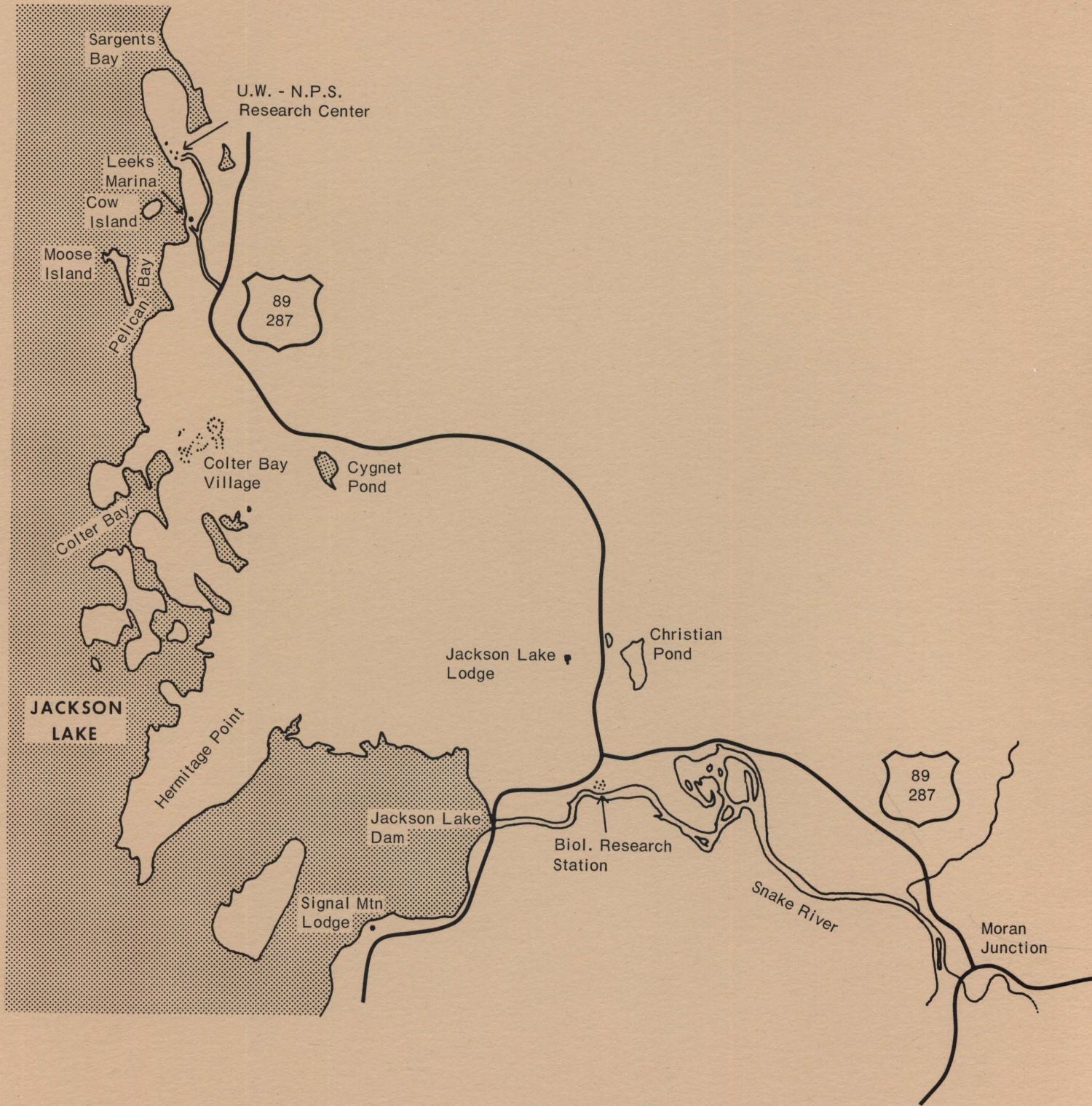


UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING-  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESEARCH CENTER  
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
1977



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## CONTENTS

	Page
DIRECTOR'S REPORT . . . . .	ii
STEERING COMMITTEE . . . . .	v
RESEARCH PROJECT REPORTS . . . . .	1
Altmann, Margaret . . . . .	2
Beetle, Alan A. . . . .	3
Bergstrom, Robert C. . . . .	5
Clark, Tim W. . . . .	11
Cody, Martin L. . . . .	16
Collins, Thomas C. . . . .	18
Evans, Howard E. . . . .	24
Jacobi, Gerald Z. . . . .	30
Jannett, Frederick J., Jr. . . . .	32
Kitchin, Robert M. and Eric J. Loudenslager . . . . .	35
Levinson, Richard A. and Ronald W. Marrs . . . . .	41
Marshall, Kent, Dennis H. Knight and Larry Van Dusen . . . . .	47
Phillips, Clynn, Paul Cleary and Lyman McDonald . . . . .	48
Pinter, Aelita J. . . . .	53
Romme, William H. and Dennis H. Knight . . . . .	56
Shea, Ruth E. . . . .	61
Sutton, John F. . . . .	64
Vyse, Ernest R. . . . .	67
Wilson, Eugene and Donald Warder . . . . .	72
Wright, Gary A. . . . .	74
Wydeven, Adrian P. . . . .	77
Youmans, Clifton C. . . . .	82
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS ON RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESEARCH CENTER . . . . .	88

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This Annual Report is a report of the transition from the Jackson Hole Biological Research Station to the newly created University of Wyoming-National Park Service Research Center. On May 24, 1977, a Memorandum of Agreement, signed by the National Park Service and the University of Wyoming, merged the Jackson Hole Biological Research Station with the Northern Rocky Mountain Parks Studies Cooperative Program to form a single entity, the University of Wyoming-National Park Service Research Center. Administratively, the Research Center is governed by an 8-member Steering Committee composed of 4 University of Wyoming representatives and 4 National Park Service representatives. The University of Wyoming Vice President for Research serves as Committee Chairperson. A faculty member of the University of Wyoming is Director of the Research Center Program and is administrator of the Research Center facilities. Also, the Director is an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee. Regretably, the New York Zoological Society discontinued its longtime affiliation with the research program. Because the research program and facilities were firmly established, the Society felt it accomplished their original objectives set forth when the Research Station was established in 1948. Consequently, their future efforts would be directed toward the development and improvement of other ongoing and new research programs of the Society.

The primary function of the Research Center is to sponsor and support substantial and significant research in the biological, physical and social sciences which can best be done in the National Park areas of Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota because of the unique features those areas possess. While much of this research will be directed at solutions to management problems and improvement of interpretation information, there will be a concentrated effort to encourage and maintain support for a substantial basic research program. Research projects may extend beyond the exact boundaries of the Park areas to work on problems common to the Park lands and adjacent lands. Also, research studies may be sponsored by other institutions or individuals, or researchers may work independently at or through the Research Center. As at the Research Station, the Research Center facilities include laboratories, library, living, seminar, shop and storage accommodations.

On July 1, the Acting Director of the Research Station was appointed as Director of the Research Center. Under this arrangement, the National Park Service provides the salary for 1/4 of the Director's time. The University of Wyoming provides the salary for 1/4 time Research Center

administration and 1/2 time teaching and research responsibilities in the Department of Zoology and Physiology. Negotiations for a new location of the research facilities culminated on July 15 with the National Park Service issuance of a 15-year Special Use Permit for the AMK (Berol Ranch) properties. The location of the new Research Center facilities, appraised at approximately \$500,000, is shown on the map found on the inside cover of this Report.

Besides the excellent condition of the physical plant and its admirable adaptability to the basic Research Center needs, the AMK site and facilities provide several other important benefits. First, the close proximity to Jackson Lake provides a much needed aquatic habitat interface for research and the Boat House provides the basic structure for an excellent aquatic laboratory. The three seminar rooms in the Berol Lodge provide excellent facilities for small research meetings and workshops amongst Park area scientists and researchers. Also, the relatively isolated location of the AMK site reduces the visible presence of the Research Center facilities in comparison to the highly visible presence of the facilities at the Research Station site. Lastly, the rich historical character of the entire AMK site is an invaluable Center heritage whose protection and maintenance is enhanced by the presence of the Research Center.

From a total of 29 proposals submitted, 22 Research Center projects were approved for the 1977-78 project year. Thirteen of these projects were funded by the Research Center, of which 2 were also partially funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1 was funded by the National Park Service and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 3 were funded by the National Science Foundation, 2 were funded by the University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station and the remainder were independently supported. Project investigators represented 14 institutions. Of the 22 projects, 1 was conducted in Glacier National Park, 7 were conducted in Yellowstone National Park, 1 was conducted in Wind Cave National Park, 8 were conducted in Grand Teton National Park, and 5 were conducted jointly in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Eleven of the projects were conducted by researchers residing at the Research Station.

The first resident researchers to use the new University of Wyoming-National Park Service Research Center facilities were the following botanists: Dr. Valery I. Nekrasov, Head, Department of Seed Exchange and Seed Inventory, Main Botanical Garden, U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, Moscow; Dr. Lillian S. Plotnikova, Senior Scientist, Main Botanical Garden, Moscow, U.S.S.R.; Dr. Igor Belolipov, Senior Scientist, Tashkent Botanical Garden, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, U.S.S.R.; and Dr. Robert Hebb, Horticulturalist, Cary Arboretum, New York Botanical Gardens.

The United States National Academy of Science sponsored the visit of the 3 U.S.S.R. botanists and Dr. Hebb under their Scientist Exchange Program. Purpose of the visit was to observe various plant associations and communities and to collect plant materials from those vegetative aggregations in Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park.

The 1977 summer research activities were conducted in the usual manner from the Biological Research Station. However, the physical transfer of the research and housing equipment to the new AMK site was the major undertaking of the 1977 season. Preparation of the AMK facilities to accommodate researchers was initiated in July and continued through October. To successfully accomplish this task the University of Wyoming provided \$14,322 for necessary repairs, modification and equipment. By early October, 80% of the equipment and supplies had been moved from the Research Station to the new Research Center. Three researchers lived and worked at the Research Station at different times during the period of September to early November. Following the last researcher's departure, the Research Station was winterized, all utilities were disconnected and the facilities were closed. The equipment and supplies remaining at the Research Station are scheduled for removal to the Research Center in late May and early June of 1978. The transfer of the entire research operation to the AMK Research Center Site will be completed by July 1, 1978. The four Research Station buildings owned by the University will be sold for removal from the site. Some of the Research Station buildings owned by the National Park Service will be moved to new locations and the remaining buildings will be sold for removal along with the University buildings. By early summer of 1979, plans are to have all of the Jackson Hole Biological Research Station buildings removed and the site reclaimed to its woodland state.

Under conditions of the sale of the AMK lands to the National Park Service, Mr. Slim Lawrence has lifetime tenancy as a research Center resident. We are particularly fortunate that this arrangement was made since he has served as the caretaker and lived as a resident on the site since 1929. His advice and counsel have been invaluable in the transition and early operational stages. Mr. Lawrence and a young couple spent the 1977-78 winter at the Research Center. This aided in safeguarding against theft and vandalism. Various alternatives are being explored to continue having winter residents at the Research Center.

After 27 years of employment by the Research Station, Noble Gregory retired on January 1, 1978. Fortunately, the Research Center was able to obtain the services of Mr. John B. Adams as Mr. Gregory's caretaker replacement. Mr. Adams had been serving as the caretaker on the AMK Ranch when it was sold.

Research activities will be undertaken at the Research Center during the 1978 season. However, it is planned that the Center will not be operating at full capacity until the 1979 season. The basic rustic character of the AMK buildings and environment will be maintained throughout. Refurbishment and stocking of the new facilities with equipment and supplies, plus working out operational and maintenance procedures, will require most of the Research Center staff's attention in 1978.

Kenneth L. Diem  
Director

STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Neil J. Reid, Chief Scientist, Rocky Mountain Region, National  
Park Service

Mr. Robert I. Kerr, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park,  
National Park Service

Mr. John Townsley, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park,  
National Park Service

Mr. John Lancaster, Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Dr. Ronald Beiswenger, Department of Geography and Mathematics and  
Science Teaching Center, University of Wyoming

Dr. E. Gerald Meyer, Vice President for Research, University of Wyoming  
and Steering Committee Chairperson

Dr. Lee I. Painter, Division of Plant Science, University of Wyoming

Dr. Donald Veal, Department of Atmospheric Science, University of  
Wyoming

RESEARCH PROJECT REPORTS



