

GREATER YELLOWSTONE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MAGAZINE

2013

THE CROWN OF THE CONTINENT AND GREATER YELLOWSTONE INITIATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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FOREWORD

This publication on the Greater Yellowstone Initiative represents a new venture that will soon be combined with an earlier one focused on the University of Montana's Crown of the Continent Initiative. These two iconic landscapes are linked by the great Rocky Mountains and by wildlife corridors and movements that make them inseparable in many ways. So too will they be linked by the publication of a new electronic magazine that shares the knowledge that the University and its partners have gained and will continue to gain about these two very special places.

For decades, faculty and students from the University of Montana (UM) have been using the Greater Yellowstone as a research and teaching laboratory. They have learned of the natural heritage of the place and of its use by humans. Geologists, anthropologists, recreation and tourism specialists, economists, foresters, wildlife biologists and many others have conducted research within the boundaries of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, while artists and humanists have exploited its spirit in many creative works. It truly has been a landscape of awe and inspira-

tion, and a landscape where so much about the earth and use of it can be learned. The stories that led to Yellowstone's image as Colter's Hell in the early 1800s capture the opportunities it holds for learning, research, and creative scholarship. This publication, and the subsequent ones to be produced, will share knowledge and experiences gained in this landscape so that we all can share in this wondrous place.

While UM faculty and students have been involved with the Greater Yellowstone for a long time, so too have our partners such as The Wilderness Society and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. In addition, we are thrilled to have new partners such as BYU-Idaho, its students and faculty, join in the enterprise. Please join me in celebrating this new publishing venture that highlights one of the world's greatest landscapes.

Perry Brown
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs
the University of Montana



Winter solitude... Yellowstone National Park. Rick and Susie Graetz

THIS IS THE G

THE PARK WITHIN THE GREATER YE



GREATER YELLOWSTONE

YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM — AMERICA'S BEST IDEA

BY RICK GRAETZ

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

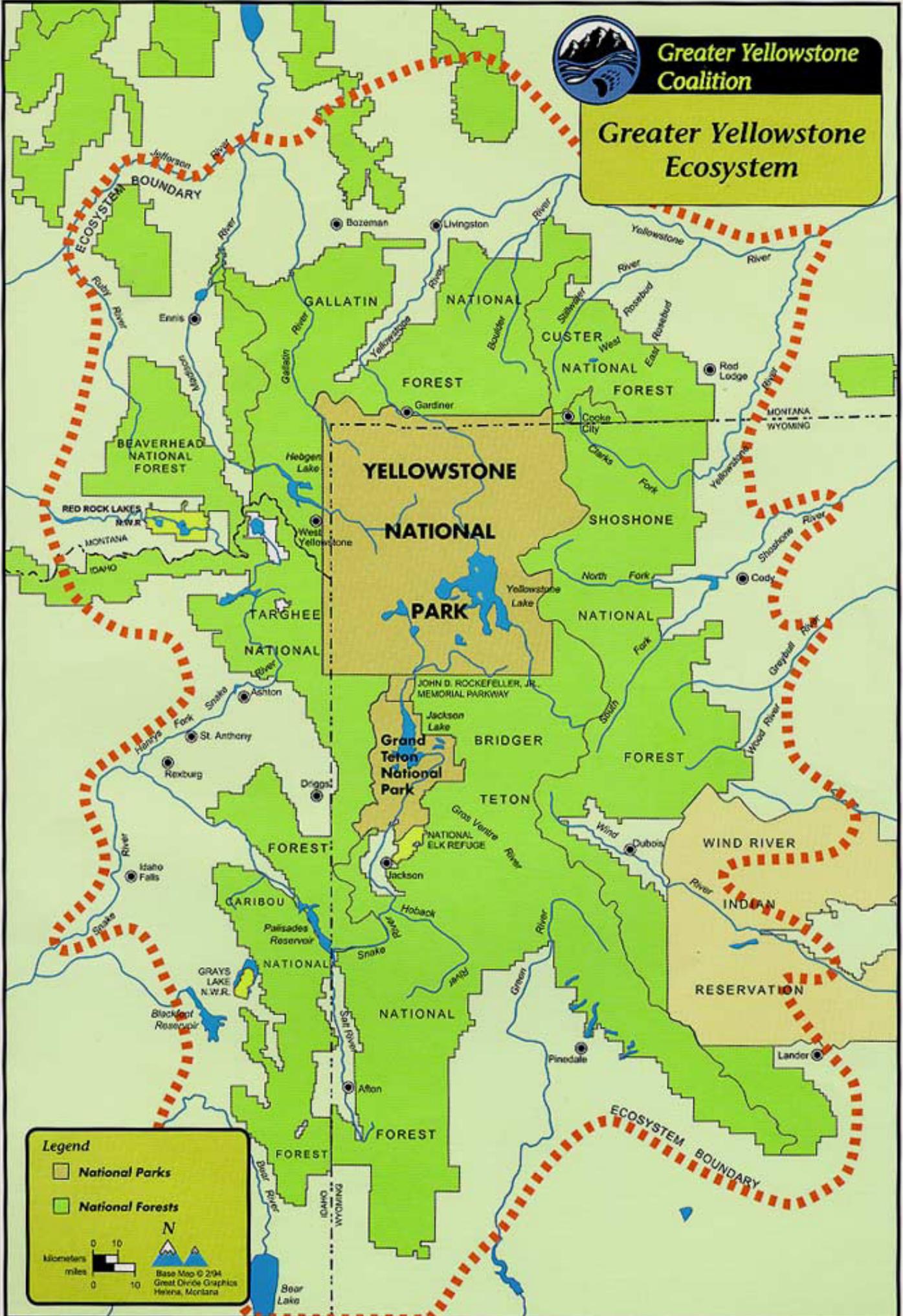
AN ACT to set apart a certain tract of land lying near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River as a public park. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the tract of land in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming...is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States, and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people; and all persons who shall locate, or settle upon, or occupy the same or any part thereof, except as hereinafter provided, shall be considered trespassers and removed there from ...

On March 1, 1872, when President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant, affixed his signature to this piece of legislation enacted by the U.S. Congress, he created not only the nation's, but the world's first national park—Yellowstone! The job was not yet complete, a long journey to safeguard this place lay ahead. More than twenty years passed before Yellowstone was finally protected from those who wanted to exploit it. America's first conservation lobbying organization, the Boone and Crockett Club, founded in December of 1887 by Theodore Roosevelt, George Bird Grinnell and others, led the fight by pushing for passage in 1894 of The Yellowstone Protection Act.



Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem



Legend

- National Parks
- National Forests

0 10
Kilometers
0 10
miles

N

Base Map © 2004
Great Divide Graphics
Helena, Montana

Today, travelers reaching Glacier or Grand Teton national parks can readily see why the two places were set-aside—Glacier in 1910 and Grand Teton 1929. Colossal mountains, some holding glaciers, and forests reaching toward altitude are immediately obvious. Yellowstone, with the exception perhaps of its northeast frontier, opens with less grandeur and perhaps at first glance it isn't obvious what all of the fuss is about. Venture deeper into the park, however, and it doesn't take long to understand and appreciate why it took only two and one-half years from the first exploratory expedition in the autumn of 1869 for the Congress to realize that here was a place that was too valuable not to keep intact.

Yellowstone's thermals, mineral formations, mountain peaks, lakes, streams, waterfalls, untrammled country and its wildlife population are legendary. Once a visitor explores the landscape and discovers the beauty, it then becomes clear that here is one of the wilderness gems of North America.

As time passed, this 2,221,766-acre park rising from Wyoming's northwest corner with a bit of Montana and Idaho

thrown in—Wyoming claims 96 percent, Montana three and Idaho one percent—gained international fame. All that YNP offered (including hydrothermal features and magnificent animals) drew curious tourists and researchers from across the USA and the world. Especially important has been the recognition that Yellowstone isn't an island, but rather the centerpiece of a much larger landscape, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, estimated to sprawl across almost 20 million acres. Scientists consider it to be one of the largest intact ecosystems in the temperate zone of the earth.

Acknowledgement that the park was part of an expanded area important to plants and wildlife was first recognized by the name Greater Yellowstone, possibly as early as 1917. But in 1979, John and Frank Craighead, studying Yellowstone grizzlies, realized that the bears' range was close to five million acres extending in all compass points beyond the boundaries of YNP. They discussed the idea of a Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, but offered little guidance as to how the concept could be defined, delineated and related to land management decisions on an eco-



system-wide basis. Rick Reese in his 1984 book, *Greater Yellowstone: The National Park and Adjacent Wildlands*, penned what may arguably be the first articulation of the idea of ecosystem-wide management for the ‘Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.’” In a recent memo he stated, “One needs to differentiate between simply using the term Greater Yellowstone (as was first stated in 1917), and articulating the concept of an ecosystem-wide management arrangement for the ‘Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.’”

Management today is a particularly important and challenging undertaking. Aside from private lands, this grand bit of geography encompasses two iconic national parks (Yellowstone and Grand Teton), six national forests, two national wildlife refuges, portions of three states and dozens of counties, municipalities and other jurisdictions, as well as the headwaters’ sources for three of America’s great waterway systems—the Green River leading to the Colorado, the Yellowstone flowing to the Missouri, and the Snake reaching to the Columbia.

There is much to write about the park and the ecosystem as a whole: early-day travelers, the initial explorations, the military management of Yellowstone, the varied landscapes of mountains and forests, the wild critters, the hydrothermal system, the super volcano, the backcountry trails, mountaineering in the Teton, Wind River and Beartooth ranges, the indigenous peoples now and yesterday, the communities, rivers and lakes, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, forest fires, weather, an altering climate, plants, trees, volcanic features, glaciers and glaciation, ranchers, tourism, research and much more. In future publications of our *Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative* e-magazine, we will delve into all of these subjects.

Going forward, the University of Montana’s efforts in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem will now include involvement by partners already hard at work in the region—the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy and the Yellowstone Ecological Research Center, and this autumn of 2012, we welcomed new partners—the Yellowstone Club, Lone Peak High School and Brigham Young University-Idaho. And others will follow.

As of this month of March, we are expanding our *Crown of the Continent Initiative* to include the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and the official title of our new endeavor will be... The University of Montana’s *Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative*. And in doing so, one e-magazine featuring both of these unique and important ecosystems will be published from here on out.

IN CLOSING...

Yellowstone: several stories abound about the name, but the most plausible seems to come from French Canadian trappers who came up the Yellowstone River in the 1740s. It is thought they met the Minnetaree Indians—a branch of the Hidatsa, who had settled in the area of the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers. These indigenous people called the river *Mi tse a-da-zi*, or Yellow Rock River. The name coming from



either the yellow colored stones along the banks or most likely the yellow bluffs near and below Billings. Translated to French it was called “Roche Jaune.” The Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805 referred to this tributary of the Missouri by the French name. Crow Indians living farther upriver called it Elk River.

Interestingly enough, it wasn't the legislation creating the park that bestowed the name Yellowstone on it, but rather letters between Nathaniel Langford, YNP's first superintendent (and one

of its first official explorers), and the Secretary of the Interior, that gave the park its name.

*The term “America's Best Idea” comes from Wallace Stegner in reference to Yellowstone National Park and the whole concept of national parks.

Rick Graetz is a UM Geography professor and co-director of the University of Montana's Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative.



**Millions of buffalo curried her flanks
as she shed winter's ice in the spring.
In the smoke of ten thousand campfires
she heard drumbeats and war dances ring.
On the crest of her bosom she sped Captain Clark
and Sacajawea as well.**

**She bisected the prairie, the plains and the mountains
from her birthplace in "John Colter 's Hell."**

**To the traveler she whispered, "Come, follow me,"
with a wink and a toss of her head.**

**She tempted the trapper, gold miner and gambler
to lie down by her sinuous bed.**

**"Safe passage," she murmured provocatively,
"safe passage and riches as well."**

**She smiled as the thread of Custer 's blue line
followed her trails and then fell.**

She carved out the grade for the railroads;

She took settlers to their new home.

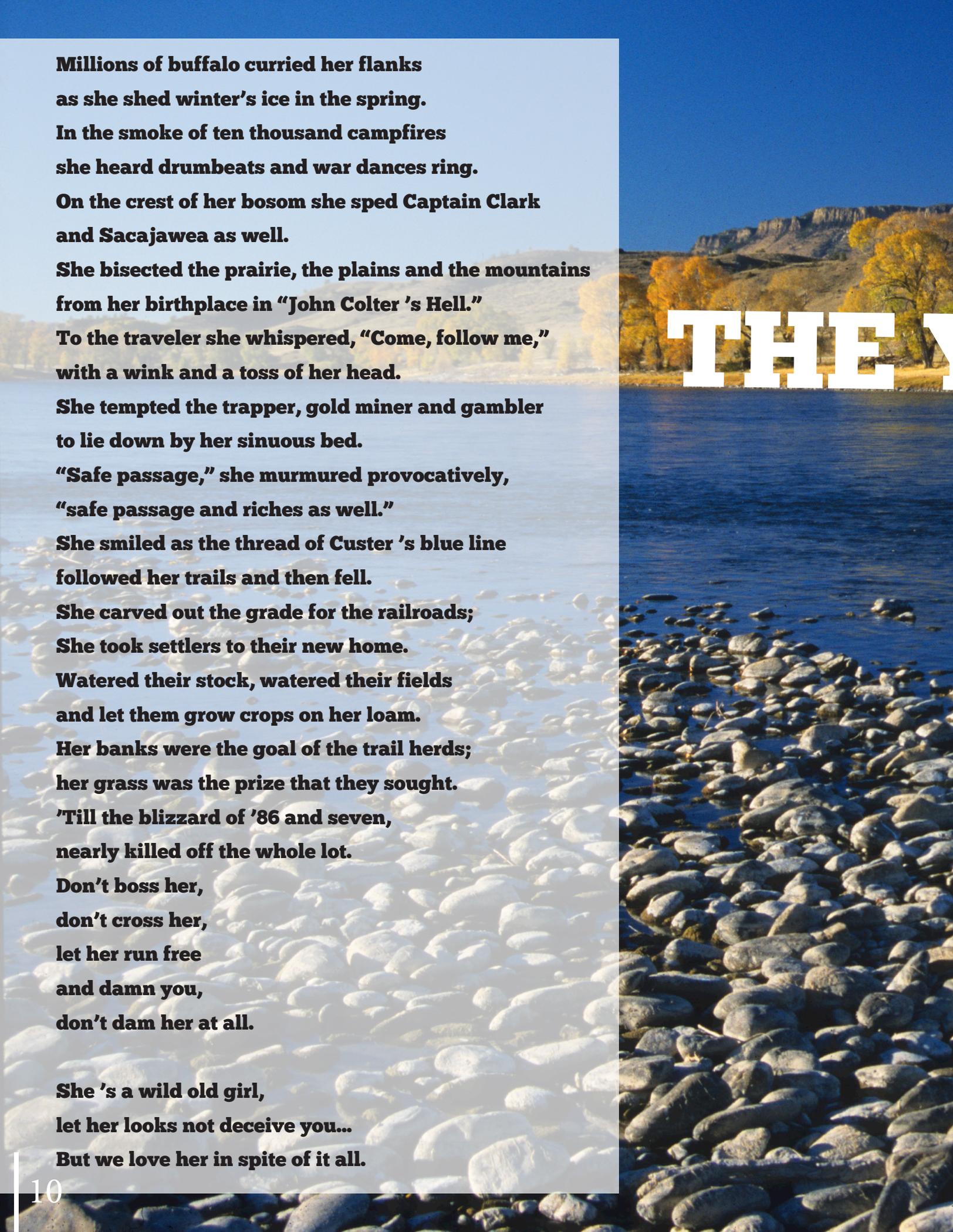
**Watered their stock, watered their fields
and let them grow crops on her loam.**

**Her banks were the goal of the trail herds;
her grass was the prize that they sought.**

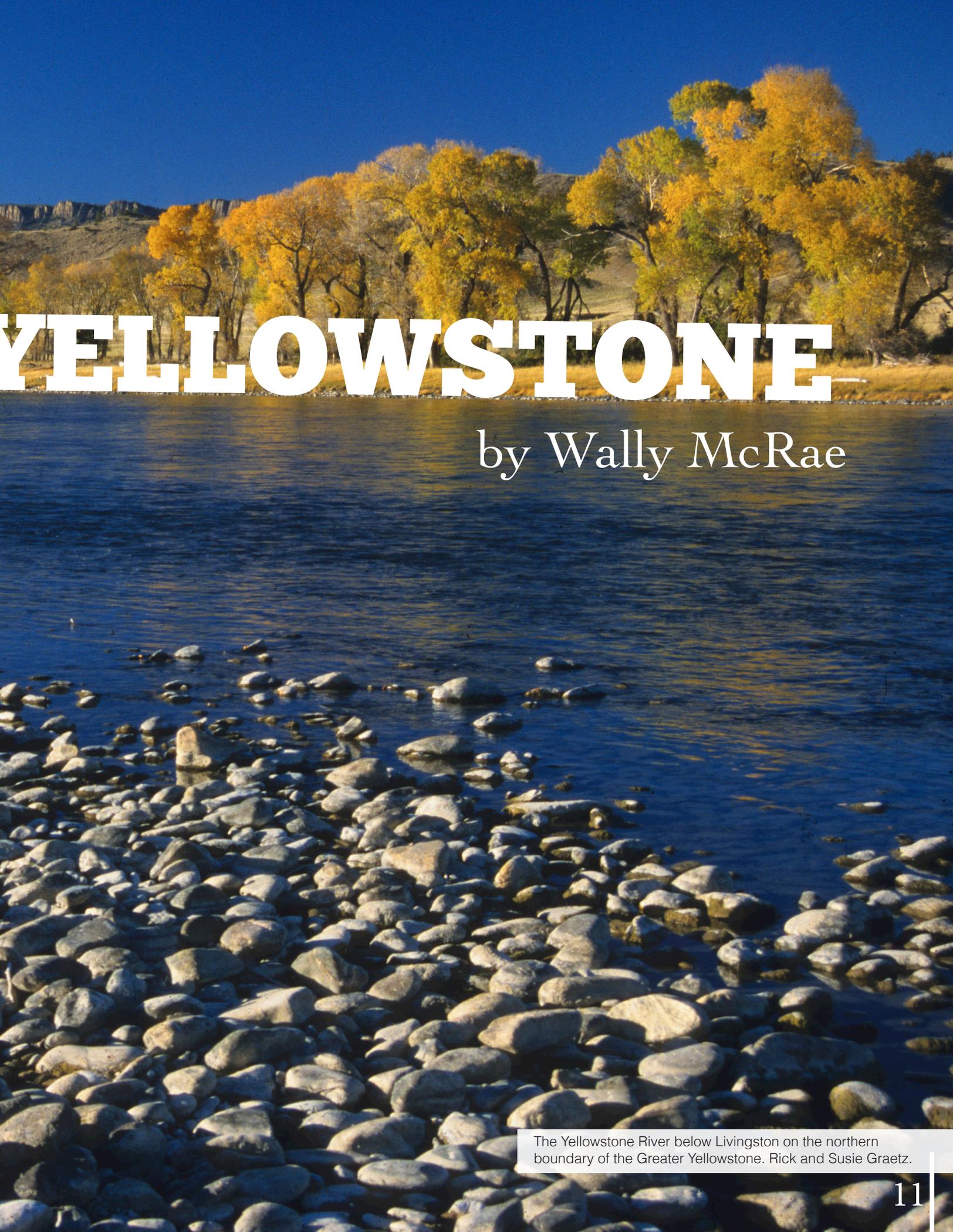
**'Till the blizzard of '86 and seven,
nearly killed off the whole lot.**

**Don't boss her,
don't cross her,
let her run free
and damn you,
don't dam her at all.**

**She 's a wild old girl,
let her looks not deceive you...
But we love her in spite of it all.**



THEY

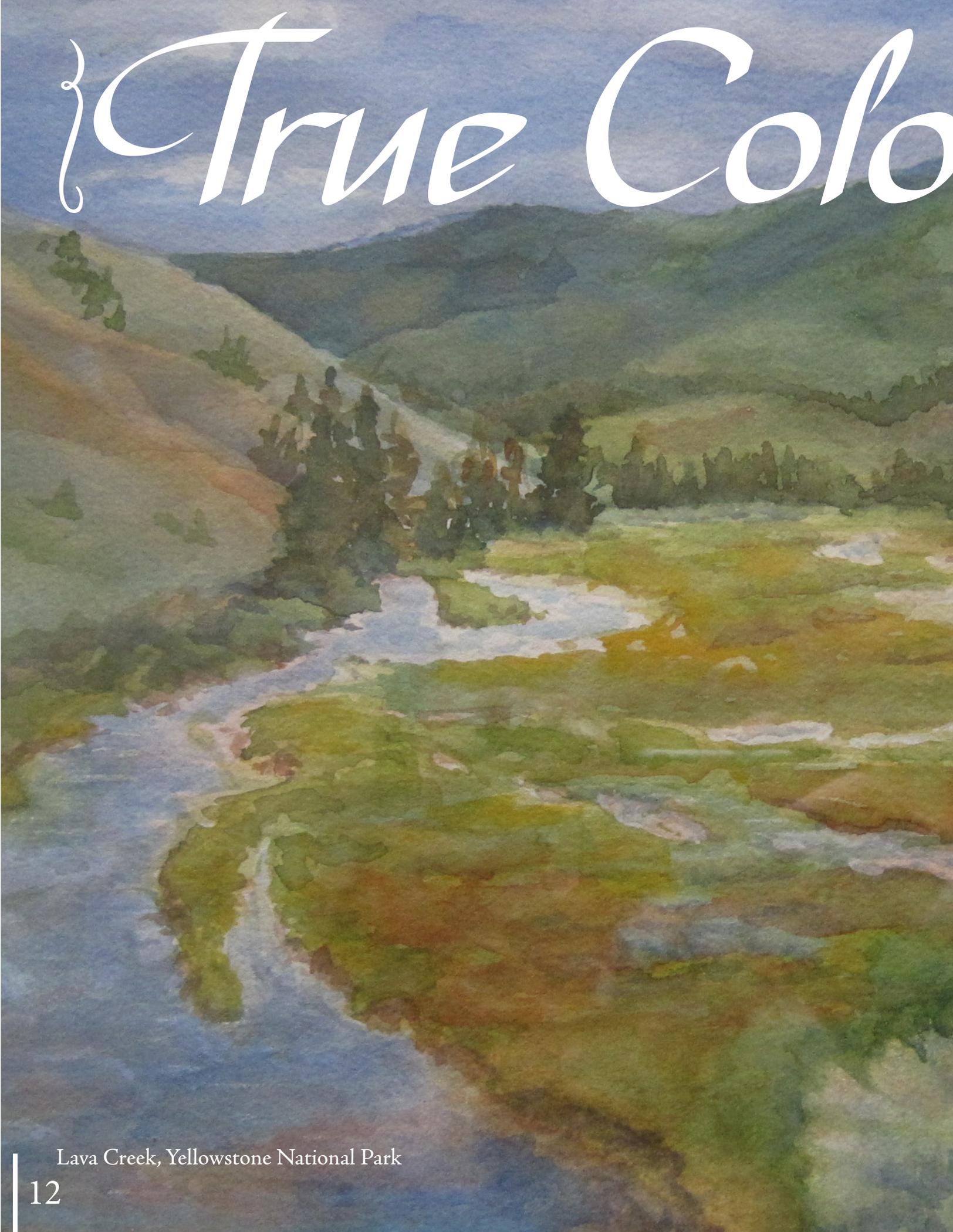
A scenic photograph of the Yellowstone River. The foreground is filled with smooth, grey river rocks. The water is a deep blue, reflecting the sky and the golden-yellow foliage of the trees on the opposite bank. The trees are in full autumn, with some still showing green. In the background, there are rolling hills and a clear blue sky.

YELLOWSTONE

by Wally McRae

The Yellowstone River below Livingston on the northern boundary of the Greater Yellowstone. Rick and Susie Graetz.

True Color

A watercolor painting of a landscape in Yellowstone National Park. The scene features a winding river or stream in the foreground, surrounded by lush green and yellowish-green vegetation. In the middle ground, there is a dense cluster of dark green evergreen trees. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a soft, blue sky. The overall style is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette.

Lava Creek, Yellowstone National Park

A watercolor painting of a mountain landscape. The scene features rolling green hills, a winding river or stream in the middle ground, and several dark evergreen trees. The sky is a soft, pale blue. The overall style is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette.

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—Mary Lee Reese came to Montana in 1970 to raise her young family in Helena. She resumed her interest in art that had begun during her years in Grand Teton National Park, and was actively involved in the Helena Art Center where she focused on watercolor and pastel painting. During her Helena years, she was also active in civic affairs, and served as chair of the Lewis and Clark Library board.

In the 1980s she and her husband, Rick, co-directed the fledgling Yellowstone Institute in Yellowstone's Lamar Valley, where the Reese family came to know the Yellowstone country so well. Later, she moved to Utah where she completed a second college degree, this time in ornamental horticulture, and had a successful career as a manager and buyer for a large nursery and greenhouse business in Salt Lake City.

The Reeses returned to Montana in 2007, where Mary Lee and Rick, along with their daughter, son-in-law and wonderful grandchildren, make their homes in Bozeman. Mary Lee is delighted and feels it is a privilege to be back in Montana where she continues her "plein aire" painting, observing and studying Montana's remarkable extraordinary natural landscape.





(Far Left) Emigrant Peak, Paradise Valley

(Bottom Left) Mt. Moran, Grand Teton National Park

(Left) Firehole River in winter, Yellowstone National Park

(Below) Glacial erratics, Yellowstone National Park



Mary Lee Reese





(Far Left) Lower Falls
of the Yellowstone

(Above) Winter in
Yellowstone

(Left) Mt. Tweewinot,
Grand Teton National
Park

History of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition

By Rick Reese



Horace Albright, the first civilian superintendant of YNP, shakes hands with Charles Cook, who was part of the 1869 Expedition. F.J. Haynes Collection, Montana Historical Society

The notion of a “Greater Yellowstone” was flirted with on several occasions during the last hundred years. As early as 1882, civil war hero, General Philip Sheridan, visited Yellowstone and recognized that the habitat needs of Yellowstone’s wildlife populations could not be met solely within the confines of the new national park.

Shortly after the National Park Service was created in 1916, Yellowstone’s first civilian superintendent, Horace Albright, recognized that the environmental integrity of the Park was at least partially dependent upon wise management of surrounding lands. In a wonderful exchange of correspondence with Albright in the mid-1980s, he told me:

In my nearly ten years in Yellowstone, I several times drew sketches of what the park should be (in our modern terminology - ecosystem). My boundaries were not far from those in your book (Greater Yellowstone: The Park and Adjacent Wildlands). During the 1920’s I succeeded in getting sizeable additions to the park from the north and east, but found it impossible to add more because I was making the supreme effort to create the Grand Teton National Park.

I had decided as early as 1917 on my first trip to the Jackson Hole that this area must be annexed to Yellowstone or made a separate park... From the very start, opposition developed. We promoted congressional legislation for our plan, but it took 13 years to get the first small Grand Teton Park...

I am now almost 97 years of age. I was the first civilian

superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, occupying that position from June, 1919 to January, 1929 when I became Director of the National Park service until 1933.

I would like to take up a little more of your time to tell you that I knew both William H. Jackson and Thomas Moran (Jackson, a photographer, and Moran, an artist, were part of the 1871 Hayden Expedition) intimately until their deaths. Mr. Jackson died at age 99, and I delivered the eulogy at his funeral.

I have a photograph taken in 1922 on the 50th anniversary of the creation of Yellowstone National Park. In that photo, a young Horace Albright is shaking hands with an aging Charles Cook. In 1869, Cook and two companions conducted one of the most extensive explorations of the region that would become Yellowstone National Park. The next year, Henry Dana Washburn, encouraged and inspired by Cook and his companions, launched a comprehensive exploration of the region. It was, in turn, a member of Washburn’s 1870 expedition, Nathaniel Langford, who piqued the interest of Ferdinand Hayden. Hayden’s exploration in 1871 was a key factor leading to the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872.

It is simply astounding to me that as late as 1986, I was able to talk with the first superintendent of Yellowstone—a man who knew Thomas Moran, William H. Jackson and Charles Cook personally. I take this as a reminder of how short our history in this region is—and of what a profound impact we have had on the face of the land in just two lifetimes.

The genesis of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition began in the summer of 1981, and can be categorized into three components:

I. The Origin of the term “Greater Yellowstone”

In the prefaces to the 1983 and 1991 editions of my book, *Greater Yellowstone: The National Park and Adjacent Wildlands*, I told of how, when, and where I first heard the term “Greater Yellowstone,” and of my effort to understand, elaborate upon, and articulate the concept of a “Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.” In the 1983 edition I summarized my conclusions in five points:

1) Yellowstone National Park is a very special, and in some respects, an absolutely unique place.

2) The park is not an island, but rather exists in an ecological context we call the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

3) The entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is an extraordinary national treasure existing as [one of] the largest, essentially intact ecosystem remaining in the temperate zones of the earth.

4) Most resource management decisions in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are made in a fragmented manner that does not recognize the area as a single unit, but rather views it as more than two dozen separate political and administrative entities.

5) The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is imperiled by activities and developments that pose imminent threats to its environmental integrity.



YNP Superintendent John Townsley was an early proponent for the idea of a Greater Yellowstone. Courtesy of National Park Service.

The road to these conclusions began in the summer of 1981 through some evening discussions with my neighbor in Mammoth, John Townsley, the Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. Those discussions affected me greatly, and they contributed significantly to the subsequent creation of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

In my book, I noted that Gen. Philip Sheridan had advocated expanding the boundaries of Yellowstone Park as early as 1882, and that Frank Craighead had used the term “Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem” in his 1979 book, *Track of the Grizzly*. But as nearly as I can determine, Sheridan never used the term “Greater Yellowstone;” and beyond his discussion of grizzly range, Craighead didn’t elaborate upon how such an entity might be defined and delineated, nor did he discuss the implications of cross-boundary, ecosystem-wide management in the area. (That, of course, was not the purpose of his splendid book.)

In 1999, Horace Albright’s daughter, Marian Albright Schenck, authored *The Creation of the National Park Service: The Missing Years*. This magnificent volume was completed

with the critical collaboration of Robert M. Utley, retired National Park Service historian. Of particular interest to this discussion is chapter 22, entitled “Greater Yellowstone,” in which Albright relates her father’s words:

“Then in October of that year, Emerson Hough, our old friend from the Mather Mountain Party, had sent me a manuscript of his that would appear on December 1, 1917, in the *Saturday Evening Post*. Its title was ‘Greater Yellowstone.’ Its themes were to preserve the elk herds and other animals from unlimited hunting, double the Yellowstone area for scenic enjoyment, and save Jackson Hole from timbering, mining, and other destructive practices... So it is Hough who deserves the honor of coining the phrase ‘Greater Yellowstone.’”

Given Albright’s early interest in the term, it’s probably a good bet that he introduced Townsley to it, since they knew each other for many years.

So while the phrase “Greater Yellowstone” was in use as early as 1917, it appears that its meaning then, and for at least another 30 years, was limited to discussions about expanding the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. Indeed, the venerable Yellowstone historian, Aubrey Haines, wrote in his 1977 book, *The Yellowstone Story—Volume Two*, that creation of an expanded Grand Teton National Park in 1950 was “...the fulfillment of the Greater Yellowstone movement [though] it bore little resemblance to General Sheridan’s initial suggestion, or to the first proposal of National Park Service officials. However, the result was grand, even if Yellowstone Park did get left out.”

Haines, writing six years before the founding of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, had no way of knowing that the “fulfillment of the Greater Yellowstone movement” as we now know it, had not even begun in 1950. The concept of coordinated management of the vast complex of public and private lands (including National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges and in the case of the Tetons, a National Monument), and recognition of the cumulative effects of a wide variety of threats to the entire area, were not envisioned until the early 1980’s. And effective advocacy for these concepts did not occur until the advent of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

II. The Initial Elaboration and Articulation of the Concept

In the 1983 edition of *Greater Yellowstone: The National Park and Adjacent Wildlands*, I attempted to consider how one might define and delineate a Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and I compiled a partial inventory of issues that were adversely affecting the region. Within a few months I realized that a vigorous advocacy was needed—not only to promote the concept of a Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, but also for a dramatically different kind of management of the region.

III. Building an Organization From the Ground Up: The Creation of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

By early 1983, momentum was building for the creation of an organization to advocate for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The concept was fairly well understood and generally accepted by interested conservationists.

During the year between the “Founding Convention” in late May 1983, and the first annual GYC convention at Mammoth in June 1984, there was an enormous burst of enthusiasm, and a remarkable commitment by many people to do the difficult work of putting together an effective organization. The Founding Convention concluded with the appointment of a “steering committee.” Six months later, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition was formally incorporated, and the members of the steering committee became interim directors of the new organization. With that, the Greater Yellowstone was officially launched.



Grizzly bears need room to roam and the GYC has worked to make that happen. Here Rick Reese measures a fresh grizzly paw print. Rick Reese Collection.

In January 1984, the following people were selected to serve on the first regular Board of Directors: Hank Phibbs, Bill Bryan, Franz Camenzind, Maryanne Mott, Ralph Maughan, Jan Brown, Sandy Pew, Martha Wood, John Good, Anne Model, Meredith Taylor, Rick Reese.

At the first annual convention of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC), a grand discussion ensued among members about an ambitious conservation proposal to protect the ecological integrity of the entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. It was concluded that the most effective possible action would be to promote changes in the laws and regulations that governed management decisions on federal lands across that entire ecosystem.

The dialogue revolved specifically around “draft legislation” calling for congressional recognition of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with established management mandates to protect and preserve its wildlife habitat, fisheries, watersheds, and scenic and natural values on federal lands.

With the benefit of hindsight, we may disagree today about how such protection might have been crafted in those days, but the most important aspect of that meeting was the articulation of the concept of some manner of statutory and/or administrative rule that requires coordinated, multi-agency, ecosystem-wide management of the Greater Yellowstone for the purpose of achieving a clearly specified set of resource management values, goals and outcomes.

In 1984, our proposal went nowhere—and small wonder. GYC was then a tiny new organization, with a few hundred members, a few thousand dollars and no significant regional—much less—national constituency. At the time, there was at least a modicum of extractive resource enterprise at play in the regional economy: some mining, a little logging, an emerging oil and gas industry and a few others. Perhaps most significantly, our proposal came forth in a political milieu in which James Watt was Secretary of the Interior, and Ronald Reagan was President of the United States. The grandiosity of our enthusiastic idealism and wild expectations was something to behold. But

given the political and economic realities of the time, and the incipient state of our organization, the proposal had no chance whatsoever. That was then.

But the concept was right in 1984, and it’s still right today.

Today there is a fortuitous new convergence of a vastly different set of conditions that suggest an opportunity for real success:

1. There are a large number of very effective conservation organizations working in this region. Together, they have dozens of full-time professionals, tens of thousands of members, annual expenditure totaling many millions of dollars, large constituencies and stature on both a regional and national basis.

2. With the exception of oil and gas, extractive industries no longer play a major role in the regional economy of the Greater Yellowstone. There is now a broad-based recognition that both current and future economic prosperity in the region is largely dependent on an amenity/recreation economy that is not only consistent with, but depends upon, preser-

vation of the environmental integrity of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

3. The Obama administration is more receptive to conservation than at any time in recent history.

4. In September 2009, a twelve-hour Ken Burns National Parks documentary was released, and the resultant frenzy of interest in, and support of national parks presented an enormous opportunity to engage the American public in the protection of parks and the ecosystems in which they exist.

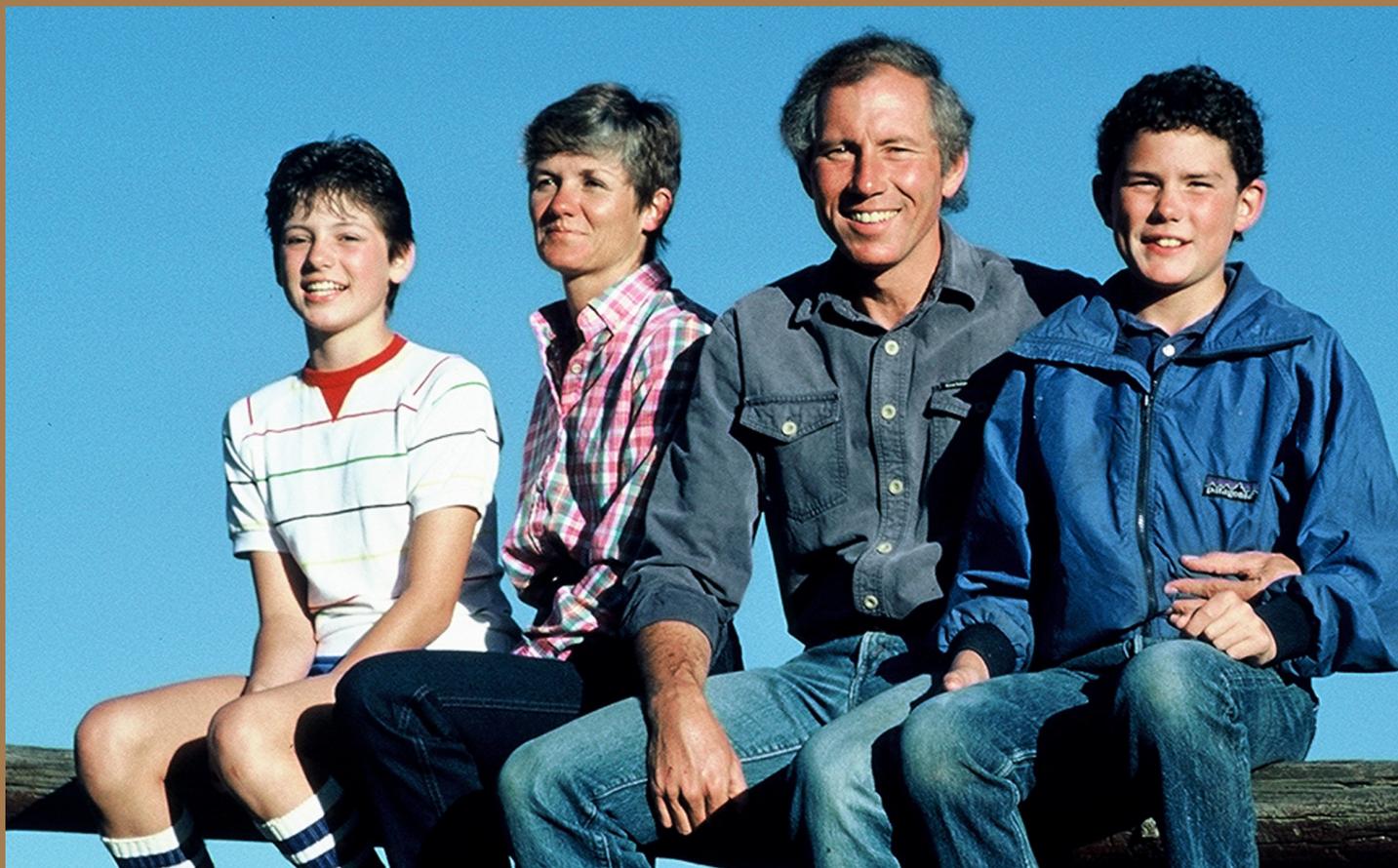
In January 2009, I found myself at a panel discussion before the National Parks Second Century Commission. I listened as Prof. Bob Keiter described a carefully crafted list of potential “Park Protection Strategies.” They included nine “legislative alternatives” (acts of congress), three “executive options,” (presidential orders), and three “administrative options” (administrative rules that could be promulgated by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture). At that moment, a smorgasbord of options to create region-wide statutory, administrative rule, and/or executive order actions for protection of the GYE was dropped into our laps.

The convergence of all these factors brought us to the brink of a remarkable opportunity to undertake a campaign for what could be the most significant conservation achievement since the creation of the National Park system itself.

GYC is the only conservation organization in America whose mission is the protection of the lands, waters and wildlife of the entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. It is uniquely positioned to collaborate with dozens of conservation partners both in the Greater Yellowstone and nationally.

So, if not now, when? If not the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, who?

Rick Reese was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and doctoral candidate at the Korb School of International Studies, he taught college in Montana, was the principal founder and first president of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, served as director of the Yellowstone Institute, chaired the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee for twenty years, and retired as director of community relations at the University of Utah. An experienced mountaineer, Rick was a climbing ranger in Grand Teton National Park for seven years in the 1960s.



The Reese family 1982—Paige, Mary Lee, Rick and Seth—have all been committed to the mission of the GYC. Rick Reese Collection.

Yellow



ystone



Winter travel. Cruising a liquid highway warmed by hot springs is preferred over breaking trail through shoulder-height snow in Yellowstone National Park. Jim Peaco

*Bison have been
a part of what
would become
Yellowstone
National Park
since pre-his-
toric times.*

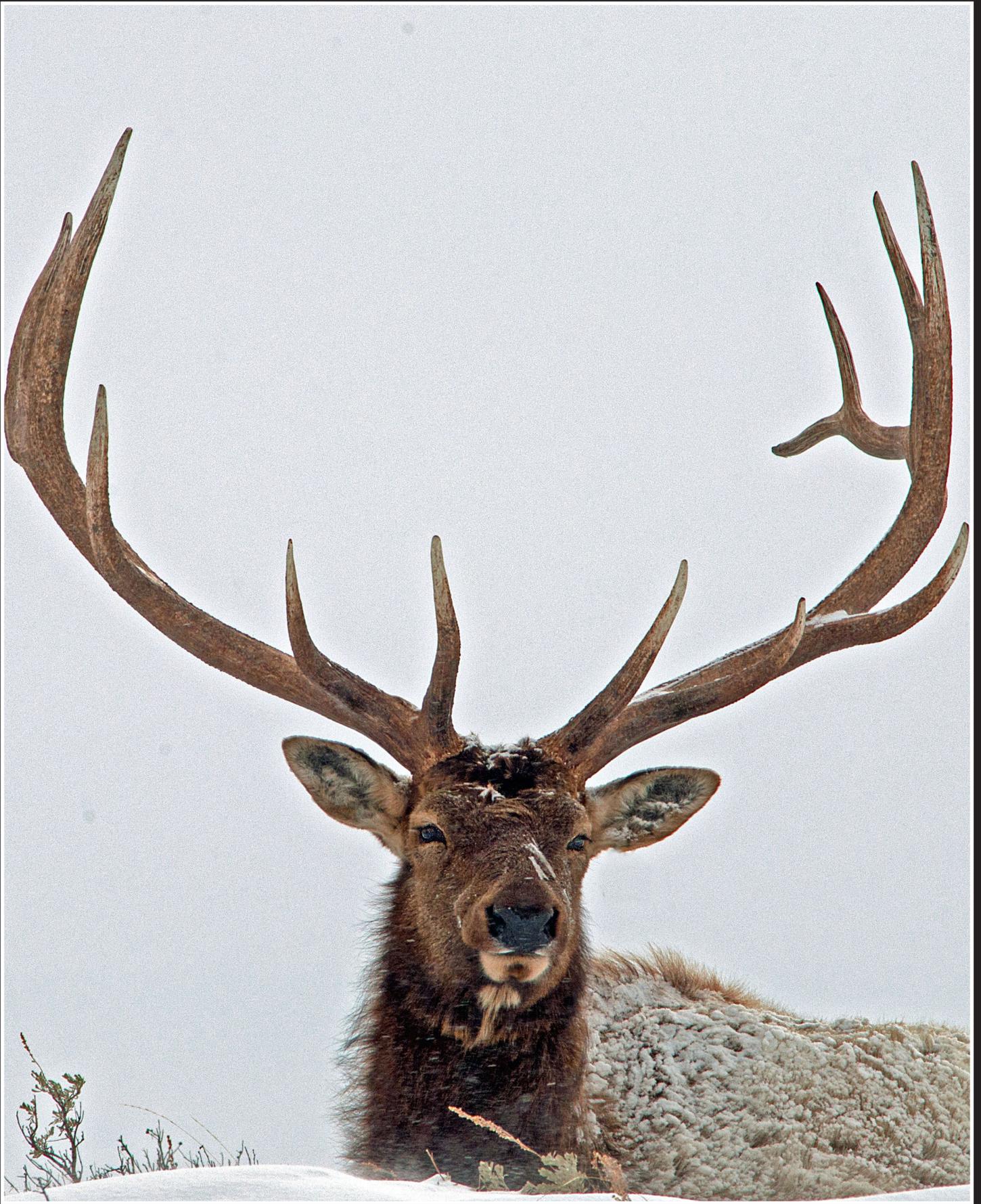
*Rick and Susie
Graetz*



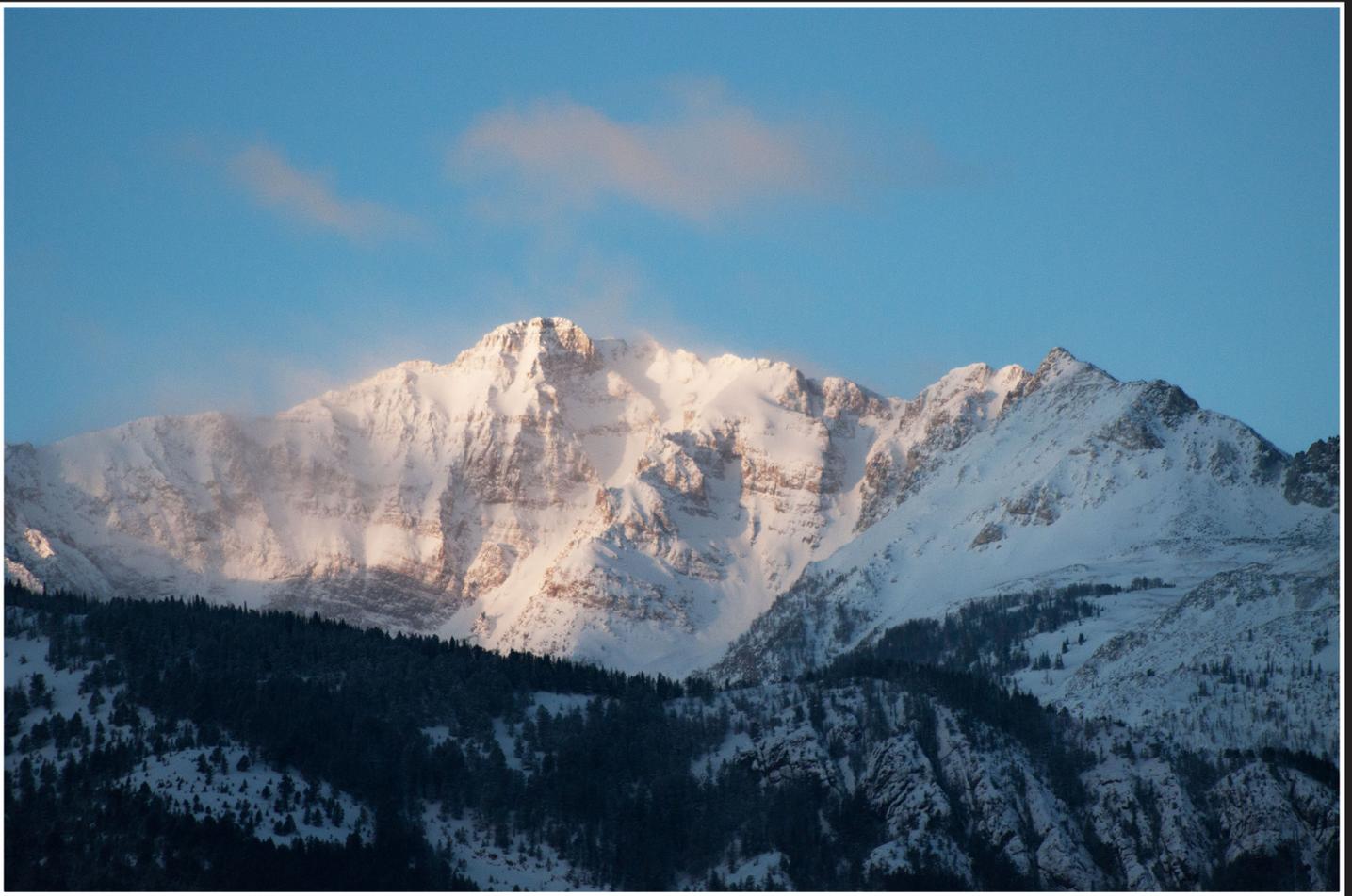
A geyser rises from the shoreline along the Firehole River in the colorful Upper Geyser Basin of Yellowstone National Park. Rick and Susie Graetz



Ranching is a dominant part of the Greater Yellowstone economy – these cowboys watch over the herd in the West Boulder area. Rick and Susie Graetz



An exalted ruler of the animal kingdom. Rick and Susie Graetz



*10,969-foot Electric Peak - the highest summit in the Gallatin Range.
Rick and Susie Graetz*



Steam vents along the north shore of Yellowstone Lake.

Rick and Susie Graetz





*Lone
Moun-
tain and
the Big
Sky Ski
Resort -
Madison
Range.*

*Rick and
Susie
Graetz*