



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

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

Volume 2

Number 35

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### **Incidents**

#### **Canyon de Chelly National Monument Man Armed With Knife Fatally Shot By Ranger**

A man armed with a knife was fatally shot by a ranger on the afternoon of Friday, October 5th. Venson Yazzie, 43, a vendor who sold rock art to tourists, was killed at a park overlook.

The FBI is investigating the incident as an assault on a federal officer but has not provided any additional information. The ranger is currently on paid administrative leave.

Source: [KNXV News](#)

#### **Grand Canyon National Park Ranger Involved In Shooting Incident**

A ranger was involved in a shooting incident in the park around 1 a.m. on the morning of Thursday, October 11th. A suspect was taken into custody. Both suspect and ranger sustained minor injuries in the incident. The text of the official release follows; no further information is currently available:

“The NPS has a national policy that governs response to an officer involved shooting within park boundaries to ensure investigations are conducted with thoroughness, professionalism and impartiality. The NPS's Investigative Services Branch is on scene at the Grand Canyon and is leading the investigation. Notifications have been made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the investigation, it will be submitted to the United States Attorney's Office District of Arizona. The NPS Office of Professional Responsibility will provide an objective and thorough internal investigation into the officer's actions. Involved officers are placed on administrative leave while these investigations occur.”

Source: [Grand Canyon National Park](#).

#### **Eastern Areas Hurricane Michael Causes Some Park Damage, Closures**

Hurricane Michael made landfall on October 10th along the panhandle of Florida and crossed over areas of the Southeast before moving into the Atlantic and away from the U.S. on October 12th. Parks impacted by the storm have been conducting damage assessments and reopening as conditions allow. Here are current updates from affected parks:

- *Gulf Islands NS* – The Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Naval Live Oaks areas in Florida are closed. The Fort Pickens Road and Highway 399 (between Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach) have been significantly impacted and will not reopen until made safe or repaired as necessary. The Fort Pickens campground is closed. Several other roads and sites are closed temporarily – the Battery Cooper loop road, the Davis Bayou fishing pier, restrooms at Battery Langdon, and the Fort Pickens campground store. All Mississippi barrier islands, including West Ship, East Ship, Horn, Petit Bois, and Cat Islands have reopened.
- *Guilford Courthouse NMP* – All tour roads and trails are closed at this time due to the many trees knocked down by the storm.
- *Cape Hatteras NS* – All visitor facilities at the park reopened on October 12th following the storm's passage. Off-road vehicle ramps were open, but visitors were being advised that some beach routes might be impassable, especially during high tides.

Sources: [NPS Severe Weather and Hurricane Response webpage](#); *Charlotte Observer*.

### **Joshua Tree National Park Cleanup Continues After Severe Storm**

A severe storm on the night of Friday, October 12th, caused major road damage in and around the park. Power and internet services were knocked out at many park buildings and numerous closures were put into effect due to severe flood damage.

All dirt roads in the park were closed. In the Cottonwood area, inbound and outbound roads, the visitor center and campground were all closed. Pinto Basin Road was closed and was expected to remain closed for several days. While the west entrance remains open, entry was not recommended due to debris clearance underway in the area. Electrical power was off at Black Rock.

As of the last report on Sunday, staff were continuing their efforts to clean up of roads and facilities.

Source: [Joshua Tree National Park](#).

### **Crater Lake National Park Man Found After Being Lost For Four Days**

On Thursday, October 4th, the Klamath County Sheriff's Office received a report of a missing 56-year-old man who went mushroom picking in an area near the base of the eastern slope of Mt. Scott.

The man, identified as Marty Holloway, was reported missing by family members after he failed to check in with them. The family had located Holloway's vehicle and discovered that he left his phone and jacket in it and worried that he was not prepared to stay out in the elements.

Based on this, Klamath County's volunteer SAR teams were activated and a search was begun. Over the course of the next three days, teams comprised of members of Klamath and Jackson County ground and mounted SAR teams, along with family and friends, used all available assets in a fruitless attempt to locate Holloway.

On Sunday, October 7th, Klamath 911 dispatch received a call from a hiker in the area of the Pinnacles Trail to the south of Mt. Scott inside Crater Lake National Park. The hiker had located a man who identified himself as Marty Holloway; he told them he had been lost for four days and needed help. Search teams were able to use GPS positioning from the hiker's 911 phone call to pinpoint their location and rescue Holloway.

Holloway survived three nights in rugged terrain with temperatures well below freezing and periods of heavy rain, wearing nothing but blue jeans and a t-shirt. He described sleeping inside a hollowed-out log and underneath brush to stay out of the elements. He was not injured and only complained of

being cold, tired and having multiple blisters on his feet. He was able to walk out under his own power with assistance from rangers and the hikers who located him.

Source: [Klamath Herald and News](#).

### **National Mall and Memorial Parks Man Arrested For Planning To Blow-up 200 Pound Bomb On Mall**

A New York man who reportedly planned to build a 200-pound bomb and detonate it on Election Day on the Mall was arrested last week.

On October 10th, Paul Rosenfeld, 56, of Tappan, N.Y., was charged in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York with unlawfully manufacturing a destructive device and with interstate transportation and receipt of an explosive. The FBI said that he'd planned to use the bomb to kill himself and gain attention for a political belief called [sortition](#), in which politicians are chosen at random for office instead of being elected.

In August and September, Rosenfeld sent text messages and letters to someone in Pennsylvania telling of his plans to detonate a bomb on the Mall. On Tuesday, October 9th, the FBI raided his home in Rockland County and found a workable bomb in his basement. Agents also found empty black powder canisters and a fusing system that could trigger an explosive.

Agents said they think that Rosenfeld was acting alone in the alleged plot.

Source: [Washington Post](#).

### **National Park System Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents**

Below are short follow-ups on incidents previously reported in this newsletter:

- *Cape Lookout NS* – The park has posted a series of before and after photos that show the lasting damage Hurricane Florence caused when it sent storm surge flowing across the barrier islands. In one pair of images, the upper part of the South Core Banks is seen covered with water after hurricane overwash created three flowing “cuts” through the island. Source: [Durham Herald-Sun](#).
- *Moores Creek NB* – The park, which has been closed due to impacts from Hurricane Florence in September, was to reopen this past Monday. Source: [National Park Service](#).

Note: The [Eastern IMT Flickr site](#) contains hundreds of photos of both parks that provide a clearer idea of the scope of the damage caused to the two sites.

## **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.

### **Department of the Interior Land Near Yellowstone Withdrawn From Mineral Leasing For 20 Years**

On October 8th, DOI finalized the withdrawal of more than 30,000 acres of federal lands in southwest Montana from mining for 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. This is the longest period possible under the secretary's authority. The following are excerpts from DOI's announcement of this withdrawal:

“The area covered by this action is generally known as the historic Emigrant Gulch and Crevice mining districts in a region known as the Paradise Valley at the northern gates of Yellowstone National Park. At a press conference and signing ceremony announcing the withdrawal, Secretary Zinke was joined by local small business owners and conservation advocates who have worked for years to secure a withdrawal....

“My heartfelt thanks go to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke who has repeatedly made time to listen to our community since we first knocked on his office door over three years ago,’ said Colin Davis, owner of Chico Hot Springs and founder of the Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition. ‘Today is a great day for the families and businesses in the Paradise Valley and paves the path toward permanent protection for the doorstep of Yellowstone National Park.’

“My husband has worked in the mining industry for over 27 years and we support the mining industry, but the Paradise Valley which serves as the northern gateway to Yellowstone National Park is not the right location for any new mining activity,’ said Tracy Raich, owner of Raich Montana Properties. ‘We have a sustainable economy which is driven by keeping the natural resources intact whether it be agricultural, livestock, recreational, or hospitality...

“In addition to helping safeguard the local tourism and recreation economy, the withdrawal also conserves important habitat for migrating big game species like elk and mule deer. The conservation of these routes has been one of Zinke's priorities as reflected in Secretarial Order 3362, which was signed in January 2018.”

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

## **Capitol Hill Weekly Legislative Roundup**

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

On October 9th, the president signed into law H.R. 46, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York. (Public Law 115–255).

### ***Senate***

On October 10th, the Senate agreed to the House amendments to S. 3021, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and to provide for water pollution control activities. This bill was used as the vehicle to pass Congress' biannual bill for water projects across the country, and it includes projects to help restore the Everglades in south Florida, to preserve the Great Lakes, and to restore Jamaica Bay in Gateway National Recreation Area. The bill passed by a vote of 99 yeas to 1 nay and it now goes to the president to be signed into law.

On October 10th, the Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to examine successful state conservation, recovery, and management of wildlife from Yellowstone's grizzly bear to the Chesapeake's Delmarva fox squirrel. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at this hearing.

On October 11th, the Senate passed:

- H.R. 1037, to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.
- H.R. 2615, to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

On October 11th, the Senate confirmed by a vote of 51 yeas to 44 nays, the nomination of Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. Nelson had previously been nominated to be the solicitor at the Department of the Interior, but that nomination was withdrawn when he was nominated as a judge for the Ninth Circuit.

### **House**

The House is in recess until after the mid-term elections.

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

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

### **NPS Alumni**

#### **Tribute To Kathy Loux**

On behalf of all the rangers who worked in Yosemite in the 1970s and all their families, member Butch Farabee has sent along a tribute to Kathy Loux, who passed away last month of complications from cancer and stroke:

We lost one of our own on September 5th. Her husband of 34 years, NPS Ranger Bryan Swift, refers to her as 'Mary Kathleen.' To the thousands who she skillfully tended over nearly fifty years in and around emergency rooms, she was Nurse Loux. Thanking her for a remarkable career in primary medicine, one cut short while still working but still longer than most of us will ever claim, could be reward enough. But, she was much, much more to her co-workers, rangers, park staff and all of their families and the many others in Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Denali in the 1970s and 1980s. She was one of us.

It was said at her memorial service that neither she nor her two nurse-girlfriends had ever been west of Chicago until Yellowstone in the spring of 1971 – rolling in “dressed in hot pants, leather fringed high boots and raincoats,” clothing code of the hippie era. Apparently, working in a Baltimore hospital ER had not been adrenalin enough. Old friend Mary Ann Penttila warmly remembers Kathy as mature, bright, confident, a leader all her life but still always ready for adventure. Gwen Brady recalls Kathy ministering to her three daughters’ “owies” and then after the day’s gorings, maulings, and geyser scaldings, Kathy would babysit her girls.

Moving to Yosemite in 1973 as chief nurse of the park’s 18-staff, dozen-bed hospital, we rangers in the Valley – the busiest, most demanding emergency and law enforcement field operation in the NPS – worked with her for ten years.

“In my 24 years as a park ranger, Kathy was the best trauma nurse I was ever around,” declares Tom Griffiths. “I feel blessed. She even made my son Evan a ‘Yosemite Sam’ vest when he was three!”

Kathy made a point of going with us to many of our thousands of EMS calls – she made us just plain better. Newbie EMTs and soon-to-be park medics were mentored on a daily basis by her and the Yosemite medical staffs. But they also grinned, as a generation of us practiced giving shots and starting IVs on each other. As Bruce McKeeman and dozens of other rangers can well testify, our badges of honor were the ever-present black and blue hematomas on both arms, as we “missed” vein after vein. Today’s field rangers and those they treat, owe a great deal of gratitude to Kathy and the other nurses and doctors in Yosemite for getting the Service’s now prestigious park medic program off the ground.

Kathy, above all, was a trusted member of the ranger family. Roger Rudolph and Rick Smith and Ginny Rousseau remember her as unsung, humble, mature and poised, with a great sense of humor, a reassuring smile and always with a twinkle in her eye. She was always there, with chicken enchiladas or organizing the nurses as cheerleaders when rangers played the climbers in softball. She was at the first four Rendezvous, in the background and never a need for recognition or praise. At the

fifth Rendezvous in 1981, Kathy was awarded ANPR's third honorary membership by unanimous declaration – no mean feat, as NPS Director Bill Whalen was but the second such honoree. Those of us who worked with her will never forget her.

In addition to husband Bryan Swift, she leaves two sons, Jesse, 26 and Rickie, 25.

## **National Park System More Recent NPS Administrative Changes**

Here are the most recent NPS administrative changes that we've learned about:

- *Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP* – Kendell Thompson has been named superintendent of Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP. He comes to the park from a prior position as superintendent of Lincoln Boyhood NM. Over his 31-year career with the NPS, Thompson has served in 13 areas, including Mount Rainier, Denali, Jean Lafitte, the USS Arizona, and Yosemite; he is also a second-generation park ranger. He has a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and has a law enforcement commission from FLETC. Source: [Dayton Business Journal](#).
- *Lake Meredith NRA/Alibates Flint Quarry NM* – Eric Smith, currently deputy superintendent at Glacier, will become superintendent of these two parks in November. Smith grew up in Georgia and Florida and studied criminal justice and aviation maintenance. After working as a sheriff's deputy and correctional officer, Smith enlisted in the Navy, where he served on a nuclear submarine. He then returned to Florida and joined the Justice Department, where he trained as a hostage negotiator and served on the department's crisis negotiation team. Smith came to the National Park Service in 2000 as a maintenance supervisor at Glen Canyon. After working for the U.S Public Building Service for four years, Smith returned to the Park Service in 2011 as deputy superintendent at Denali. Source: [Flathead Beacon](#).

## **Coalition News**

News about CPANP, its members, and kindred associations and allies.

**ANPR Rendezvous To Be Held Next Month In Bowling Green** – The Association of National Park Rangers' 41st annual Ranger Rendezvous will be held at the Holiday Inn University Plaza in Bowling Green, Kentucky, from November 7th through November 11th. ANPR has put together an excellent program of presentations, training sessions and “after-hours” activities. The draft program, registration information and hotel reservation information can be found at [www.anpr.org](http://www.anpr.org) (go to “events” and “ranger rendezvous 2018”). Discount registration expires on September 29th; the hotel room block expires on October 7th, after which rooms will be available at the regular rate. Source: Bill Wade.

## **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.

## **Federal Government**

Stories and articles pertaining to the administration, DOI and other federal agencies and organizations, except for the National Park Service (below).

**Retirees Receive Highest COLA In Seven Years** – In 2012, the annual COLA increase was 3.6%. It has not come close to that again until the COLA that will be received by Social Security recipients and many federal retirees starting in January 2019. The COLA for 2019 is 2.8% according to the official



announcement released by the Social Security Administration on October 11th. Source: [FedSmith.com](http://FedSmith.com).

## **National Park Service and System**

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

**Uproar Over Raising And Lowering Of Flags On Sen. McCain's Death Extends To NPS** – “Newly released emails show how the National Park Service struggled hard to respond to the death of Sen. John McCain on August 25th,” reports E&E News, “uncertain of how to fly its flags to honor the Arizona Republican.” The uncertainty was due to the White House’s change in direction from half staff to full staff and then back to half staff. “The emails show NPS workers across the country — in Washington, Denver, Atlanta and Omaha — scrambling to keep pace with the conflicting signals from the Trump administration.” Source: [E&E News](http://E&E News).

**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. The reports are in alphabetical order by park name.

- *Boston NHP* – The Charlestown Navy Yard, part of Boston NHP, is slated to get \$3 million in federal funds to transform the historic site into a tourist and community space connecting Boston Harbor to the city’s Freedom Trail tours and other sites. A major part of the investment will be toward the design of a new USS Constitution Museum and Navy Yard visitor center that will be in the Hoosac Warehouse, located next to “Old Ironsides.” The old mid-1890s warehouse would house the USS Constitution Museum and the National Park Service’s visitor center and offices and serve as an orientation center. Source: [Boston Herald](http://Boston Herald).
- *Cape Hatteras NS* – The National Park Service has agreed to permit the building of a bridge through part of the park, having determined that the two-mile-long bridge on Hatteras Island would have no significant impact on park land. The new bridge will reroute NC Highway 12 to avoid the "S curves" area at Mirlo Beach in the village of Rodanthe, an area that is routinely covered with ocean water. The area was already one of the island's narrowest before Hurricane Sandy caused more damage in 2012. About 150 feet of the bridge will be constructed inside the park. The rest is being built within the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and over water owned by the state. Source: [Virginian-Pilot](http://Virginian-Pilot).
- *Chaco Culture NHP* – Members of the All Pueblo Council of Governors spent a week in Washington in September “to meet with decision-makers in Washington, D.C. regarding a place of sacred importance to many tribal nations: the greater Chaco landscape of northwest New Mexico.” Currently, only a small area of their ancestral homeland is protected by the park; most of the publicly-managed lands in the region are unprotected and exposed to industrial development. More than 90 percent of public land in the area is already leased for oil and gas drilling. The remaining land — home to thousands of artifacts, ancient houses and roads — is at risk of being damaged by new drill pads, pipelines and a web of industrial access roads. BLM and BIA are in the process of revising a land use plan for the region that will decide whether the core area around the park, defined roughly by a 10-mile radius, will be open to drilling. The trip to Washington followed “two historic meetings over the past two years between the Navajo Nation and Pueblo governors in New Mexico. Tribes throughout the southwest recognized that the threat to this sacred and important landscape was so great that we joined together in our efforts to save our sacred sites.” Source: [High Country News](http://High Country News).
- *Death Valley NP* – On October 15th, the nonprofit organization Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue began a major project to remove burros (donkeys) from the park. The project, which will also make it possible for native habitats to recover, is being funded entirely by donations. “The National Park Service’s goal is to not have any nonnative burros in Death Valley because they are extremely destructive to fragile desert springs and vegetation,” said Mike Reynolds, the

park's superintendent. "They compete with native animals like desert tortoise and bighorn sheep for resources, and have a devastating impact on the park." Source: [Sierra Sun Times](#).

- *Isle Royale NP* – The effort to relocate wolves to the park has ended for the season. This year's objective was to transport six wolves to the island, but bad weather limited the number to four. The three-year goal is to relocate 30 wolves from Minnesota, Michigan and Ontario to the island, where only two native wolves remain, unable to reproduce because they are genetically deformed. Source: [Duluth News-Tribune](#).
- *Katmai NP&P* – You'll recall that the park held a contest in early October to determine which of its many bears people thought was this year's fattest, this being the time of year when bears chow down prior to hibernation. The winner – and the photo available at the link below suggests it was no contest – was Bear 409, aka "Beadnose," Source: [Vox](#).
- *White House/National Mall* – The Trump administration – via the NPS, which manages the area in and around the White House – is proposing to limit the right to demonstrate near the White House and on the National Mall in ways that would in places violate court orders that have stood for decades. The proposal would close 80 percent of the White House sidewalk, put new limits on spontaneous demonstrations, and open the door to charging fees for protesting. Source: [ACLU](#).
- *Zion NP* – The Trust for Public Land has permanently preserved a 35-acre inholding within the park. The preserved land, known as Firepit Knoll, is protected from future development through a land purchase from an Arizona rancher. The protected parcel is alongside the popular Hop Valley Trail. The trust will donate the land to the National Park Service next month for formal inclusion in the park. Source: [KJZZ](#).

## **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.

**New Forest Service Chief Selected** – Vicki Christiansen is set to become the permanent chief of the U.S. Forest Service after seven months as the interim head. She replaces former Tony Tooke, who resigned amidst sexual harassment allegations in March. Her appointment received bipartisan support and her tenure as interim chief has been free of many of the scandals that have plagued her predecessors and other land managers under the Trump administration. Christiansen has worked in wildland firefighting and forestry for 36 years and joined the Forest Service in 2010. Source: [High Country News](#).

**Congressmen Seeking Answers To USFWS Decision To Cut LE Positions** – Two Democratic members of Congress are asking for answers from the administration regarding news that the Fish and Wildlife Service is cancelling a key law enforcement program at its refuges (see the last issue for details). Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), ranking member on the House Natural Resources Committee, and Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-N.H.) expressed their concerns about the decision to end the dual-officer program in a letter to the head of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The phase out of 51 officers comes on top of recent congressional budget cuts to the National Wildlife Refuge system that have led to reduced employee and full-time officer jobs. In 2014, the system had fewer than 400 officers; at present, there are currently just 230 full-time law enforcement officers. Source: [The Hill](#).

## **The Conservation Crisis**

This section covers the myriad interconnected, conservation-related threats that are transforming the national parks.

### **Climate Change**



**Hurricanes Displaying Explosive Growth Due To Rising Water Temperatures** – Hurricane Michael, one of the four strongest hurricanes to ever hit the U.S. mainland (the others were Andrew in 1992, Camille in 1969 and the 1935 Labor Day hurricane), will be remembered for how it grew from Category 1 to Category 4 within 24 hours. All of the worst hurricanes of the past two years (Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence and Michael) have displayed such rapid strengthening. A story in the *Washington Post* on October 12th explains why and adds this observation: “Climate scientists have begun to focus on hurricane rapid intensification as an increasingly prevalent feature in the world we’re entering. Simply put, with warmer seas, storms ought to be able to pull this off more often. In a recent study in the [Journal of Climate](#), researchers found more rapid intensifications in a simulation of a human-warmed world, and also that this would prove a key pathway toward more intense hurricanes in general.” Source: [Washington Post](#).

## **Oceans and Freshwaters**

**Save Our Seas Act Signed Into Law** – On Friday, October 12th, President Trump signed into law the [Save Our Seas Act of 2018](#), which seeks to address dumping of trash and debris in the oceans and the Great Lakes. The bipartisan law reauthorizes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Marine Debris Program through 2022. The program works to reduce debris through research, prevention, and reduction; the reauthorization will keep it going by continuing to authorize \$10 million per year for the next five years. It will also allow the executive branch to engage with other governments (mostly in Asia) on the issue of ocean trash. Source: [Our Daily Planet](#).

**Climate Change Increasing Frequency of Coastal Flooding** – Climate Central posted an article on October 4th entitled “Rising Tides: How Near-Daily Flooding of America’s Shorelines Could Become the Norm.” Over the period from 2005 to 2015, the median annual frequency of flooding days more than doubled along the stretch of coast from Florida to North Carolina, according to [an analysis by scientists at NOAA](#). The coast between Virginia and Maine saw a median increase of 75 percent during the same period. The trend was more limited on the West Coast, in part because of the region’s coastal topography, ocean currents, and the uneven distribution of sea level rise around the world. Further increases are likely coming. In an average year this decade, 30 sites selected by Climate Central saw a total of 153 days of floods, according to data from NOAA (sites were selected based on geographical representation and data availability). In an average year in the 2040s, those 30 locations would see around 2,850 floods. In the 2070s, the numbers would be higher still, at 8,873. Source: [Climate Central](#).

## **Flora, Fauna And Habitat**

**Wildfire Habitat ‘Lifeboats’ Study** – The October 12th *New York Times* had an article in it on the importance of fire refugia in this era of dramatic climate change. Refugia are islands of flora and fauna that shelter species as wildfires burn around them. In a [recent scientific paper](#), fire ecologists at Oregon State University referred to them as “lifeboats” and argued “that it’s urgent to better understand fire refugia, because they may be seriously threatened in future decades by climate change. Without them, many species may become threatened and the surrounding ecosystems may take longer to recover from wildfires.” Some fire refugia withstand fires time and time again, which has led the researchers believe that the short-lived refugia have a lot in common with ancient stands of old-growth forests. “Today, fire refugia face many pressures, such as invasive species and outbreaks of pests. But in the future, climate change may pose a far bigger threat. Global temperatures are rising. In many places, this has led to heat waves and droughts, which can turn plants into fuel. In years to come, refugia may become rarer as fires become more intense.” The article includes a photo of Lake Chelan NRA from 2012 that shows patches of unburned or slightly burned vegetation within the outline of a 1994 wildfire. Source: [New York Times](#).

**Bird Species In National Parks Will Change With Climate Change** – On average, one-quarter of bird species found in a given national park could be completely different by 2050 if carbon emissions continue at their current pace. New research, led by the National Audubon Society and National Park Service and [published in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS ONE](#), underscores the need to safeguard and manage protected lands for birds and wildlife in a changing world. The importance of this finding is manifest. As stated by NAS: “For more than a century, national parks have been refuges for vulnerable

species and critical habitat. Over the next century—the century of climate change—our national parks will likely grow even more valuable as temperatures warm rapidly and patterns of rainfall shift. Birds navigating a developed American landscape may increasingly rely on parks for safety and survival.” The article on the NAS webpage includes an interactive map where you can click on particular parks and find specific findings for that area. Source: [National Audubon Society](#).

## **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.

- *Great Smoky Mountains NP* – Rangers are investigating two significant commercial ginseng poaching operations which were detected in the Hazel Creek drainage in the Lake Subdistrict on the North Carolina side of the park - an area with a history of resource violations. Just after 8 a.m. on September 18th, rangers contacted two men from Cherokee, North Carolina, at the mouth of Hazel Creek along Fontana Lake. They had a bag containing 1,654 ginseng roots, and told rangers that they'd been digging roots in the park for approximately four days. One admitted that they were going to dry the roots and sell them when the price went up. The second incident occurred on the evening of September 22nd when rangers spotted a boat leaving Ollie Cove near Hazel Creek. The five male occupants of the boat - all of them also from Cherokee - were contacted on the other side of Fontana Lake at Cable Cove. The boat contained two ginseng digging tools and three backpacks containing 1,640 ginseng roots and a small quantity of ginseng berries. No one in the boat claimed ownership of the packs. Investigations into both of the incidents are continuing and charges are pending.
- *White Sands NM* – A military contract helicopter made a hard landing within the park near Lake Lucero around 6 p.m. on September 28th. The helicopter's crew was in the process of retrieving an item that had landed within the park when the incident occurred. The helicopter's downdraft inflated the object's parachute, which was then sucked into the main and tail rotors. Neither the pilot nor his two passengers - one a ranger - were hurt, but did have to make a three-hour moonlit walk to get to a highway. The helicopter could not be flown out because of the damage inflicted on its tail section and rotors. At the time of the report, mechanics were checking it to see if it could be repaired for a short flight to a nearby road or whether it will have to be lifted out.
- *Yellowstone NP* – A 38-year-old Colorado man suffered severe injuries when his '86 Honda Civic struck a bison on Highway 191 around 8 p.m. on the evening of Sunday, October 3rd. He and his wife were driving north to Big Sky, Montana, after a day touring the park when they hit the bison, which was standing broadside in the road. The bison fell onto the vehicle and came through the windshield on the driver's side. Rangers and local officers and EMS personnel responded. The man was extricated from the vehicle, transported by ambulance to West Yellowstone, then flown to a hospital in Idaho Falls. He was pronounced dead prior to the planned air transport. The woman received first aid treatment at the scene for a minor facial injury. The bison was destroyed because of its injuries. There is no indication that excessive speed was a factor in the accident. Both occupants of the vehicle were wearing their seatbelts.

## **Acknowledgements**

This newsletter comes to you through the efforts of a number of people:

- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Emily Thompson, Deb Liggett, Butch Farabee, Mark Forbes, Cathy Halainen, Larry Hilaire

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**

“This planet is not terra firma. It is a delicate flower and it must be cared for. It's lonely. It's small. It's isolated, and there is no resupply. And we are mistreating it. Clearly, the highest loyalty we should have is not to our own country or our own religion or our home town or even to ourselves. It should be to, number two, the family of man, and number one, the planet at large. This is our home, and this is all we've got.”

Astronaut [Scott Carpenter](#)

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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.”

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