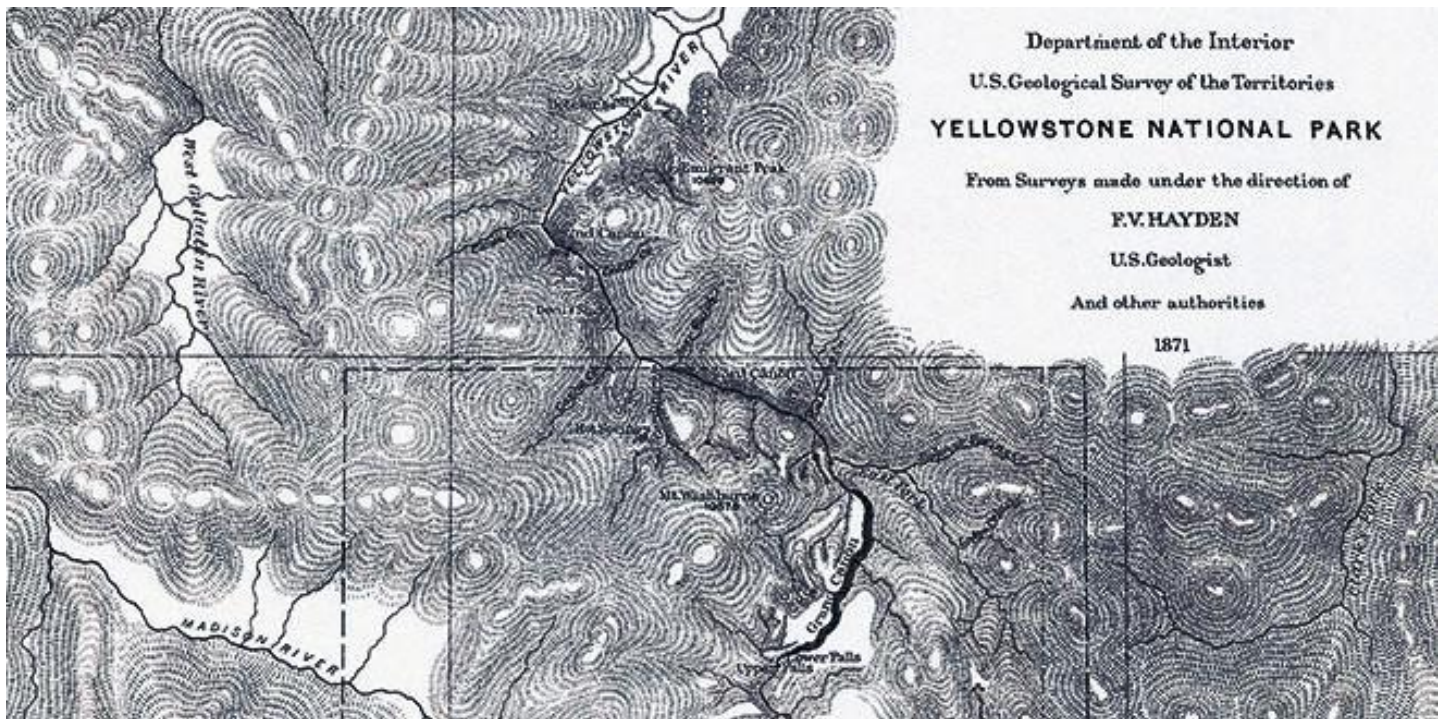


GOP: On the Right Side of History



Yellowstone – First National Park

The Yellowstone National Park is a national park located in the U.S. states of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho and was created by the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act of 1872.

The Yellowstone National Park Protection Act says “the headwaters of the Yellowstone River ... is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale ... and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.” In an era of expansion, the federal government had the foresight to set aside land deemed too valuable to develop.

To permanently close to settlement an expanse of the public domain the size of Yellowstone would depart from the established policy of transferring public lands to private ownership. But the wonders of Yellowstone—shown through Jackson’s photographs, Moran’s paintings, and Elliot’s sketches—had caught the imagination of Congress. Thanks to their continued reports and the work of explorers and artists who followed, the United States Congress established Yellowstone National Park in 1872.

On March 1, 1872, Republican President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act into law. The world’s first national park was born.

The Yellowstone National Park Protection Act drew upon the precedent of the Yosemite Act of 1864, which reserved the Yosemite Valley from settlement and entrusted it to the care of the state of California. This Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on June 30, 1864.