



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

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### Editor's Note

A minor change has been made in the newsletter's format. Having always been [a splitter rather than a lumper](#), as they say in taxonomy and elsewhere, I have to keep in check a tendency to over subdivide categories and occasionally find a need to back up a bit and simplify. In this case, the PEPC and opinion column sections have been eliminated and folded into other sections, as appropriate.

### Incidents

#### **National Park System**

#### **Hurricanes, Typhoon Prompt Preparations, Closures In Southeast, Caribbean and Pacific**

Although most media attention is focused on the imminent landfall of Hurricane Florence somewhere along the coastline between South Carolina and Virginia, three other tropical cyclones are or may soon be affecting parks in the western Pacific and Caribbean – Hurricane Isaac (Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico), Hurricane Olivia (parks throughout the Hawaiian Islands), and Typhoon Mangkut (War in the Pacific and American Memorial). The following reports are from parks in the path of Florence; the link below this summary provides a general overview of developments in all these areas.

- *Cape Hatteras NS/Fort Raleigh NHS/Wright Brothers NM* – Due to Hurricane Florence's projected path toward the North Carolina coast and Dare County's mandatory evacuation order for visitors and residents throughout the region, the three parks closed at noon on Monday. The Dare County mandatory evacuation order is available to view [at this link](#).
- *Cape Lookout NS* – Florence is expected to create extremely hazardous conditions in and around the park. It also closed at noon on Monday.
- *Fort Sumter NM* – The park closed on Tuesday.
- *Congaree NP* – The park will close at 2 p.m. on Wednesday. The closure affects the entire park, including facilities, trails, campgrounds and canoe access. All programs are cancelled until further notice.

Source: [NPS Hurricane and Severe Weather Response webpage](#).

#### **Yellowstone National Park**

#### **Man Who Harassed Bison Pleads Guilty And Is Sentenced**

Raymond Reinke, 55, who was arrested in early August after video surfaced of the incident where he waved his arms and ran toward a bison, pleaded guilty to four charges of misconduct in federal court last month.

Reinke had several run-ins with law enforcement in Yellowstone and Grand Teton in the weeks leading up to his arrest, including incidents in which he had an open container of alcohol and was publicly intoxicated. He was also cited for disturbing wildlife after the bison video surfaced online in late July. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail on the charge of harassing wildlife for the bison incident, plus 60 days for interfering with law enforcement and 10 days for disorderly conduct, for 130 days total in jail, with credit for 21 days served.

When in court, Reinke apologized to the bison: "I'm sorry to the buffalo. He didn't deserve what I did to him. I'm sorry, I really didn't mean to hurt that buffalo." To which the judge replied: "You chased and hounded the bison. You're lucky the bison didn't take care of it and you're standing in front of me."

Reinke has a criminal history dating to 1991, although it includes no felony offenses.

Source: [ABC Fox Montana](#).

### **Yosemite National Park Teen Falls To Death While Trying To Take Selfie**

An 18-year-old hiker died on Wednesday, September 5th, after falling off a cliff at 600-foot-high Nevada Fall.

The teen was identified as Israeli national Tomer Frankfurter. Frankfurter's mother said that he slipped while trying to take a selfie at the edge of the fall.

Source: [ABC News](#).

### **Acadia National Park Severely Injured Hiker Rescued By Rangers**

A hiker with an injured leg was rescued on the morning of Monday, September 3rd, by rangers and others who used a helicopter to get her off a mountain at Acadia National Park.

The 53-year-old Boston woman was hiking on the Dorr Mountain Ladder Trail with some companions when a falling rock that weighed 200 or 300 pounds landed on her leg. She was in steep terrain when the accident happened, about a third of a mile from the trailhead.

The emergency call reporting her injuries came in at 7:19 a.m. About a half hour later, park rangers and paramedics from the Bar Harbor Fire Department arrived at her location. They found that she'd sustained significant lower leg injury from the falling rock, treated her, and – due to the terrain and the severity of her injury – called the Maine Forest Service to ask for a helicopter to extract her.

While they were waiting for it to arrive, they moved the woman to a ledge so she could be more easily taken off the mountain, lowering her roughly 30 feet with a rope and a litter. The helicopter picked her up; she was then flown to the Bar Harbor ball field, where an ambulance transported her to the Mount Desert Island Hospital, also in Bar Harbor.

Eight Acadia rangers, two paramedics, ten rescue personnel from Mount Desert Island Search & Rescue, two park volunteers and the crew from the Maine Forest Service were involved in the rescue.

Source: [Bangor Daily News](#).

### **Blue Ridge Parkway Man Who Killed Daughter In Park Gets Life In Prison**

Seth Pickering, 38, who took the life of his six-year-old daughter in the park two years ago, will spend the rest of his life in prison as a result.

Pickering and his wife had been fighting over custody of the girl for some time. Buncombe County Health and Human Services eventually took her from Pickering, who had temporary custody at the time, and placed her in the custody of caretakers.

On September 9, 2016, Pickering picked his daughter up from her caretakers' home, and, against their warnings, took her camping along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Brevard Road. The girl's guardians notified the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, which was preparing to issue an "Amber Alert" at the time she was killed.

Just before 7 p.m. two rangers approached Pickering and his daughter, investigating what they believed to be an illegal campsite. They knew nothing about the "Amber Alert," as it was never issued. Without warning, Pickering turned away from the rangers and made a lunging movement toward his daughter, who was standing a few feet behind him, stabbing her and killing her instantly.

Pickering later told the rangers that he had killed his daughter so that nobody could take her from him again.

Source: [Asheville Citizen Times](#).

## **National Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center Many Fires Continue To Burn, But Preparedness Level Drops**

#### **Synopsis**

NIFC has dropped the national preparedness level from PL 4 to PL 3.

A total of 84 fires remain active nationwide; together they have burned nearly 1.4 million acres. Firefighters and support personnel continue to work toward containment objectives on these wildfires.

#### **National Park Service Fires**

*Glacier NP* – Two fires continue to burn in the park:

- Howe Ridge Fire – The fire, which was started by lightning on August 11th, has burned 14,224 acres and is now 20% contained. It is being managed by the Northern Rockies Type 1 IMT (Goicoechea); 158 firefighters and overhead personnel are currently committed. For information on the fire, evacuations and closures, see the IMT's [most recent press release](#).
- Boundary Fire – The 2,910-acre fire, which began on August 23rd, is also being managed by the Northern Rockies IMT. It's 14% contained. Twenty firefighters are currently committed. For additional details, see the IMT's press [most recent press release](#).

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>August 28th</b>	<b>September 4th</b>	<b>September 11th</b>
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	2	1	1
Type 1 Teams	14	7	5
Type 2 Teams	21	12	12
Crews	447	344	330
Engines	1,002	805	813

Helicopters	164	162	122
Total FF/Overhead	20,703	15,793	14,089

### **Fires/Acreage**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2018 Total</b>	<b>2008-2017 Ave</b>	<b>2018 Variance</b>
Year-to-Date Fires	47,303	49,554	- 2,251
Year-to-Date Acres	8,131,216	6,053,654	+ 2,077,562

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

## **Official Washington**

Reports on official actions and activities from Capitol Hill, the White House, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service and other related agencies and NGO's.

### **Capitol Hill Weekly Legislative Roundup**

Note: This report covers the last week of August and the first week of September.

#### ***New Public Laws***

Nothing to report.

#### ***Senate***

On September 6th, the nomination of Raymond David Vela of Texas to be director of the National Park Service was transmitted to the Senate.

#### ***House***

On September 5th, the Committee on Natural Resources approved several bills, including the following of interest to NPS:

- H. Res. 418, urging the Secretary of the Interior to recognize the cultural significance of Rib Mountain, Wisconsin, by adding it to the National Register of Historic Places.
- H. Res. 460, requesting the Secretary of the Interior to recognize the rich history of the logging industry and the importance of lumberjack sports by adding the Lumberjack Bowl in Hayward, Wisconsin, to the National Register of Historic Places.
- H.R. 5420, to authorize the acquisition of the 89-acre Morgan property for addition to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site in the State of New York.
- H.R. 6287, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to award grants, through a competitive process, to tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations for the operation and maintenance of memorials located within the United States established to commemorate the events of, and honor the victims of, the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11, 2001, at the site of the attacks. The bill is drafted in such a way that the funding will most likely go to the 9/11 Memorial in NY, and which could provide up to \$25 million per year for the next five fiscal years of the memorial's \$72.4 million annual budget. The funding would likely come out of the NPS budget even though the foundation managing the memorial made it clear that it wanted the NPS to have nothing to do with managing the memorial when it first opened and subsequently as the legislation was being drafted.

- H.R. 6599, to modify the application of temporary limited appointment regulations to the National Park Service. The bill would restore the ability of seasonal employees to work in one park in summer and another in winter, overturning the Office of Personnel Management's interpretation of seasonal hiring rules that stymied seasonal recruiting and hiring and prohibited seasonal employees from working for more than six months per year.
- H.R. 6678, to transfer the 69-acre Claude Moore Colonial Farm, a unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, to the Friends of Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run.
- H.R. 6687, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to manage the Point Reyes National Seashore in the State of California consistent with Congress' longstanding intent to maintain working dairies and ranches on agricultural property as part of the seashore's unique historic, cultural, scenic and natural values.

On September 6th, the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on several bills, including the following of interest to NPS:

- H.R. 5706, to establish the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawaii and to remove it from the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, and to redesignate the Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii as the Honouliuli National Historic Site. Prior to being redesignated as part of the larger national monument, the NPS had managed the Pearl Harbor Memorial for decades under an agreement with the U.S. Navy, but the site was one of the few within the national park system that never had its own congressional authorization. This bill would provide that authorization for the first time as well as removing it from the national monument.
- H.R. 6108, to increase the authorization of appropriations for the American Battlefield Protection Grant Program from \$10 million to \$20 million through FY 2028, and to provide funding for interpretation and restoration of preserved battlefields.
- H.R. 6118, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to annually designate at least one city in the United States as an "American World War II Heritage City", and to designate Wilmington, North Carolina as the first American World War II Heritage City.

There was no witness from the department at this hearing.

Source: Don Hellmann, former assistant director, legislative and congressional affairs for the National Park Service.

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

### **National Park System Recent NPS Management Changes**

A number of new NPS management changes have been announced over the last few weeks. Here's a summary:

- *Fire Island NS* – Alexcy "Alex" Romero has taken over from Chris Soller, who retired this year. Romero currently serves as superintendent of George Washington Memorial Parkway, but will move to Fire Island in late September. Source: NPS, link unavailable.
- *Northeast Region* – Debbie Conway, a 32-year park service veteran who has served as Steamtown superintendent since 2014, has been named deputy regional director for the southern half of the agency's Northeast Region. Source: Newspaper, link unavailable.
- *Lake Mead NRA* – Lizette Richardson, who announced her retirement in July after having been tapped to head Intermountain Region as part of the ongoing DOI-directed management shakeup, has retired after three years as the park's superintendent. Source: [Boulder City Review](#).

## **Coalition News**

News about CPANP and actions taken by its members on behalf of the National Park Service and National Park System.

**Membership Update** – Amy Gilbert, the Coalition’s executive manager, has provided figures on our current membership. As of September 6th, we had 1,587 members. If you add in volunteers and supporters, the number is 1,627.

**Coalition Chair Interviewed On Planned Reorganization** – Sputnik Radio, a component of the Moscow-based Sputnik news agency, which bills itself as “a modern news agency whose products include newsfeeds, websites, social networks, mobile apps, radio broadcasts and multimedia press centers” around the world,” interviewed CPANP Chair Phil Francis regarding DOI’s plans to shift the department’s offices throughout the country into 12 unified regions. The full text, which is not long, can be read on their website. Source: [Radio Sputnik](#).

## **News Reports and Releases**

A brief summary of recent news stories, web postings and agency press releases pertaining to the Service, the federal government, the administration, DOI, and other public land management agencies that have bearing on the NPS.

## **Government and Administration**

**The Role Of Civil Service Employees In The Current Administration** – Loren DeJonge Schulman, the deputy director of studies at the Center for a New American Security and a former civil servant who worked at NSA and the Pentagon, has written a thoughtful and provocative editorial in the *Washington Post* ([“Civil Servants Can’t Stop Trump. Stop Asking Them To”](#)) on the role of civil servants in a rogue administration. “Can anyone, in good conscience, work for the United States government right now?,” she asks, then answers her own question: “Yes. And the rest of us should stop insisting otherwise. The most profound form of protest against the Trump administration may be for these men and women to serve, professionally....To an administration sledgehammering its own institutions, a mass exit of men and women of principle and patriotism would be a gift, not an act of resistance. If they left, they would rob the government of irreplaceable knowledge; if they became dedicated adversaries of the president, they would further erode trust in civil servants’ ability to execute their duties faithfully.” She argues forcefully that people outside the government should not be fomenting internal resistance: “For those quick to burn it all down for the sake of democracy, hold your torches. There is no good outcome if the civil service rises up against the president...”, explaining that “there will be a world after [this administration], one where the new president will need these institutions to be greater and stronger than they were before to repair the damage his term has wreaked.” There’s much more worth reading in this challenging editorial. Source: [Washington Post](#).

**SES Exodus Continues** – The *Washington Post* reported the following in this past Sunday’s edition: “The streams of people heading for Uncle Sam’s door are top federal civil servants fleeing the Trump administration. The exodus of Senior Executive Service (SES) members was nearly 26 percent higher under President Trump in fiscal 2017, which included most of his first year in office, than it was under former President Barack Obama in fiscal 2009, according to the Partnership for Public Service, which crunched Office of Personnel Management (OPM) data for the *Federal Insider*. In fiscal 2017, which began in October 2016, 1,522 senior execs left the government.” That number works out to about a fifth of the SES employees who were working at the beginning of the fiscal year. Source: [Washington Post](#).

## **National Park Service and System**

Stories and articles pertaining to the parks, regions, technical and training centers, and WASO.

**NPS Document Strikes References To Climate Change Impacts Per DOI Order** – Documents obtained by the Center for Investigative Reporting via a Freedom of Information Act request show the

chilling impacts of the administration's directive that the NPS avoid mentioning climate change in its reports: "Park officials scrubbed all mentions of climate change from a key planning document for a New England national park after they were warned to avoid 'sensitive language that may raise eyebrows' with the Trump administration," reports *Reveal*. Although the report in question is for one small park (New Bedford Whaling), the same directive applies to all parks Servicewide: "The documents provide a rare peek behind the usually closed curtains of the Trump administration. They illustrate how President Donald Trump's approach to climate change impacts the way that park managers research and plan for future threats to the nation's historic and natural treasures. The editing of the report reflects a pattern of the Trump administration sidelining research and censoring Interior Department documents that contain references to climate science." But the article closes with a telling observation from past Director Jon Jarvis: "The bottom line is, this is just paper,' Jarvis [said]. 'You can't erase in the superintendents' minds the role of climate change. They're going to do the right thing even if it's not in the policy document.'" Source: [Reveal](#).

**Admin Directed NPS To Crop Inauguration Photos To Make Crowd Appear Larger** – The following was broadcast by CNN last Sunday: "A government photographer told investigators that he intentionally cropped photos of President Donald Trump's inauguration to remove empty space and make the audience look larger, according to newly released documents. The admission, contained in newly released records from a 2017 investigation, shed new light on what happened after the National Park Service shared a social media post comparing the crowds that attended the inaugurations of Trump and former President Barack Obama. Trump claimed footage of the event did not jibe with the number of people he saw from the stage. His then-press secretary, Sean Spicer, gathered reporters the following evening and claimed, 'This was the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration -- period.' The identity of the photographer and many other government officials are redacted from the documents..." Source: [CNN](#).

**Around The Parks** – Brief reports on parks and regions, culled either from park press releases or from newspapers, with links to the source news articles:

- *Point Reyes NS* – "Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA, 2nd Dist.) joined Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) to introduced a bill that would fundamentally reverse National Park Service management of Point Reyes National Seashore to prioritize the livestock industry over public uses and interests," reports the Western Watershed Project webpage. "The bill, H. R. 6687, would redirect the Secretary of the Interior to manage the National Seashore 'to maintain working dairies and ranches on agricultural property as part of the seashore's unique historic, cultural, scenic and natural values, and for other purposes' instead of prioritizing management of these lands for public recreation and benefit." Source: [Western Watershed Project](#).
- *Cape Cod NS* – CNBC, a cable broadcasting network, posted a report earlier this month on how local businesses and tourists on Cape Cod "are embracing the Cape Cod great white shark boom." "Over the past year, great white shark sightings along the Cape have soared, primarily due to the exploding seal population," reports CNBC. "According to David W. Johnson, a professor of marine conservation ecology at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, there are currently between 30,000 and 50,000 gray seals off the southeastern Massachusetts coast." The presence of great white sharks has led to a spike in visitation to the park and the cape and to a "frenzy" of sales of "all things shark related, from T-shirts and souvenirs to shark-themed ice cream." The movie *Jaws* played at a cape theater almost all summer long. Source: [CNBC](#).
- *Gulf Islands NS* – The park is seeking public comment on its draft Perdido Key backcountry stewardship plan. Access to backcountry camping on the key by hikers has been temporarily suspended due to increased resource damage by irresponsible campers over the past several years. Comments are being taken through October 31st. Source: [PEPC](#).
- *New River Gorge NR* – The *Charleston Gazette-Mail* ran a story on September 4th on the park's new approach to managing invasives: " The National Park Service is experimenting with four-legged weed-eaters to get rid of kudzu and other fast-growing, invasive weed species in the Thurmond area of the New River Gorge National River. [As of Friday, September 7th], 24 goats

[began] a month-long period of intensive grazing in the brush and weeds surrounding, and partially covering, the old Fayette County railroad town.” Source: [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#).

- *Olympic NP* – “After decades of discussion and study, the effort to relocate mountain goats from the Olympic Mountains to the North Cascades is finally underway,” reports KOMO News. “Starting [September 10th], personnel from a collection of government agencies, Native American tribes and a specialized contractor will begin collecting the goats from their rocky, high-elevation perches in the Olympics and flying them by helicopter to their new digs east of Puget Sound.” Source: [KOMO News](#).

## **Environmental and Land Management Agencies**

Stories on federal and state agencies that are responsible for environmental oversight or the management of America’s public lands:

**EPA Staff Continues To Shrink** – The president is making headway in his campaign promise to gut EPA. The *Washington Post* reports that nearly 1600 people have left the agency over the last 18 months, while only 400 or so were hired. “Those who have resigned or retired include some of the agency’s most experienced veterans,” write the article’s authors, “as well as young environmental experts who traditionally would have replaced them — stirring fears about brain drain at the EPA. The sheer number of departures also has prompted concerns over what sort of work is falling by the wayside, from enforcement investigations to environmental research.” According to information the paper got through a FOIA request, those departing included “at least 260 scientists, 185 ‘environmental protection specialists’ and 106 engineers...” Source: [Washington Post](#).

**USDA Moves To Open Forest Service Lands To Commercial Uses** – The administration has moved to open up at least two national forests to commercial exploitation. The state of Alaska is “partnering” with USFS to review and revise a federal directive barring road construction on wild, undeveloped forest lands, thereby barring the possibility of new logging or other resource extraction that would require new roads. The proposed new roadless rule would apply to the Tongass National Forest. According to the *Anchorage Daily News*, “the Forest Service plans an environmental review of ‘management solutions that address infrastructure, timber, energy, mining, access, and transportation needs to further Alaska’s economic development, while still conserving roadless areas for future generations...” There will be public meetings in Alaska and [written comments are being taken until mid-October](#). In the Lower 48, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* reports that USDA has lifted a roadblock to copper-nickel mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Minnesota. The Obama administration in 2016 withdrew around 234,000 acres of the Rainy River watershed near Ely from eligibility for mineral leasing pending further study, citing the potential threat to the Boundary Waters. USDA has canceled the withdrawal, saying its review revealed no new scientific information. It says companies may soon be able to sign mineral leases in the area. Sources: [Anchorage Daily News](#) and [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#).

## **Climate and The Environment**

Stories and articles pertaining to climate and environmental changes and their implications – direct or indirect – for national parks.

**Hurricanes Are Getting Slower And Wetter** – The September/October issue of *Weatherwise* (no link available) has a story on NOAA research that shows that hurricanes have been slowing down over the last 65 years or so, leading to higher rainfall totals. The researchers “found that, worldwide, hurricane translational speeds – or the speed at which hurricanes travel along their tracks – slowed 10% during that period,” but that “hurricanes over land in the North Atlantic have slowed by as much as 20%, and those in the western North Pacific as much as 30%.” Since hurricanes now carry much more precipitation due to climate-change induced ocean evaporation, they can produce massive floods, as happened in Houston last year. Conclusion: “In addition to other factors affecting hurricanes, like intensification and poleward migration, these slowdowns are likely to make future storms more dangerous and costly.” Source: *Weatherwise*.



**Extreme Weather Maps** – Last month, the *Washington Post* ran a story on the mapping of extreme weather across the United States – areas “where alerts for floods, storms and tornadoes happen most.” The article is being posted here because of its applicability to the many parks that show repeated susceptibility to various forms of extreme weather. Perhaps the most interesting map is the first one, which shows flash flood warnings issued by the National Weather Service since 2012, as climate change is bringing heavier and heavier rains and more such floods. Notes the author: “Although flooding does not tend to generate the headlines of a tornado outbreak, in many years flooding is a leading cause of weather fatalities and economic losses.” There are also maps for strong and severe winds and hail size. Worth a look. Source: [Washington Post](#).

## **From The Archives**

This section contains incidents taken from *Morning Report* issues published during the corresponding week (approximately) 25 years ago in 1993. All entries appear in the original verb tense.

- *Sunset Crater Volcano NM* – A 59-year-old fee collector pleaded guilty to theft of public money (a misdemeanor) in federal district court in Phoenix on July 13th. He was placed on unsupervised probation for one year and fined \$6,000, a sum equivalent to the amount that investigators believe he stole from entrance fees he collected while working in the park during the summer of 1990. The U.S. attorney's office credits regional and park staff members – particularly district ranger Dennis Vasquez – for their investigation and the actions they took in this incident.
- *El Malpais NM* – On August 20th, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta notified the park that a blood sample taken from a seasonal fire control aid had tested positive for hantavirus, the disease which recently killed a number of Navajos on tribal lands to the northwest of the park. Infected individuals experience flu-like symptoms until rapid infection of lung tissue occurs and the patient essentially drowns in body fluids. Infection occurs by breathing dust contaminated by rodent waste excretions. Although the disease has a 70% mortality rate, the infected employee is recovering and left the area to return to college on August 27th. Doctors at the CDC anticipate a complete recovery. While the exact cause of the infection is unknown, the CDC suspects that the employee contracted the disease while living in the district bunkhouse – a ranch house which was acquired when the monument was established and subsequently converted to seasonal quarters and a district office. The house/office was heavily infested with mice at the time of the incident and the population was increasing rapidly. Up to a dozen were being trapped each night. The regional office and park have begun a review of all park operations to assess risks to park employees and their families. The district ranger station has been closed to all use, and the district ranger and his spouse may be relocated. Region will soon release a directive advising all employees of the serious nature of the disease and the need to take prudent and practical precautions when dealing with rodents, especially the white-footed deer mouse. It will also require an inventory of park structures and other work areas - including archeological and historic projects - where employees might be in danger of infection, and will advise employees and their families to use the recommended CDC methods for dealing with rodents and their wastes.
- *Colonial NHP* – On the morning of November 20, 1992, three North Carolina men were apprehended who were using metal detectors in a remote section of the Yorktown battlefield. Subsequent investigation revealed that the men had dug over 250 holes and removed over 200 metal artifacts. On August 5, 1993, two of them entered guilty pleas to misdemeanor ARPA violations in exchange for an agreement to testify against the third man. On August 26th, the third man pleaded guilty to a felony ARPA violation. Each defendant agreed to pay \$5,000 in restitution, forfeit all artifacts and metal detecting equipment, and participate in the filming of a video on relic hunting. One also forfeited his 1986 Isuzu Trooper, which was used in the incident. All three will be sentenced in October and still face potential fines and/or imprisonment in addition to the forfeitures. Colonial ranger Bob Whiteman and detective Clyde Yee, Fredericksburg/Spottsylvania ranger Mike Greenfield, and MARO archeologist Brooke Blades had primary roles in the apprehension and investigation.

## Acknowledgements

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- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Dave Harmon, Mark Forbes, Jeff Ohlfs, Bob Reid

If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to Bill Halainen at the Weekly National Park System Report: [BHalainen@gmail.com](mailto:BHalainen@gmail.com). Please don't submit them via his personal email address or Facebook page.

## A Closing Observation

"[Parks have a meaning that] concerns itself...with the physical necessity of man to keep in touch with nature. It is the eon-old longing of the soul to find a haven of rest. No matter how much we do indirectly by way of sports and athletics for the body, the spiritual hunger and search for things hidden is the true answer to the question, 'Why parks?' Parks are the dietetics of the soul - a refuge, a place to regain spiritual balance and find strength, and, if needed, a place of resignation from the turbulent world without."

Park advocate [Richard Lieber](#)

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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](#). If you need to contact the Coalition office on other matters, including changes of address, click on [this link](#).

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