was 129 on March 9, which is very close to the high count last year. While this indicates little if any increase, the number seems to have stabilized for the present. Counts over the past five years suggest a continuing slow decline in numbers. Pronghorn numbers may have been reduced below a minimum threshold for survival and recommendations have been made to re-introduce these animals.

Mule Deer

Neither a census nor trend counts were made on mule deer. As in the past few years, the population appears static.

Elk

The high count for the northern winter range was made on December 9 and 10, with 9981 elk seen. Of these, 61 percent were in the upper Yellowstone winter range, i.e. the Yellowstone and Lamar drainages east of Little Cottonwood and Elk Creeks. The Gallatin herd was counted by the State of Montana on December 5, with 1531 elk counted, mostly outside the park. The regular and post-season hunts accounted for 500 of these. No counts were made of the Madison-Firehole herd or of the southern herd while in the park.

Bison

A bison census this winter indicated a total of 700 animals in the three herds.

Trumpeter Swan

No summer count was made of trumpeters in 1972, but again only one brood of three cygnets was reported, apparently from the same pair of birds that nested successfully last year. High water, in spring of 1971 as well as 1972, may have been responsible for poor nesting success.

MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Gallatin Elk

As part of the cooperative management program with the U. S. Forest Service and the Montana Fish and Game Department, a special post-season hunt was held in the Gallatin Valley, north of the northwest corner of the park. There were 431 elk brought through the check stations, and these plus 60 elk taken during the regular season brought the total removal to approximately 500.

Northern Elk

The Montana Fish and Game Department reports an estimated 50 elk were taken in the Absaroka Unit and 25 in the Gardiner Unit during the regular season. A post season was scheduled for this area, but because of the mild winter weather, an insufficient number of elk moved out of the park.

No artificial control of elk was undertaken in the park this year.

Bison

The Agriculture Department's proposal to control brucellosis in park bison has received a great deal of criticism from various conservation organizations, and appears to be in abeyance, at least for the present. The National Park Service control program consists of preventing contact between bison and domestic cattle by selective removal of those bison approaching the park boundary. A copy of the documented program is attached.

Bears

Statistics are included in the Annual Report of Bear Management Activities.

A fatal injury occurred in the park in June, when a young man illegally camped in the Old Faithful area was killed and the body partially consumed by a grizzly bear. Information on this incident is contained in separate reports.

There were 23 trap-transplants of grizzlies this year, which is a significant reduction in required management actions over previous years. An unfortunate series of drug malfunctions occurred, which resulted in the deaths of five grizzlies. It is believed that the causes of these malfunctions have been identified and the situations corrected.

PREDATORS AND SCAVENGERS

Reliable reports during the past 12 years indicate the persistent presence of both wolverines and cougars, and sightings of young of both species show that breeding populations may be present. Termination of the use of poisons in surrounding states, plus the natural regulation of ungulates within the park, may be proving of benefit to these animals.

Wolf sightings did not indicate any increase in this species during the past year. The close size relationship between wolves and coyotes creates problems in field identification and even raises the question of a possible hybrid being present. This situation will be carefully monitored for another year, and if there are not definite indications of a breeding wolf population, we will begin looking for transplant possibilities.

A study of eagles and ospreys in the park shows at its preliminary stages a probable static population of bald eagles and a population of ospreys that may be declining because of reduced reproduction.

RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Management Projects

1. Management of the Northern Yellowstone elk herd and its habitat.
2. Management of the Upper Gallatin elk herd and its habitat.
3. Bear management.
4. Restoration of large predators.
5. Experimental control of Dalmatian toadflax.
6. Bald eagle and osprey population status, trends, and ecology.

Research Projects

1. YELL-N-3a Study of the Upper Gallatin elk herd and its habitat.
2. YELL-N-3b Bison ecology.
3. YELL-N-11a Fire history of the Yellowstone drainage.
4. YELL-N-16b Biotic succession of lodgepole pine forest of fire origin in Yellowstone National Park.
5. YELL-N-29b Ungulate ecology in Yellowstone National Park.

Project I--Research which tests hypothesis that relate to elk habitat relationships, biotic succession, and ecological homeostasis to determine if or to what extent different portions of the northern Yellowstone elk herd require management.

Project II--Research which evaluates a cooperative program with Montana Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Forest Service, Northern Region, to manage a "migratory" segment of the northern Yellowstone elk herd by a "variable quota" hunting system outside park boundaries.

6. YELL-N-38 Animal ecology, Yellowstone National Park.

Project IA--Habits, population dynamics, and ecology of elk.

Project IIB--Population status and trends of representative fauna.

7. YELL-N-39 Plant ecology studies, Yellowstone National Park.
8. YELL-N-41 Aerial photography to define vegetation.

9. YELL-N-43 Control of a limited stand of an exotic forb, Linaria dalmatica.
10. YELL-N-61 The possible use of a radiation absorbing material to hasten road snowmelt.
11. YELL-N-63 Fertilization of northern winter range.
12. YELL-N-64 Pronghorn antelope behavior.
13. YELL-N-66 Bald eagle and osprey population status, trends, and ecology, Yellowstone National Park.
14. YELL-N-69 Studies of dendrochronology and paleoclimates of Yellowstone National Park.
15. YELL-N-70 Systematic investigations of indigenous trout of national parks and contiguous waters.

SPECIAL REPORTS PREPARED

- Cole, G. F. 1973. Management involving grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park. Special Report, National Park Service. (in press)
- Despain, D. G. 1972. Forest insects and diseases. Information Paper No. 18, Yellowstone Nat. Park. 1 p. (Mimeo)
- _____. 1973. Vegetation of the Big Horn Mountains, Wyoming, in relation to substrate and climate. Ecological Monographs. (in press)
- _____. 1973. Major vegetation zones of Yellowstone National Park. Information Paper No. 19, Yellowstone Nat. Park. 4 p. (Mimeo)
- Houston, D. B. 1972. Elk Distribution flight, May 2-3. Yellowstone National Park Files (typewritten) 4 p. + map.
- _____. 1972. Elk Distribution flight, northern winter range, May 28-29. Yellowstone Nat. Park files (typewritten). 4 p. + map.
- _____. 1972. Supplemental flight, northern winter range, June 5. Yellowstone National Park files (typewritten). 1 p. + map.
- _____. 1972. Elk distribution flight, northern winter range, December 9-10. Yellowstone Nat. Park files.(typewritten). 4p. + map.
- _____. 1973. Elk distribution flight, northern winter range, January 15 and 20. Yellowstone Nat. Park files.(typewritten). 3 p. + map.

Houston, D. B. 1973. Elk distribution flight, northern winter range,
March 9 and 15. Yellowstone Nat. Park files (typewritten). 4 p. + map.

_____. 1973. Elk distribution flight, northern winter range,
April 26-27. Yellowstone Nat. Park files (typewritten).

_____. 1973. Wildfires in northern Yellowstone National Park.
Ecology. (in press)

Meagher, M. M. 1973. The bison of Yellowstone National Park. Scientific
Monograph Series, National Park Service, No. 1.

_____. 1973. Brucellosis in Yellowstone bison--the controversy.
Information Paper No. 14 (Rev.), Yellowstone Nat. Park. 2 p. (Mimeo).

SPECIAL REPORTS RECEIVED

Swenson, Jon E. 1973. Yellowstone Park Eagle-Osprey Study, 1972 Progress
Report. 5 p.

[illegible]

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
ANNUAL NON-FEE FISHING PERMIT**

This permit authorizes the undersigned to fish in the waters of Yellowstone National Park during the calendar year issued, in accordance with the current fishing regulations, and must be presented for inspection on the demand of any authorized representative of the park Superintendent.

By signing below, the permittee acknowledges the request of the National Park Service to accept the responsibility of knowing and abiding by the fishing regulations of Yellowstone National Park. The permittee, as a responsible citizen interested in the fisheries management program of this park, is further requested to present for purposes of inspection all tackle and/or fish as may be in his or her possession while on or immediately adjacent to waters of the park.

This permit is validated by signing.

1973

Year of Issue

Signature of Permittee

FISHING IN A NATIONAL PARK

Fishing is permitted where it is compatible with the basic purpose of the park: preserving natural environments and providing the opportunity for visitors to see and enjoy native plant and animal life as it occurred in primitive America. Fishing can be compatible with the park's basic purpose if it does not reduce food that supports fish-eating animals such as pelicans, ospreys and otters, or alter the structure and abundance of the fish population. Your cooperation is needed if the National Park Service is to succeed in maintaining a quality aquatic environment where the emphasis is on appreciation of nature rather than consumptive use. You can help by using long-nosed pliers and a dip net to release each hooked fish unharmed.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

1973 FISHING REGULATIONS

(1) FISHING PERMIT:

A current annual non-fee fishing permit is required and shall be in the possession of all persons twelve years of age and older who are fishing in the waters of Yellowstone National Park. Said permit shall be displayed on demand of any authorized representative of the Superintendent.

(2) OPEN FISHING SEASON:

1. All rivers and creeks in the Yellowstone River drainage above the Upper Falls at Canyon, except as otherwise provided in Section (3) of these regulations, are open to fishing from 4:00 A.M., MST, on July 15, to 9:00 P.M., MST, on October 31. Rivers and creeks will include those portions of Yellowstone Lake marked by buoys within 100 yards of the river or creek inlet.
2. All lakes in the Yellowstone River drainage above the Upper Falls at Canyon, except as otherwise provided in Section (3) of these regulations, are open to fishing from 4:00 A.M., MST, on June 15, to 9:00 P.M., MST, on October 31. The marking buoys in the vicinity of the outlet of Yellowstone Lake shall define the northern limit of Yellowstone Lake.
3. All other waters, except as provided in Section (3) of these regulations, are open to fishing from 4:00 A.M., MST, on May 28, to 9:00 P.M., MST, on October 31.

(3) CLOSED WATERS:

The following waters of the park are closed to fishing and are so designated by appropriate signs:

1. Pelican Creek from its mouth to a point two miles upstream.
2. The Yellowstone River and its tributary streams from the Yellowstone Lake outlet to a point one mile downstream.
3. The Yellowstone River and its tributary streams from the confluence of Alum Creek with the Yellowstone River upstream to the Sulphur Caldron.
4. The Yellowstone River from the top of the Upper Falls downstream to a point directly below the overlook known as Inspiration Point.
5. Bridge Bay Lagoon and Marina and Grant Village and Marina and their connecting channels with Yellowstone Lake.
6. Fishing is prohibited from the shores of the southern extreme of the West Thumb thermal area (posted) along the shore of Yellowstone Lake to the mouth of Little Thumb Creek.
7. The Mammoth water supply reservoir.
8. Old Faithful water supply consisting of that section of the Firehole River from the Old Faithful water intake to the Shoshone Lake trail crossing above Lone Star Geyser.
9. Other park waters not specifically identified may, by the conspicuous posting of signs, be temporarily closed to fishing for spawning or research study purposes.

(4) DAILY FISHING PERIOD:

Fishing in those waters of the park that are open is permitted only between the hours of 4:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., MST, or 5:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M., MDT.

(5) CATCH AND RELEASE WATERS:

Catch and release shall mean that all fish caught shall be carefully and immediately returned to the water from which they were taken. The following waters of the park are designated as catch and release waters:

1. Yellowstone River from one mile below the Yellowstone Lake outlet downstream to the Sulphur Caldron.
2. Yellowstone River from Alum Creek downstream to the Upper Falls.
3. Slough Creek proper and McBride Lake.
4. Lamar River proper from its confluence with the Yellowstone River upstream to the mouth of Cache Creek.
5. Lewis River proper below Lewis Falls.

(6) DAILY LIMITS BY WATERS:

Daily limit shall mean the numbers, sizes, or species of fish that may be legally taken from specified waters during the legal fishing hours of a day. All fish a person does not elect to keep in possession shall be carefully and immediately returned to the water from which they were taken.

1. The possession of grayling caught in park waters is prohibited (catch-and-release fishing only).
2. Firehole and Madison Rivers, Lower Gibbon River up to the base of Gibbon Falls: two (2) fish, 16 inches or longer.
3. Yellowstone Lake (except as provided in Sections (2) and (3) of these regulations): two (2) fish, 14 inches or longer.
4. Gardner River drainage above Osprey Falls, Glen Creek drainage above Rustic Falls, Lava Creek drainage above Undine Falls, and Blacktail Deer Creek drainage including Blacktail Ponds: five (5) fish, any size, of which at least three (3) must be brook trout.
5. All other waters open to fishing other than catch-and-release waters: two (2) fish, any size.

(7) POSSESSION LIMIT:

Possession limit shall mean the numbers or species of fish taken within Yellowstone National Park which may be in the possession of a person, regardless if fresh, stored in freezers or ice chests, or otherwise preserved. A person must cease fishing immediately upon filling his possession limit.

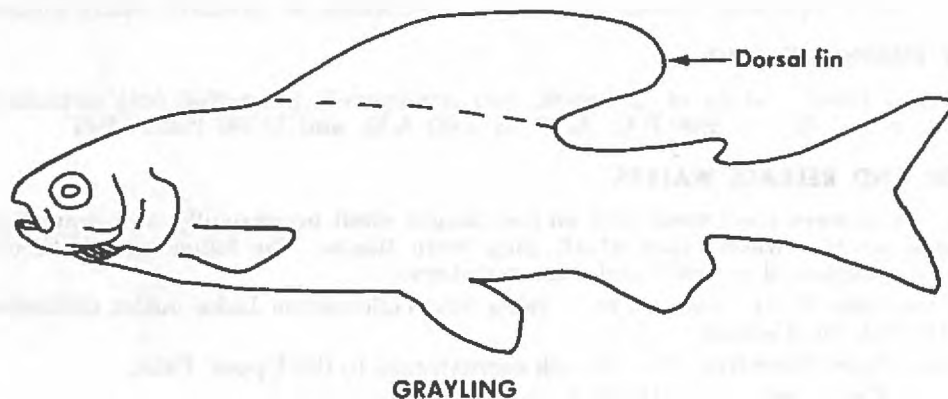
The possession limit is five (5) fish of which at least three (3) must be brook trout. The possession of grayling is prohibited.

(8) RESTRICTION OF USE OF LINES, BAIT AND LURES:

1. Each person fishing in park waters shall use only one rod or line held in the hand. Any fish hooked other than in the mouth shall be carefully and immediately returned to the water from which taken.
2. Only artificial flies on single hook or lures with one single, double, or treble hook may be used in park waters except as specified in the following subparagraphs.
3. Only artificial flies on a single hook may be used for fishing in the Firehole River, Madison River, and that section of the Gibbon River extending from the mouth of the stream to the base of Gibbon Falls.
4. When in the possession of any fishing equipment and while immediately adjacent to or on waters of the park, no person shall possess any fish bait (e.g. worms, insects, minnows, fish eggs, or other organic matter, or parts thereof) or fish lures, except as provided for in subparagraphs 2, 3, and 5 of this Section.
5. Persons 12 years of age or under may fish with worms as bait on the Gardner River, Obsidian Creek, Indian Creek, and Panther Creek.

IDENTIFICATION OF PROTECTED SPECIES

Killing or possessing grayling is prohibited. All those caught must be returned unharmed to the water. They are easily identified by their extremely large dorsal fin. (See illustration below.)



A color plate, showing all the park sport fish, is available free of charge at park information stations.

the contractor when the reservation is made. Four other national parks will operate part of their campgrounds in the same manner.

Publication: A new publication, The Place Where Hell Bubbled Up - A History of the First National Park, by David Clary is now on sale at visitor centers. We recommend that you read it.

Concessioner: Hamilton Stores, Inc., will begin construction of a new store at Bridge Bay to replace the Lake store which is programmed for removal in a couple of years. The draft environmental impact statement was approved in the Regional Office as a negative declaration, recognizing the fact that the area has already been environmentally disturbed and developed to the point where the proposed development will add negligible impact.

Weather: We had a very light winter as far as snowfall was concerned, but temperatures did reach -47° at Old Faithful in December. Sub-zero was the rule most of the month. With food easy to find, the wildlife fared quite well except for scavengers who found little carrion. Grizzly and black bears have been late emerging this year, so all in all it has been an unusual winter. The roads have been plowed open early because of the relatively easy going.

Archeology: Construction of a new sewer line between Mammoth and Gardiner uncovered a succession of prehistoric Indian campsites to a depth of six feet. Salvage archeology by Dr. Larry Lahren recovered over 1000 artifacts and butchered animal bones; at times the site was used primarily for the manufacture of stone tools. Several of the naturalists volunteered to help with the dig and gained some valuable experience.

Environmental Education: An overnight environmental education workshop was held at Old Faithful for teachers from West Yellowstone, Mammoth and Gardiner schools in late April.

AND WE HAVE A NEW DIRECTOR - MR. RONALD WALKER - Be sure to read the attached writeup about our dynamic new Director. We hope that he will be visiting Yellowstone this summer, and gaining the sure impression that the most famous national park in the world is in good hands. We are counting on you to help convince him and the other millions of visitors of that fact.

Note: Kathy and Bob Schultz will not be with us after all this summer. Instead, they will be leaving July 1 for Costa Rica where they have been assigned to work in one of their park areas under a program sponsored by the Peace Corps. They will be living in San Jose, capitol city of Costa Rica.