



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Mary Meagher, 1972. (NPS History Collection Photo).

Dr. Mary Meagher
Yellowstone National Park
Biologist, 1959-1997

- Born Margaret Mary Meagher on March 13, 1935 in Washington, and grew up in Spokane.
- Earned a B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife Management from the University of Michigan.
- Began her career with the NPS as a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern studying marmots at Olympic National Park in 1957, followed by a seasonal naturalist job at Zion NP in 1959.
- Hired as GS-5/7 museum curator in Yellowstone National Park in 1959, becoming the 3rd woman in the park's history hired into a permanent position.
- In 1961, her curator position was rewritten as a park naturalist position.
- While working for the NPS, began her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley in 1963, focusing on the bison population in Yellowstone.
- Earned her PhD in 1970, becoming the first woman with a doctorate in wildlife biology in the NPS.
- NPS published her dissertation as a monograph in 1973.
- Promoted to supervisor of the Wildlife Division in 1976 but did not receive the same pay grade as her male predecessor.
- Resigned from her supervisory role in 1983 and returned to work as a research biologist, spending her later years in the NPS conducting research in the backcountry and distancing herself from the "administrative toil."
- Retired in 1997 but continues to volunteer at Yellowstone.

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