



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

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Volume 1

Number 14

Incidents

Mount Rainier NP

Search In Progress For Missing Skier

Searchers have so far been unable to locate a skier who is believed to have fallen through a snow bridge into Pebble Creek on July 3rd.

While skiing from Camp Muir to Paradise, the 30-year old man fell into a hole that spanned the rushing waters of Pebble Creek. Using an avalanche probe, his partner searched for two hours before completing his descent to Paradise to report the incident.

A ground search was conducted that evening, followed by an aerial search the next morning, but no sign of the man was found. Late season snow is creating unsafe search conditions; search personnel will accordingly monitor the area until conditions improve.

Approximately 20 people have been involved in these operations, including park staff, a guide from Rainier Mountaineering Incorporated, and the park's exclusive-use helicopter crew.

Source: [News release](#), Mount Rainier NP.

Crater Lake

Hiker Enters Closed Area, Falls To His Death

A 20-year-old Florida man fell to his death last Tuesday while hiking in the park.

Witnesses saw him venture out to a rocky point along the rim of a collapsed volcano, which gave way while he was standing on it. He fell 50 to 70 feet.

Rangers in the park confirmed his death after reaching him. The victim was hiking in a closed area. Park officials said hiking along the rim of the collapsed volcano is extremely dangerous and prohibited.

Source: [News story](#), CNN.

Olympic NP

Three Bodies Found And Recovered In Park

The park has announced that two of three bodies discovered in the park recently have been identified. The deaths occurred in three separate incidents.

A man whose body was found near the Norwegian Memorial on June 1st has been identified as William “Dave” Woodson, 60, of Kingston. Woodson’s body was discovered in a boulder field near the memorial on the remote coastline southwest of Lake Ozette. An autopsy is pending.

Woodson had a backcountry permit showing a solo hike through the coastal area.

A hasty team of protection rangers, backcountry rangers and fire personnel located the body. The team stayed on scene overnight and a helicopter was called in the next day for recovery.

A body that was found near Lake Cushman on the opposite side of the park was confirmed to be that of missing hiker Zach Krull. Krull, a 20-year-old Evergreen State College student from Livingston, New Jersey, had been missing since early April. His body was discovered about two miles north of Lake Cushman by a hiker, also on June 1st.

Krull’s identity was confirmed by dental records provided by the family. The results of a Friday autopsy were inconclusive, but hypothermia has been deemed probable.

Meanwhile, a woman whose remains were found with a minivan 200 feet down an embankment along Obstruction Point Road near Hurricane Ridge on July 2nd has not yet been identified. Her body was recovered after a park visitor reported seeing what he believed to be trash down an embankment along the steep-sided road. Rangers rappelled down the embankment to recover the body.

Documents found inside the vehicle matched the identification of a missing woman from Issaquah, Washington. Final identification is pending a forensic analysis.

Source: [News story](#), *Peninsula Daily News*.

Rocky Mountain NP Woman Rescued From St. Vrain River

On the morning of July 5th, a 40-year-old Tennessee woman fell into the St. Vrain River approximately a mile from the Wild Basin trailhead. She slipped on wet rocks and was swept 150 yards downstream before she was able to pull herself up on a rock and log.

Members of the park’s SAR team and the Estes Valley Fire Protection District dive and swiftwater rescue team responded. While some team members got the woman into a life jacket and helmet, others hiked to her location on the south side of the river and helped move her to shore. They treated her, then assisted her across the river to its north side.

The woman hiked out part of the distance, then was carried via a wheeled litter to the Wild Basin trailhead, where an ambulance took her to the Estes Park Medical Center.

Source: [News release \(with photo\)](#), Rocky Mountain NP

Theodore Roosevelt NP Visitor Injured By Bison

A visitor was injured by a bison in the park’s North Unit on Friday, June 30th.

Michael Turk, 65, of Juneau, Alaska, went hiking on the Buckhorn Trail between 9 and 10:30 p.m. to take photos of the sunset. He had encountered a bison on the way to his photo location and gave it a wide berth.

Turk stopped to take additional photos of another bison he encountered while returning to Juniper Campground. He recalls that sometime while he was photographing the bison, it turned toward him and charged. He lost consciousness and sustained a large laceration on his left inner thigh in addition to other cuts and bruises.

Turk was able to hike to the trailhead, where he saw another bison. He climbed a short distance up a nearby butte and began calling for help. Hearing Turk's calls for help, seven campers arrived at the trailhead and found Turk about 50 yards away, with a bison between them.

Unable to haze the bison away, one of the campers discharged a handgun into the ground, scaring the bison out of the area. The group helped Turk to the trailhead, dressed his wound, and drove him to meet emergency responders.

McKenzie County Sheriff Department deputies and park rangers met the group near the park entrance. McKenzie County Ambulance transported Turk to the hospital. He was treated at McKenzie County Hospital and later released.

Source: [News release](#), Theodore Roosevelt NP.

Delaware Water Gap NRA Man Gets Four Year Sentence For Thefts From Cars In Park

Lewis Davenport, a 40-year-old Pennsylvania man, will spend four years behind bars after admitting to stealing from cars in the park over a period of five months. Davenport was sentenced in federal court last Thursday after pleading guilty to conspiracy and identity theft charges.

Between April and September of 2015, Davenport and others broke into parked vehicles at least three times in the park and stole electronics, cellular phones, credit cards and other items.

In a request for a two-and-a-half-year sentence, Davenport's defense said he had a substance abuse problem, but also that "drug addiction does not excuse Davenport's crimes, and he knows it."

However, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a news release that Davenport has an extensive criminal history, including 19 convictions for theft and credit card fraud related activities. In addition to four years in prison, Davenport was also sentenced to pay \$1,174.89 in restitution and serve two years of supervised probation upon release from custody.

Source: [News report](#), LehighValleyLive.

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center National Fire Preparedness Level Raised To PL 4

The national fire preparedness level has gone up a step to Preparedness Level 4. PL 4 goes into effect when the following conditions are met:

- Three or more geographic areas are experiencing incidents requiring Type 1 and 2 incident management teams.
- Competition exists for resources among geographic areas.
- Nationally, 60% of Type 1 and 2 incident management teams and crews are committed.

As of yesterday, a total of 60 large fires were burning in 15 states, with 20 of them newly reported. The majority of the fire activity is in Nevada, Arizona, California and Colorado. Together, these fires had so far burned 705,954 acres. Twenty-two incident management teams were in the field – 7 Type 1 and 15 Type 2. A total of 16,713 firefighters and overhead personnel were committed.

No large fires are burning in National Park Service areas.

The 2017 fire season continues to be characterized by fewer but larger fires:

Category	2017 YTD Total	2006-2016 YTD Ave	2017 Variance
Year-to-Date Fires	32,737	35,540	- 2,803
Year-to-Date Acres	3,472,057	2,667,390	+ 804,667

Source: NIFC Situation Report.

News From Around Washington

Nothing of note this week.

Park People, Friends and Allies

Big Thicket NP Ranger Michael Hughes Receives DOI Valor Award

Ranger Michael Hughes was honored with a Department of Interior Valor Award on July 4th for his outstanding performance and bravery while responding to flooding throughout Southeast Texas last May.

The text of the award cites his heroic efforts to rescue residents from rapidly rising waters and extreme flooding conditions. Hughes employed his airboat and motorboat operational skills to make numerous rescues during the late night hours.

Hughes has worked for the NPS for the past fifteen years. Prior to joining the NPS, he served his community as part of the Tyler County Sheriff's Department for twelve years.

Source: [News Release](#), Big Thicket NP.

Southeast Regional Office Sarah Craighead Named DRD; Barclay Trimble Takes Over At Mammoth Cave

Sarah Craighead, currently superintendent at Mammoth Cave NP, has been selected as SERO's new deputy regional director. Barclay Trimble, the regional office's chief of staff, will take over at Mammoth Cave as superintendent. Both appointments are effective July 23rd.

Craighead, who began her NPS career as a cave guide and campground ranger at Mammoth Cave in 1978, has led the central-Kentucky park as superintendent since 2012.

Before Mammoth Cave, she served as superintendent at Death Valley, Saguaro, and Washita Battlefield. Over the course of her 38-year career, Craighead has also worked at Acadia, Carlsbad Caverns, Grand Canyon, Manassas, Independence, and Mesa Verde. While at Mammoth Cave, she served temporary assignments in Southeast Regional Office as acting deputy regional director and also as a special assistant to the regional director.

Barclay Trimble has served as the NPS deputy regional director in Atlanta since 2014, assuming the added duties of regional chief of staff last year. He manages 30 superintendents at national parks in Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and the Virgin Islands. He also oversees regional planning and compliance, land resources, ranger activities, and commercial services.

Prior to moving to the regional office, Trimble served as cluster superintendent for Cape Hatteras, Wright Brothers and Fort Raleigh; deputy superintendent and acting superintendent at Grand Canyon; recreation fee manager for Intermountain Region; acting chief for the business management office at Glen Canyon; and chief of finance for the Concessions Program Center in Colorado. Trimble has also provided administrative and management support during temporary assignments at Denali and the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, DC.

Source: [News Release \(with photos\)](#), Southeast Region

Alaska Regional Office

Two Senior Managers Named To Positions In Alaska Region.

Susanne Fleek-Green will be the new superintendent of Lake Clark. She began her job last week. Christina Caswell will be the new associate regional director for administration, an Anchorage-based position that leads contracting, human resources, budget, concessions and information technology programs. She begins her job in late July.

Fleek-Green has served as Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz's chief of staff and was previously state director for U.S. Senator Mark Begich. In that role she oversaw Senator Begich's six offices around the state.

Caswell, a former Anchorage resident, comes to the NPS from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. In her current role, she serves as the assistant regional administrator/administrative officer for OSHA Region 10 in Seattle, overseeing multi-disciplinary and complex administrative programs. She is the principle advisor to the OSHA regional administrator on all matters of administrative importance, including budget, information technology, human resources, acquisition and contracting, training and recruitment.

Prior to working at OSHA, she served as the chief of strategy and mission support with the Army Corp of Engineers. Caswell managed multiple disparate business programs and centralized administrative and management services to support a regional office of over 100 employees and a district of more than 1,200 staff. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in workplace learning and organizational development.

Source: [News Release \(with photos\)](#), Alaska Regional Office

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:

- **National Monuments** – The July 6th edition of the *Los Angeles Times* has an op ed piece entitled “It’s Magical Legal Thinking To Say Trump Can’t Reverse Obama’s National Monuments.” It was written by Todd Gaziano, executive director of the Pacific Legal Foundation’s D.C. Center and its senior fellow in constitutional law, and John Yoo, a law professor at UC Berkeley and a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Their conclusion: “It’s simply unrealistic to pretend that acts created by unilateral presidential decrees cannot be undone in the same manner.” [Full story](#).
- **National Monuments** – *Outside Magazine* ran a story on its webpage yesterday entitled “One Man’s Insane Quest to Save Our National Monuments.” A man named Brent Rose worked all spring to raise public awareness of threats to national monuments. To do so, he drove around the country and visited each of the land-based monuments that are threatened and produced films and social media content around all of them. He drove 6,000 miles while doing so, ending up at Mount Katahdin. [Full story](#).
- **National Park System** – On July 5th, the *Washington Times* ran an opinion piece in support of the national parks in general and the national monuments in particular. It’s pretty straightforward, but notable because the authors are Robert Hanna, the great-great-grandson of John Muir, and Kermit Roosevelt III, the great-great-grandson of Theodore Roosevelt. Excerpt: “The national parks and monuments show the beauty of America, and they tell our story. To revoke or diminish a monument is to tear a page from the book of our nation.” [Full story](#).
- **Gettysburg NMP** – The Hanover *Evening Sun* had an article in its July 8th edition regarding a “superstition that taking rocks from the park causes nothing but misfortune in the lives of the perpetrators.” It appears that there’s a wide belief that people who take rocks from the park as mementos fall under a curse; many of the thieves are accordingly mailing the rocks they took back to the park. [Full story](#).
- **Yosemite NP** – Member Butch Farabee’s newest book is now on sale on Amazon. It’s entitled *Big Walls, Swift Waters: Epic Stories from Yosemite Search and Rescue*. Here’s part of the blurb for the book: “Author and legendary YOSAR team member Butch Farabee relates epic tales of endurance and survival, misadventure and fatal consequences.” [More information](#).

Systemwide Upcoming Events

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

- **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

"I would like to think that all park men [and women], whatever segment of the field may be their particular concern, might see that this continuing battle against debasing the finest of our scenic and scientific and historic possessions is their battle, too...park folk are people of standing in their communities, in the States and in the Nation; they can wield a powerful influence in behalf of the people of today and of generations still far in the future."

[Conrad L. Wirth](#), Director, 1952-1964

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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."

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