







UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

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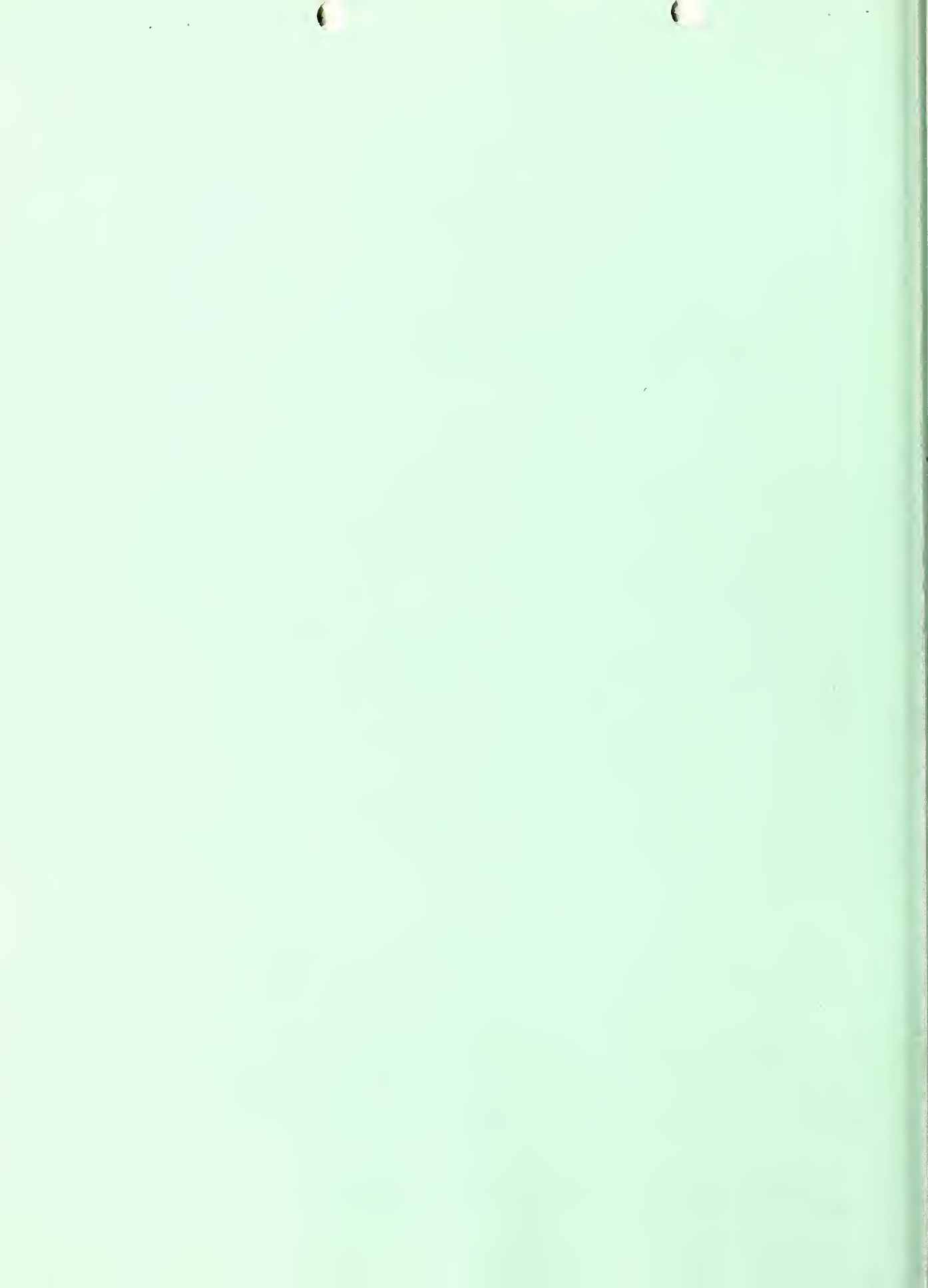
MONTHLY REPORT

April, 1940

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

May 6, 1940

Memorandum for the Director:

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of April 1940:

000 - General

010 - Despite the fact that the roads in the park were open earlier than in any previous year and travel was permitted via the east entrance road on April 25, the earliest in the park's history, the travel for the month did not come up to expectations, and the increase over April of last year was very slight. Promises had been made that all entrance roads and the Grand Loop road would be open for motorists by May 1 and the longer Yellowstone season for motorists from May 1 to October 15 would be publicized. Due to an unusually rainy and snowy April with precipitation considerably above normal, the heavy water content of the old snow making it difficult for the snow plows to handle, and snow plow breakdowns, it was not possible to get the south entrance road open by May 1 as contemplated. The plows were working on the south entrance section at the end of the month, and it was expected that this highway would be open for motorists about May 7. Neither was the Continental Divide road nor the Dunraven Pass road open May as anticipated, but the former was expected to be open about May 9 or 10, and the Dunraven Pass road about the middle of May. Public Roads Administration crews worked on the opening of the Red Lodge-Cooke road, expecting to have it open around the first of May, but it will no doubt be at least the middle of the month before travel can be permitted over this highway. The plows reached the east gate on April 18, but travel was kept off this highway until the twenty-fifth.

Mrs. Bernice Yetter, wife of Park Ranger Gerald P. Yetter, was appointed census enumerator for Yellowstone National Park, and entered on duty April 2.

Authority was received on April 15 to start the collection of the motor vehicle license fees effective May 1 if sufficient roads in the park were open to justify same. Due to the fact that the south entrance road was not open by May 1 as planned and the Continental Divide road and Dunraven Pass roads will not be open much before May 15, it is not planned to start collection until about May 10.

A competitive civil service examination was held in Livingston on April 20 for filling the position of postmaster in the park. Nine resi-

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

April 19, 1917

Mr. J. B. ...

Dear Sir: ...

Very truly yours,

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dents of Mammoth Hot Springs took the examination, including Joseph D. Kurtz, the present acting Postmaster.

#### 020 - General Weather Conditions

The mean temperature of 38.2° for April was 1.4° above normal. Precipitation amounted to 1.94 inches compared to the normal of 1.33 inches; snowfall during April was 7.6 inches and was less than the usual 9 inches. An excess of 2.89 inches of precipitation has accumulated above normal since January 1.

#### 100 - Administrative

##### 110 - Superintendent's Special Activities

Superintendent Rogers, who left early in January to assume the Acting Superintendency of the National Capital Parks in Washington, D. C., returned to the Yellowstone on the night of April 19. His return trip from Washington was made by train to Denver and from Denver to the park by car. Following his return, several trips were made into the interior of the park, but no trips were made outside the area.

Assistant to the Superintendent Joffe represented the Yellowstone at the Fourth Annual Celebration sponsored by the Billings Commercial Club in Billings on the evening of April 24. More than 700 persons were served at the banquet, which is one of the largest affairs held in the state, a special professional speaker being engaged for the occasion.

Assistant Superintendent Emmert represented the park at the meeting of Montanans, Incorporated, the state's Chamber of Commerce, held in Helena on the twenty-sixth.

##### 120 - Park Inspections

Jack S. Barrows, Associate Forester, NPS, Washington, arrived on April 4 for the Fire School. He was accompanied by Fred H. Arnold, Regional Forester, Region I, Richmond, Virginia.

Frank W. Childs, Regional Forester, Region II, Omaha, C. A. Shevlin, Associate Regional Forester, Region II, and Anthony J. Brehard, Superintendent of Safety, Region II, arrived on April 5 for the Fire School.

Harold F. Dygert, Traveling Mechanic, CCC, Omaha, in April 6.

H. T. Gisborne, Chief of Fire Research, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, and C. S. Crocker, Fire Inspector, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, in April 7.

Major Howard T. Liston, District Commander, CCC, Pocatello, and Major H. E. Dorrien, CCC, Pocatello, in April 8.

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Barton J. Herschler, Chief Ranger, Rocky Mountain National Park, in April 8 for Fire School.

William Saari, Regional Forester, Region III, Santa Fe, in April 8 for Fire School.

John D. Coffman, Chief Forester, NPS, Washington, in April 9 for Fire School.

Lieutenant Colonel Earl Landreth, Commanding Officer, CCC, Missoula, in April 16.

L. J. Snell, U. S. Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho, in April 18 to inspect water gauges.

O. D. Van Buskirk, Engineer for the Public Roads Administration, arrived April 18, the first of the PRA crews to reach the park for the summer operation.

Sanford Hill, Resident Landscape Architect, arrived April 24. Mr. Hill is assigned to the park for the summer.

#### 140 - Status of Private Lands

Authority was received from Washington to purchase Lot 9, Section 16, T. 9 S., R. 8 E., consisting of 19.5 acres of land in the area proposed to be acquired under the \$30,000 allotment of Public Works funds for the development of winter range facilities, from the State of Montana. Negotiations had not yet been entered into with the state by the end of the month for the purchase of this land. The price for the lot was not to exceed \$97.50.

#### 150 - Plans, Maps and Surveys

The topographical mapping along the Mammoth service road was completed and drawn up. Location work was continued in the Mammoth Area with additions made on the maps, and preparations were begun for the CCC work at Old Faithful.

#### 160 - General Publicity

Several news stories were sent out regarding the early opening of the park and the Tri-State Yellowstone Park Civic Association meeting planned for May 4 at Old Faithful and the Good-Will Tour program for May 5. Several pictures were furnished for illustrating articles and stories on the park.

The first shipment of Motorists Guides arrived in the park on April 20. The 1940 Circular of General Information booklets had not yet been received by the end of the month.

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## 200 - Maintenance, New Construction and Improvements

### 210 - Maintenance

The snow crew completed opening the east entrance road, with several breakdowns delaying the work, and started opening the road from West Thumb to the South Entrance. Numerous breakdowns of the equipment prevented the completion of this section by the first of May. One crew repaired numerous holes in the Gallatin road and several bad slides were removed in various parts of the park.

### 220 - New Construction

The contract for the bridge over the Lamer River and adjoining road grading was awarded to Lowdermilk Brothers of Denver, Colorado, which company moved in later in the month, setting up camp and beginning general preparation for starting the job.

### 230 - Special Improvement Activities

ERA - The ERA continued their work on the road bank sloping on the Mammoth-Gardiner and Tower-Cooke roads, and also gave considerable assistance in the renovation of employees' quarters in Mammoth.

CCC - Camps YNP Nos. 1 and 7 maintained an average company strength of approximately 177 during the month.

Due to the high company strength and favorable weather conditions very good progress was made on all CCC jobs. The main jobs for the two camps were as follows: Nursery Work at the Game Ranch; Preparation of Material, Mammoth and Gardiner Gravel Pit, and Obliterations, Gardiner Gravel Pit; Minor Road, Campground, Trailer Sewer System, Moving and Planting Trees at Campground, Bank Sloping on Tower Falls Road, all at Mammoth; and Water Line, Garage and Cesspool at Buffalo Ranch.

Job No. 476, Garage, Buffalo Ranch, was completed during the month.

On April 5 special memorial services for Robert Fechner, former Director of the CCC, were held at Camps YNP Nos. 1 and 7, and on April 7 these two camps held open house and invited the general public to inspect the camps and work projects.

## 300 - Activities of Other Agencies in the Park

### 310 - Park Operators

Due to the early opening of the roads in the park, Mr. Hamilton's first crew arrived on April 12 and immediately opened the Old Faithful store to accommodate overnight visitors. His Lake store was opened on April 24. Early visitors to the park were accommodated at these two





general stores, where meals and lodgings are obtainable. Mr. Hamilton will provide these services at Old Faithful until May 13, when the Old Faithful tourist cabins and cafeterias will open, and until May 25 at other locations in the park. Mr. Hamilton arrived in the park via the west gate on April 30.

The general store at Mammoth remained open throughout the month to take care of permanent residents and members of the CCC and WPA, as well as early visitors in the park. Mrs. Fryor arrived via the west gate on April 30.

The Yellowstone Park Company started construction work on its Old Faithful tourist cabin and lodge group, continuing the work of last fall, on April 8. Forty men were employed on the Old Faithful work. Miscellaneous work was started at Mammoth by the company on that date.

Mr. J. F. Haynes arrived in the park via the North Gate on April 30 to start the operations of his service in the park.

Mr. Ned Tuttle of the Bureau of Fisheries arrived in the park on April 16 and started the Bureau's operations for the summer.

#### 400 - Interpretation

##### 410 - Lecture and Guide Service

A party of sixteen students from the Utah State Agricultural College at Logan, Utah spent three days studying the park's wildlife under the direction of a member of the Naturalist Department, having arrived in the park on April 20.

One of the assistant park naturalists gave five lectures in the vicinity of Provo, Utah during the month, with a total of 372 people attending the meetings.

##### 430 - Research and Observation

##### 432 - Zoology

Bighorn. The Mt. Everts band of bighorns was carefully observed during the month and appears to have survived the winter in good condition. No evidence of scabies or coughing was noted. A total of 98 bighorns were counted late in April in the Mt. Everts area.

Elk. Elk were widely scattered over the northern range at the end of the month and forage was plentiful with much new grass; although cold stormy weather has retarded the growth of forage on the range.

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Spring road opening, Yellowstone National  
Park. Snowplow clearing road.  
Fred Clapp, March, 1946.



Spring road opening, Yellowstone National  
Park. Snowplow clearing road.  
Fred Clapp, March, 1946.  
PHOTO BY BOBBI BROWN.



Winter Range. The annual two-day Show-me Trip, sponsored by the Committee for Conservation for the Upper Gallatin Watershed, was made on the Upper Gallatin elk range area on April 13 and 14. The elk in the Gallatin herd were estimated at 2500 to 3000 and are in good condition as a result of a mild winter.

On April 28 Chief Ranger LaNoue, Assistant Supervisor Dwinelle of the Absaroka National Forest, and representatives of the Livingston Rod and Gun Club made a cooperative survey of the northern winter range in connection with the wildlife management program.

#### 433 - Geology

The Naturalist Department has inaugurated a study of the volcanic breccias in the Soda Butte Valley.

#### 500 - Use of Park Facilities by the Public

##### 510 - Increase or Decrease in Travel

Travel during the month was comperable to that of April last year. Although some roads were open earlier than usual there was no marked increase in travel. (See attached report.)

ENTRANCE	First Entry		Re-entry		TOTALS	
	Cars	Pass.	Cars	Pass.	Vehicles	Pass.
South	-	-	-	-	-	-
East	102	274	-	-	102	274
North	469	1150	339	340	357	1000
West	473	1397	67	112	540	1515
Northeast	-	-	114	303	114	303
TOTALS	1043	2321	570	1261	1613	4082

(No entries under "Motorcycles" or "Other Transportation".)

#### 600 - Protection

##### 610 - Ranger Service

The rangers attended the Fire Protection and First Aid Training School from April 3 to 20, and this course proved to be very desirable and profitable as a form of in-service training. Following the school the rangers were engaged in entrance station duty, highway patrols and in necessary preliminary work before the beginning of the travel season.

##### 620 - Police Protection

On April 26 P. E. Ogden, an employee of the Yellowstone Park Company, entered a plea of guilty to a charge of speeding and was fined five dollars.



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Table 12

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Table 13

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Table 14

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Table 15

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Spring road opening, Yellowstone National Park.  
Snow plow clearing roads in front of Canyon Hotel,  
March, 1940.



Spring road opening, Yellowstone National Park.  
Snow plow opening road to Canyon Hotel under  
porte-cochere, March, 1940.





## 630 - Wildlife Protection and Fish Cultural Activities

Stream survey work on the Gallatin and Firehole Rivers was started as soon as weather conditions permitted and the work for the Gallatin was completed. Ice covered Crayling Creek and work on that stream was deferred.

## 640 - Forest Fire Protection

One reportable fire occurred this month when two small boys found a packet of matches and while lighting them set fire to the dead grass on the parade ground at Mammoth. The fire was quickly suppressed, with the assistance of the municipal fire truck, after burning over only a small area.

A personnel training school was held in Mammoth during the two weeks from April 8 to 20, inclusive, in which practically every member of the permanent protection organization participated. Twenty hours of this period were devoted to First Aid training and twenty-four trainees completed the course and were awarded Standard First Aid Certificates by the American Red Cross.

The remainder of the time was devoted to fire protection training. The subjects discussed dealt principally with the duties of the various key positions in the fire protection organization with some time devoted to general safety discussions and safety in fire suppression.

In addition to the Yellowstone personnel who attended the school there were representatives from three of the surrounding National Forests and from Region I of the Forest Service, representatives from the Missoula and Pocatello CCC District Offices, Chief Ranger Horschler from Rocky Mountain National Park and representatives from the Washington, Region I, Region II and Region III offices of the National Park Service. There was a total of seventy-six trainees who attended the fire training school all or part of the time.

On April 23 to 26, Assistant Chief Ranger Elliott attended a fire weather training school, conducted by the U. S. Forest Service at Priest River Experiment Station. The theme of the discussions at this school was the application of various weather factors in determining fire hazard conditions and the application of danger ratings in determining pre-suppression and suppression action.

## 660 - Forest Nursery

Activities at the nursery consisted of preparation of transplant beds, removal of mulch from transplants and seedlings, and lifting of planting stock. Several thousand willow, rose, chokecherry and cottonwood transplants were lifted and planted in the auto campground at Mammoth. Several hundred transplants have been potted with the intention

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SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION

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of holding them at the nursery for several years until they attain considerable size before they are planted in the field.

900 - Miscellaneous

The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on April 1. During the meeting, Agent Cashier Fred Bussey told of his winter in Washington, and movies were shown at the end of the business meeting.

The Fire Fighters' Ball, held in the Canteen on April 13 in connection with the Fire School, proved a very successful affair.

A card party sponsored by the Yellowstone Park Women's Club was held in the Canteen on April 19.

Edmund B. Rogers,  
Superintendent.

AMD



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CIA



Fire Conference April 8 to 20 Inclusive

Photo by E. Toffer





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

Yellowstone National Park for the month of April, 1940

	This Month	This Travel Year To Date	This Month Last Year	Last Travel Year To Date	Increase for Travel Year	
					Number	Percent
<u>PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION:</u>						
Persons first entry, . . . . .	1043	5366	1014	3638	1728	47.5
Persons reentry, . . . . .	570	4902	589	2023	2879	142.31
Motorcycles, . . . . .						
Total motor vehicles, . . . . .	1613	10268	1603	5661	4607	81.4
Persons entering via motor vehicles, . . . . .	4084	28753	3983	15734	13019	82.74
Persons entering via other private transportation, . . . . .						
Total persons entering via private transportation, . . . . .	4084	28753	3983	15734	13019	82.74
<u>OTHER TRANSPORTATION:</u>						
Persons entering via stages, . . . . .						
Persons entering via trains, . . . . .						
Persons entering otherwise, . . . . .						
Total other transportation, . . . . .						
GRAND TOTAL ALL VISITORS, . . . . .	4084	28753	3983	15734	13019	82.74

	This Year	Last Year	Increase	
			Number	Percent
Automobiles in public camps during month, . . . . .				
Trucks in public camps during month, . . . . .				

Automobiles in public camps during month, . . . . .  
Trucks in public camps during month, . . . . .

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TRAVEL REPORT

Yellowstone National Park for the month of April, 1933

Month	This Year to Date	Last Year to Date	Travel	Travel	Travel	Travel
April	1043	1014	5888	1718	47.8	147.11
May	370	399	1033	1308	10.4	2.74
June	1313	1308	3681	4807	11.4	11.74
July	4084	3955	13784	13012	11.4	11.74
August	4084	3983	15754	13012	11.4	11.74
September	4084	3955	13784	13012	11.4	11.74
October	4084	3955	13784	13012	11.4	11.74
November	4084	3955	13784	13012	11.4	11.74
December	4084	3955	13784	13012	11.4	11.74
TOTAL ALL VISITORS	4084	3955	13784	13012	11.4	11.74

Year	1933
This Year	Yes

notified in public camps during month



Easter Sunrise Chorus marching on to Mammoth  
Hot Springs Terraces March 24, 1940



Parked Cars of visitors attending the Easter Sun-  
rise Services, Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces  
March 24, 1940







Easter Sunrise Chorus on Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces March 24, 1940

Photo by ERA Elmer Noffer







Organist and chorus at the Easter Sunrise Services on Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces  
March 24, 1940

Photo by ERA Elmer Joffe





Arrangements for holding assembled visitors at the Easter Sunrise Services  
on Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces, March 24, 1940

Photo by ERA Elmer Doffer







Visitors attending the Easter Sunrise Services at Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces  
March 24, 1940

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Assistant Chief Ranger Albert Elliott parking cars and directing traffic for the Easter Sunrise Services on the Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces March 24, 1940



Group watching Easter Sunrise Services on the Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces, March 24, 1940









