



Coalition To Protect America's National Parks Weekly National Park System Report

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

Volume 1

Number 13

Incidents

Gettysburg NMP

Large Gathering Of Armed Protestors Hold Demonstration In Park

According to a *Huffington Post* article ([link below](#)), a few hundred armed militia group members, Sons of Confederate Veterans and Ku Klux Klan members, supporters of President Donald Trump, and other self-described patriots descended upon the Gettysburg battlefield this past Saturday to “defend the site’s Confederate symbols from phantom activists with the violent far-left group Antifa.” The event was conducted under a park-issued First Amendment permit.

“Some carried semi-automatic rifles — permitted in Pennsylvania — as they peered out across the battlefield with binoculars, on the lookout for the black-clad, face-masked anti-fascists, anarchists and socialists they said they had heard were traveling to the national park to dishonor Confederate graves, monuments and flags,” write reporters Christopher Mathias and Andy Campbell. “Saturday’s rally in Gettysburg showed pro-Confederate activists increasingly agitated, armed, and itching for a fight — even when there is no one to clash with them.”

The protestors gathered just north of the headquarters of Union Army General George Meade. “After singing the National Anthem and performing the Pledge of Allegiance, the hundreds of Southern Army enthusiasts...took a moment to honor the Confederate flag. ‘I salute the Confederate flag,’ they said in unison, ‘with affection, reverence and undying devotion to the cause for which it stands.’” The rhetoric that followed (excerpts appear in the article) was heated and hyperbolic.

The event was attended by anti-government militia groups from across the country, including West Virginia, Michigan, Nebraska and California. Members of Antifa never showed up and claimed that they never had any intent to do so. There was only one injury — a 23-year-old demonstrator who accidentally shot himself in the knee. According to the article, his life was saved through a quick response by US Park Police officers.

Click on the link below for the full text of the story, plus images and a video of the armed protestors. The park hasn’t yet issued a press release on the event.

Source: [Huffington Post](#).

Yellowstone NP Two Visitors Injured By Bison At Mud Volcano

A man and woman sustained injuries on the morning of June 28th when they were butted by a bison at Mud Volcano, which is just north of Lake Village.

Theodore Schrader, 74, and his wife, Patsy Holmes, 72, both from Heber City, Utah, were taking photographs on a boardwalk at Mud Volcano when a bison approached them. The bison butted Holmes, who fell into Schrader. Both individuals then fell to the ground.

Park rangers responded immediately and evacuated the couple from the trail to the road. They were taken to the Lake Clinic. Schrader had minor injuries; Holmes was transported by Life Flight to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where she was last reported in stable condition.

Source: [Press release](#), Yellowstone NP.

Golden Gate NRA Girl Falls To Her Death From Cliff

The National Park Service and local fire and emergency units responded to a report of a fall near the Lands End Painted Rock area on the evening of June 22nd.

Park Police officers searched the area and spotted a girl lying on a rock about six feet from the water's edge. Officers tried to communicate with her, but she did not respond and remained immobile. Rescue rangers reached her by water and found that she'd suffered extensive trauma. Lifesaving efforts were begun, but proved unavailing.

USPP criminal investigators determined that the girl and two other juveniles had parked their car along El Camino Del Mar, then walked down to a fence with a sign saying "Danger: Area Closed." They ignored the sign, made their way through the fence, and walked to the cliff's edge. At some point, the girl fell 150 to 200 feet and landed on the rock. The two survivors admitted to detectives that they knew the area was closed, but entered anyhow.

Source: [Press release](#), Golden Gate NRA.

Obed W&SR Rangers Rescue Stranded Paddler From Emory River

Morgan County 911 contacted the park around noon on June 24th and asked for assistance in rescuing a stranded paddler on the Emory River, which is located outside the park.

Rangers found the 27-year-old man clinging to a tree about 60 feet out from shore on a flooded section of the river and a very short distance above a large rapid. They put in, set up a rope-lowering system, pulled him into their boat, and brought him to shore.

The paddler was examined by Morgan County Rescue. No found that he hadn't suffered any life threatening injuries.

Source: [Press release](#), Obed W&SR.

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center Large Fire Activity Continues In Southwest

The national fire preparedness level has gone up a step to Preparedness Level 3. PL 3 goes into effect when the following conditions are met:

- Two or more geographic areas are experiencing wildland or prescribed fire activities requiring a major commitment of national resources.
- Additional resources are being ordered and mobilized through NICC.
- Type 1 and 2 incident management teams are committed in two or more geographic areas and crew commitment nationally is at 50%.

As of July 3rd, a total of two dozen large fires were burning in nine states; together, they had burned more than 226,000 acres.

New large fires were reported in Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, and Washington. Firefighters made progress toward management goals over the weekend and contained 19 other large fires.

No large fires are burning in National Park Service areas.

The 2017 fire season continues to record fewer – but much larger – fires:

Category	2017 YTD Total	2006-2016 YTD Ave	2017 Variance
Year-to-Date Fires	29,829	32,234	- 2,405
Year-to-Date Acres	2,786,814	2,028,986	+ 757,898

Source: NIFC Situation Report.

News From Around Washington

Reports from Capitol Hill, the White House, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service and other related agencies and NGO's. Prepared by members Don Hellmann, former assistant director, legislative and congressional affairs for the National Park Service, and Bill Halainen, newsletter editor.

United States Senate

On June 29th, the nomination of Douglas Domenech of Virginia to be Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs was submitted to the Senate.

On June 29th, Senators Lisa Murkowski and Maria Cantwell introduced an 891-page [omnibus bill](#), S. 1460, the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017. This legislation is the successor to similar bipartisan legislation from the previous Congress that passed the Senate and House but for which the conference was incomplete at the end of the session. S. 1460 was placed directly on the Senate calendar for expedited consideration by the full Senate.

Of the bill's 11 titles, the following are of interest to NPS:

Division A of the bill, which includes Titles I-IV, includes a number of provisions to improve energy efficiency, including the efficiency of federal buildings; to improve the transport of energy from where it is produced to where it is used; to provide a diverse, long-term American energy supply; and to promote energy innovation and to protect the electric supply's reliability, among other provisions.

Division B of the bill, which includes Titles V-XI, directly affects parks and programs of the Park Service as follows (omitted titles or sections concern other land management agencies):

Title V

- Sec. 5101, to establish the National Park Service Critical Maintenance and Revitalization Conservation Fund consisting of \$150 million annually deposited into the Fund from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas drilling revenues, subject to annual appropriations, to be used for high-priority deferred maintenance needs of NPS that support critical infrastructure and visitor services;
- Sec. 5102, to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and direct that not less than 40 percent will be available annually for federal land acquisition purposes; not less than 40 percent collectively for state grants, the Forest Legacy program, cooperative endangered species grants, and the American Battlefield Protection program; and not less than 1.5 percent or \$10 million, whichever is greater, for projects that secure recreational access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities.
- Sec. 5103, to permanently reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund;
- Sec. 5104, to require the establishment of a conservation incentives landowner education program to inform landowners interested in undertaking conservation activities on their lands, including the potential acquisition of their land, donation of their land, or the use of perpetual or term conservation easements and agreements.

Title VI

- Sec. 6101, to authorize the secretary to develop and maintain a current and accurate multipurpose geospatially enabled inventory of buildings and other real property, including roads, transmission lines, and pipelines located on federal lands;
- Sec. 6107, to require the secretary to establish a process to expedite access to federal lands for organizations and individuals to conduct good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions within 48 hours of receiving such request, and under specific conditions outlined in the section;

Title VII

Subtitle A

- Sec. 7001, to authorize a special resource study of the President James K. Polk Home in Columbia, TN, as a potential unit of the national park system;
- Sec. 7002, to authorize a special resource study of Fort Ontario in NY as a potential unit of the national park system;

Subtitle B

- Sec. 7101, to re-designate Ocmulgee National Monument, GA, as Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park and to revise its boundaries to include additional properties;
- Sec. 7102, to authorize the secretary of the interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, CA, for inclusion in the John Muir National Historic Site;
- Sec. 7103, to authorize administrative and visitor center facilities at Coltsville National Historical Park, CT, to be located in appropriate buildings within the Colt Armory Complex instead of the East Armory building;
- Sec. 7104, to revise the boundary of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, GA, to include the Wallis House and Hairston Hill;

- Sec. 7105, to designate the wilderness within the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, AK, as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness;
- Sec. 7107, to make Hispanic-serving, Asian-American serving, and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions eligible for preservation education and training programs under the Historic Preservation Act;
- Sec. 7108, to re-designate the Martin Luther King, Junior National Historic Site, GA, as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park and to expand the boundary to include the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference;
- Sec. 7109, to provide access to certain vehicles servicing municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Gap National Recreation Area in PA via Route 209;
- Sec. 7110, to amend the Denali National Park Improvement Act to clarify certain provisions relating to the natural gas pipeline authorized in Denali National Park and Preserve, AK;
- Sec. 7111, to authorize the secretary to allow the introduction of a small number of free-roaming wild horses from Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC, to ensure the genetic diversity and viability of the wild horse population in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge;
- Sec. 7112, to designate segments of the Lower Farmington River and the Salmon Brook, CT, as recreational rivers within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;
- Sec. 7114, to authorize the secretary of the interior to establish restroom facilities in the vicinity of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial within George Washington Memorial Parkway, VA;
- Sec. 7115, to remove the use restrictions on a parcel of land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia under the Federal Lands to Parks Program to allow its continued use as a day care center;
- Sec. 7116, to authorize a land exchange between the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center of the Federal Highway Administration to allow better access to the center;
- Sec. 7117, to expand the boundary of Shiloh National Military Park, TN and MS, and to establish the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the national park system;
- Sec. 7118, to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation Program;
- Sec. 7119, to expand the boundary of Ft. Frederica National Monument, GA;
- Sec. 7120, to authorize the designation of the small property at 24th and Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C. as the Robert Emmet Park and to the placement in the park of information about his statue, his contributions to Irish Independence, and his respect for the United States and the American Revolution;
- Sec. 7121, to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, KS;
- Sec. 7122, to establish within the National Park Service a U.S. Civil Rights Network that includes all NPS parks and programs that relate to the civil rights movement from 1939 through 1968 as well as related federal, state, local, and privately owned properties and related research, educational or interpretive programs carried out by non-governmental organizations. This section also requires the dissemination of educational materials and the provision of technical assistance, and the adoption of an official symbol for the network;
- Sec. 7123, to establish a commission to authorize activities and programs to recognize the contributions of African-Americans to the United States over the past 400 years;
- Sec. 7124, to transfer administrative jurisdiction from BLM to NPS for several properties within the boundary of Voyageurs National Park, MN, and to authorize the exchange of lands between NPS and MN for a couple of state-owned properties within the park's boundaries;

- Sec. 7125, to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern MN and to extend the trail into VT to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail;
- Sec. 7126, to authorize the establishment of the National Emergency Medical Services commemorative work, DC;
- Sec. 7127, to designate the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, MD & WV; the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, WA; the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, WA; the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, CA; and the Susquehanna National Heritage Area, PA;
- Sec. 7128, to adjust the boundary of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, IL, to include two additional cities and an additional county;
- Sec. 7129, to authorize a study of a potential Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, NY;
- Sec. 7130, to authorize the placement of additional commemorative elements or engravings at the Second Division Memorial in President's Park, DC;
- Sec. 7131, to modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO;
- Sec. 7132, to modify the boundary of the Fort Scott National Historic Site, KS;
- Sec. 7133, to authorize a small land exchange between Gulf Islands National Seashore, MS, and a local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post;
- Sec. 7134, to authorize the establishment of the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park, MO, upon acquisition of sufficient lands to constitute a manageable unit;
- Sec. 7135, to authorize the transport of bows and crossbows not ready for immediate use in vehicles traveling across NPS lands;
- Sec. 7136, to authorize the use of qualified volunteers in wildlife management on NPS lands.

Title VIII

Subtitle A

To declare it a policy of the U.S. that federal departments and agencies shall facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting, fishing and recreational shooting opportunities on federal land.

Subtitle B

To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting – among other provisions, this section requires each federal land management agency, including NPS, to submit a list of areas where access is restricted for hunting, fishing, or recreational purposes, and options for providing access to the areas; and

Subtitle E

To exempt small businesses, crews of fewer than 3 individuals, or a person using only a camera and tripod from paying filming fees on federal lands.

United States House of Representatives

On June 27th, the House passed the following bills by voice vote:

- H.R. 1073, to authorize the secretary of the interior to establish restroom facilities in the vicinity of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial within George Washington Memorial Parkway, VA;

- H.R. 1135, to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation Program;

On June 27th, the House Natural Resources Committee approved the following bills:

- H.R. 289, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to specify the circumstances under which the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture may issue special recreation permits and charge fees for specialized individual and group use of federal facilities, lands, and waters. Most of this revised authority applies to the Forest Service and the BLM, but the general authority to issue permits and charge fees also applies to NPS;
- H.R. 954, to remove the use restrictions on a parcel of land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia under the Federal Lands to Parks Program to allow its continued use as a day care center;
- H.R. 1397, to authorize a land exchange between the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center of the Federal Highway Administration to allow better access to the center;
- H.R. 1541, to modify the boundary of the Fort Scott National Historic Site, KS;
- H.R. 1719, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, CA, for inclusion in the John Muir National Historic Site;
- H.R. 1927, to establish within the National Park Service a U.S. Civil Rights Network that includes all NPS parks and programs that relate to the civil rights movement from 1939 through 1968 as well as related federal, state, local, and privately owned properties and related research, educational or interpretive programs carried out by non-governmental organizations. The bill also requires the dissemination of educational materials and the provision of technical assistance, and the adoption of an official symbol for the network;
- H.R. 2370, to authorize Escambia County, FL, to convey to any person or entity, without restriction, its interest in any part of the former Santa Rosa Island National Monument that was conveyed to the county by the federal government in 1947. The bill conditions the conveyance on the requirement that Escambia County preserve in perpetuity the areas, on the date of enactment, that are dedicated for conservation, preservation, or public recreation use; and
- H.R. 2425, to require the Department of the Treasury to establish a separate special account for the National Park Service, the other land management agencies, and the Bureau of Reclamation, for the deposit of rental fees received from the occupancy and use of federal lands for communications purposes. The fees shall remain available for use in support of these activities by the respective agencies.

On June 28th, the House passed:

- H.R. 1500, to authorize the designation of the small property at 24th and Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C. as the Robert Emmet Park and the placement in the park of information about his statue, his contributions to Irish Independence, and his respect for the United States and the American Revolution by a vote of 423 to 0.

On June 28th, the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing entitled "Examining Policy Impacts of Excessive Litigation Against the Department of the Interior." Daniel Jorjani, Principal Deputy Solicitor, Office of the Solicitor, was the department's witness.

Park People, Friends and Allies

Dinosaur NM

Dr. Dan Chure Has Retired

Dr. Dan Chure, the park's paleontologist, retired on July 1st after 38 years of federal service. Dan arrived at Dinosaur National Monument in 1979 and spent his entire National Park Service career there.

Throughout his career, Dan had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects with institutions, colleagues, students, researchers, volunteers, and Geoscientist-In-Park interns from around the world. These projects resulted in the discovery of an array of fossils, including many species new to science.

Although the scientific work has been challenging and rewarding, some of his most memorable moments involved the condemnation, demolition, and rebuilding of the Quarry Exhibit Hall over the Wall of Bones (2006-2011), the launching of the Carnegie Quarry website (2014-2017), and working with Make-A-Wish children who come to see dinosaurs up close.

Source: Dinosaur NM. [Full story](#).

Yosemite NP

Ranger Sharon Miyako Receives Hance Award

Ranger Sharon Miyako has received the 2016 Barry Hance Memorial Award. The award ceremony was attended by approximately 300 people, including several past Barry Hance Award recipients.

This peer-nominated award is named for Barry Hance, a long-time employee of Yosemite National Park who died in an avalanche while plowing the Tioga Road in 1995. Recipients of this prestigious award are employees who exemplify the qualities and attributes of Barry Hance. These include team work, a positive attitude, concern for the public and fellow employees, public service, and a deep love for Yosemite National Park.

According to the rangers who nominated Miyako, she "has an eternal positive attitude and a heart of gold. She listens to concerns and will bend over backwards to accommodate the needs of others, whether they are her staff, her supervisors, community members or visitors."

Source: Yosemite NP. [Full story](#).

Grand Teton NP

Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship Awarded

Danielle Fagre has been selected to receive the 2016 Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship. Her project focuses on the abundance of multiple grassland songbird species in relation to bison grazing intensity in Yellowstone National Park.

Fagre's study will ultimately measure bison grazing intensity in songbird habitat, record songbird abundances, and statistically relate the two variables. She will examine whether there is a positive, negative, or neutral association with bison grazing intensity. This will contribute to understanding the ecological interactions that result from current bison management.

Fagre is pursuing a master's degree in wildlife biology from the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana. She completed her bachelors in biology in 2010 at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She grew up in West Glacier, Montana.

Source: Grand Teton NP. [Full story](#).

Other News And Notes

Systemwide National Park Service In The News

A selection of additional recent NPS news releases and public news stories pertaining either directly or indirectly to the operation of the National Park Service:

- **Mount Rainier NP** – Photos of a young female fisher with her kit have provided the first evidence that this rare forest carnivore is reproducing in the South Cascades, where state, federal and non-profit organizations are working to reintroduce them. The NPS is one of the lead agencies. [Full story and photo.](#)
- **C&O Canal NHP** – A contract has been awarded for the restoration of the Conococheague Aqueduct. The next phase of the restoration project for the entire Williamsport interpretive complex will return the aqueduct to its 1920s appearance and create the first watered, operational aqueduct along the C&O Canal since 1924. [Full story with detailed map.](#)
- **Cape Hatteras NS** – Sometimes no legal action is required to add territory to a park. Over the last two to three months, a large sandbar has formed off the Cape Point area. Unfortunately, it's lead to a number of water rescues, as swimmers try to cross through strong currents to reach it. [Full story.](#)
- **Systemwide** – The Hill, a publication that covers Congress and the Administration, posted an article on June 30th with this lead: “Companies that operate visitor services in national parks are pushing the Trump administration to outsource more work to the private sector.” [Full story.](#)

Systemwide Upcoming Events

Upcoming events and activities of potential interest to members of the Coalition, including relevant House and Senate hearings:

- **July 3 – July 7** – Senate in recess.
- **July 3 – July 10** – House in recess.
- **July 10** – Due date for comments in DOI review of all national monuments – including Bears Ears NM. DOI posted a [news release](#) on June 15th announcing the extension, which means that reviews on all national monuments now conclude at the same time. [More information.](#)
- **July 31 – September 1** – House and Senate in recess.
- **August 24** – ANPR is now accepting applications for Bill Supernaugh Memorial Scholarships, which allow early-career employees, NPS volunteers, and students to experience the annual Ranger Rendezvous and learn about ANPR. The closing date for submissions is August 24th. [More information.](#)
- **October 18-22** – Ranger Rendezvous 40, Association of National Park Rangers, YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. Online registration is now open at [this link.](#)

A Closing Observation

"Preservation of the future may be the most important instinct in the fabric of life on earth. It is certainly the most beautiful. Somehow we must nurture the diminishing instinct to protect the generations to come, bringing it to the conference rooms of power and politics and industry. For if we thoughtlessly barter away the lives and futures of our children and grandchildren for more convenience, we will have made the most shameful bargain in the history of man."

[Jacques Cousteau](#)

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The *Weekly National Park System Report* is a publication of The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks. It is prepared by Coalition member Bill Halainen, former editor of the *NPS Morning Report*, and produced and disseminated by Coalition staffer Susannah Albert-Chandhok.

The Coalition is a non-profit organization of past and current NPS employees and their allies that "studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation and protection of the National Park System and mission-related programs of the National Park Service."

To receive a copy of this free publication, join the coalition. Any current, retired or former salaried (GS, wage grade, seasonal, temporary, or SES) employee of the National Park Service can join the Coalition. For more information, click on [this link](#).

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