

## Elk: Alfalfa, Collars, Pens and Traps

Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) are the most abundant large mammal found in Yellowstone; paleontological evidence confirms their continuous presence for at least 1,000 years. Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, when market hunting of all large grazing animals was rampant. Not until after 1886, when the U.S. Army was called in to protect the park and wildlife slaughter was brought under control, did the large animals increase in number.

From: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/elk.htm>

### Alfalfa

**5456**--Wylie discusses putting Gardiner flat into **alfalfa**

**6039**--mowing of **alfalfa** field at Gardiner '04. See also 6045.

**6045**--**alfalfa**

**6077**--Gardiner ditch for electricity and **alfalfa** field

**7517f**--**alfalfa** seed for Gardiner

**7740**--says new fence on N boundary and **alfalfa** planted, both 1906.

Olin Wheeler, NPRR, '06.

**7986**--Larry Link on Gardiner **alfalfa** field--will not be allowed at confluence of Gardner and Yellowstone Rivers.

**7988-7892**--Hiram Chittenden '04 on completion of Gardiner **alfalfa** field

**8072**--**alfalfa** field at Gardiner--Larry Link to be paid.

**8430-8431**--WS Berry authorized to construct a blind on Gardiner **alfalfa** field to take pictures of game and poachers as long as Supt gets copies of all pictures.

**8873** is on **alfalfa** field.

### Item 94

"File No. 110, Allotments F.Y. 1916." ---- "Reports in Detail of All Work under Allotments Fiscal Year 1916." Map, "Heavy lines indicate firelanes constructed and repaired f.y. 1916." Lists of day by day expenditures from allotments. Photographs of checking stations at Madison Junction and West Entrance. Expenditures for establishing automobile camps. Drawing of automobile shed. Reports of allotments made and expenditures from appropriations for "Protection of YNP," (includes payroll) and "Maintenance of Buffalo." Photograph of Auto Shelter at Mammoth. Administrative map showing snowshoe cabins, auto shelters, checkpoints, **alfalfa** field.

"File No. 95, Monthly Reports of Scouts & Acting Superintendent 1915." ---- "Original Notes, Diary of Scout Raymond G. Little, From August 1, 1912 to March 31, 1916, incl." Monthly Reports of Chief Scout McBride and scouts Trischman and Little; later from scouts Delmar, Kilpatrick, Cruse Black, Stevenson, Charles Smith, Johnson. Reports from Arnold or Brett to General Supt. Nat. Parks, Monadnock Bldg., San Francisco, containing references such as: capturing and shipment of elk; mail route between Gardiner and Cooke [City]; tame buffalo herd at buffalo farm and show herd of buffalo bulls near Mammoth; Brothers's bath house opened to public July 1; coach robbery, July 9, on Firehole Rd.; preparations for admission of automobiles; **alfalfa** field, contractor, Henry Anderson;

## Item 95

File No. 95 "Monthly Reports of Scouts and Acting Superintendent 1914"

Correspondence, dated 2/2/1914 through 12/31/1914, between the Secretary of the Interior and Acting YNP Superintendent, concerning the scouts reports which are included. Items mentioned are the following: weather conditions; tame buffalo herd; feeding mountain sheep, antelope, deer, buffalo; poachers (two soldiers shooting ducks); a visit from Ernest Thompson; the capturing and shipping of elk, beaver, tame buffalo (bison), and grizzlies; routine patrols (including patrols in the vicinity of Bide-a-wee ranch) and duties of the scouts; animal sightings and conditions of same (elk, antelope, mountain sheep, deer, moose, buffalo, brown bears, geese); evidence of animals (wolves); animal kills and the killing of animals (coyotes); remodeling the Mammoth Hotel; moving pictures shot in the park by M. P. Skinner; census of northern elk herd; a Mammoth employee dormitory; the Machine Gun Platoon, First Cavalry; low winter kill; Henry J. Brothers (picking out a site for his purposed bath house) and building work; road conditions and maintenance; the poaching trials and fines of Harry McDonald, Hardy Schull, and Bill Hawkins; the U. S. Fish Hatchery; buffalo pasture at Mammoth and the show herd; the **alfalfa** and hay fields, their care and yields; putting up new signs regarding the rules and regulations and taking down the old ones; moving pictures taken in the park by Owen Thompson and F. E. Kleinschmidt...

File No. 95 "Employees: Monthly Reports, Scouts & Acting Supt. Transmitting 1913"

Correspondence, dated 2/3/1913 through 1/6/1914 (i.e. scout reports for January - December, 1913), concerning the scout reports which are included. Items mentioned include the following: mountain sheep and diseases; animals sighted, their condition, and the condition of their range (mountain sheep, elk, antelope, white tailed deer, blacktail deer, black bear, moose, wild buffalo); routine patrols and duties; feeding the animals during the winter; sheep corral; wild buffalo herd at Pelican Valley; inspection of the Bechler Soldier Station, including charges brought against the charge-office; weather and winter conditions, the severity of which was causing the young elk to die off; hauling hay to feed the buffalo and the purchasing of same; counting game for spring census; signs of animals (beaver); road and bridge conditions, work, and maintenance; buffalo ranch; planting fish; buffalo corral at Mammoth and caring for the buffalo at same; construction and maintenance of fire lanes; earth closet construction and maintenance; **alfalfa** and hay fields;

## Item 98

"File No. 113 EXPENDITURES, from PARK REVENUES (Transferred by fiscal years)" This has the salaries of park personnel for 1916. There is a 1916 letter detailing the results of previous elk censuses. There is a fiscal report on the **alfalfa** field near the north entrance. There is a February, 1916 request for money for hay to feed the animals near the north entrance.

"File No. 113 ALLOTMENTS & EXPENDITURES FROM PARK REVENUES, F. Y. 1916." Many items are discussed. Some of them are maintenance of the buffalo farm and show herd, raising **alfalfa**, earth closets, buildings, conference or national park superintendents attendance, elk census...

"File No 113 EXPENDITURES FROM REVENUES YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK" (Transferred by fiscal years) Fiscal Years 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, transferred. Some items noted are firelane construction, payroll, buffalo corral repairs, binoculars, maintenance expenses, letters from A. V. Hoppe re pay due him, the **alfalfa** crop raising, the location of proposed fire lanes, etc. There are blue prints (plats) for the fences at the **alfalfa** fields and part of the north boundary.

"File No. 113 EXPENDITURES from REVENUES YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, for the Fiscal Year, 1913 - July 1, 1912 to June 30, 1913"

New Buggy. Repairs to Clerk's quarters. Repairing old trail to Gardiner. **Alfalfa** Field Gardiner. Shoeing Dept. team. Salaries. Painting signs. Putting up hay & gen'l ranch work at Buffalo Corral. Policing camp sites. Repairing field glasses. Supplies for snowshoe cabins. **Alfalfa** Field Gardiner. Forage for team. Fire Fighting tools. Office supplies (linoleum etc..) Wire screen over Stygian

Cave. Salary Asst. Buff. Keeper. Water Tax to War Dept. Telegraph Charges. Supplies for telephones. Traveling expenses scout to Bechler. Elk Census. Purchase hay for antelope. Employment buffalo herder. Traveling expense Supt. to Butte. **Alfalfa** Field, Gardiner.

"File No. 113 EXPENDITURES from REVENUES OF THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK July 1, 1911, to June 30, 1912, incls. (F. Y. 1912")

Salaries certain employees. (Part from f. y. 1911) Baal. 1911 allot. **alfalfa** field. Administration Bldg. (Plans \$500, bal. cancl'd.) Bal. 1911 allot. signboards. (See f.y. 1911) Bal. 1911 allot. firelanes. (See f. y. 1911) Spl. scouts (No expenditure) Ptg. Administrative park map, (form 1911) Shoeing team of horses. Stationery supplies. Printing & Binding. Telegraph Charges. Expense Conference Nat'l Park Supts. Expense Architect Sunderland. Expense Vet. Agr. Dept. disease buffalo Harvesting what hay **alfalfa** patch. New buggy for Supt. (Carried to 1913) #11 "Remington typewriter". Repairs fence near Gardiner. Purchase revolver. War Dept. water plant. Asst. buff. keeper's salary. Water pipe for buffalo cabin Hdqrs. Park map under Geo. survey. Frght. charges. Geo. Survey photo. prints park views. Cultivating & sowing **alfalfa** patch.

"File No. 113 EXPENDITURES "REVENUES YELLOWSTONE NAT'L PARK" July 1. 1909 to June 30, 1910"

Team of Horses; Asst. Buff. Keeper Farrell; Scout H. Trischman; Letter File Cabinet; Traveling Expense C. A. L. **Alfalfa** Field, Gardiner. Ranch work at Buffalo Corral; Asst. Buff. Kprs, Farrell & McKenzie; Sprinkling Roads; Buggy Harness. As titled.

#### **Item 99A**

File No. 111 "Expenditures from Appropriation for 'Protection of Yellowstone National Park', Fiscal year from July 1, 1909 to June 30, 1910 (5,500.00)"

Correspondence, dated 5/15/1909 through 6/30/1910, concerning the expenditure of the congressional appropriation for the park; includes staff names and salaries; also expenditures for equipment, supplies, supplies for snowshoe cabins, **alfalfa** field in Gardiner, painting the Dept. buggy, and forage for teams.

File No. 111 "Expenditures Appropriation for 'Protection Yellowstone Nat'l Park, Fiscal Year 1909, Jan'y to June 1909"

(a) Salaries employees January to June; (b) Appointment Scout Trischman vs Graham; (c) Purchase Strychnine for Coyotes; (d) Balancing 1909 appropriation: purchase forage; purchase articles for officers quarters; Contract for **alfalfa** field for balance; (e) contract with L. Link for **alfalfa** field.

File No. 111 "Expenditures From Appropriation for Protection of Yellowstone National Park 1913, July 1, 1912 to June 30, 1913"

Regular employees (salaries, for James McBride, Raymond G. Little, Harry Trischman, Washington Madison, Chester A. Lindsley, etc.). Lumber and paint for signs. Forage for driving team. Also allotments for shoeing horses, the **alfalfa** field, the buffalo corral on the Lamar River, protection from forest fires, office supplies, and fire lanes.

#### **N-125**

"JENSEN, Gary Pollination of **alfalfa** seed in Montana MSU" 1979

#### **Box N-198**

File "N1617 Plant Life-Except Forestry Matters 1972"

This file contains a report on the use of **alfalfa** pellets as a supplemental elk feed and a request for information on algae.

### **Box YPC-3**

"Historical 2"

Containing: 1951 letter to Howard Hays on history of hotels; Henry Clay Quinby pamphlet, "Yellowstone Park." [1900 trip], May 1, 1903; NPRR, "Yellowstone National Park" pamphlet, n.d. about 1927; "How Map of U.S. in Mammoth Springs Hotel Lounge was Made"; ... December 7, 1885 (from MSU, F. Jay Haynes papers). Jean McCreight to Lee Whittlesey, 1997, attaching letter from McCutchan to YP Co., April 4, 1975, which mentions her grandfather Jerry Melloy of Gardiner, Dan Tripp, Gardiner, Tallyhoes, Tom Sommerville, elk, **alfalfa**...

## **Collared Elk**

### **Box N-238**

File - N22 IRWIN, Larry L. RUDD, Bill Elk Radio-Telemetry Project File as RUDD"  
[Contains: letters; Investigator's Annual Report; map; illustration of **collared elk**; Second Status Report - Elk Distribution and Movements in Relationship to Multiple Uses in the North Absaroka Mountain Range; First Annual Report; Copies of newspaper stories - elk harvesting]

### **Box N-259**

File - "Natural/Cultural Monitor"

[Contains: memorandum to all interested parties from Susan Mills, July 5, 1988 concerning revision of animal sighting form; "A Summary of Ecological Data on Yellowstone Birds"; copies of animal observation forms, bird observation forms, **collared elk** sighting report...

### **Box N-351--Elk management, 1980s-1990s.**

File "Elk-1983-85"

Contains "Interagency Counts of the Northern Yellowstone Elk," Dec. 1985; Northern Yellowstone Elk Working Group meeting agenda, minutes, and agreements Sept. 1985; Jackson Hole Cooperative Elk Studies Group meetings agenda and minutes; newspaper articles and memos re: success of Gardiner late elk hunt; memo re: movements of radio-**collared elk** in Dome Mountain area; letters re: elk, elk management, hunting elk, elk overpopulation, obtaining elk from Yellowstone, cooperative elk hunts, studies of elk range and use, elk poaching; solicitor's opinion on taking of wildlife specimens for research permits; ecology field trip syllabus, 1984; reports on northern Yellowstone elk reconnaissance flights; memos of understanding re: northern Yellowstone elk herd management.

File "Elk-1986-87"

Contains correspondence re: elk, elk management, elk availability; "Activities Report on the Overgrazing Question for the Northern Range of Yellowstone National Park," NPS report mailed to Senator J. Bennett Johnston, 1987; "Behavioral Comparisons of Elk in Yellowstone National Park," by Ables & Ables, Journal of the Idaho Academy of Sciences, 1987; correspondence re: **collared elk** in Mammoth area; letter to Bob Barbee re: Fred Wagner's address to the board of the National Audubon Society in 1987; proposal for a national symposium on elk in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, 1987; elk capture operation progress report, March 1987; "Proposal for a Study of the Effects of Winter Recreational use on Elk in Yellowstone National Park," by Elizabeth Frances Cassirer, 1986 (with "A Preliminary Investigation of Responses of Wildlife to Skiers in Northern Yellowstone...", April 1986); "Elk Range Study Plan," by Francis Singer, May 1986; "Monitoring Numbers and Sex and Age Characteristics of Elk and Associated Ungulates," Francis Singer, n.d.; press release "Northern Yellowstone Elk Numbers Stabilize," Mar. 14, 1986.

**Box N-356--Files from Yellowstone Center for Resources**

File "Mammals: General 1981-95 (Other than Bears & Wolves)"

This file contains correspondence and reports on mammals other than wolves or bears. Specific topics include: mountain lions; wolverines; fishers; publications; black-footed ferrets; field journals of Olaus Murie; research projects; population status; supplemental feeding of ungulates; non-consumptive use of wildlife; effects of the Royal Teton Ranch's jackleg fence on wildlife; general wildlife management; raccoons; disposal of immobilization drugs and equipment; requests for animal skulls; National Park Service policy on surplus wildlife disposal; requests for live animals or specimens; procedures for reporting **collared** or banded animals

**Box N-379-Files from the Yellowstone Center for Resources.**

File "Wildlife Management - 1994-95"

Contains: "Information on ungulates and other wildlife use, Mammoth-Gardiner areas, for Mammoth Housing Proposal/E.A." by Sue Consolo Murphy, Apr 1995; various letters from Bob Barbee, Norman Bishop, and others regarding exotic lake trout, gray wolves, wolverines, grizzly bears, European Lynx, large ungulates, human interaction with wildlife, wildlife **collars**, resource management, and wildlife preservation, 1994; Wyoming Game and Fish Department wildlife management survey, 1994

**Box N-183--Geology, weather, research, reports 1961-1965**

"N22-Research & Observations, Contract 458. Elk Migration, Montana State University, Missoula [now University of Montana] Dr. Craighead, 1962-1965."

**Box N-175--Wildlife, research, reports 1966**

"N22-Research & Observations. All Craighead Correspondence, 1966."

**Box N-172--Wildlife, research, reports 1968**

"N22-Research & Observations. Craighead Research & Reports, also Correspondence. All Craighead Material, 1968."

**Box N-111**

"N1427 WILDLIFE 1971 Mammals - ELK GF (From Central Files)"

Correspondences with the public and with officials regarding Yellowstone wildlife of 1971. Newspaper articles and informational releases. Includes discussions of John Craighead's "Elk Migrations In and Near Yellowstone National Park." Includes preparations by the Carnegie Museum of New York to collect elk specimens in the park. Elk flight reports.

"N16 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT 1970 Including Predator Control GF"

Correspondences with members of the public and representatives of organizations re Yellowstone wildlife. Folder includes information about nonpredator animals such as elk and bison also. Draft article, "Yellowstone Grizzly Situation," intended for Defenders of Wildlife's magazine, by Verne Huser. Discussions and evaluations of the article by such as Frank Craighead and park personnel. Materials from state departments of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho relative to potential transplant areas for grizzly bears. Harry Woodward's interview with the Denver Post of 1/29/70, "Bearing With Grizzly Case" by Bob Saile. "STUDY DESIGN FOR EVALUATING BEAR MANAGEMENT" From Jan. and Feb. 1970. Letter from Miss Sue Larsen suggesting the reintroduction of wolves from May 1790. Harold Estey's answer suggesting that improving the native wolves' situation is preferred to introductions, but that potential introduction procedure would be investigated. Discussion with Idaho Fish and Game Department re transplantation of 12 grizzlies. Craighead letters re requests to remove the fourth premolar of grizzlies. Memo re Brucellosis, USDA and Bison

**Box N-95**

CC divider

N22 Craighead, John, Dr. Eartagging Elk-Norris-OF Area. (1966-1967)

**Box N-403-Files from the Research Permit Office, received in 2003**

File "N22 Swenson, Jon-MT Wildlife & Parks/Elk Migr. Study-119"

Permit Number 119, Project Title "A Radiotelemetry Study of the Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd."  
Documents in this file are dated 1983-1990.

## **Elk Pens and Traps**

**Box A-160**

File "207-02.10-Progress Report. Physical Improvements and Minor Roads and Trails, May 1948 to Dec. 31, 1953."

Contains several B & W photos of construction of buildings from 1950's, Lake, Old Faithful, Gardiner Elk trap...

**Box A-167**

File "872-01-State Fish and Game Commissions, Part 4. Jan.1, 1948 to Dec. 31, 1953."

Memos regarding hunting seasons near park, and plans for elk reduction and disposal. includes a B & W photo of an elk trap.

**Box D-190**

File "Memoranda and Correspondence 1972-1974, 1990."

Topics: Lake barn and corral; removal of Riverside buildings; disposal of Crystal Creek elk trap; construction drawings of post offices at Old Faithful, Grant Village, and Lake; radio maintenance; Yellowstone Lake boat piers; Golden Gate Bridge failure; boundary fencing to prevent livestock trespass; elk traps...

**Box D-245**

File "D46 #6 Jan. 1963 - July 1963"

This file is from Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Region II (Midwest Region), General Files. It contains correspondence on: Bridge Bay- marina facilities and management contract; construction of permanent elk trap on Stevens Creek...

**Box N-67**

Trap Designs

Diagram--Blacktail Deer Creek--Elk Trap, Nov. 30, 1940

Hunting Reports, Annual Hunting Reports 1930-34 + Gardiner Elk Hunting Season 1950-51, 1951-52

Elk Winter Kill 1943

Elk Aging

Newspaper Clippings, 1936-1939, 1950s, 1960s,

Public Hunting in YNP, early 1960s

Elk Ear Tagging Record, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1966 Instructions for Handling, Shipping

Neckbanding, and Obtaining Biological Information from Live Trapped Elk

Survival Rates of Live Shipments (elk) 1966

**Box N-343**

File "715-05 Elk Vol. 5 January 1950 through June 1950 1 of 2"

This file is from Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Region II (Midwest Region), General Files, Box 149. It contains correspondence on: reduction program; sheep grazing in areas used by elk; hunting outside the park; Absaroka Conservation Committee activities; elk traps...

File "715-05 Elk Vol. 5 January 1950 through June 1950 2 of 2"

This file is from Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Region II (Midwest Region), General Files, Box 149. It contains correspondence on: reduction program; hunting outside the park; disposal of surplus animals; elk traps...

File "715-05 Elk Vol. 6 July 1950 through December 1950 2 of 2"

This file is from Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Region II (Midwest Region), General Files, Box 149. It contains correspondence on: reduction program; distribution of elk carcasses to Indian agencies; Absaroka Conservation Committee activities; elk traps...

File "715-05 Elk Vol 7 January 1951 through 2 of 2"

This file is from Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Region II (Midwest Region), General Files, Box 149. It contains correspondence on: reduction program; possibility of hunting inside the park; construction of elk traps...

### **Box N-378**

File "N1427 Book #23 Mar. 1963 - Jun. 1963 Elk"

This file is from Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, Region II (Midwest Region), General Files, Box K-8, K-10, or K-16. It contains correspondence on: interagency cooperative elk management meeting...elk trap construction...

### **Box W-105**

File "Miscellaneous Documents"

Contains correspondence, memoranda, and other documents on: ...elk trapping (no date); destruction of the Little Buffalo elk trap (1971)...

### **Box W-106**

Various untitled files

These files contain correspondence and memoranda (1970-1977) on: belt tightening suggestions; commercial backcountry operations; guide permit for Gene Wade; Crystal Creek elk trap...

Map Reference:

Lamar elk trap, Elk reduction units	11/24/1950	Park Engineer NPS, DOI	NP YEL 5668-A, B	As constructed, includes designed for the Lamar, Blacktail Deer Creek, Mammoth, and Gardiner elk traps.
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