

Historic Events

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Newton B. Drury, Director

Grand Teton

NATIONAL PARK

and

Jackson Hole National Monument WYOMING

Season June 15 to September 15

lished by an act of Congress on February 26, 1929, embraces the most Wyoming, with an area of approximately 150 square miles, or 96,000 acres. It varies from 3 to 9 miles in width and is 27 miles in length.

In addition to its majestic peaks valley. and canyons, Grand Teton National Park includes 5 large lakes and many smaller bodies of water, glaciers, and snowfields, and extensive forests of pine, fir, and spruce. Much of the park area is above timber line, the Grand Teton rising to 13,766 feet, more than 7,000 feet above the floor of Jackson Hole.

The great array of peaks which constitutes the scenic climax of this national park is one of the noblest in the world. Southwest of Jenny Lake is a culminating group of lofty peaks whose dominating figure is the Grand Teton, the famous mountain after which the park is named.

Adjoining Grand Teton National Park on its east and north boundaries is Jackson Hole National Monument, established by Presidential proclamation on March 15, 1943. This area, containing 222,929 acres, 173,065 acres of which are Federally owned land, was set aside as a national monument because of its out-

Grand Teton National Park, estab- standing geologic, historic, biologic, and scenic values.

Within its boundaries are found scenic portion of the Teton Range of Jackson, Emma Matilda, and Two Ocean Lakes in the northern portion and the Snake River cutting its channel from the outlet of Jackson Lake east and south through the

> Two prominent land features, Signal Mountain in the north central portion of Jackson Hole and Blacktail Butte in the central portion, supply excellent view points of the valley and surrounding ranges of mountains.

> Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole National Monument together preserve a mountain range and valley that are one in framing a landscape of grandeur and majesty that is unique in America and one that has long been famous for its matchless scenery. These preserves are units of the National Park System owned by the people of the United States and administered for them by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior for the use and enjoyment of all people.

> The Tetons are viewed at their best from Jackson Hole and, here too, is found the supplement to the geologic story of the Teton Range.

When the Tetons were uplifted as a fault block, then eroded and sculptured into their present rugged form, the valley of Jackson Hole was lowered as a fault trough and partly filled with the eroded materials from the surrounding mountains. These deposits of glacial moraines, outwash plains, and changing stream courses tell much of the geologic history of the area.

History of the Region

The Tetons are remarkably rich in historic traditions. The Grand Teton itself has been referred to by an eminent historian as "the most noted historic summit of the West."

Up to 1,800 Indians held undisputed sway over the country dominated by the Three Tetons. Jackson Hole was literally a happy hunting ground, and, while the severe winters precluded permanent habitation, during the milder seasons, bands of Indians frequently came across the passes into the basins on warring or from the west. hunting expeditions.

The Tetons probably first became known to white men in 1807–8, when the intrepid John Colter crossed the range on the memorable journey which also made him discoverer of the Yellowstone country. In 1811, the Astorians, under Wilson Price Hunt, entered Jackson Hole and crossed the range on their expedition to the mouth of the Columbia.

The decades that follow are frequently referred to as the "Fur Trade 1872, 1877, and 1878. These parties Era," for the Teton region became the scene of intensive exploration and trapping activities by both British and American interests. The picturesque name of "Jackson Hole" dates back to 1829, when Capt. William Sublette named it for his fellow trap-

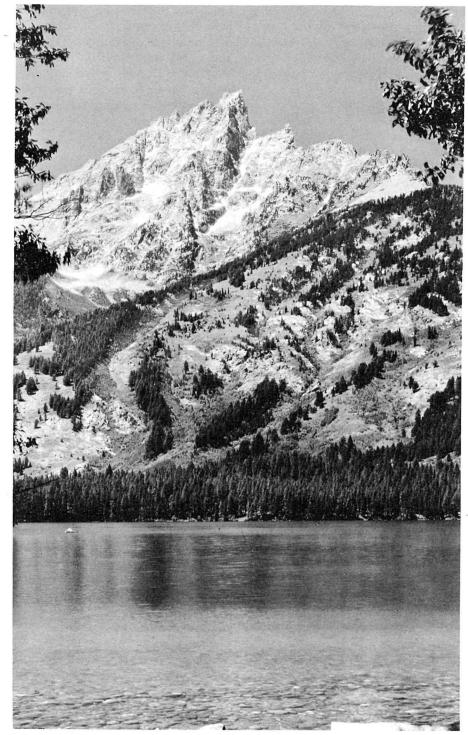
per, David E. Jackson, who was especially fond of this beautiful valley or basin as we call it today.

Jackson Hole, as a favorite habitat of the beaver and other fur bearers. played an important part in the "winning of the West," for here the fur trappers and traders of that day not only hunted out the trails and passes which opened the transmountain country to Americans, but also found a practical base of operations for their expeditions to gather the valuable furs of this mountain region.

Jackson Hole was important as a crossroads of Trapper Trails of the "Fur Trade Era," for here six major routes converged as the spokes of a wheel upon their hub. Leading into this valley the Mountain Men found the old Indian Trails over the Conant Pass from the northwest, Two Ocean Pass from the northeast, Togwotee and Union Passes from the east, South Pass and Hoback Canyon from the southwest, and the Teton Pass

By 1845 the romantic trapper of the "Fur Trade Era" vanished from the Rockies. During the next four decades the valleys near the Tetons were largely deserted, except for wandering bands of Indians who occasionally drifted in. But the frontier was relentlessly closing in, and one Government expedition after another passed through the Teton country or near it. The most important of these were the Hayden surveys of 1871, named many of the park's natural features, including Leigh, Jenny, Taggart, Bradley, and Phelps Lakes, and Mount St. John.

In the middle eighties came the first settlers. They entered by the Gros Ventre River and Teton Pass,



Jenny Lake and the Grand Tetons

and settled first in the south end of the valley. The story of the homesteader has been one of isolation, privation, and hardships, met, however, with persistency and indomitable courage.

The Teton Range

The Teton Range may be described as a long block of the earth that has been broken and uplifted along its eastern margin, thus being tilted westward. Movement of this sort along a fracture is what the geologist terms "faulting." The total amount of uplift along the eastern edge of the block amounts to more than 10,000 feet. Doubtless this uplift was accomplished not by one cataclysm but by a series of small faulting movements distributed over a very long period. Probably the time of faulting was as remote as the middle of the tertiary period (the period just before the ice age, the latest chapter of the earth's history).

Very impressive is the contrast between the east and west sides of the Teton Range. From the east, the Jackson Hole basin, one views the precipitous side of the mountain block as it has been exposed by uplift and erosion. From the west, the Idaho side, is seen the broad top of the block, which is gently inclined toward the west. In the eastern front, furthermore, one sees the ancient, deep-seated crystalline rocks (gneiss, schist, granite, etc.) belonging to the earliest known geologic eras, the pre-Cambrian. In places on the top of the block as, for example, the Head of Death and Avalanche Canyons, inclined layers of limestone, quartzite, and shale belonging to the less ancient Paleozoic era are found. These layers formerly covered the entire

block, but they have been worn away from half of the area, thus exposing the underlying crystallines. The west and north flanks of the range are overlapped by relatively young beds of lava that are continuous with those covering eastern Idaho and the Yellowstone plateaus.

Jackson Hole

Jackson Hole, which adjoins the park, is encompassed on all sides by mountain barriers. It is 48 miles long, for the most part 6 to 8 miles wide, and embraces an area of more than 400 square miles. The north portion of the valley has been included in Jackson Hole National Monument. The floor of the valley slopes from an altitude of 7,000 feet at the north end to 6,000 at the south. Jackson Hole lies a few miles west of the Continental Divide, and occupies the central portion of the headwaters area of the Snake River. Mountain streams converge radially toward it from the surrounding highlands, and the Snake River receives these as it flows through the valley.

Jackson Hole as a fault trough has largely been excavated by the Snake River and its tributaries from shale formations which once extended over the region to a depth of several thousand feet. The more resistant rocks surrounding the region were reduced less rapidly and have been left standing in relief as highlands.

The Work of Glaciers

The glaciers of the ice age, or Pleistocene period, played a leading role in developing the extraordinary scenic features of the park. Just as the streams now converge toward Jackson Hole, so in ages past glaciers moved down toward, and in many



A part of the Jackson Hole Elk Herd

instances into, the basin from the highlands to the east, north, and west.

The precipitous north slopes of the mountain peaks, the knifelike ridges or aretes, the Matterhorn-like towering peaks, and the smooth polished rock of the canyon floors and walls are results of glacial action.

Some of the glaciers have completely disappeared, leaving in the cirques or amphitheaters beautiful alpine lakes. As the glaciers reached the valley floors and then receded, they dropped their accumulated load of rock materials, building the morainal dams at the canyon mouths, and forming Phelps, Taggart, Bradley, Jenny, Leigh, and Jackson Lakes.

The floor of Jackson Hole is a cobble-strewn flat or out-wash plain, which originated when the streams issuing from the glaciers deposited the rock materials they carried.

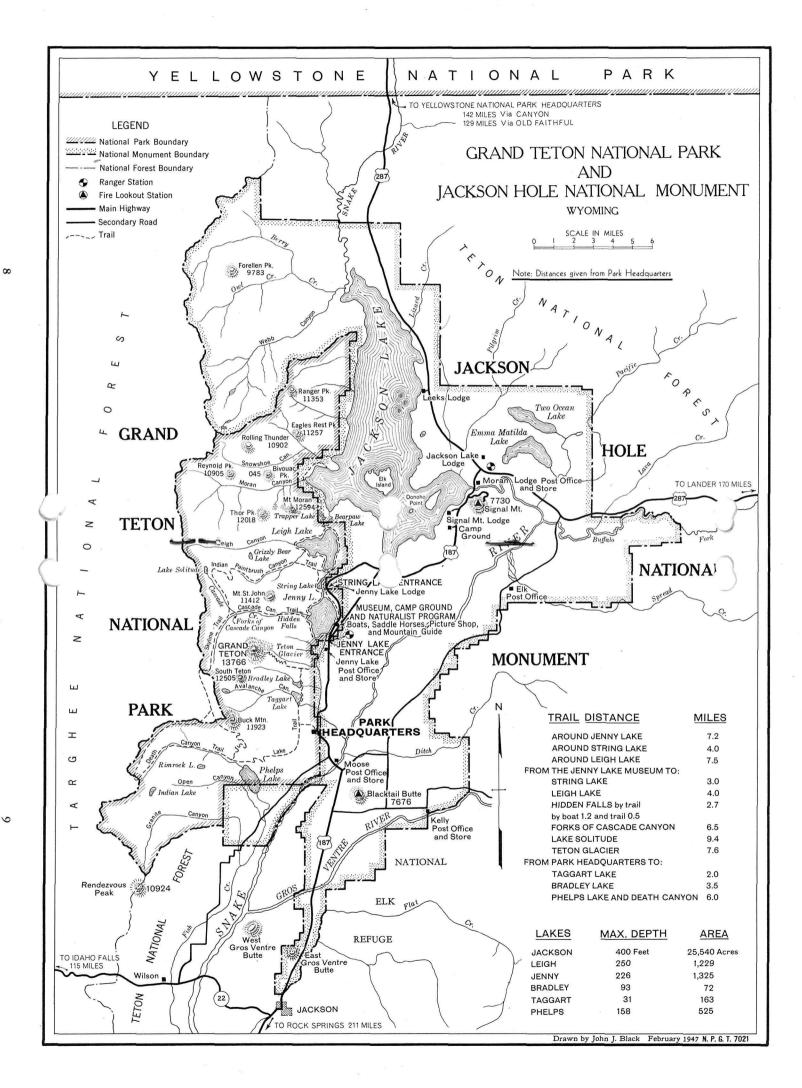
Wildlife

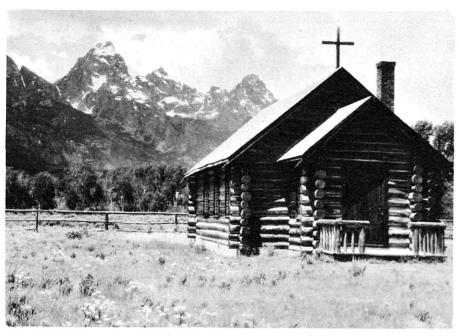
For many years the Jackson Hole country has been famous for its big game, and for those who wish to see wild animals in their natural habitat, the expenditure of a little time off the main road will satisfy their desire.

In the park itself Shiras' moose is the most common big game animal; it is frequently seen in the smaller ponds and marshy meadows. The moose is the largest member of the deer family, but is not as wary as other deer. Mule deer are increasing in the park and environs, and, though quite shy, are often seen along the trails by hikers and horseback riders.

The elk or wapiti have been the most important big game animals in Jackson Hole since the occupancy of white men. In the spring they leave the low country and the Elk Refuge near the town of Jackson and move toward the highlands to the north and east. Scattered small bands summer in the Teton Range. When snowfall comes in the high country, the elk return once more to the refuge.

Small herds of bighorn, or Rocky Mountain sheep, range in isolated sections of the park.





Church of the Transfiguration at Moose

Bears are found in the mountains and canyons. They are not very numerous in the park.

Beavers, martens, minks, weasels, coyotes, marmots, conies, and rabbits are found within the park. Ground squirrels and chipmunks are numerous. More than 100 species of birds may be identified by the careful observer.

Trees and Plants

In several respects the flora of the Tetons is unique. The high mountains have constituted a barrier to plant migration which many forms could not cross; hence the range limit of a number of species is found here. Representatives from north, south, east, and west are in the region, this being the limit, in many instances, of their distribution. There are many plants typical of the central Rockies, and a few known only to this range. Four life zones are recognized within

the park, all occurring in a distance of less than 15 miles. Plants migrating from other regions have grown equally well in each zone.

The flowering period begins in the park as soon as the ridges and flats are free of snow in May, and it continues until about August 15 in the Arctic-Alpine zone. Hence, plants of at least one zone and usually of several may be seen blooming at any time in the spring or summer.

The evergreen trees, of which the lodgepole pine, limber pine, white-bark pine, Engelmann spruce, and alpine fir are most common, form an appropriate frame for the majestic Teton peaks and are reflected in the lakes which they encircle.

How to Reach the Park and Monument

By automobile.—Jackson Hole National Monument and Grand Teton National Park may be reached from the east via United States Highway No. 287 using Togwotee Pass over the Wind River Range; from the south over United States Highways Nos. 187 and 189 using the Hoback Canyon route; from the southwest via the Grand Canyon of the Snake River or United States Highway No. 89 or from the west over Teton Pass using Wyoming Highway No. 22 and Idaho Highway No. 33 from the junction with United States Highway No. 191 near Sugar City, Idaho.

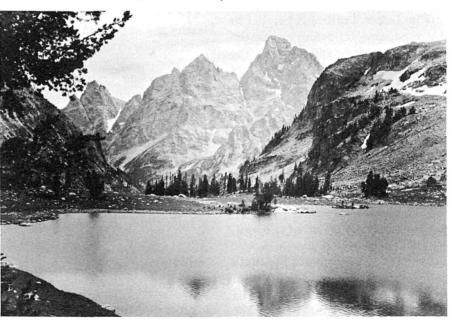
Entrance to the region from the north is through Yellowstone National Park via its south entrance using United States Highway No. 89 along the Snake River and Jackson Lake shore to its junction with United States Highways Nos. 187 and 287 near Moran, Wyo., in Jackson Hole.

By Railroad and Bus.—The near-

est terminal of the Union Pacific System is at Victor, Idaho. By bus Victor is reached via Teton Stages from Idaho Falls, Idaho, which is served by Inter-mountain Transportation Co. and Union Pacific Stages, Inc. Regular bus service is maintained between Victor and Moran via the Teton Transportation Co. The park may be reached from the south by buses of the Burlington Transportation Co. from Rock Springs and Evanston, Wyo., to Jackson, Wyo., thence Teton Transportation Co. to Moran. Inquire at any concentration point for rates and schedules.

By Airplane.—Western Air Lines provides passenger, mail, and express service to Grand Teton National Park at an airport located about 9 miles north of Jackson, Wyo., and 8 miles south of park headquarters. Stops are made at Idaho Falls and Pocatello in Idaho, and at Logan in Utah, and West Yellowstone, Mont.,

The Tetons as seen from Lake Solitude



and connections are made at Salt Lake City with United Air Lines' main transcontinental line and at Butte, Helena, and Great Falls in Montana with Northwest Airlines.

Trails

An unbroken wilderness a few years ago, Grand Teton National Park is now penetrated by 90 miles of trails which are among the finest in the national park system. These trails, suitable alike for travel afoot or on saddle horses, are 3 to 4 feet wide, free of boulders, and of grade so moderate they may be followed by old or young with full safety and a minimum of physical exertion. While the trails are traversable during the greater part of the summer, some of them may be blocked by snow early in the season. Those visitors expecting to climb the high trails should inquire at park headquarters or the museum at Jenny Lake for information regarding their condition.

The Lakes Trail runs parallel to the mountains, following closely the base of the range and skirting the shore of each large body of water from Leigh Lake at the north to Phelps Lake at the south. Trails completely encircle Leigh and Jenny Lakes.

The Teton Glacier Trail extends up the east slope of Grand Teton to Surprise and Amphitheater Lakes, unfolding matchless panoramas of the surrounding country. Amphitheater Lake, at the end of the trail, occupies a protected glacial cirque and is the starting point of the climb to Teton Glacier.

The Indian Paintbrush Trail starts near the outlet of Leigh Lake

and follows up the bottom of Indian Paintbrush Canyon to connect with the Cascade Canyon Trail by way of Lake Solitude, a lakelet of rarest beauty near the head of the north fork of Cascade Canyon. The wealth of wildflowers along this trail gives the canyon its name, and one may see big game, especially moose, near the lakes and swamps.

The Cascade Canyon Trail passes through a chasm whose walls rise sheer on either side for thousands of feet. By this trail one penetrates into the deepest recesses of the Tetons, skirting the bases of several tall peaks. The north fork of Cascade Canyon Trail leads to Lake Solitude and the South Fork Trail leads to the Limestone Wall and the Skyline Trail.

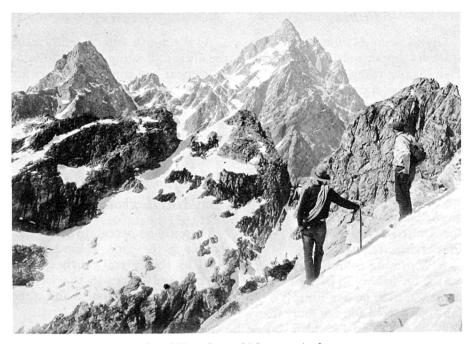
The Death Canyon Trail traverses the full length of a canyon which in its lower portion is of profound depth and grandeur, as awesome as its name, and then emerges above into broad, sunny meadows.

The trail up the North Fork of Death Canyon leads to the south end of the Skyline Trail near Buck Mountain.

The Skyline Trail is that portion of the trail from the head of South Cascade canyon to the head of the North Fork of Death Canyon and passes through a part of Alaska Basin and to the west of the Limestone Wall at the head of Avalanche Canyon. The former trail along the east face of the Wall has been destroyed by rock slides and has been abandoned.

Mountain Climbing

Among American climbers no range enjoys higher rank than the



Grand Teton from a high mountain slope

Tetons, and its growing fame abroad is evidenced by increasingly large numbers of foreign mountaineers who come here to climb. Leading mountaineers rank many of the Teton climbs with the best in the Alps and other world-famous climbing centers.

Persons inexperienced in mountain climbing are requested to acquire the services of a mountain climbing guide or attempt climbs only when accompanied by experienced climbers. Since 1931 authorized nongovernment guide service has been available in the park. In view of the difficulties one encounters on the Teton peaks and the hazards they present, all prospective climbers are urged to make use of the guide service. If venturing out unguided, climbers should under all circumstances consult rangers or guides for full information relative to routes and

equipment. Failure to heed this caution has, in the past, led to accidents and even fatalities. Climbing parties are required, under all circumstances, to report at either park headquarters or Jenny Lake Museum before and after each expedition, whether guided or unguided. Climbing alone, without a companion, is not permitted.

The climbing season varies with the weather and the amount of snow in the range; it is at its best during July, August, and early September. In most cases it is advisable to allow 2 days for an ascent of Grand Teton. Mount Owen, or Mount Moran, and 1 day for other major peaks. Jenny Lake camp ground is the logical outfitting point for most expeditions. The majority of ascents require ice axes, rope, and hobbed boots or climbing shoes. Guided parties may arrange to rent equipment from the guide.

Fishing

Grand Teton National Park offers splendid opportunities for fishing. Fish may be taken with artificial fly during most of the summer, but the lake or mackinaw trout in Jackson and Jenny Lakes must be caught with heavy tackle by means of trolling. Other species in park waters are the cutthroat trout (also known as native blackspotted) and the brook or speckled trout. The park waters are stocked through the cooperation of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

A Wyoming fishing license is required for fishing in park or monument waters. The bag limit is 6 fish for a day's catch and not more than 2 days' catch (12 fish) in possession at any one time.

Boating

At the south end of Jenny Lake the Teton Boating Co. maintains motorboat and rowboat service. Six or more persons may make a trip around Jenny Lake for 50¢ each. Rowboats may be rented for 50¢ an hour or \$2 a day. Motorboats rent for \$1.50 an hour and \$6 a day.

Accommodations and Miscellaneous Services

There are no overnight accommodations in the park. These are supplied by the several ranches, dude ranches, and lodges in the Jackson Hole National Monument and at the town of Jackson.

Meals are served at most of the ranches. A complete list of accommo-

Mount Moran as seen from the east shore of Leigh Lake



dations may be obtained from the office of the superintendent.

Well-developed camp grounds are available at Jenny, String, and Jackson Lakes. These camps are supplied with running water, sanitary facilities, and cooking grates. There are also many camping sites away from the main camp grounds suitable for overnight stops for hikers or pack outfits. Supplies, including fishing tackle, may be procured at Jenny Lake, Moose, Jackson, or Moran. Cabin accommodations may be found outside the park in Jackson Hole.

Guide Service.—At Jenny Lake there is an authorized official mountain climbing guide who will guide climbing parties to the summits of the major peaks. He gives instructions in mountain climbing at frequent intervals during the climbing season.

Information concerning rates for all climbs may be obtained from the superintendent of the park or from the mountain climbing guide.

Winter and early spring skiing is possible in the park and skiing guides, ski equipment, and instructions in skiing are available at Jackson, Wyo.

Saddle Horses.—At the south end of Jenny Lake, near the outlet of the lake, the park saddle-horse operator maintains an excellent string of saddle and pack horses with good equipment for short or long trips. One may rent saddle horses without guides, but only to ride over well-defined trails in designated areas. Discretion as to the ability of patrons to ride, or to go unguided, rests with the concessioner; however, the concessioner is not responsible for accidents.

Rates for saddle horses will be supplied by the concessioner or the superintendent of the park.

Photographs.—The Crandall Studios maintain up-to-date picture shops at Jenny Lake and Moran. Photographs of the surrounding country, enlargements, paintings, moving pictures, and souvenir postcards are sold. Laboratories are maintained for developing, printing, and enlarging.

The latest rates for these services, approved by the Director of the National Park Service, are on file with the superintendent and the park concessioners.

Administration

The representative of the National Park Service in immediate charge of the park is the superintendent, with office at park headquarters: address, Moose, Wyo.

Naturalist Service

The park museum is located at Jenny Lake, which is the focal point for all naturalist activities. In it are housed exhibits pertaining to the history, geology, fauna, and flora of the Teton-Jackson Hole country. The collection devoted to mountaineering is in many respects unique. Adjacent to the museum is an open-air amphitheater where campfire talks on geology, wildlife, and other subjects related to the park are given every evening at dusk. Nature walks, auto caravans, and all-day hikes are conducted by members of the naturalist division.

An information desk is maintained at the museum, and rangers are there at all hours of the day to answer inquiries. Information service is also maintained at park headquarters.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

[BRIEFED]

"We would that you should stay here awhile, to be acquainted with us, and yet more to solace your-selves with the good of these delectable mountains."

The following synopsis of park regulations is for the general guidance of visitors. Complete rules and regulations may be obtained at the office of the superintendent and at other points of concentration throughout the park.

Preservation of Natural Features.—It is a violation of the law to destroy, injure, deface, or disturb any buildings, signs, equipment, trees, flowers, vegetation, rocks, minerals, animals, or birds.

Camping.—Camps should be kept clean; rubbish and garbage burned; and refuse placed in cans provided for this purpose. If no cans are available, refuse should be buried. No camping or fires permitted outside designated camp grounds, except by permission of superintendent.

Fires.—Fires should be lighted only when necessary and when no longer needed should be *completely extinguished*. Smoking or building of fires may be prohibited by superintendent when hazard makes such action necessary.

Hunting.—Hunting within park boundaries is not permitted. Unless adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use while in the park, firearms are prohibited, except upon written permission from the superintendent. Fishing.—The limit for a day's catch is 6 fish. The possession of more than 2 days' catch (12 fish) at any one time is forbidden. Fishing in any way other than with hook and line, the rod or line held in hand, is prohibited, and the use of fish eggs or fish as bait is not allowed. A State fishing license is required.

Mountain Climbing.—All mountain climbers must report at a ranger station before and after making ascent of any peak. No solo climbs are permitted.

Automobiles.—Drive carefully at all times. Speed limit is 25 miles per hour on park roads, and 15 miles per hour within the camp ground areas. All accidents should be reported at nearest ranger station or office of superintendent. Entrance fees are collected for automobiles, house trailers, and motorcycles at the Grand Teton National Park entrances.

Dogs and Cats.—Dogs and cats may be taken into the park, but should be crated or on leash while within park boundaries.

Penalties.—The penalty, upon conviction, for a violation of the rules and regulations may be a fine not exceeding \$500, or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both, together with all costs of the proceedings.

Revised 1948.