

## *Foreword: An Enviably Privileged*

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**T**he recent 125th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park provided a time when we not only honored the glorious past of this important American institution, but took a moment for introspection about what Yellowstone means to each of us and to the world.

I am proud to say that my acquaintance with Yellowstone dates back more than 60 years. In 1936 I had the enviable privilege of serving as a seasonal ranger in the park. I have many wonderful memories of that summer. With my fellow rangers, I patrolled the roads, hiked the trails, “rode shotgun” at the bear-feeding grounds near the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and had a thoroughly good time in this great American wilderness.

During my presidential visit to Yellowstone in 1976, I had the good fortune of enjoying a reunion with several of those 1936 rangers. It was clear that whatever we may have done later, our time in Yellowstone was an unforgettable episode in our lives, something we will always look back on with joy and pride.

This report gives all Americans much to be proud of, and much to think about. Yellowstone has served us well for many generations, giving more and more of us the joy of wild beauty and the peace that comes from close association with nature. But as this report explains, Yellowstone gives us much, much more than that, and holds treasures that its founders were unable to imagine.

I am delighted that you are reading this report. The more of us who take part in shaping the future of Yellowstone, the better the park will be, and the more sure we all will be that our descendants, generations from now, will be as proud of Yellowstone as we are today.



*The Honorable Gerald Ford  
Former President of the United States*