

FINDING AID

WILDLIFE PROGRAM RECORDS

1872-2007 (bulk dates: 1940s-2000s)

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Collection Number: RG01-WILD

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HISTORY

Management of animal populations in Yellowstone National Park originally focused on the enforcement of rules and regulations to prevent poaching. After the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916, a broader focus that included education and more active management of animal populations emerged. While park naturalists were generally employed for the purpose of providing educational lectures, exhibits, and other interpretive programs, many of those employed were students or off-season faculty of academic institutions. As a result, an informal program of scientific study emerged, with areas of study largely directed by the interests and expertise of the individual researcher. By the mid-20th century, these early efforts began to coalesce into a more focused research program, eventually becoming the Wildlife Division of the Branch of Research and Education. The Wildlife Division oversaw the technical and general administrative supervision of all wildlife research, management, restoration, planning, and investigation in national parks and monuments. In Yellowstone, the scientific program remained part of the Division of Interpretation until 1993, when the Yellowstone Center for Resources was formed.

- 1883: Public hunting in Yellowstone National Park prohibited.
- 1892: Elk began to be shipped live out of the park. Requests for elk, as well as various other species including bison, mountain lions, coyotes and more, are sent to park officials.
- 1902: Poachers reduced the Yellowstone bison herd to about two dozen animals. 1917: Brucellosis is first found in Yellowstone bison herd.
- 1926: As a result of federal and state predator control efforts, gray wolves (Canis lupus) were officially extirpated from Yellowstone National Park.
- 1934-1937: Due to overpopulation, elk are culled from herds during the winters. 1952: Last supplemental feeding of bison.
- 1963: The Leopold Report (officially Wildlife Management in National Parks) is published. Stemming from a Special Advisory Board called by Secretary of the Interior Stuart K. Udall in response to criticism of elk reduction in Yellowstone National Park, the report emphasized the need for scientific research and expertise in the National Parks.
- 1969: Animal reductions are halted.
- 1988: Summer fires plus a harsh winter contributes to the decline of moose in the Park. 1995: Reintroduction of wolves.
- 2017: Report titled "Revisiting Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area" from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine blames Brucellosis transmission on elk, rather than bison.

Sources Used:

- Pritchard, James A. "Preserving Yellowstone's Natural Conditions: Science and the Perception of Nature," Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999.
- Wagner, Frederic H. "Yellowstone's Destabilized Ecosystem: Elk Effects, Science, and Policy Conflict," Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Yellowstone Center for Resources. 2013. Yellowstone National Park: Natural and Cultural Resources Vital Signs. National Park Service, Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, YCR-2013-03.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

WILDLIFE PROGRAM RECORDS

1872-2007 (bulk dates: 1940s-2000s)

COLLECTION NUMBER RG 01-WILD (YELL 69736)

VOLUME

35 Linear Feet

DESCRIPTION

This record group consists of the permanent records of the Wildlife Program of Yellowstone National Park. The Wildlife Records detail the history of wildlife management and study in Yellowstone National Park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The records document a variety of animals, with ungulates and carnivores most represented, but there are also documents related to insects and other invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and rodents. There are reports, studies, observations, research data, internal and external correspondence and memos, articles, maps, photographs, and negatives. Creators include park officials, scientists, various federal and state agencies, and the public. Major categories include administrative records such as correspondence, memoranda, monthly and annual reports, and planning documents.

This record group contains material documenting wildlife more generally, studies and reports of multiple species at once, and records of species studied less regularly. There is considerable overlap with more specific record groups such as bears, wolves, ungulates, and birds. This is especially true for broad animal censuses and studies that attempted to record most animals represented in the park as well as early records created before specific species were emphasized for study or management. It is highly likely researchers of iconic park species will need to consult multiple collections; see related collections section for more information.

These records offer researchers insight into the history and evolution of wildlife management in the Park, including how the public reacted to various developments. This collection is particularly useful for those interested in lesser studied species as well as those looking for broad information across multiple species. The collection is also useful for those interested in the research of specific scientists.

ORGANIZATION

This collection is arranged into five series: Series 1: Administrative; 2: Population Management and Animal Control; Series 3: Other Animals; Series 4: Doug Scott; Series 5: Doug Houston; Series 6: Walter Kittams. Within the series materials are arranged chronologically. Photos can be found within each series, as those affixed to reports have been left in the original locations.

PROVENANCE The majority of the materials were transferred to the archives by the Wildlife

and Aquatic Resources branch of the Yellowstone Center for Resources, (previously the Wildlife Division of the Branch of Research and Education) which was established in 1993 to consolidate the Park's science and research

functions.

RESTRICTIONS No

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS

RG 01-Ungulates, Yellowstone National Park Combined Archives

RG 01-Bird, Yellowstone National Park Combined Archives

RG 01-Bear, Yellowstone National Park Combined Archives

Antelope liver section specimens (Yell-02942), Yellowstone National Park

Museum Collections

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Administrative, 1928-2007

This series documents the overall management of wildlife in Yellowstone National Park and contains administrative records such as correspondence, weekly and annual wildlife reports, meeting and activity reports, and management plans regarding wildlife in Yellowstone National Park as well as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Correspondence includes letters from individuals and organizations. Often organized into broad subject categories such as "Animals" or "Mammals", the bulk of the correspondence consists of requests for information on topics related to wildlife. Occasionally, these thematic files also contain internal reports, snippets from staff field journals, and memoranda. Animals covered include a wide range from bears to squirrels. Reports include sightings, activities, and other information that was recorded at various locations throughout the park by rangers in the field and then was compiled into monthly and annual summaries that were reported to the Superintendent. These statistics are more general and observational than those documented in series II: Population Management and Animal Control.

Population Management and Animal Control, 1929-2001

This series includes correspondence, memos, forms, reports, wildlife observations, and population counts related to population management, animal counts and reduction, predator control, and dead animals. Also included are requests from various organizations and citizens for live animals, particularly elk and bison. The reports include a long conducted annual census compiling details and population numbers for many of the animals living in the park, running from 1929 to 1955. This report changed titles, and sometimes scope, over time. Initially named the Wild Game Report, beginning in 1929, it became the Annual Game Report in 1930, the Annual Game Census Report in 1934, the Annual Wildlife Census Report in 1939, Animal Census Report in 1951, and the Annual Wildlife Report for Yellowstone National Park in 1954. This particular report series appears to end in 1955. Subsequent reports generally focused on specific or just a few related species. While largely complete, there are a few apparent gaps. Whether this indicates missing records or that a report was not completed for the year is unknown. There are also some monthly reports variously titled Game Reports (1932) and Monthly Game Reports (1937-1938). These reports appear to have subsequently been compiled into the annual reports described above.

Animal Studies, 1908-2004

The materials in this series cover insects and insect control as well as other invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, rodents, beavers, and various predatory animals (other than bears and wolves). Included are reports, memos, correspondence, studies, and articles. Records include materials by Terry McEneany who, in addition to leading the Bird Program, also studied river otters. Records of other biologists who studied multiple species are located separate series.

Doug Scott, 1872-2005

M. Douglas Scott was a National Park Service employee who studied pronghorn deer from 1988-1994. His focus was how pronghorn phenology (breeding, migration, birthing, etc) affected pronghorn distribution and impacted researchers' ability to accurately count the population.

This series is comprised of Doug Scott's research materials and work in ungulates, particularly with pronghorns. Materials include ground counts, field notebooks, correspondence, photographs, negatives, and forms. Antelope liver sample tags were removed to the museum collections (See YELL-02942).

Doug Houston, 1936-1980

Douglas Houston worked as a Research Biologist in YNP from 1970-1980 studying and documenting the elk population (as well as other ungulates). He worked with Glen F. Cole to develop the hypothesis that elk herds self-regulate their populations.

The materials in this series are comprised of reports, memos, correspondence, field season summaries, monitoring plans, and articles. Of note are the aerial photographs of the Yellowstone area.

Walter Kittams, 1924-1966

Walter H. Kittams was Yellowstone National Park's first park biologist. He studied the Northern Yellowstone elk herd and documented the effects it had on the ecosystem. Kittams pushed for the administration to control the elk population artificially, as he believed that they were overgrazing on the Northern Range.

The bulk of this series is comprised of materials from Kittams's tenure as Yellowstone's first official biologist. The majority of the series is related to the management of YNP's elk population and includes materials such as reports, correspondence, population counts, photographs, and slides.

CONTAINER LIST

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01	Administrative, 1928-2007
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File Unit	Title
001.01	Regulations to Govern the Disposal of Wild Animals, 1929
001.02	Report of the Present Status of Wildlife Management and Game Control, 1934-1935
001.03	Management Plans, Wildlife and Range, Annual (1 of 2), 1942-1963
001.04	Management Plans, Wildlife and Range, Annual (2 of 2), 1963-1968
001.05	Wildlife Management (Parkwide Long-range Program), N16, 1959-1967
001.06	Wildlife Management Report, 1962-1963
001.07	Annual Wildlife Reports, N26, 1962-1978
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001.10	Wildlife Report - Problem Areas, N14, 1965-1969
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002.03	Annual Wildlife Reports, 1966-1976
002.04	Wildlife Reports - Monthly [Field Data], 1928-1929
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035.07	Resource Management: Postfire Mortality, N1615, 1988-1989
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035.10	Animal Counts - Tower Falls Area (Other Than Waterfowl), 1946-1954
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065.05	Pronghorn Antelope Workshop [3 of 5], 1984, 1988, 1996, 1999, 2001
065.06	Pronghorn Antelope Workshop [4 of 5], 1984, 1988, 1996, 1999, 2001
065.07	Pronghorn Antelope Workshop [5 of 5], 1984, 1988, 1996, 1999, 2001
065.08	O'Gara Wildlife Disease/Parasites, Winter, 1991
065.09	Pronghorn Antelope Management (x2), 1992
065.10-065.28	Ungulate Slides and Photographs (boxes not numbered), undated

Box 66

File Unit Title

O66 Grassland Habitat Type Forms, 1993

Box 67

DOX O7	
File Unit	Title
067.01	Research Index, October 3, 2003
067.02	Superintendent's Reports - Langford, 1872
067.03	Engineer Historical Report, 1875
067.04	Superintendent's Report - Norris, 1877-1881
067.05	Superintendent's Report - Conger, 1883
067.06	Superintendent's Report - Wear, 1885-1886
067.07	Superintendent's Report - Harris, 1886-1889
067.08	Superintendent's Report - Boutelle, 1890
067.09	Superintendent's Report - Anderson, 1891-1896
067.10	Superintendent's Report - Young, 1897
067.11	Superintendent's Report - Erwin, 1898
067.12	Superintendent's Report - Brown, 1899
067.13	Superintendent's Report - Goode, 1900
067.14	Superintendent's Report - Pitcher, 1901-1906
067.15	Superintendent's Report - Young, 1907-1908
067.16	Superintendent's Report - Benson, 1909-1910
067.17	Superintendent's Report, Journal Article, 1916
067.18	Annual Report, Director's Report, 1917
067.19	Superintendent's Report - Brett, 1911-1915
067.20	Game Reports, Annual Reports, Correspondence, 1918-1924
067.21	Annual and Game Reports, Correspondence, 1925-1930
067.22	Annual Reports, Game Reports, Correspondence, 1931-1942
067.23	Annual Reports, Game Reports, Correspondence, 1943-1949
067.24	Annual Reports, Game Reports, Correspondence, 1950-1962
067.25	Annual Reports, Game Reports, Correspondence, 1963-1969
067.26	Annual Reports, Game Reports, Correspondence, 1970-1973
067.27	Annual Reports, Game Reports, Correspondence, 1974-1978
067.28	Annual Reports, Game Reports, Correspondence, 1979-1986

Series Nbr Series Title

04 Doug Scott, 1872-2005 (cont'd)

Box 67 (cont'd) File Unit Title

File Unit	Title
067.29	Homestead Records (photocopies), 1883-1888
067.30	Bison Observation Cards, Terrel, 1876-1974

Box 68

File Unit	Title
068.01	Annual Reports of Superintendent, 1872-1890
068.02	Annual Reports of Superintendent, 1891-1904
068.03	Annual Reports of Superintendent, 1905-1915
068.04	Annual Reports of Superintendent, 1916-1918
068.05	Annual Park Report, 1919
068.06	Annual Park Report, 1948-1951
068.07	Annual Park Report, 1951-1961
068.08	Annual Park Report, 1956-1959
068.09	Annual Reports of Superintendent, 1964-1972
068.10	Wildlife Resource Guides, Various Regions, 1980, 1990, 1992
068.11	Pronghorn Antelope Research and Field Notes, 1872-1980s
068.12	Science Projects and Work Plans, 1991-1992
068.13	Superintendent's Annual Report, 1992
068.14	Research Opportunities in the Rocky Mountain Region, undated
068.15	Yellowstone Nature Notes, undated
068.16	Newsletters, Pronghorn Reports, 1996-2000
068.17-068.19	Pronghorn Transplant Reports, Interviews, References, 1980s-2000s

Series Nbr Series Title

05 Doug Houston, 1936-1980

Box 69

File Unit	Title
069.01	Winter Game Studies Report - Gallatin National Forest, 1936
069.02	Montana Data, Ungulate, Population Analysis - Elk, Mule Deer, Moose, 1992
069.03	Wildlife Research Articles, 1961-1972
069.04	Research Conducted in Yellowstone National Park [1 of 2], 1979-1980
069.05	Research Conducted in Yellowstone National Park [2 of 2], 1979-1980
069.06	Briefing Schedule - Biologists, 1979
069.07	Doug Houston, Northern Yellowstone Elk, Volume 2, 1980
069.08	Doug Houston, Northern Yellowstone Elk, Volume 3, 1980
Dov. 70	

Box 70

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нп	-	Unit	Title	١
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Mutton Mugshots File [negatives and photographs], 1977

Series Nbr Series Title

05 Doug Houston, 1936-1980 (cont'd)

Box 71

072.32 072.33

072.34

File Unit Title

O71 Aerial Photographs - Yellowstone Area, 1948-1952

Series Nbr Series Title

06 Walter Kittams, 1924-1966

Box 72 File Unit **Title** 072.01 National Parks [Wildlife Management], 1948-1963 Management Plan - Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd (1 of 2), 1955-1963 072.02 072.03 Management Plan - Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd (2 of 2), 1955-1963 Herd Management Implications, 1962 and undated 072.04 Elk Management, 1963-1967 072.05 072.06 Elk Management, Gallatin, 1932, 1953-1961 Reports - Elk Ecology and Management Investigations, 1965-1966 072.07 Wildlife Management - Summary and Job Completion Reports, 1962-1963 072.08 Correspondence and Reports on Elk Studies and Herd Reduction, 1962-1976 072.09 Elk Census, 1946-1962 072.10 Elk Tagging Data, undated 072.11 072.12 Elk Tagging Records, 1938-1958 072.13 Elk Migration Study [Tag Data], 1958 Elk Tagging, 1963 072.14 Notes from Preliminary Analysis [Elk Tagging], 1932-1955 072.15 Elk Lift [Tagging], 1951-1953 072.16 Elk Lift First Analysis [Tagging], 1950-1952 072.17 072.18 Yellowstone Elk Study [Article Prep and Tagging Data], 1963 and undated 072.19 Report Draft on Elk Tagging, undated 072.20 Elapsed Time, 1950-1966 072.21 Elapsed Time [Article Drafts], 1961 and undated Elk Tagging Correspondence, 1955-1962 072.22 072.23 Migration of Tagged Elk, Northern Yellowstone Herd, 1964 and undated Misc. Correspondence - Elk Migration, 1949-1952 072.24 072.25 Migration of Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd manuscript, 1963 072.26 Elk Reduction [1 of 3], 1935-1963 Elk Reduction [2 of 3], 1935-1963 072.27 072.28 Elk Reduction [3 of 3], 1935-1963 072.29 Elk Reduction - Reports and Data, 1934-1943 072.30 Elk and Bison Reduction, 1948-1953 072.31 Elk Hazing [1 of 2], 1954-1960 Elk Hazing [2 of 2], 1954-1960

Food Habits Analyses, 1958-1960 and undated

Elk Feeding and Age, 1943-1972

Series Nbr Series Title

06 Walter Kittams, 1924-1966 (cont'd)

Box 72 (cont'd)

DUX 12 (COIIL U)	
File Unit	Title
072.35	Elk Age, 1949-1950
072.36	Elk Classification, 1948-1957
072.37	Aerial Photographs - Buffalo Ranch and Lamar Valley, 1952
Box 73 File Unit	Title
073	Elk Tagging Check Sheets, 1924-1962 and undated

Box 74

File Unit Title

074 Elk Kill Data, 1949-1956

Box 75

File Unit	Title
075.01	Reports - Elk and Bison, 1935, 1949-1966
075.02	Biologist's Monthly Reports [1 of 3], 1947-1958
075.03	Biologist's Monthly Reports [2 of 3], 1947-1958
075.04	Biologist's Monthly Reports [3 of 3], 1947-1958
075.05	A28 Biologist's Monthly Reports, 1959-1966
075.06	N2615 Reports, Monthly, 1967
075.07	N2615 Reports, Bimonthly Narrative Report, 1969
075.08	Bi-monthly Reports from the Research Biologist, 1970
075.09	Biologist's Reports Monthly, N2615, 1971
075.10	Research Plans and Goals, Correspondence regarding Research Projects, 1964-1974
075.11	Animal and Plant Life (Observations and Studies of Elk), 1981
075.12	Elk Observation Data and Report Drafts, 1954 and undated
075.13	Reports - Jackson Hole Cooperative Elk Studies, 1963-1964
075.14	Elk Migration Studies - Jackson Hole, 1955-1964
075.15	References, 1958-1959
075.16	Reports - University of Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, 1964-1966
075.17	Wildlife Range Talks, 1955-1962
075.18	Correspondence, 1959
075.19	Nature Notes Volume 12, 1935
075.20	Interior Bison [Population Management - Aerial Census], 1949-1957
075.21	Kittams Coyote Paper, 1959-1965
075.22	Insects and Disease, 1941-1964
075.23	Photographs - Aspen Study Plot, 1947-1948
075.24	Photographs - Odd Prints for Reference, circa 1948
075.25	Aerial Photographs [1 of 2], 1952
075.26	Aerial Photographs [2 of 2], 1952

Series Nbr Series Title

Walter Kittams, 1924-1966 (cont'd)

Box 76

File Unit Title

076 Aerial Photographs - Swan Count, undated

Box 77

File Unit Title

077 Slides, 1949-1958