



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESEARCH CENTER



21ST ANNUAL REPORT 1997

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESEARCH CENTER



21ST ANNUAL REPORT 1997

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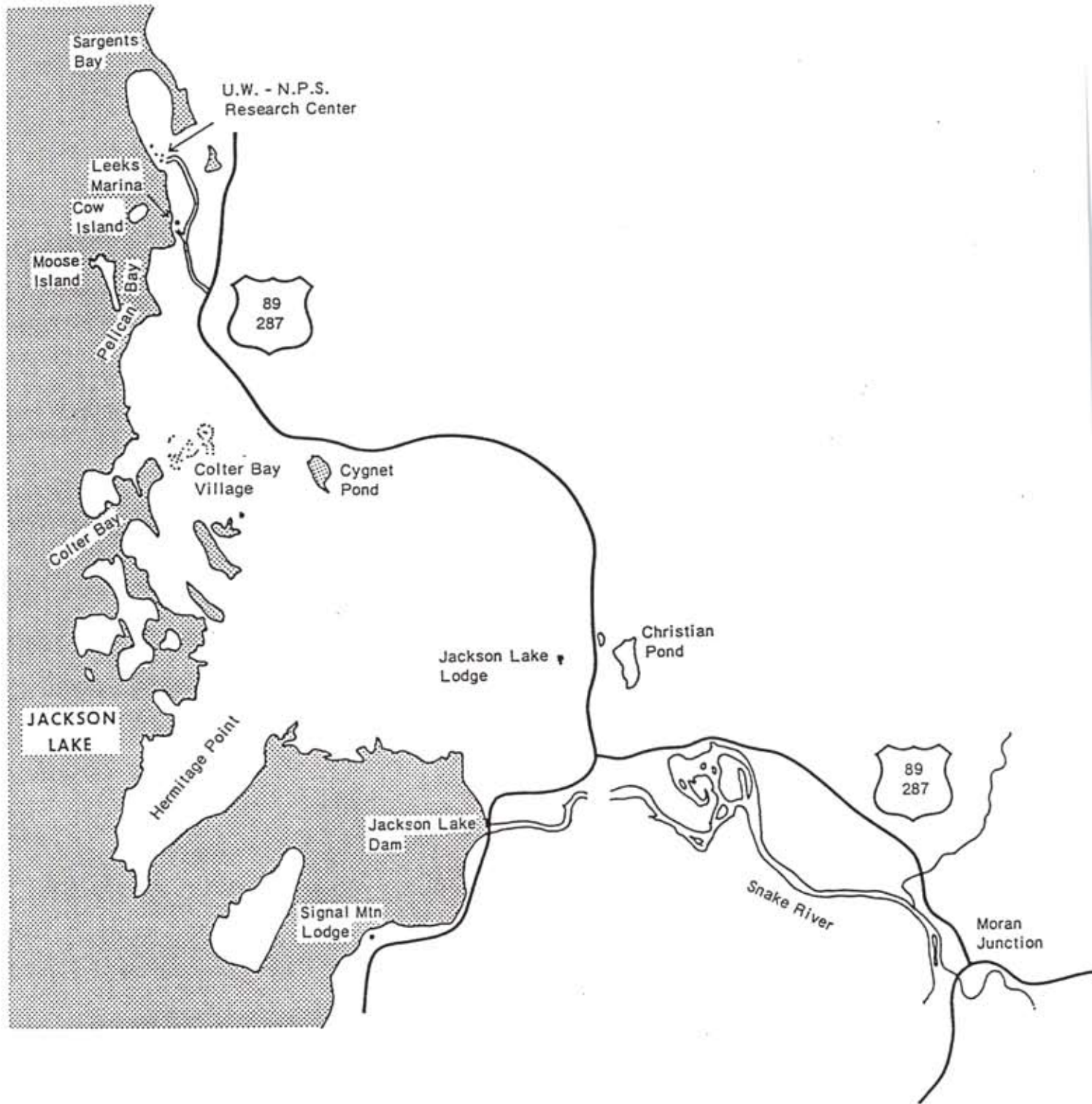
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◆ WYOMING

- 13. Grand Teton National Park
- 14. Yellowstone National Park
- 15. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway
- 16. Devils Tower National Monument
- 17. Fort Laramie National Historic Site
- 18. Fossil Butte National Monument

◆ MONTANA

- 19. Glacier National Park
- 20. Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
- 21. Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
- 22. Big Hole National Battlefield
- 23. Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

◆ NORTH DAKOTA

- 24. Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site
- 25. Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- 26. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
- 27. International Peace Garden

◆ SOUTH DAKOTA

- 28. Badlands National Park
- 29. Wind Cave National Park
- 30. Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- 31. Jewel Cave National Monument

◆ UTAH

- 1. Arches National Park
- 2. Canyonlands National Park
- 3. Natural Bridges National Monument
- 4. Zion National Park
- 5. Capitol Reef National Park
- 6. Pipe Spring National Park
- 7. Dinosaur National Monument
- 8. Timpanogos Cave National Monument
- 9. Bryce Canyon National Park
- 10. Cedar Breaks National Monument
- 11. Golden Spike National Historic Site
- 12. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

◆ COLORADO

- 32. Rocky Mountain National Park
- 33. Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
- 34. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
- 35. Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument
- 36. Curecanti National Recreation Area
- 37. Great Sand Dunes National Monument
- 38. Mesa Verde National Park
- 39. Yucca House National Monument
- 40. Hovenweep National Monument
- 41. Colorado National Monument

CONTENTS

	PAGE
STEERING COMMITTEE.....	ix
INTRODUCTION.....	xi
FEATURE ARTICLE.....	1
“Neonatal Mortality of Elk in Areas With and Without Grizzly Bears” Bruce Smith, Katherine McFarland, Fred Lindzey and Elizabeth Williams.....	3
RESEARCH PROJECT REPORTS.....	11
Grand Teton National Park	
M. Cody & S. Cain	13
J. Hall	26
J. Jannett.....	29
D. Knight & D. Tinker.....	33
C. Lauver & C. Blodgett	36
W. Miller.....	39
G. Montopoli et al.	42
A. Pinter	57
S. Sakaluk et al	60
R.S. Seville et al.	64
A. Sylvester et al.....	69
Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park	
D. Debinski et al	77
J. Hawk & C. Peterson.. ..	81
P. Meier & D. Travers	99
Yellowstone National Park	
E. Larsen & W. Ripple.....	121
M. Turner et al.	130
M. Turner et al	135

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INTRODUCTION

1997 ANNUAL REPORT



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

A common statement during the 1997 research season was that the summer seemed to have passed extremely quickly, perhaps due to an overcast and cool month of June. In spite of this, we had an extremely productive research and seminar schedule with a full house most of the summer and fall. Diane Debinski worked with Mark Jakubauskas and Kelly Kindscher on ground tracking GIS techniques for correlating vegetation types with assemblages of birds and butterflies. Diane's was the largest group on the Station this summer followed closely by Bill Romme's crew. Bill and Monica Turner continued their investigations on forest succession after the 1988 Yellowstone fires and focussed much of their attention on the dynamics of aspen growth. Researchers hosted by the Station also directed their investigations on: water quality and productivity of lakes and streams, population dynamics and parasite assemblages in microtine rodents, comparison of nitrogen turnover in logged and burned areas, population patterns, paleontology survey of the GYA, neonatal elk mortality, precambrian geology of Teton Range, the spread of exotic plants in GTNP and several projects assessing the impact of Grey wolves on elk behavior and how humans interact with wolves. While these studies represent only a portion of the contributions made this past summer, they provide a profile of the varied topics addressed at the Research Station.

Attendance at our seminar series and barbecue continued to draw an average weekly attendance of 70 to 80 Station researchers, Park employees and members from the Jackson community. Our speakers this past season addressed topics on: interaction of black and grizzly bears, Brucellosis and chronic wasting disease in ungulates, beetle

biodiversity in the Rocky Mountains, influence of large carnivores on moose and bison, global decline of amphibians populations, and dynamics of animal relocations associated with hydroelectric dam construction. We also hosted seminars on how to achieve consensus decisions in environmental disputes co-sponsored by the University of Wyoming Institute of Environmental and Natural Resources. Our special L. Floyd Clark Memorial Lecture, in honor of Dr. Clark as the first University of Wyoming Director of the Station, was Dr. Brent Eastman. Dr. Eastman spoke to an enthusiastic group about medical care for trauma victims associated with back country and rural accidents. Once again, we received letters and verbal comments throughout the season commenting on the positive role of the summer program as an extension of the university and scientific community to promote the relevance and excitement of research to the public.

This past summer, Dr. Scott Seville and I presented a two week course sponsored by the University of Wyoming on research topics in the Greater Yellowstone Area. Students were introduced to techniques such as radiotelemetry tracking, bird banding, live trapping bears, GIS technology, small mammal capture-mark-recapture, population estimates and participated in many projects by Station researchers. I would like to thank all those who generously donated time in sharing their projects with this very fortunate group of students. This summer we also initiated a site-development plan under the direction of Dr. Bill Gribb from the Department of Geography and Recreation, University of Wyoming. We are considering the benefits and impacts of a new dormitory to house an additional 30 to 40 residents on the Station. Discussions are in progress as to the source of

funding, locations of buildings and utility of such construction.

I am happy to announce Grand Teton National History Association's most recent publication by UW-NPS Research Center's previous Director, Kenneth Diem and his wife Lenore: "A Community of Scalawags, Renegades, Discharged Soldiers and Predestined Stinkers A History of Northern Jackson Hole and Yellowstone's Influence 1872-1920." Designed in magazine style format, it details the setting defined in its 193 pages, describes early travel routes, Yellowstone's influence upon the area, and vividly portrays the early characters who played major roles in the settlement of northern Jackson Hole.

On a much sadder note, Vera and Kent McKnight, devoted co-authors, and illustrators passed away this year. Those that were fortunate to know and work with the McKnights will always carry with them a memory of their extraordinary enthusiasm, creativity and love for nature's beauty. Our thoughts and best wishes go to their family.

Special acknowledgement is extended to Ms. Karen Noland, Office Associate, for her skills and dedication to the Research Center which were a vital contribution to this publication.

RESEARCH PROJECT REPORTS

The following project reports have been prepared primarily for administrative use. The information reported is preliminary and may be subject to change as investigations continue. Consequently, information presented may not be used without written permission from the author(s).

FEATURE ARTICLE



