



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

W4618-MO(W)

OCT 16 1970

Mr. Ogden Williams
4621 Q Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20007

Dear Mr. Williams:

We are pleased to have your letter of September 16 inquiring about the possibility of banning supersonic air travel above the national parks as a part of the overall effort to improve the environment. You cite your encounter with two sonic booms during an afternoon of fishing in the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park.

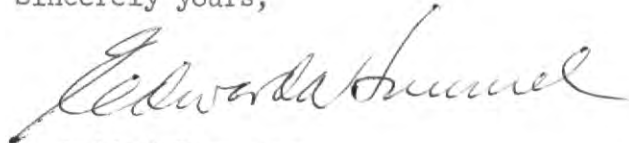
The best results thus far have been obtained by Superintendents seeking the cooperation of the authorities located on nearby military airfield installations. At Everglades National Park, Death Valley National Monument and elsewhere these efforts are meeting with considerable success.

Significant progress was made with the enactment of Public Law 90-411 in 1968 which amends the Federal Aviation Act of 1958. Under the new law the FAA Administrator is empowered to prescribe and amend standards for the measurement of aircraft noise and sonic boom and can prescribe and amend rules and regulations as necessary for their control and abatement. An Inter-Agency Committee on Aircraft Noise Abatement has been established and the National Park Service is represented on one of the key panels of this committee. Yellowstone National Park is among the areas in which we are seeking relief from the aircraft noise and sonic boom nuisance and documented records of experiences such as you encountered in the park while fishing are useful in the development of our justification for remedial action.

Controls of aircraft overflights poses a difficult problem when landings within the parks are not involved. It is through the relatively new legislation providing the machinery for seeking remedial action that we believe we can make significant progress in alleviating low-flying aircraft noise and sonic boom over the parks in the future.

We very much appreciate your interest in writing to us of your experience with sonic boom in Yellowstone. Information of the kind you have given is very helpful to us in the development of justification for the need of sonic boom abatement in the park.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward A. Hummel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Assistant Director