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1939 Travel Summary for Rocky Mountain National Park

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
David H. Canfield, Superintendent

1939 TRAVEL SUMMARY - MAR 10-9-39



ROUTING	
<i>Mr. MacClatchy</i>	<i>file</i>
<i>Mr. MacClatchy</i>	<i>10/13</i>

LMC

While there was a substantial travel decrease during the 1939 season, ending September 30, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, again holds the attendance record for national parks west of the Mississippi River with a total of 609,029 visitors arriving in 183,356 automobiles.

Travel information, released today by Park Superintendent David H. Canfield, reveals that every state in the union, five United States territories and possessions and 15 foreign countries were represented by visitors. Indicative of the wide national appeal of the park, over 50 per cent of the travel came from states other than Colorado, with the midwest particularly well represented.

Attendance dropped by 50,793 people. The bulk of the loss was represented by a decrease of 39,182 Colorado visitors. This is in part attributed to the poor condition of approach roads in the immediate vicinity of the park and to a local misunderstanding of park entrance fees placed in effect for the first time this year along with charges authorized for numerous other National Park Service areas throughout the country.

A one dollar charge per automobile, covering an annual license fee to use roads within the national park, took effect in June as a measure to make the park more self-supporting. Unfamiliarity with details of the new regulation may have deterred visits but undoubtedly normal travel will be resumed next year to bring Colorado travel back to its former status. It was a general impression that a dollar charge was made for each entry to the park, contrary to the fact that purchase of an entrance permit enabled the individual automobile to enter the park for the calendar year without further cost.

A decrease in out of state travel is indirectly connected with travel competition between World's Fairs and Expositions held in New York City and San Francisco, acting as travel lures which encouraged hurried driving to cover maximum mileage in minimum time. This is said to have precluded visits to scenic areas near main routes of travel between the two attractions, especially in the interior of the country.

A growing public interest in services offered by the park naturalists is reflected by a 20 per cent gain in contacts made at museums, lectures and field trips for an increase of 23,548 people in the face of a park attendance loss. Of the total 137,348 contacts from June 1 to September 30, the Fall River Pass museum took the lead with 78,007, followed by museums at Park Headquarters and Moraine Park. A number of guided field trips were introduced during the season, including camera caravans for amateur camera fans.

A junior nature school for youngsters was a summer feature for the second year. Weekly sessions were broadcast over 47 stations of the National Broadcasting Company red network for 12 weeks, reaching many thousands of listeners in middlewestern and eastern states.

By entrances, the Thompson River checking station tallied the largest total of 80377 cars and 260485 visitors. The Fall River Entrance was second with 47,896 cars and 165,905 people, followed by Grand Lake with 44,511 cars and 143,035 people. Other entrances, such as Wild Basin and Longs Peak campground, not equipped with regular checking stations, tallied 10,572 autos and 39,604 visitors.

First entry cars for the travel year have a total of 85,412 and 292,973 people. Reentries or repeaters are recorded at 99,944 cars and 316,056 visitors. August was the greatest travel month with 212,777 people and 61,152 automobiles or 16,233 less visitors than the same month in 1938. During the period from October 1 to May 31, featured by snow sports, 75,836 people arrived.

Outside of Colorado, Illinois led the parade of visitors with a total of 52,690, followed by Nebraska, 44,129; Kansas, 38,880; Missouri, 29,813; and by Iowa, Texas, Oklahoma and California in the large total class. As in 1938, the smallest number came from Vermont with 53 persons, a gain of 16 over last year.

Popularity of the famed Trail Ridge Road is revealed by a traffic check of summer travel showing the passage of 80,500 automobiles and 310,000 people over the highway above the clouds. Of this number 49,771 cars were checked as they left park by way of the Grand Lake ranger station. By actual count they carried 159,865 people. The remaining total, closely estimated, entered by way of Grand Lake and made their exit via Fall River and Thompson River entrance stations.

While naturalist services, hotels and other accommodations are no longer available within park boundaries, Rocky Mountain National Park will be open to travel throughout the year, with the exception of the high altitude Trail Ridge Road over the Continental Divide, which is usually blocked by snow in October or November. However, snow plows will be in operation to keep this route open to the upper end of Hidden Valley on the eastern slopes of the park and also for a limited distance on the western slopes.

Preparations are now under way for another heavily attended winter sports season. The fall and winter months also attract nature lovers since deep snows drive great herds of elk and deer to lower altitudes, resulting in rare displays of wildlife.

Additional travel information is included on attached pages.

VISITORS BY STATES OF ORIGIN
SEASON OF 1939
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
COLORADO

**

State	Cars	People	Territories and Possessions of the United States	
			Cars	People
Alabama	146	334		
Arizona	611	1779		
Arkansas	324	1121	Alaska	1 3
California	3750	11314	Hawaii	36 118
Colorado	87494	284500	Phillippine Islands	5 14
Connecticut	189	564	Puerto Rico	2 6
District of Columbia	292	965	Canal Zone	8 22
Delaware	34	104	Total	52 163
Florida	610	1842		
Georgia	120	405	Foreign Countries	
Idaho	146	463		
Illinois	15739	52690	Australia	Cars People 4
Indiana	2462	8244	Africa	1 2
Iowa	8108	27814	Canada	56 174
Kansas	11101	38880	Cuba	9 32
Kentucky	226	842	England	4 24
Louisiana	584	1898	Germany	5
Massachusetts	422	1289	Holland	11
Maryland	329	1057	Mexico	6 23
Maine	110	236	Belgium	1 3
Michigan	2487	8196	Dutch West Indies	1 3
Minnesota	1413	4821	Nova Scotia	1 2
Mississippi	230	735	Scotland	2
Missouri	8644	29813	Switzerland	1
Montana	233	733	Tahiti	1
North Carolina	73	261	India	1
North Dakota	175	628	Total	79 288
New Hampshire	67	184		
New Jersey	646	2210		
New Mexico	568	1707		
New York	1869	6780	GRAND TOTAL	183356 609029
Nebraska	12594	44129		
Nevada	103	264		
Ohio	2943	9305		
Oklahoma	4129	13756		
Oregon	225	696		
Pennsylvania	1232	4009		
Rhode Island	61	197		
South Carolina	89	296		
South Dakota	505	1668		
Tennessee	244	757		
Texas	6884	23586		
Utah	324	1072		
Virginia	145	468		
Vermont	21	53		
West Virginia	53	188		
Washington	317	986		
Wisconsin	1672	5710		
Wyoming	2474	8767		
Total	183225	608578		

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TRAVEL STATISTICS

Travel by entrances for 1938 and 1939:

	1939		1938	
	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
Full River	47896	165905	62902	209291
Thompson River	80377	260485	91833	285564
Grand Lake	44511	113035	46995	154071
Other Entrances	<u>10572</u>	<u>39604</u>	<u>1823</u>	<u>12876</u>
	183356	609029	203553	659802

Greatest Month's Travel:

	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
August 1939	61152	212777
August 1938	66594	229010
August 1937	70442	252946
August 1936	44075	153421
August 1935	34683	122008
August 1934	34123	117701

Greatest Single Day's Travel:

	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
August 13, 1939	3307	12611
July 3, 1938	4205	16498
July 4, 1937	3219	11553
July 4, 1936	2742	10125
August 18, 1935	2025	7896
August 12, 1934	2090	7355

Greatest Weekend, 1939:

	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
August 12	2162	7373
August 13	3307	12611
August 14	<u>1946</u>	<u>6710</u>
	7415	26694

Travel by years:

	<u>Cars</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
1939	183356	609029
1938	203553	659802
1937	185605	651899
1936	161475	550496
1935	111485	367568
1934	109612	365392
1933	83022	291934
1932	81359	282980
1931	75429	265663
1930	73101	255874
1929	67682	274408
1928	57381	235057
1927	54109	229862
1926	50407	225027
1925	58047	233912