



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

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

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### **Incidents**

#### **Caribbean Parks**

##### **Owners Sought For Boats Blown Into Parks By Hurricanes**

The National Park Service is working with the Coast Guard and Federal Emergency Management Agency to address the problem of damaged vessels that have been blown into Caribbean parks by recent hurricanes.

NPS crews are working to obtain a count and locate owners of the displaced vessels and are also searching for and marking underwater debris that may create navigation hazards. At this time, approximately 180 vessels have been identified, with an unknown number that may be submerged. Most displaced vessels are located at St. John in the Virgin Islands.

The displaced vessels pose a threat to the environment and to the public. Any vessel that may be polluting the water or beach by leaking gasoline or fuel is a priority for safe removal, as are vessels that pose hazards to navigation.

Vessel owners must contact the National Park Service via email [using this template](#) or provide written information to the park directly at the incident command post located at the visitor center at St. John. The following information is needed: Vessel name and registration number; current owner name, email address, mailing address and phone number; vessel location or moored location; date of removal or plan for removal; and description of markings.

Source: [News release](#), Western Incident Management Team.

#### **Joshua Tree National Park**

##### **Missing Couple Died In Murder-Suicide**

The deaths of the couple who disappeared in the park nearly three months ago have been ruled a murder-suicide.

Investigators say Joseph Orbeso, 22, shot and killed his girlfriend, Rachel Nguyen, 20, and then turned the gun on himself. Investigators recovered a handgun at the scene.

Orbeso and Nguyen were reported missing on July 28th after a bed-and-breakfast owner in the Morongo Basin. The proprietor told the sheriff's department that they might have gone hiking in the park that morning.

Authorities found their car near a trailhead that day and began searching for the couple. At the outset, 250 people were involved in the search operation, along with aircraft, dog teams and horse teams. Together, they spent more than 2,100 hours looking for the couple. The search was subsequently scaled back.

On October 15th, a ranger found the bodies inside a steep canyon far to the north of the Maze Loop Trailhead.

Source: [News story](#), *Los Angeles Times*.

### **Olympic National Park Navy Helicopter Crew Rescues Injured Hiker**

An Ohio man who was injured in a fall on Mount Olympus on Tuesday, October 10th, was rescued by a Navy helicopter crew the next day. The man had fallen down a 300-foot chute at an elevation of about 6,000 feet.

The solo climber, who was in his 30s, was rescued from the slopes of the 7,980-foot peak by Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Search and Rescue. The man fell near Snow Dome on the Blue Glacier route. He was able to communicate with park rangers with a satellite phone.

Olympic Mountain Rescue volunteers began the 22-mile trek to the site late on Tuesday. When rescuers arrived, they found that the man had severe hypothermia, a dislocated shoulder and a broken tibia.

He was flown from the mountain to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

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

### **National Mall and Memorial Parks Park Disapproves 45-Foot Statue Of Naked Woman At Permitted Event**

The park has informed the organizers of "Catharsis on the Mall" that a permit will be issued for their event, which is to take place on the Mall from November 10th to November 12th, and that the placement of more than 30 temporary structures in support of the event have also been approved.

But the NPS found that "some proposed structures would be inconsistent with established resource protection guidelines and the public's use and enjoyment of the National Mall." These elements, including the "R-Evolution" statue and a memorial temple, were therefore not approved as part of the pending public gathering permit.

R-Evolution, a 45-foot-tall statue of a nude woman, has been the subject of a number of recent media accounts. According to an article in the *New York Times*, "the sculpture was created for the Burning Man festival in 2015 but was being repurposed for a gathering in Washington...that seeks to bring about social change. Organizers had planned to install it over six days in November and leave it there until March."

Sources: [News release](#), National Mall and Memorial Parks; [news story with photo](#), *New York Times*.

## **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Teenager Killed In Fall On Maryland Heights**

An 18-year-old man fell to his death from the Maryland Heights overlook on the afternoon of Friday, October 20th.

Maximilian Von Arx from Rockford, Illinois, was hiking with a friend and the friend's family when he attempted to jump from one rock ledge to a lower ledge. He lost his footing and could not recover. No immediate safety concerns or suspicious circumstances were discovered through the preliminary investigation.

Rangers responded along with Washington County Fire and EMS. The National Park Service and Maryland State Medical Examiner's Office are cooperating in the investigation.

Source: [News release](#), Harpers Ferry NHP.

## **Death Valley National Park Drive Of Tractor-Trailer Rig Killed In Rollover Accident**

A fatal tractor-trailer accident occurred on California 190 west of Towne Pass in the park on the morning of Monday, October 23rd.

Dusty West, a 51-year-old Pahrump, Nevada, resident, was driving a 1986 Peterbilt tractor hauling equipment on a flatbed trailer. The big rig truck was traveling at a high rate of speed when it veered off the road on the north side and rolled several times. West was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries.

California Highway Patrol officers, Death Valley National Park rangers, and the Inyo County coroner responded. The accident is under investigation by CHP.

Both of the truck's fuel tanks ruptured, spilling approximately 150 to 200 gallons of diesel fuel. California Department of Transportation personnel conducted the clean up.

This was the third vehicle-related fatality in Death Valley National Park this year.

Source: [News release with photo](#), Death Valley NP.

## **Olympic National Park Man Sought In Kidnapping And Sexual Assault Investigation**

Detectives with the Port Angeles Police Department and NPS special agents are investigating a possible kidnapping and sexual assault that occurred in the park in early October.

A woman reported being kidnapped at gunpoint from a street in Port Angeles by two men in a pickup truck. The men reportedly drove her to a wooded area within Olympic National Park and sexually assaulted her.

One of the men is described as approximately 6'04" tall, thin build, scruffy, with red hair. The other man is described as approximately 5'10" tall with a pot-belly, brown hair, and a brown beard. They were driving an older-model single-cab pickup truck, sky blue in color with a silver stripe on the side.

Investigators are seeking information about a person of interest in this incident. A sketch of the man can be found at [this link](#). Anyone with information on the incident can call or text the ISB Tip Line at 888-653-0009, submit a tip online at [www.nps.gov/ISB](http://www.nps.gov/ISB), email the information to

[nps\\_isb@nps.gov](mailto:nps_isb@nps.gov), post a message at Facebook @InvestigativeServicesNPS, or send a tweet to Twitter@SpecialAgentNPS.

Source: [News release](#), Investigative Services Branch.

## **National Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center Fire Season Winds Down**

#### **Synopsis**

NIFC has lowered the national preparedness level from PL 3 to PL 2.

Firefighters continue to work toward containment goals on two large fires in California. Only four large fires are burning nationwide.

*This will be the last report for the season unless conditions change.*

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>October 10th</b>	<b>October 17th</b>	<b>October 31st</b>
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	0	0
Type 1 Teams	5	3	3
Type 2 Teams	4	2	2
Crews	103	262	20
Engines	380	1,181	51
Helicopters	33	49	5
Total FF/Overhead	4,273	12,825	1,174

#### **Fires/Acreage**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2017 Total</b>	<b>2006-2016 Ave</b>	<b>2017 Variance</b>
Year-to-Date Fires	52,699	59,074	- 6,375
Year-to-Date Acres	8,830,898	6,172,002	+ 2,658,896

Sources: [National Interagency Fire Center](#), [InciWeb](#).

## **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.

### **Washington Office Fee Increases Proposed At Some Parks**

In a news release issued on October 24th, the Service announced that it is considering increases to fees at highly visited national parks during peak visitor seasons.

“Proposed peak season entrance fees and revised fees for road-based commercial tours would generate badly needed revenue for improvements to the aging infrastructure of national parks,” the release says. “This includes roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, bathrooms, and other visitor services.” Here’s what else it says:

“Under the proposal, peak-season entrance fees would be established at 17 national parks. The peak season for each park would be defined as its busiest contiguous five-month period of visitation.

“The proposed new fee structure would be implemented at Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Denali, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Olympic, Sequoia & Kings Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Zion National Parks with peak season starting on May 1, 2018; in Acadia, Mount Rainier, Rocky Mountain, and Shenandoah National Parks with peak season starting on June 1, 2018; and in Joshua Tree National Park as soon as practicable in 2018.

“A public comment period on the peak-season entrance fee proposal will be open from October 24, 2017 to November 23, 2017, on the [NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment \(PEPC\) website](#). Written comments can be sent to 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop: 2346 Washington, DC 20240.

“If implemented, estimates suggest that the peak-season price structure could increase national park revenue by \$70 million per year. That is a 34 percent increase over the \$200 million collected in Fiscal Year 2016. Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, 80% of an entrance fee remains in the park where it is collected. The other 20% is spent on projects in other national parks.

“During the peak season at each park, the entrance fee would be \$70 per private, non-commercial vehicle, \$50 per motorcycle, and \$30 per person on bike or foot. A park-specific annual pass for any of the 17 parks would be available for \$75.

“The cost of the annual America the Beautiful- The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, which provides entrance to all federal lands, including parks for a one-year period, would remain \$80. Entrance fees are not charged to visitors under 16 years of age or holders of Senior, Military, Access, Volunteer, or Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) passes. The majority of national parks will remain free to enter; only 118 of 417 park sites charge an entrance fee, and the current proposal only raises fees at 17 fee-charging parks

“The National Park Service is also proposing entry and permit fee adjustments for commercial tour operators. The proposal would increase entry fees for commercial operators and standardize commercial use authorization (CUA) requirements for road-based commercial tours, including application and management fees. All CUA fees stay within the collecting park and would fund rehabilitation projects for buildings, facilities, parking lots, roads, and wayside exhibits that would enhance the visitor experience. The fees will also cover the administrative costs of receiving, reviewing, and processing CUA applications and required reports.

In addition, the proposal would include a peak-season commercial entry fee structure for the 17 national parks referenced above. All proposed fee adjustments for commercial operators would go into effect following an 18-month implementation window.

Information and a forum for public comments regarding commercial permit requirements and fees is available October 24, 2017 to November 23, 2017 on the [NPS Planning, Environment](#)

[and Public Comment \(PEPC\) website](#). Written comments can be sent to National Park Service, Recreation Fee Program, 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop: 2346 Washington, DC 20240.

Source: [News release](#), Office of Communications, Washington Office.

### **Department of the Interior New DOI Report Issued On ‘Energy Burdens’**

On October 25th, the Department of the Interior released a report that identifies “agency actions that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources...”

The press release announcing the report’s release contains this quote from Secretary Zinke about the reason for its preparation:

“Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the review outlined in the Executive Order, we found that several costly and burdensome regulations from the past threaten that balance by hampering the production or transmission of our domestic energy.

“Our public lands are meant to be managed for the benefit of the people. That means a multiple-use approach where appropriate and making sure that multiple-use includes energy development under reasonable regulations. Following President Trump’s leadership, Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations – all while doing so in an environmentally responsible way.”

Although the NPS isn’t listed as one of the agencies under review, the report deals with a number of topics with actual or potential bearing on the Service:

- Repealing the moratorium on new federal coal leases
- Easing compliance on hydraulic fracking on federal and tribal lands, based on alleged excessive costs of compliance reviews
- Shortening NEPA project reviews, particularly those “that impact energy and infrastructure projects, such as resource management planning, permitting, and issuance of rights-of-way for pipeline projects and electricity transmission.”
- Working with the Western Governors Association and other local partners “to develop recommendations to improve the application of the [Endangered Species Act],” a task that will include “a review of ESA regulations and policy documents regarding outdated, unnecessary, ineffective, and inconsistently aligned with Executive and Secretarial Orders.”

The full text of the 44-page report, which is called *Review of the Department of the Interior Actions That Potentially Burden Domestic Energy*, is available as a PDF file [at this link](#).

Source: [News release](#), Department of the Interior.

### **The Senate**

On October 18th, the Senate passed H.R. 2989, the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act. This bill establishes the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission to study activities that may be carried out by the federal government to honor Frederick Douglass on the bicentennial anniversary of his birth, including a rededication of Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

On October 19th, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 71, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027. The resolution passed by a vote of 51 yeas to 49 nays.

On October 24th, the Senate passed H.R. 2266, to provide additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements, which includes \$577 million for wildland fire suppression activities, by a vote of 82 yeas to 17 nays. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

## **The House**

On October 11th, the House passed:

- H.R. 3031, the TSP Modernization Act, to modify the rules relating to withdrawals from the Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) accounts of former federal employees and members of Congress. Under current law, such employees and members may make only one partial withdrawal upon reaching age 59-1/2 while employed or one withdrawal after retirement. The bill permits an unlimited number of such withdrawals. The bill also eliminates: (1) the automatic annuity as a default option if the plan participant does not make an election to establish an annuity, and (2) the limitation on age-based in-service withdrawals.
- H.R. 2989, the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act. This bill establishes the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission to study activities that may be carried out by the federal government to honor Frederick Douglass on the bicentennial anniversary of his birth, including a rededication of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site.

On October 11th, the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on:

- H.R. 3373, to extend for an additional 50 years the lease under which the government of the District of Columbia uses the ground under and the parking facilities associated with the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium.
- H.R. 3607, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish fees for medical services provided in units of the National Park System.

Bob Vogel, acting deputy director for operations, National Park Service, was the witness for the Department of the Interior.

On October 11th, the House Natural Resources Committee approved H.R. 3990, the "National Monument Creation and Protection Act," and disapproved H. Res. 555, requesting the President and directing the Secretary of the Interior to transmit, respectively, certain documents and other information to the House of Representatives relating to the executive order on the review of designations under the Antiquities Act. H.R. 3990 would amend the Antiquities Act by:

- Restricting the president from designating national monuments greater than 640 acres without further action
- Mandating a 50-mile barrier between national monuments to prevent a patchwork loophole.
- Requiring new monument designations between 640 acres and 10,000 acres to be reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to being finalized.

- Requiring approval of all county commissions, state legislatures, and governors impacted by a national monument for any designation between 10,000 acres and 85,000 acres.
- Requiring any monument designation larger than 85,000 acres to be authorized only by an act of Congress.
- Creating a new Presidential authority to designate “Emergency National Monuments” for up to one year, to protect areas of any size in times of emergency, as determined by the President. After invoking this authority, the President may never designate any of the lands as a future National Monument.
- Clarifying that “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest” would not be eligible to be considered as antiquities for purposes of protection under the Antiquities Act.
- Prohibiting Marine National Monuments and other sprawling national monuments with no archeological or historic sites in need of protection.

On October 12th, the House passed:

- S. 585, to provide greater whistleblower protections for Federal employees, increased awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, and increased accountability and required discipline for Federal supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers, by a recorded vote of 420 ayes and 0 nays.
- H.R. 2266, to provide additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements, which includes \$577 million for wildland fire suppression activities.

On October 12th, the House Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing on H.R. 3916, a bill that would move responsibility from the secretary of commerce or the National Marine Fisheries Service to the secretary of the interior with respect to species of fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and migrate to ocean waters, and species of fish that spawn in ocean waters and migrate to fresh waters.

On October 26th, the House passed the Senate-amended version of H. Con. Res. 71, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027. The resolution passed by a vote of 216 yeas to 212 nays. This is the final action on the concurrent resolution, which guides the appropriations committees as annual appropriations bills are considered for fiscal year 2018. Concurrent resolutions do not require the signature of the president.

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

### **Golden Gate National Recreation Area Laura E. Joss Appointed Superintendent**

Laura Joss, currently regional director for Pacific West Region, has been selected as the new superintendent of Golden Gate NRA.

Joss has been with the Service for 27 years. She has served as deputy regional director and chief of staff and as associate regional director for resource stewardship and research for Intermountain Region, superintendent at Arches National Park, deputy superintendent for Southeast Utah Group, superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and Hampton National Historic Site in Maryland, and chief of the cultural resources branch at Yellowstone National Park.



Joss is married to Skip Meehan, a San Francisco native, who is also an employee of the National Park Service. They met while working at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and have two daughters, Lindsay and Elizabeth, as well as two miniature Australian shepherds. Joss enjoys running, biking, pottery and exploring national park sites and museums with her family.

Joss will assume her new post in November. Deputy Regional Director Martha Lee will serve as acting regional director for Pacific West Region until a permanent replacement is selected.

Source: [News release with photo](#), Golden Gate NRA.

### **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore David Horne Chosen As Superintendent**

David Horne has been selected as the park's superintendent. He is a 23-year veteran of the National Park Service and currently serves as the chief ranger for Southeast Region. He will begin his new assignment in January.

A graduate of Humboldt State University in northern California with a bachelor's degree in biology, Horne spent four years in the U.S. Coast Guard, stationed primarily in Kodiak, Alaska. His career with the National Park Service began in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in natural resource management. He then joined the ranks of visitor and resource protection, working at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Big Bend, Yosemite, and Pinnacles National Parks as well as Lake Mead National Recreation Area and in the Intermountain Regional Office.

Horne and his wife, Carol, have three young sons who are very active in scouting. He and his sons completed a week-long 50-mile canoe trip with the scouts this past summer, and they expect to continue this passion in their new home.

Source: [News release with photo](#), Pictured Rocks NL.

### **University of California/Berkeley Former Director Jon Jarvis To Head New Institute**

UC Berkeley has announced the establishment of the [Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity](#) "to tackle the most pressing issues facing the future of parks, including climate change and equitable access."

The institute's inaugural executive director will be Jon Jarvis, who served 40 years with the National Park Service and as its 18th director from 2009 to 2017.

The [Resource Legacy Fund](#) (RLF) provided \$250,000 in seed money to launch the institute, continuing its nearly 20-year history of advancing conservation across the West. The nonprofit recently led efforts to help modernize the California park system through the Parks Forward Commission.

"The new institute will help inform future policy and management directions for parks," said Michael Mantell, the founder and president of RLF. "Today we understand better than ever the economic, ecological and societal values of protecting parks and biological diversity. That's why we need a new vision for parks that includes equitable access and climate resilience, and policy to achieve that vision. Resources Legacy Fund is pleased to help UC Berkeley pioneer the interdisciplinary approach that can help advance our parks and serve society for the 21st century and beyond."

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

## **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** – *Business Wire*, a “global leader in press release distribution and regulatory disclosure,” reports that there’s now “a one-stop-booking tool for park enthusiasts looking to plan their next vacation.” “Aramark, the award-winning food and hospitality partner for national and state parks and other leading leisure and cultural attractions, [has] announced the launch of its new travel website, The Nation’s Vacation ([www.TheNationsVacation.com](http://www.TheNationsVacation.com)), dedicated to helping travelers find the national park destination that best suits their vacation desires.” [Full story](#).
- **National Park System** – There’s an article in *Men’s Journal* on the growing and increasingly serious problem of crowding in the parks and the long effort to find some way to establish carrying capacity limits for the parks and/or disperse visitation across the system. After examining the options available to the NPS, the author observes that a crisis is imminent: “Assuming...that visitor trends don’t shift, our national parks will continue to swell each summer, until, presumably, something drastic is done...” [Full story](#).
- **National Park System** – Alas, just a day late for this story from the website Motherboard, which would make for good Halloween reading. The headline: “How America’s National Parks Became Hotbeds Of Paranormal Activity.” As in a previous entry on this subject, the article centers on David Paulides and his followers, who believe that many of the people who go missing in national parks disappeared due to supernatural causes. [Full story](#).
- **Yellowstone National Park** – The *Billings Gazette* had a story in its October 22nd edition entitled “Yellowstone’s Bison Dynamics Raise Questions.” It concerns the history and changing dynamics of the park’s buffalo herds: “Why is the central herd declining even though fewer are harvested? Why are more central animals migrating north instead of west like they used to do? In the future will the central herd disappear after animals like [bison number] 3225 die and take with them the habit of moving west? Will bison ever occupy the land west of Yellowstone that has been opened to them?” [Full story](#),

### **Systemwide**

#### **Park Operations Update**

Short reports regarding the National Park System’s 400 plus parks and its central, regional and training offices:

- **Cape Hatteras National Seashore** – A project to remove the Cape Hatteras fishing pier and its pier house will begin in December and should be completed by this coming spring. The pier has sustained damage from numerous hurricanes and other severe weather events over the years. In 2010, the damage caused by Hurricane Earl was so severe that the pier and pier house were closed to the public and have not reopened. Source: [News release](#), Cape Hatteras NS.

- **Golden Gate National Recreation Area** – The NPS has permanently ended a planning and rulemaking process intended to establish new regulations related to dog management in the park. The decision follows the completion of an independent review of the dog rule planning and rulemaking process. In its report, the independent review team concluded that the use of personal email by NPS employees to conduct official business was inappropriate, but the emails the team reviewed ultimately did not influence the outcome of the planning and rulemaking process. However, NPS officials, with the support of the Department of the Interior leadership, concluded that it is no longer appropriate to proceed with the rulemaking process. For additional details on this latest development in the long-running controversy over dog management in the park, see the news release. Source: [News release](#), Office of Communications, Washington Office.
- **Yosemite National Park** – The park has expanded and improved the Yosemite Museum’s web catalog to improve public access to a wide variety of historically significant items. Visitors can now explore more than 2,000 catalog records for objects and images from the Yosemite Museum collection. Source: [News release](#), Yosemite NP.
- **Olympic National Park** – Four-hour delays on U.S. Highway 101 around Lake Crescent began this past Monday and will continue through late November for rock bolting work. The delays will be between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday until the project shuts down for the winter. Work began in the spring on the \$27.5 million project to rehabilitate 12 miles of Highway 101 around Lake Crescent and East Beach Road. Source: [News story](#), *Peninsula Daily News*.
- **Blue Ridge Parkway** – The parkway is closed from Milepost 402.7 to Milepost 408.4, where a significant washout has been discovered along the road shoulder at the Little Pisgah Ridge Tunnel. Park engineers are assessing the site for any additional undercutting of the road and needed repairs. The Pisgah Inn and campground at Milepost 408.8 are accessible via US Route 276 which crosses the Parkway at Milepost 411.8. Until repaired, this is a hazardous area and is closed to all traffic, including cyclists and hikers. [News release](#), Blue Ridge Parkway.

## **Acknowledgements**

Thanks this week to Don Hellman, Duncan Morrow, and the indefatigable Dennis Burnett for the submissions they sent along for this edition.

## **A Closing Observation**

"We have been compared to the military forces because of our dedication and esprit de corps. In a sense this is true. We do act as guardians of our country's land. Our National Park Service uniform which we wear with pride does command the respect of our fellow citizens. We have the spirit of fighters, not as a destructive force, but as a power for good. With this spirit, each of us is an integral part of the preservation of the magnificent heritage we have been given, so that centuries from now people of our world, or perhaps of other worlds, may see and understand what is unique to our earth, never changing, eternal."

Farewell message to the Service, [Horace M. Albright](#), 1933

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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 member Steve Pittleman.

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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