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## FINDING AID

# **TOM MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHS**

## **1979-1994**

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Yellowstone National Park Archives  
P O Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168

Catalog Number: YELL 147388

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## ***HISTORY***

Tom Murphy was born in 1950 and raised in South Dakota on a cattle ranch, where he gained an appreciation for wildlife and the outdoors. Murphy moved to Livingston, Montana, in 1978, to begin his professional career in photography, taking wedding photos and portraits. While in Montana, Murphy attended Montana State University and graduated with honors in 1984, with a degree in anthropology. In 1982, Murphy helped to organize the Park County Search and Rescue Team, in which he is still active.

The main focus of his photography became Yellowstone National Park and documenting its wildlife and backcountry. Since 1975, Murphy has spent an extensive amount of time traveling through Yellowstone to photograph the less visited portions of the park. He has hiked thousands of miles through Yellowstone's backcountry and has skied across the park twice, once on a solo trip.

In 1986, he established Wilderness Photography Expeditions, a photographic tour and seminar business, with his wife, Bonnie Hyatt-Murphy. While his wife took care of the logistics of the business, Murphy conducted the tours and seminars, becoming the first licensed photographer to lead such activities at Yellowstone. He has also led groups through different areas of the world, including Africa, Alaska, Antarctica, and Costa Rica. Murphy started the business as a way to give back to wildlife and wild lands, and to encourage their preservation.

Since then, Murphy has published several books of his photography and has been featured in numerous publications and programs. He has taken on clients such as *Time*, *Life*, and *National Geographic*, and has been sent on assignment by various publications, including *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Newsweek*.

More information about Wilderness Photography Expeditions and Murphy's photography can be found at <http://www.tmurphywild.com/>.

## ***SCOPE AND CONTENT***

### TOM MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHS 1979-1994

*CATALOG NUMBER* YELL 147388

*VOLUME* 0.25 LF

*DESCRIPTION* The Tom Murphy Photographs contain over five hundred 35mm colored slides of Yellowstone National Park. This collection contains slides that feature a variety of wildlife, flora, landscape, and geographic landmark images within the park.

The slides have images of various wildlife, including badgers, bears, beavers, bighorn sheep, bison, bull snakes, coyotes, ducks, eagles, elk, foxes, ground squirrels, grouse, hawks, insects, moose, owls, pikas, pronghorns, sand hill cranes, trumpeter swans, and yellow headed blackbirds. There are a few slides of wildlife that were not taken at Yellowstone, which feature polar bears and Alaska brown bears.

The landscape slides consist of features such as the Absaroka Range, Castle Geyser, Electric Peak, the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, Grand Geyser, Lamar River, Lower Falls, Mammoth Hot Springs, Old Faithful, Tower Fall, Yellowstone Lake, and Yellowstone River. There are also images of rock formations, mountains, lightning, areas burned by forest fires, and seasonal landscapes.

The plants and trees featured in the slides include aspens, juniper trees, lady's slippers, lupines, monkshoods, mountain hollyhocks, paintbrushes, sego lilies, shooting stars, sticky geraniums, and wild roses.

*ORGANIZATION* Slides remain in their original order.

*PROVENANCE* Gift of Tom Murphy in 1995.

**RESTRICTIONS**

YES - Copyright owned by Tom Murphy,  
<http://www.tmurphywild.com/>.

**ASSOCIATED  
MATERIALS**

Yellowstone National Park Research Library:  
Books by Tom Murphy - *The Abundance of Summer*; *A  
Yellowstone Journal*; *The Comfort of Autumn: The Seasons  
of Yellowstone*; *Silence & Solitude: Yellowstone's Winter  
Wilderness*

**CONTAINER LIST****Box 1**

<b>File Unit Nbr</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Landscape and Wildlife Slides, 1979-1994 [1 of 3]
2	Landscape and Wildlife Slides, 1979-1994 [2 of 3]
3	Landscape and Wildlife Slides, 1979-1994 [3 of 3]