

Yellowstone Park "Quick Facts"

How Much of Yellowstone was affected:

Total Park acreage: 2.2 million acres
Reported fire perimeters: 988,925 acres
Actual blackened areas: 562,350 acres.

About a third of the affected area suffered "meadow" burn or "under story" burn and has already begun to recover, painting the meadows a brilliant kelly green.

Wildlife:

Much concern was expressed for Yellowstone's vast arrays of wildlife, but Park biologists and state wildlife officials report that less than 300 big game animals—elk, moose, black and grizzly bear, deer, antelope—were lost to the Fires of 1988. Long term benefits include increased forage and habitat, and wildlife

viewing and photographic opportunities will be increased.

Season Opening:

Spring 1989: May 1 (weather permitting)

Accommodations:

TW Recreational Services operates the primary lodging/dining facilities in the Park. For reservations or information call (307) 344-7311.

Early May opening: Old Faithful Inn

Late May: Mammoth, Old Faithful Lodge and Snow Lodge, Lake Hotel, Fishing Bridge

Early June: Grant Village, Lake Lodge, Roosevelt Lodge

Mid-June: Canyon Lodge

For information/reservations: 307/344-7311

Gateway Communities:

Cody Chamber of Commerce: 307/587-2297

Dubois: 307/455-2556

Jackson: 307/733-3316

Red Lodge: 406/786-3333

West Yellowstone: 406/646-7701

Yellowstone Country: 406/222-1981

Gardiner: 406/848-7681

Interpretive Programs:

The National Park Service has an extensive interpretive/education program under way regarding the Fires of 1988 including touring and wayside exhibits, self-guided boardwalk nature trails, specific brochures and posters and ranger/naturalist programs. A major fire exhibit opened at Grant Village in June.

The Region Has So Much More . . .



GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, Wyoming, is seven miles south of Yellowstone. The Greater Yellowstone Fires left the majestic Tetons, Snake River and famous Jackson Hole area unaffected.

Wyoming Travel
1-25 & College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82002
1-800-225-5996



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, Montana, is 392 miles north of Yellowstone. Glacier is America's foremost hiking and walking national park.

Montana Travel
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
1-800-548-3390



CRATERS OF THE MOON National Monument, Idaho, is 200 miles west of Yellowstone Park. The wild, weird wonderful "moonscapes" are the result of ancient volcanic activity. (Ted Weigold Photo)

Idaho Travel
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83720
206/334-2470

Wildlife . . .



Wildlife . . .



. . . Wildlife



Yellowstone

A New Beginning

Fires of '88 Were Dramatic; Recovery Starts

The summer of 1988 brought together a combination of meteorological events—drought, high temperatures and wind—which set the stage for dramatic forest fires. They were enormous and impossible to control.

It was not the first time Yellowstone has been subjected to tremendous fires. Biologists estimate the Park, over 10,000 years, has experienced 300 fires comparable to those of 1988.

Within Yellowstone Park, mapping indicates that a maximum of 988,925 acres experienced some kind of burning. Of that, 562,350 acres was “canopy burn,” meaning that the forest was blackened. Another 372,350 acres was “surface burn,” meaning only the forest underbrush burned, and most trees will not die. Burned meadow and sage/grassland totalled 54,225 acres.

Recovery has already begun.

*Photos by the Wagner Perspective
Randall A. Wagner
(All photos were taken after September 13, 1988.)*

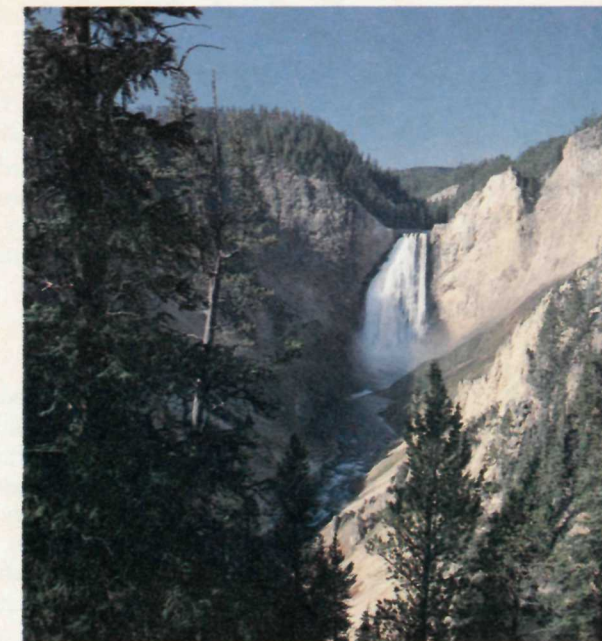


PLUMES OF SMOKE and walls of fire were all-too-common sights during the summer of 1988 in Yellowstone National Park. Fires swept the world's oldest national park throughout the summer, but fires have been a frequent visitor to the Yellowstone region.



OLD FAITHFUL Geyser and the historic Old Faithful Inn (top) survived the Yellowstone Fires of 1988, and recovery had already started (bottom) before the first snow fell in October 1988. Green grass pokes through the ashes as the rebirth of Yellowstone begins.

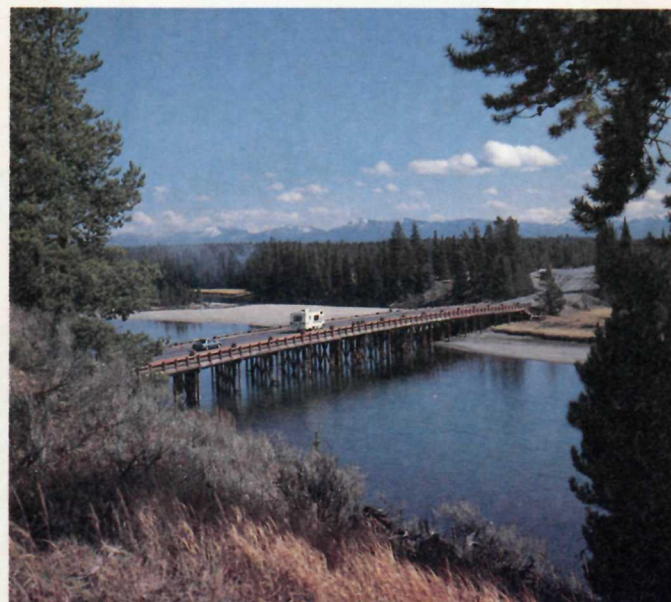
YELLOWSTONE PARK'S major attractions, including the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, withstood the onslaught of the Fires of 1988. Most of the damage was in the Park's backcountry areas.



MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS and the visitor facilities of Mammoth came under siege during the Fires of 1988, but like the rest of the Park's attractions and facilities, escaped unharmed.



FIRE PERIMETERS in Yellowstone National Park included less than half the Park's 2.2 million acres, but this “mosaic” burn pattern near the Gibbon Meadows reveals that large areas were left untouched within the perimeters. This is typical of the fire-influenced areas throughout Yellowstone.



VISITOR FACILITIES in Yellowstone, including Fishing Bridge and all lodging/dining facilities operated by TW Recreational Services, were largely unaffected by the Fires of 1988.



THERMAL ATTRACTIONS, like Riverside Geyser in the Old Faithful complex, are among the reasons millions of visitors come to Yellowstone each year, and the Park's major attractions were not affected by the Yellowstone Fires of 1988.