

# Yellowstone National Park

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**In news-** A new assessment of climate change has revealed that Yellowstone National Park has lost a quarter of its annual snowfall.

## **About the park-**

- Yellowstone National Park is a national park located in the **western United States**, largely in the northwest corner of Wyoming and extending into Montana and Idaho.
- It was **established by the U.S. Congress on March 1, 1872.**
- Yellowstone was the **first national park in the U.S.** and is also widely held to be the **first national park in the world.**
- The park is known for many geothermal features, especially **Old Faithful geysers.**
- While it represents many types of biomes, the **subalpine forest** is the most abundant.
- It is **part of the South Central Rockies forest ecoregion.**
- **Yellowstone Lake** is one of the largest high-elevation lakes in North America and is centered over the **Yellowstone Caldera**, the largest supervolcano in North America.
- Over half of the world's geysers and hydrothermal features are in Yellowstone, fueled by this ongoing volcanism.
- In 1978, Yellowstone was named a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- The **rivers of the Snake-Columbia basin, Green-Colorado basin, and Missouri River Basin** all begin as snow on the Continental Divide as it weaves across Yellowstone's peaks and plateaus.
- **Grizzly bears, wolves, and free-ranging herds of bison**

**and elk** live in this park.

- The Continental Divide of North America runs diagonally through the southwestern part of the park.
- The **highest point in the park is atop Eagle Peak** and the **lowest is along Reese Creek.**
- The most prominent summit on the Yellowstone Plateau is **Mount Washburn.**
- It has one of the **world's largest petrified forests,** trees which were long ago buried by ash and soil and transformed from wood to mineral materials.