

## ***Before and After: Winona Spring Wagon***

*Story contributed by:*

*High Country Horse Drawn LLC, Harlan and Joal Olson,  
Bozeman, MT 59715, (406) 548-2041 cell,  
email: [highcountryhorsedrawn@gmail.com](mailto:highcountryhorsedrawn@gmail.com),  
website: [www.highcountryhorsedrawn.com](http://www.highcountryhorsedrawn.com)*

Records indicate this wagon was purchased and brought into Yellowstone National Park in 1915. It was used for one season before horses were banned from the park.



This wagon came to us in original condition retaining much of its original paint and pinstriping. All three bottom seat cushions were missing. The top, stanchions, and all mounting hardware were also missing.

The left front corner of the main sill and brace of the body was rotted out along with the front spring block rendering it non-drivable. Our client wanted it kept as original as possible and to still be able to hitch his horses and drive it.

The corner was repaired by removing the body, coping new wood onto the front part of the sill, and replacing the entire front cross brace and spring block.



The original seat backs were cleaned and patched. New seat bottom cushions were built.

An original top was found and purchased as a pattern and to procure the top stanchions. A new top was built along with a full set of side curtains.

The body attachments for the top had been removed. New pieces were 3D printed in metal from an original pattern.

The original paint was preserved with a thorough cleaning and a colored oil wash. New wood was patinaed and blended to match the original colors. One side of the driver's seat riser was weathered to the extent that it was blank wood, missing all its paint and color, while the other side retained some paint and the original numbers. Our friend Clyde Aspevig, a Montana artist, was able to reproduce the paint patina and numbers on the blank panel to match the existing original.

This wagon is a beautiful example of a Winona three-seat spring wagon with an interesting history.

