



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

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Volume 1

Number 17

---

### **Incidents**

#### **Cape Hatteras National Seashore Campgrounds Closed Due To Non-Resident Evacuation Orders**

Due to damaged underground electrical transmission cables near Oregon Inlet, Hyde and Dare Counties have issued mandatory evacuation orders for visitors on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. The orders have been issued to protect life safety during this period of lost and unreliable electrical service.

The park campgrounds at Cape Point, Frisco, and Ocracoke closed at noon on Saturday, July 29th; they will remain closed until the counties' evacuation orders are lifted. The Oregon Inlet campground remains open.

Visitor centers, ORV permit offices and other facilities on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands will remain open unless excessive heat necessitates a closure. All ORV routes will remain open.

A number of websites are providing regular updates:

- Park campgrounds and facilities – The alerts section on the park's [webpage](#) and on its [Facebook page](#).
- Electrical updates – Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative's [Facebook page](#) and Tideland Electric Membership Cooperative's [Facebook page](#).
- Evacuation notices – Hyde County [Facebook page](#) and Dare County's [website](#).

Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, Wright Brothers National Memorial, and all Cape Hatteras National Seashore areas north of the Oregon Inlet are not impacted by the electricity outages or evacuation orders.

Source: [News release](#), Cape Hatteras NS.

#### **Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Pilot Killed In Airplane Crash**

On the morning of July 27th, the NPS Alaska Regional Communications Center received a call from the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center reporting a missing aircraft and an emergency locator transmitter (ELT) hit within the park.

Responding rangers flew to the area and began a search for the ELT. They found a Regal Aviation Cessna 206 downed and burning in the Miller Creek drainage, but were initially unable to land at the site of the crash. Regal Aviation advised that the Cessna's pilot was the only occupant of the aircraft.

Rangers and state troopers later returned to the site, landed, and recovered the body of Joel Black of Ohio. It was flown to the medical examiner's office in Anchorage.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

Source: [News release](#), Lake Clark NP&P.

### **Lake Mead National Recreation Area Flooding Causes Damage, Temporary Road Closures**

Heavy rains from several storms on July 25th caused flooding in the park and necessitated multiple road closures.

During this string of storms, the park set up an incident command to dispatch personnel to areas where responses were needed. The park's pilot flew over the park to quickly locate washed out roads and areas where visitors were present.

According to the National Weather Service, Willow Beach received 4.72 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. The access road was closed around 7:30 a.m. Around 20 visitors, employees and marina staff were in the area at the time. Visitors were escorted out of the area by 1:30 p.m. The road is closed until further notice.

At Pearce Ferry Road, a 28-passenger tour bus was stuck in the area due to running water. The passengers were evacuated via a high-clearance vehicle. The road remains muddy, but is passable. Four-wheel drive is recommended.

Temple Bar access road was closed outside the park due to flooding across Detrital Wash. Nelson Landing Road was also closed. Both roads will remain closed until further notice. Due to debris on the roadways, access to Cottonwood Cove was restricted and South Cove Road was reduced to one lane. Both are now open.

The park has more than 240 miles of paved roads and 800 miles of gravel or dirt roads. Rangers, maintenance crews and the park pilot are in the process of assessing damage to them and making repairs as needed.

Source: [News release](#), Lake Mead NRA.

### **Joshua Tree National Park Search In Progress For Missing Hikers**

Search teams are continuing their efforts to find two missing hikers – Rachel Nguyen, 20, and Joseph Orbeso, 21 – who have not been seen since they headed out on a hike last Thursday.

Searchers finished clearing more commonly used trails on Sunday and moved on to rocky elevations. The terrain is unsafe and the temperatures are so high that it's been slow going for

the search teams. Two searchers were pulled off the hunt on Sunday as they showed symptoms of heat sickness; a San Bernardino County rescue helicopter flew them out.

Canine teams have also been called in and are in the field.

The searchers are also coping with changing terrain thanks to the monsoonal rains that fell on the park this past month.

Source: [News story](#), *Hi-Desert Star*.

### **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Hiker Missing For Five Days Reappears**

A woman who was last seen hiking in the park on Friday, July 14th, found her way back to the Little Beaver Campground on the afternoon of July 20th, bringing to an end a major interagency search.

Kara Moore, 55, was last seen on the Little Beaver Lake Trail in a rugged area of the park along Lake Superior. Moore suffers from a childhood brain injury that affects her short-term memory. As a result, she couldn't remember much about her time alone in the wilderness.

Participants in the search included the park, the Michigan State Police, the Alger County Sheriff's Office, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service.

Source: [News story](#), *Grand Rapids News*.

### **Natchez Trace Parkway Motorist Indicted In Bicycle Hit And Run Incident**

On Saturday, July 8th, Tyler Noe was bicycling on the Natchez Trace Parkway near the park's northern terminus when a passing black Volvo struck him, causing serious but non-life threatening injuries. The Volvo failed to stop and left the scene. A bicyclist wearing a camera recorded video of the incident.

Rangers and Williamson County Sheriff's Department deputies identified Marshall Grant Neely III, 58, of Franklin, Tennessee, as the driver of the vehicle who left the scene.

On July 27th, a federal grand jury in the US District Court, Middle District of Tennessee, indicted Neely on the three felony counts – reckless aggravated assault, lying to a federal agent, and obstruction of justice.

On July 28th, rangers arrested Neely at his home without incident.

Source: [News release](#), Natchez Trace Parkway.

### **Yellowstone National Park Employees To Be Disciplined For Sexual Harassment, Misconduct**

As many as 10 workers in Yellowstone National Park's maintenance division will be disciplined after an investigation found female employees being subjected to sexual harassment and other problems.

The Office of the Inspector General launched its investigation into Yellowstone last year when a park employee complained to a local magazine and members of Congress that a pervasive "men's club" environment had encouraged the exploitation and abuse of female workers. The

inspector general's investigation also found that government-issued charge cards in the maintenance division had been misused.

Superintendent Dan Wenk said that personnel actions could range from reprimands to suspensions or firing. The workers can appeal before the penalties become final.

Since the harassment allegations emerged last year, park supervisors have undergone mandatory sexual harassment training. Similar training is happening this summer for all seasonal and permanent employees.

Investigators found that between 2010 and 2016, six women who had previously worked in the maintenance division had faced derogatory comments or actions that made them feel uncomfortable. They said the division's supervisor described the culture at Yellowstone as a "good old boy system" that was rampant in the 1990s but has improved over time.

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

## **National Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center Current Fire Activity Centers On Montana**

#### **Synopsis**

The national preparedness level remains at PL 4. Thirty-five large fires are currently active in nine states; together, they've so far burned over 500,000 acres. Seven more large fires are reported to have been contained. Montana, with 15 large fires, continues to have the most activity.

#### **National Park Service**

No large fires are burning in National Park Service areas.

#### **Active Incident Resource Commitments**

<b>Category</b>	<b>July 18th</b>	<b>July 25th</b>	<b>August 1st</b>
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	1	2
Type 1 Teams	5	5	6
Type 2 Teams	11	8	10
Crews	304	293	284
Engines	847	953	678
Helicopters	89	101	92
Total FF/Overhead	12,030	13,174	11,502

#### **Fires/Acreage**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2017 Total</b>	<b>2006-2016 Ave</b>	<b>2017 Variance</b>
Year-to-Date Fires	38,617	41,692	- 3,075
Year-to-Date Acres	5,409,500	3,725,592	+ 1,683,908

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.

### **Capitol Hill Senate – Legislation and Hearings**

On July 24th, the Senate confirmed the nomination of David Bernhardt of Virginia to be deputy secretary of the interior by a vote of 53 to 43.

On July 26th, the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining held a hearing on several bills, including the following. John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director of Operations, Bureau of Land Management, was the department's witness at the hearing.

- S. 32, to amend the California Desert Conservation Act. The bill makes several changes to the Act, including provisions to:
  - Expand the Death Valley National Park Wilderness by 92,000 acres;
  - Transfer 40,000 acres from BLM to NPS to add to the boundary of Death Valley National Park;
  - Transfer 25 acres from BLM to NPS in Mojave National Preserve where an NPS-owned maintenance facility exists;
  - Transfer 2,900 acres from BLM to NPS along the northern boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, and the adjustment of the boundary for a donation of 1,600 acres from the Mojave Desert Land Trust;
  - Authorize NPS to acquire the Joshua Tree Visitor Center outside the boundary of the park, now owned by the Joshua Tree National Park Association;
  - Designate as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 7.5 miles of Amargosa River and 7 miles of Surprise Canyon Creek, both near Death Valley National Park.
- S. 468, to establish a procedure for resolving R.S. 2477 rights-of-way;
- S. 1230, to prohibit federal land management agencies from requiring the transfer of water rights recognized under state law directly to the United States as a condition of permit issuance or renewal.

On July 26th, the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs approved several bills, including the following:

- S. 873, to provide flexibility in making withdrawals from the Thrift Savings Fund; and
- H.R. 1293, to require the Office of Personnel Management to submit an annual report to Congress relating to the use of official time (on union activities) by federal employees.

### **Capitol Hill House of Representatives – Legislation and Hearings**

On July 26th, the House passed:

- H.R. 2370, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance; and
- 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.

On July 26th, the House Committee on Natural Resources approved:

- H.R. 873, to authorize the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.
- H.R. 965, to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park
- H.R. 2611, to modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site to include seven historic structures across the street from the high school and make them eligible for financial and technical assistance from NPS; and
- H.R. 2615, to authorize a small land exchange between Gulf Islands National Seashore, MS, and a local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

On July 27th, the House approved H.R. 3219, the FY 2018 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which included an additional \$4.135 million for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions.

On July 28th, the House passed H.R. 873, to authorize the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation to establish the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

## **Park People, Friends and Allies**

### **NPS Retirees**

#### **Passing Of Maggie Maule**

Margaret E. "Maggie" Maule, 83, spouse of longtime NPS employee Mike Maule, died at home peacefully on July 11th

Maggie was born on June 19, 1934, in San Francisco to Ove P. and Ruth (Wilson) Nielsen. She lived many of her early years in Mt. Shasta, California, and graduated from grammar and high school there. She received a BA in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley.

While there, Maggie met her husband-to-be Stuart H. "Mike" Maule. After graduation in 1956, Mike was employed by the National Park Service and they moved numerous times. Maggie had a different career at each duty station, beginning in Mesa Verde National Park, with positions at the museum association and the Mesa Verde Company.

Maggie enjoyed working at the Association of Indian Affairs and State Bureau of Indian Affairs in Santa Fe. Her favorite occupation was museum curator at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, where she had a key roll in designing and installing the displays in the Eleanor Roosevelt wing. After that, she was marketing director at National Analysts, a division of Booze Alan Hamilton in Philadelphia, where she supervised 2,000 data collectors nationwide and in Puerto Rico.

Returning to Santa Fe, she worked at Robert Nichols Gallery. Maggie traveled extensively with Mike, spending significant time on all continents except Antarctica.

A memorial is being planned. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Maggie's honor be sent to Charles Darwin Foundation for protection and preservation of wildlife of Galapagos Islands ([www.darwinfoundation.org](http://www.darwinfoundation.org)).

Source: [Obituary](#), *Santa Fe New Mexican*. Submitted by member Mike Warren.

## **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 Park System** – The July 25th edition of the *New York Times* has an article with this headline: “As Interior Secretary Swaggers Through Parks, His Staff Rolls Back Regulations.” While Zinke travels around the West, say the authors, “a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts put in effect over the eight years of the Obama administration. Many of those appointees spent the Obama years working for the oil and gas industry — and they come to the Interior Department with an insider’s knowledge of how its levers work and a wish list of policies from their former employers.” They’re currently working on rescinding fracking safety regs, looking at loosening safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put into place after the BP spill, rolling back an order blocking coal mining on public land, and delaying methane emission regulations. [Full story](#).
- **National Park System** – *Yale Environment 360*, a publication of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, published an article on July 31st entitled “How A Surge in Visitors Is Overwhelming America’s National Parks.” Says author Jim Robbins: “The growing crowds at U.S. National Parks have become unmanageable, jeopardizing the natural experience the parks were created to provide. With attendance this summer continuing to shatter records, officials are considering limiting use of the parks in order to save them.” [Full story](#). Submitted by member Joan Anzelmo.
- **Yosemite NP** – Member Butch Farabee is interview about his new book on search and rescue in Yosemite in a blog on the *REI Co-op Journal’s* website. Author Zoe Rom sums up the interview thusly: “[Butch] tells us in his matter-of-fact style that Yosemite’s rock n’ roll days were crazy and contentious, but ultimately, climbers and rangers were united in their passion for the park that brought them together.” [Full story](#). Submitted by member Dick Martin.

### **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**

"The national parks represent our belief that certain lands are more valuable to us in their preserved state. We have always acknowledged, though, that activities not allowed in the parks were more than allowable and even encouraged elsewhere. Only recently have we seen that these same activities may threaten the parks we thought were preserved for all time."

John C. Freemuth, *Islands Under Siege: National Parks and the Politics of External Threats*

\* \* \* \* \*

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](#).

--- ### ---