

The Yellowstone Fires of 1988:
A Tragedy for the Present, but a Triumph for the Future

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Process Paper: 499 words

Process Paper

How We Chose Our Topic:

When learning of this year's History Day theme, "Triumph and Tragedy," we considered a variety of historical events. We wanted a History Day topic that was relevant to our state, Wyoming, had sufficient primary and secondary resources and related to the theme. We first were introduced to the idea of the 1988 Yellowstone Fires while doing a broad study of Wyoming's past. We knew of its relationship to tragedy but found an absence of any triumph. It wasn't until we visited Yellowstone National Park (and saw the recovery processes to restore the park to its former glory) that we realized the fires brought a triumph along with the tragedy it caused. These fires cleared the way for the restoration of a new generation of forests as younger trees were allowed to grow in the unrestricted lands, enabling the forest to thrive and prosper.

How We Conducted Our Research:

We began our research with a wide study of Wyoming history. Once we decided on the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 as our project, we traveled to Yellowstone and observed the effects of the fires for ourselves and spoke with park officials to learn of the park's history. Once we had a basic understanding of the Yellowstone Fires of 1988, we began a more thorough study, gathering information through both primary and secondary interviews, websites, broadcasts, books, and articles. As we gathered information, we assembled our annotated bibliography and created our project.

How We Selected Our Presentation Category and Created Our Project:

As we started, we considered whether to do a group documentary or group website. Both types of media allowed us to show the effects the 1988 Yellowstone Fires had on the land, animals, and people of Wyoming. In the end, we felt that a documentary would be the most suitable representation of the Yellowstone Fires and their lasting legacy. A documentary was the most successful method to relate the struggles, tragedies, and triumphs of Yellowstone National Park and the services to protect this treasured land. Through the use of pictures, film clips, recordings, and more, we achieved this goal. After many revisions, our documentary was successfully completed.

How Our Project Relates to the NHD Theme:

One of the key reasons we chose the 1988 Yellowstone Fires as our History Day topic was because they relate very well to the theme, "Triumph and Tragedy." Because of past policies, which resulted in these fires, tragedies such as the destruction of over a third of the park, the loss of wildlife, and financial calamities could have been avoided. Contrastingly, the triumphs such as an improved understanding of Yellowstone's ecosystems, the knowledge of the "Let it Burn" policy, and the new growth throughout the park would never have occurred. Research has shown differing perspectives of the 1988 Yellowstone Fires, and whether they were a benefit to the park. The conclusions of these fires left one question burning in minds across the nation; was it a triumph, or a tragedy?

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Interviews

Barbee, Robert “Bob”. “Facing the Blame” Video Recording. New York. New York Times. 2006.

Robert “Bob” Barbee faced many challenges during the summer of 1988. As the Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, he chose to follow the “Let it Burn” policy and allow the fires to burn. On July 15th with about 8,700 acres burned, he began suppressing the fires, but they had already grown out of control. As the flames burned on, visitors and locals often blamed him for the tragedies. This summer proved to be a huge learning process as America learned the importance of fires, and suffered decades of fire suppression.

Neyses, David A. “Interview with Park Interpreter.” Personal Interview. 11 July, 2018.

David A. Neyses shared prime knowledge concerning the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 as he saw the park soon after the fires raged through over a third of the park. He witnessed the destruction and devastation left in the wake of the flames. Since then, he had gained much information concerning the evolution of fire control and was ecstatic to share his knowledge with us. His years had taught him that fires are natural recurring events with limits humans can’t control. Throughout history, people have attempted to restrict fires which have ended in disaster and tragedy, such as the Yellowstone Fires of 1988.

Renkin, Roy A. “Interview with Vegetation Specialist.” Personal Interview. 16 July, 2018.

Roy Renkin holds the position as Chief of the Branch of Vegetation and Resource Operations at Yellowstone National Park, working with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) to restore all of Yellowstone’s lands and ecosystems. He recounted the summer as hot and dry when the tragedies of the 1988 Yellowstone Fires occurred. The fires caused 36 percent of the park to burn and some animal species such as moose have yet to regain their preborn numbers. These statistics exposed the tragedies that the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 sparked across the land.

Simonson, James. "Interview with Firefighter." Personal Interview. April 22, 2019.

Jamie Simonson fought against the Mink Creek Fire during the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. Being there, he saw and experienced the flames devour 36 percent of America's first and foremost national park. For the first time in its history, American citizens feared for the future of Yellowstone. Yet the park was triumphant. It wasn't burned to the ground, and recovery is evident. The fires threatened the park, but they also taught us of how nature takes its own course.

Ward, Nancy A. "Interview with Facility Operations Services Personnel." Personal Interview. 13 July, 2018.

Since 1977, Nancy Ward has served in several occupations at Yellowstone National Park, working to fulfill her dream and career. During the year 1988, she was in Yellowstone to witness the tragedies related to the 1988 Yellowstone Fires. Upon interviewing her, the realization hit that these fires weren't viewed solely as a tragedy, but also as a triumph.

Websites

Conlin, Dave. "Yellowstone." *National Park Service*. U.S. Department of the Interior. 4 June, 2018. Web.

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm>

This website clarified the developments Yellowstone National Park has undergone since the fires in 1988. It described Yellowstone's past, present, and the hope for its future. Scientists, rangers, and park officials gave their input on the events surrounding Yellowstone and assured that every possible action has transpired to protect and preserve this natural triumph and wonder.

Kiner, Shirlee. "The Yellowstone Fires of 1988." *National Park Service*. U.S. Department of the Interior. 1989. Web.
<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/upload/firesupplement>

The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 left a lasting effect on people across America. During the fires, a collection of photos, letters, and quotes of the people fighting was recorded. There were multiple perspectives. The park officials were often blamed for the fires due to the "Let it Burn" policy, others thought the fires inevitable, and more saw the firefighters as heroes for assisting in the war against the flames.

Peaco, Jim. "The New Yellowstone." *NPS History*. Yellowstone Today. 27 Aug, 1990. Web.
<http://npshistory.com/yell/1988-fires.pdf>

1988 was a year of tragedy for Yellowstone; however, the park had not been burned to the ground. Ecologists, park rangers, and fire specialists recognized the park beginning to regenerate. Trees sprouted up, animal populations rose, rare species of plants spread into the newly opened mosaics. The land had transformed but not in a bad way. The fires gave Yellowstone the chance for a new start.

Newspaper Articles

Ekey, Robert. "Park Crew Fears Breakout Today." *Billings Gazette*. 13 Aug, 1988.

On August 12, Yellowstone received rain. It was a Friday, and the firefighters were thankful for the chance to rest and recover. Throughout this summer, it was an endless battle to protect the park. Overall 25,000 people would fight the fires and up to 10,000 simultaneously. If it weren't for their efforts Yellowstone would have burned to the ground.

Gaub, Dennis. "'Let Burn' Policy Backed." *City/State*. 11 Sept, 1988.

After the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 were finally brought under control, the news went viral. Politicians and officeholders debated on the park's reconstruction, new systems of management, and the "Let it Burn" policy. Science had shown fires as essential to the environment; however, after the fires of 1988 many questioned the policy and wanted it removed from the park. There was great tragedy within the American spirit, and any triumph was yet to be found.

Howard, Tom. "Cooke City may be evacuated." *Sunday Gazette*. 4 Sept, 1988.

On Black Saturday, August 20th, the Clover Mist Fire threatened Cooke City, Montana. The fire raged forwards at an unprecedented rate. Firefighters struggled to maintain the fire, but it only grew worse. Eventually, the fire would come within 50 feet of the city.

Mcwilliam, Scott. "Firefighters Face Walls of Flame." *Daily Chronicle*. 26 July, 1988.

The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 were a great tragedy. The event was a battle that many people believed the firefighters would lose. Military professionals, average citizens, local towns, and fire experts from across the nation united together to protect the park. Combined, they were barely able to do just this.

Books

Ekey, Robert. *Yellowstone On Fire!* Billings, MT: The Billings Gazette, 1989. Print.

Robert Ekey was a journalist during the flaming months in Yellowstone. He recorded his own and others' stories and the effects the flames left on the land. At the time, tragedy, fear, and worry devastated the nation. In the park there was a battle to protect this beloved land. Across the nation, in Washington D.C. was a heated argument on the best strategy to fight the fires and future policy changes. However, after the fires, triumph blossomed with new life of plant growth. The world was changed as people began to understand the importance of fires within an ecosystem.

Lauber, Patricia. *Yellowstone 1988: Summer of Fire*. New York City, NY: Orchard Books, 1991. Print.

The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 caused devastation. People across America believed this event to be the end of the cherished park. However, Patricia Lauber recounts how the next two years showed immense improvement within the park. Healthier plants grew, animals were able to better find food, and the biodiversity within the park spread. The fires may have been a tragedy, but they were also the cause of a great triumph.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. *Yellowstone Fires, Flames and Rebirth*. New York City, NY: Holiday House, 1990. Print.

The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 swept through the park, destroying almost 800,000 acres of the land within Yellowstone National Park. Firefighters attempted to control this tragedy, but all their efforts were in vain. However, the fires weren't the end of the park. Yellowstone is slowly recovering to once more be a triumphant and successful nature reserve and protected area. Ecologists and park managers understood that controlling fires were impossible, and that the fires play a natural and essential role in the environment.

Waller, Janine. Blackford, Tami. Young Linda, *Yellowstone Resources and Issues Handbook 2018*. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. 2018. Print.

This book gave a current perspective of Yellowstone Park and recounted the prior years and events. It gave an explanation of the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 from the views of park workers who experienced the significance of these tragedies first-hand.

Young Linda, *Legacy on the Landscape- 30 years after the 1988 fires*. Yellowstone National Park, National Park Service. 2018. Print.

This pamphlet provided our group with many statistics of the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 and contained multiple stories of those who experience the fires. This gave insight into the fires and the people who risked their lives to protect this national wonder.

Documents

Grant, Ulysses S. *Yellowstone National Park Protection Act*. Washington D.C. Forty-second Congress. 1 March, 1872.

Although this act was written on December 4th, 1871, President Ulysses S. Grant wouldn't sign this historic document until March 1st, 1872. Yellowstone became the first national park. It is through this document that the thoughts behind President Ulysses S. Grant and the members of Congress during this time became known. To this day, the National Park Protection Act has sparked events, leading to the protection of over 400 sites across America in order for them to continue throughout all time.

Lacey, John F. McKinley, William. *The Lacey Act*. Washington D.C. Fifty-sixth Congress. 1900.

Although the Lacey Act had been amended on at least one occasion, it had always contained one purpose: to protect the beautiful, unique, and amazing aspects of the wild. This act added largely to the preservation of Yellowstone National Park and influenced the future of America. It gave a representation of how the citizens across the United States could merge together in a common goal: preserving the land they loved.

Roosevelt, Theodore. *Antiquities Act*. Washington D.C. Fifty-ninth Congress. 8 June, 1906.

The Antiquities Act, passed by Theodore Roosevelt emphasized the triumph of Yellowstone National Park. Land was set aside to be preserved and protected for the future. This was proof of how the creation of Yellowstone Park changed the course of American history and would leave a lasting legacy on the United States.

Wilson, Woodrow. *National Park Service Organic Act*. Washington D.C. Sixty-third Congress. 25 Aug, 1916.

By this act, the National Park Service was created which employed rangers, managers, directors, and other staff members. The national parks were not managed and maintained until after this act was passed.

Films & News Broadcasts

Koerning, Gus. "Yellowstone News." *The News Station*. 5:30 News. 25 Aug, 1988

This broadcasting appeared live, right after the North Fork Fire blew through the forests encompassing the Old Faithful Complex. This area is a historical monument and known as the tourist center of Yellowstone. It's a place with rich environmental and human beauty. Interviews with park managers and firefighters were addressed, showing the tragedies which followed in the fires' paths.

Nash, Al. "The Yellowstone Fires of 1988." *Q2 Rewind*. Cordillera Communications LLC. 3 Sept, 2019.

Former Yellowstone National Park Ranger, Al Nash, recounted the events before, during, and after the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. He elaborated upon the fires, the devastation, the tragedies, and proceeded to explain how it could also be seen as a triumph. Because of these events, America gained knowledge of fires' essential role in an ecosystem.

Norville, Deborah. "NBC News Today." *NBC News*. National Broadcasting Company. 9 Sept, 1988.

This news station aired two days prior to the rain and snowfall which ended the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. It expressed the tragedies currently facing the park and the public fears that these fires would decimate Yellowstone to nothing but cinder and ash. Deborah Norville expressed the anxiety and tension within the park as firefighters fought to protect the public places. Firefighters had given up on saving all the park. Their only hope was to save the few cultivated areas within the park. At the time, America believed this could be the total annihilation of the park.

Sierra, Glenn. "U.S. Army Participation in the Yellowstone National Park Wildfire 1988." U.S. Army Combat photography. July, 1998.

Glenn Sierra, throughout the initial fires, filmed the military service, rangers, and firefighters in action. It was apparent that they were utilizing their full efforts to protect Yellowstone National Park. At this time, the fires were yet to reach their full capacity. The fighters believed the fires were already at their worse, but they had only just begun.

Workman, Lindsay. Finley, Bill. Jones, John. "Yellowstone Aflame: The Yellowstone Fires of 1988." *National Park Series*. Finley-Holiday Film Corporation. Whittier, California. 2001.

This film contained a collection of statistics, footage of the flames, and primary accounts of those who experienced the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. It displayed the dangers surrounding Yellowstone, and the efforts taken to protect the people, animals, and locations from the tragedy that struck with the fires.

Secondary Sources

Interviews

Bueter, Joseph T. "Interview with Park Ranger, Volunteer Coordinator." Personal Interview. 14 July, 2018.

Although Bueter did not experience the 1988 Yellowstone Fires, he gained much knowledge concerning the tragedies. He contributes to the park by working to educate people around the world on the history and features of Yellowstone National Park. When speaking to him it became clear that the years leading up to 1988 caused ideal conditions for a massive fire. He makes it his job to realize this and to prevent such a destructive event from recurring.

Websites

Beasley, Joy. "American Antiquities Act of 1906." *National Park Service*. Legislative and Congressional Affairs. 22 June, 2017. Web.
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/legal/american-antiquities-act-of-1906.htm>

This site provided knowledge of the Antiquities Act. It elaborated on the reasoning behind President Theodore Roosevelt when he signed this bill, allowing for lands to be protected and preserved. At the time, many people had feared historical sites were slowly degrading out of existence. To end this, the government passed the Antiquities Act in hopes of securing America's beauty for years to come.

Browning, Randy. "Lacey Act." *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*. International Affairs. 2016. Web.
<https://www.fws.gov/international/laws-treaties-agreements/us-conservation-laws/lacey-act.html>

Created by John Fletcher Lacey, the Lacey Act was the first federal law that protected wildlife. It established a stance in protecting the animals at Yellowstone and aided in saving this natural beauty for generations to come.

Cannon, Carl M. "1988 Yellowstone Fire: A Policy Goes Up in Smoke." *Real Clear Politics*. Radio Control. 23 Aug, 2016. Web.
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2016/23/1988_yellowstone_fire_a_policy_goes_up_in_smoke_131592.html

After the Yellowstone Fires of 1988, there was much debate on the "Let it Burn" policy. Ecologists in 1940 had recognized fires as essential for the natural environment, but there was a possibility for the tragedies of the fires to have been avoided if it weren't for this policy.

Carr, Wendie. "The '88 Fires: 30 Years Later." *Yellowstone Forever*. 4Star Charity. 12 July, 2018. Web.
<https://www.yellowstone.org/the-88-fires-30-years-later/>

In 2018, evidence still existed of the Yellowstone Fires of 1988, but what was once charred remains had been replaced with a new generation of small trees and plants. The triumph following the fires sprouted with the natural cycle. Yellowstone remained active in preserving wildlife and natural beauty.

Clary, David. "U.S. Forest Service Fire Suppression." *Forest History Society*. National Forest Foundation, 13 Mar, 2012. Web.
<https://foresthistor.org/history/policy/u-s-forest-service-fire-suppression/>

After Yellowstone National Park was established on March 1st, 1872, the U.S. Army was the first organization in to manage the park from 1886 through 1916. They suppressed any fires which threatened civilizations or historical locations but allowed other fires to burn under supervision. Starting on February 1st 1905, the United States Forest Service entered the park and, after the Big Blowup in 1910, began total fire suppression. However this policy led to the tragedy of the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. Although the park had recently begun to practice the "Let it Burn" policy in 1972, there was already a buildup of dead tree matter and debris. The flames enveloped the park and burned 36 percent or 793,880 acres within the park. Many believed these fires to be only a tragedy, but they were also a triumph as people across the world were able to witness the essential role fires play on the environment as the forests began to regrow and new life entered the park.

Hansen, Laine. "Remembering the 1988 Yellowstone Fires." *National Public Radio*. NPR. 29 Aug, 2008. Web.

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94126845>

When nature finally halted the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 on September 11th, the nation believed the park was in ruin. 1.4 million acres had burned throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; however, the fires were unavoidable. From 1910, all fires were suppressed until the "Let it Burn" policy was introduced in 1972. With these conditions, the prime opportunity was given for the raging fires.

Historian Editors. "Wyoming" *History*. A&E Television Networks. 6 Nov, 2009. Web.

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-states/wyoming>

The broad history of Wyoming showed the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 in context to the rest of this state's history and allowed for a better understanding of America at this time. Yellowstone's history was given in relation to the events throughout this time period.

Kilzer, Sharon. "Antiquities Act of 1906." *Theodore Roosevelt Center*. Dickinson State University. Web.

<https://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/The-Antiquities-Act-of-1906>

The Antiquities Act of 1906 left a lasting effect on all of America. The history of Yellowstone National Park was greatly impacted by this act which set apart this land as a protected area. The National Parks were in existence, but Theodore Roosevelt feared for their degradation. They were protected, but no laws or rules stated the regulations of these parks. Thus the Antiquities Act came into effect.

Kwak-Hefferan, Elisabeth. "1988 Fires of Yellowstone." *My Yellowstone Park*. National Park Trips Media, 1 June, 2015. Web.

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/park/1988-fires-yellowstone>

Quotes and photos from the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 showed the reality of the flames and smoke more than words ever could. Firefighters from as far as Florida and Hawaii, experts from Washington D.C., and the nation were united in a common goal: protect the Yellowstone National Park. For these reasons, the fires were both a tragedy and a triumph.

White, Heather. "Yellowstone Art and Photography Center." *Yellowstone Forever*. U.S. Forest Service & Department of Agriculture. 24 May, 2019. Web.
<https://www.yellowstone.org/experience/art/>

There were tragedies caused by the Yellowstone Fires of 1988 and the triumphant actions which have since been taken to protect this land were clarified. Although 793,880 acres were burned within the park and a further 1.4 million acres throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, these fires were also a triumph. No lives were killed within the park, a better understanding of the "Let it Burn" policy was gained, and systems to recover what was lost had been formed.

Winerip, Michael. "Lessons from the Yellowstone Fires of 1988." *Retro Report*. New York Times. 16 Oct, 2006. Web.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/16/lessons-from-the-yellowstone-fires-of-1988.html>

The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 can be seen as a tragedy. Almost 400 large mammals died and 793,880 acres were burned within Yellowstone National Park. Yet if it were not for these fires, humans would have missed important lessons. People learned how to use the "Let it Burn" policy to its fullest potential, the essentialness of fires in an ecosystem was witnessed, and the knowledge that fires can't be suppressed was gained.

Books

Barker, Rocky. *Scorched Earth: How the Fires of Yellowstone Changed America*. Chicago, IL: Island Press, 2005. Print.

The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 didn't leave an effect just within the park itself. The fires burned into the hearts of people across America. There was a large build up to these fires which lasted for decades. In 1886 the U.S. Army practiced fire suppression, but it wasn't until after the Great Fire of 1910 that the Forest Service implemented total fire suppression. Any uncontained fire was extinguished as quickly as possible. This policy was eventually eliminated in 1972 and replaced with the "Let it Burn" policy. Yet Yellowstone's ecosystems had already been damaged enough and resulted in the Yellowstone Fires of 1988.

Cart, Theodore Whaley. *The Lacey Act: America's First Nationwide Wildlife Statute*. American Society for Environmental History: Oxford University Press, 1973. Print.

Legislated by William McKinley six years prior to the Antiquities Act, the Lacey Act protected the wildlife in sites such as Yellowstone National Park. This was an effort, formed in the American mind and was quick to come into action. The people banded with the government to form a safe structure that would best preserve the places of historic and natural importance.

Farrell, Justin. *The Battle for Yellowstone: Morality and the Sacred Roots of Environmental Conflict*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015. Print.

This book began with addressing the history of Yellowstone National Park. It continued by talking about debates which have occurred within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (such as the reintroduction of the Gray Wolf). Farrell informs others on the effects which have shaped Yellowstone to what it is today.

Henry, Jeff. *The Year Yellowstone Burned: A Twenty-Five-Year Perspective*. Lanham, MD: Taylor Trade, 2015. Print.

Henry recounts his memories of the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. He elaborates on others' takes along with his own and focuses on a day-by-day perspective. By doing this, the events which lead up to the fires in their full magnitude is explained. The fires took the world by surprise. Since 1972, when the "Let it Burn" policy began, the fires had burned no more than 5 acres at a time. No one expected the year 1988 to be any different. Yet with the driest summer in the park's history and the years of fire suppression, the stage had been set for this massive tragedy.

Kalman, Bobbie. *Yellowstone National Park*. New York City, New York: Crabtree Publishing, 2010. Print

Yellowstone National Park is exclaimed to be a pristine area with many natural wonders. As expressed in this book, Yellowstone is adequate with numerous habitats, ecosystems, plants, and animals which add emphasis on this amazing place. From pikas to pine forests to the supervolcano, the park contains a variety of species, plants, and stunning geological features, which throughout time has captivated people's interest across the world.

Knapp, Patty. *Getting to Know... Yellowstone National Park*. Moose, Wyoming: Outdoor Library, 1997. Print.

Within Yellowstone National Park, there are rivers and streams with banks full of yellow rock and stone, but that is not the extent of the wonders to be seen. Yellowstone is cherished in the hearts of American citizens and protected for its natural beauties, rare thermal features, and endangered wildlife. The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 threatened this all. The fires became known as the largest firefighting effort in United States history. These fires brought understanding to America's people of the importance and beauty of this park.

Takatsuno, Phil, *The Wildfire of Yellowstone*. Billings, Montana. Grand Teton Association. 2019. Print.

This book gave a history of the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. The 51 fires which started in the park were just a fifth of the 250 fires which started throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Due to the years fire suppression, which began in 1910, the buildup of dead matter and debris was in a perfect condition to start a huge fire. For this reason, the fires in 1988 were impossible to suppress by human means.

Wuerthner, George. *Yellowstone and the Fires of Change*. Salt Lake City, UT: Haggis House, 1988. Print.

In the year 1988, news of the fires in Yellowstone spread at a rapid rate. Scientists, in 1960, had recently shown how fires are essential to the land and ecosystems. In 1972, the "Let it Burn" policy was created. Yet when the fires struck, people feared for the demise of this cherished park. However, fires are a regular part of Yellowstone and much needed to keep the ths natural reserve alive. The fires did not destroy the park but bought new life and a new beginning.

Films & News Broadcasts

Cassidy, Kira. "Yellowstone National Park History." *Yellowstone National Park Service*. 10 Aug. 2012.

Elaborating on the events which shaped Yellowstone, this video showed how the national park became what it is today. There have been many strong endeavors and failed missions to support the park, allowing for Yellowstone to remain a protected sanctuary.

Chollet, Laurence B. "The Story Behind the Yellowstone Fires of 1988." *Retro Report*. New York Times. 2 Sept, 2013.

The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 began with 42 lightning strikes and 9 human causes. It wasn't Park Rangers' intentions to allow nearly 800,000 acres to burn within the park. They were practicing the "Let it Burn" policy introduced in 1972. Under this policy, they allowed for natural fires to clean out the older parts of the forest. The unexpected became reality when the dead matter buildup from 1910 to 1971 turned into a blaze that would be impossible to extinguish by human means. For these reasons, the tragedies began.

H, Ray. "Yellowstone In Snow." Doray Productions. 26 April, 2016.

Yellowstone is beautiful in all seasons. The fallings snow covers the land in a layer of white. The Yellowstone Fires of 1988 had ended on September 11, after a quarter inch of snow fell onto the ground. The snow became a triumph, as the tragedies of the flames were finally brought to a halt.

Nader, Page. "Yellowstone National Park." *Go Traveler*. Go traveler. 18 March. 2013.

Yellowstone is an astonishing area. This compilation shows just how amazing it is. It gave a short description of the aspects found in Yellowstone and how they were created. It continued to go in depth on why people have always loved and enjoyed this amazing spot.

Nightingale, Earl. "The Rebirth of Yellowstone: Born From Fire." *Crown Council*. Cable News Network. 5 Feb, 2011.

Both triumphs and tragedies occurred during the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. They were expressed through a collection of films and photos. Although it may take up to hundreds of years for Yellowstone National Park to be the same, growth is evident, beautiful, and seen throughout the park.

Quammen, David. "Yellowstone's Beautiful Landscapes." *National Geographic Society*. National Geographic. 22 April, 2017.

Even after the Yellowstone Fires of 1988, this triumphant park continued to be as grand and glorious of a site. From before this land was first set apart in 1872, humans have been drawn to its natural wonder. The fires burned 36 percent of the park, but the wild spirit may never be destroyed

Riis, Joe. "Stunning Footage: Epic Animal Migrations in Yellowstone." *National Geographic*. George B. Storer Foundation. 7 April. 2016.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has a rich environment full of animals and culture. Video clips were directed towards migratory animals as they moved about their habitat. Yellowstone is a haven to all wildlife and a place where they can live unaffected by human advancements. For this reason, it has retained its glory and natural beauty for thousands of years.

Turner, Monica G. "As wildfires burn, will the forests of Yellowstone remain?" *Fire Behavioral Assessment Team*. The University of Wisconsin-Madison. 1 Aug, 2018.

Monica Turner described the triumphant recovery which appeared in Yellowstone National Park. Although it could take up to a hundred years for the park's complete restoration, growth and progression are evident. Yellowstone National Park is changing continuously and improving day by day.

Tyers, Mark. "After The Flames And A Year Later." *Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee*. Forest Service. 1 Oct, 2012.

Of the 250 fires throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the devastation of the 51 which started in the park, and burned 793,880 acres, was thoroughly elaborated on. The recovery efforts by the park rangers and firefighters to preserve this land were then represented through the current improvements of Yellowstone management.

Woodrow, Thomas. "The Amazing Yellowstone National Park." *Around the World*. Pro video factory. 17 Sept. 2017.

The influence and beauty of Yellowstone National Park is the reason that millions of people are drawn to see this historic site. From its beginning, many politicians, environmentalists, park rangers, and thousands of others have worked to preserve this spot for all of posterity.

Music

Cinematic Background Music. "Emotional." *Envato*. Music for Videos. 2015.

This song was very sentimental yet a powerful piece of work. The music incorporated the ideas of Yellowstone National Park's triumph through its formation. This land was set apart to continue forever and be protected and cherished by all.

Schmidt, Jon. Anderson, Paul. "Waterfall" *A Walk in the Woods*. Piano Guys, 1 Jan, 1993.

Originally created by Jon Schmidt and produced through the Piano Guys, the song "Waterfall" added expression and emotion to the legacy of Yellowstone National Park through music instead of words. It conveyed feelings of hope, endurance, and persistence, all of which translate well to the history of Yellowstone.

Sixth Gate Music. "The Funeral Honours." *Audio Jungle*. HD Sound. 4 Oct, 2015.

The tragedies in Yellowstone during the fires of 1988, through this song, were expressed with sound. The music accurately represented the fires as they ravaged the park, destroying everything in their paths. Firefighters from across the nation required all their skill and expertise to save a few historic landmarks in the path of the flames.

Zimmer, Hans. "Time." *Inception*. Motion Picture Music. 13 July, 2010.

After the devastation left by the Yellowstone Fires of 1988, American people were left with the belief that this cherished park would never recover. The sounds of the music clearly expressed the sorrow found in the hearts of the people across America.