



## The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, September 18, 2019

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### Incidents

#### **Eastern Areas**

#### **Hurricane Dorian Recovery Efforts Underway**

After sweeping along the southeast coast from Florida to South Carolina, Hurricane Dorian made landfall over Cape Hatteras on the morning of September 6th, battering NPS areas in the Outer Banks with damaging winds, heavy rains, and severe flooding. It knocked out power, flooded homes and businesses, and temporarily trapped residents of remote Ocracoke Island, where floodwaters reached up to seven feet. After the storm's passage, helicopters brought in food and supplies and evacuated the island's most vulnerable residents (about 800 people had remained on an island whose permanent population hovers around 950). The Service's Eastern Incident Management Team was mobilized to support parks with recovery operations and is operating out of Cape Hatteras National Seashore, with resources committed to parks as needed. The following updates have been taken from NPS and media sources:

- *Cumberland NS* – The park has reopened to visitors. The ferry service for visitors heading to Cumberland Island from coastal St. Marys in Georgia's southeast corner resumed this past Monday. Although the hurricane caused minimal damage as it passed the Georgia coast, the island remained closed after the storm for debris cleanup, rerouting of hiking trails, and repairs to two boat docks. Source: [Houston Chronicle](#).
- *Cape Lookout NS* – IMT members have been surveying the park and assessing the damage inflicted by Dorian. They've determined that 38 historic structures in Portsmouth Village sustained some kind of flooding or wind-related damages and that Long Point cabin camp south of Portsmouth was also hit with infrastructure and other damage, including a major breach of an ocean inlet cut through to Core Sound. Reservations at Long Point cabins have accordingly been canceled through the remainder of the season, which runs until November 30th. The team also discovered over 50 new inlets cutting through the North Core Banks from the Atlantic Ocean to the Core Sound – not unusual in storms such as this one and likely to fill in on their own over time. Source: [Charlotte Observer](#).
- *Outer Banks Group* – Most visitor areas on Hatteras Island, including those in the villages of Frisco and Hatteras, reopened to visitors on September 12th, but visitor areas and services on Ocracoke Island remain closed. Fort Raleigh and Wright Brothers have reopened. Source: [National Park Service](#).

Images of the impacts of Dorian on a number of parks can be found on the [Eastern IMT's Flickr page](#); as of yesterday, there were about 75 images posted to the page. Updates can also be found on the National Park Service's hurricane and severe weather response webpage (link below).

Sources: [National Park Service](#); [New York Times](#).

### **Yellowstone NP Two Charged After Peering Into Geyser's Spout**

A summer season that has seen a spike in dangerous, foolhardy and illegal activities by visitors – from patting bison at Yellowstone to fatal falls while taking selfies at Yosemite – has recorded another such inanity.

On September 10th, two men left the boardwalk surrounding Old Faithful, walked to the geyser's steaming spout, and peered inside while taking cellphone pictures. A visitor caught their activities on film and reported them to the park. The two men were arrested, charged with thermal trespassing, and ordered to appear in court in December.

The visitor who took the photos of the men called their actions "complete stupidity."

"I don't see how anyone couldn't be aware of the rules," she said. "They're posted everywhere. They're in multiple different languages. All around the border of the geyser, there are rules saying that it is very dangerous, that the ground is unstable and very fragile."

The article below includes images of the two men at the geyser's mouth.

Source: Bill Hutchinson, [ABC News](#).

### **Yosemite NP Woman Killed In Fall From Half Dome Chains**

A 29-year-old Arizona woman was killed on September 5th when she fell more than 500 feet while climbing the cable portion of the trail up to the summit of Half Dome. The accident is under investigation; the cause has not yet been determined.

Half Dome, which rises nearly 4,800 feet above Yosemite Valley, is one of the most popular hiking destinations in the park, so much so that a permit is needed to hike it during prime season.

This is the ninth death to occur on the cables since they were erected in 1919. In May 2018, another hiker died after falling from the cables. In that case, the hiker was out during a thunderstorm, when wet conditions exacerbate the slipperiness of smooth granite.

Source: Joshua Tehee, [Fresno Bee](#).

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

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

- *Delaware Water Gap NRA* – The park reopened the Lower Hornbecks Creek Trail on September 17th following a two-year closure due to damage sustained during severe snowstorms in March, 2018. Work on the trail was completed by the park's in-house trail crew, volunteer trail stewards, and by Tahawus Trails LLC. Additional assistance was provided by American Conservation Experience (ACE) youth crew volunteers. The remainder of the trail, also known as the Indian Ladders Trail, remains closed while crews build a new path that will connect it with the trails at Pocono Environmental Education Center. Source: [Pocono Record](#).

## **National Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center NIFC Remains At PL 2**

NIFC remains at National Preparedness Level 2. As of yesterday, there were 55 large fires active in 13 states; together, they'd burned 393,153 acres. New large fires were reported in Mississippi, Nevada, and Wyoming.

### Resource Commitment Trend

Category	August 27th	September 3rd	September 17th
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	2	0
Type 1 Teams	2	4	1
Type 2 Teams	3	4	4
Crews	128	139	134
Engines	294	267	380
Helicopters	54	62	39
Total FF/Overhead	5,707	7,063	6,524

### Fires/Acreage

Category	2019 Total	2009-2018 Ave	2019 Variance
United States: YTD Fires	37,274	48,388	- 23%
United States: YTD Acres	4,343,273	6,063,055	- 28%
Canada: YTD Fires	4,070	---	---
Canada: YTD Acres	4,517,956	---	---

Sources: [NICC Incident Management Situation Report](#); [National Interagency Fire Center](#); [IMSR Archives](#); [InciWeb Incident Information System](#).

### Congressional Actions

Reports on legislation, upcoming hearings and new public laws of relevance to the national parks, prepared by Don Hellmann, former assistant director, legislative and Congressional affairs for the National Park Service.

### New Public Laws

**August 2** – The president signed into law H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, and to temporarily suspend the debt limit. (Public Law 116–37).

### Senate Actions

**September 9** – The Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 57, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for an event to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first African slaves to the territory that would become the United States.

**September 9** – The Senate passed S. 349, to require the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for, and make determinations regarding, roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program. Subsequently, the Senate passed H. 831, a similar House-passed bill. That bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

**September 11** – The Senate agreed to S. Res. 267, recognizing the September 11th National Memorial Trail as an important trail and greenway all individuals should enjoy in honor of the heroes of September 11th. The September 11th National Memorial Trail will pass through the states of Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. This effort is led by a non-profit organization called the September 11 National Memorial Trail Alliance.

**September 11** – The Senate confirmed the nomination of Dale Cabaniss of Virginia to be director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years, by a vote of 54 yeas to 38 nays.

**September 11** – The Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to examine the nominations of Aurelia Skipwith of Indiana to be director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, and Katherine Andrea Lemos of California to be chairperson and member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

## **House Actions**

**September 10** – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing entitled “BLM Disorganization: Examining the Proposed Reorganization and Relocation of the Bureau of Land Management Headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado.” Testimony was heard from William Perry Pendley, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management, and public witnesses. The Coalition submitted a letter to the committee expressing its concern about the impact of the reorganization on the National Park Service and its work with BLM. The letter can be read [at this link](#).

**September 11** – The House passed:

- H.R. 205, to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 248 yeas to 180 nays.
- H.R. 1941, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 238 yeas to 139 nays. This bill prohibits the Department of the Interior from offering any tract for oil and gas leasing or preleasing in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf planning area (North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and the Straits of Florida) or the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf planning area (Washington/Oregon, Northern California, Central California, and Southern California).

**September 11** – The Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Examining the Macroeconomic Impacts of a Changing Climate.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**September 11** – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing entitled “Reviewing the Trump Administration's Approach to the MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) Crisis.” Testimony was heard from Jeannie Hovland, Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services; Charles Addington, Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and John Anderson, U.S. Attorney, District of New Mexico, Department of Justice.

**September 12** – The House passed H.R. 1146, to amend Public Law 115–97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, by a recorded vote of 225 yeas to 193 nays.

## **National Park Service**

### **National Park System**

A summary of articles pertaining to management and oversight of the NPS, to current trends and issues affecting the National Park System, or to either all or parts of the entire system.

- *New Chair Named For NPS Advisory Board* – Mary Pope M. Hutson, who was recently appointed to the National Park System Advisory Board, was elected as the board’s chair at their meeting on August 27th. The board was established in 1935 to provide counsel to the director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior on matters relating to the Service, including recommendations about the designation of national historic and natural landmarks and national historic trails. The board consists of up to 12 members, all of whom must have demonstrated a commitment to the mission of the National Park Service. You can read her biography at the following link. Source: [Sweet Briar College](#).

## **Around The Parks**

Park reports are in alphabetical order. Included are proposals in the works for new areas or changes in designation for current NPS units.

- *Acadia NP* – A new book by Randi Minetor called *Death In Acadia* provides details on 78 deaths that occurred in the park between 1853 and 2017. It joins other books in Minetor’s series on park fatalities, including *Death on Mount Washington*, *Death on Katahdin*, and *Death in Glacier National Park*. Says Minetor: “I don’t have a morbid fascination with death. I write these books to help people stay alive...Overall what you really find are people out of their element. They take chances [on vacation] they wouldn’t take at home. They climb out on rocks that they don’t realize are really slippery. They don’t realize how cold the north Atlantic is... or how quickly the tide is going to come in. These are just people unfamiliar with the hazards they are going to face.” Source: Becky Pritchard, *Mount Desert Islander*.
- *Channel Islands NP* – The park is about to begin two major projects – reconstruction of the pier at Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island and replacement of the crane on Anacapa Island. The pier construction is scheduled to start in November and expected to take six to eight months to complete. The crane project will begin in October, with estimated completion in April. Source: Kelly Brickey, [KSBY News](#).
- *Great Smoky Mountains NP* – Bote Mountain Tunnel, which hasn’t had any major rehab work done on it since 1948, is about to undergo significant repairs. Crews will repair the tunnel’s concrete lining, replace its drainage system, clean and re-grout some stone masonry, and undertake other needed work. To repair the tunnel, workers will close seven-mile-long Laurel Creek Road to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians from January 23rd to February 29th. The road leads from the Townsend Wye swimming hole to Cades Cove in the park. Source: Joe Marusak, [Charlotte Observer](#).
- *Gulf Islands NS* – “PWC owners won and lost in the decision announced earlier this week regarding access to the Gulf Islands National Seashore,” reported the National Marine Manufacturers Association in an August 23rd web posting. The park is the last of 21 Servicewide to complete a review of its PWC regulations. The article itemizes what the association sees as the three main points of the decision – PWC’s will be allowed in the park, riders must go at no-wake speed when within 300 yards from shore in the Mississippi portion of the park and within 150 yards within the Florida portion of the park, and riders can no longer beach their PWCs up to the mean high tide line of Petit Bois and Horn Islands. It offers comments on each point. Source: [National Marine Manufacturers Association](#).
- *Lassen Volcanic NP* – The park has reopened the historic Bumpass Hell Trail following the partial completion of a multi-year trail rehabilitation project. Work was recently completed on the section of the trail between Bumpass Hell parking area and Bumpass Hell basin. The new trail is wider, smoother, and better designed to withstand erosion. Source: [aNewsCafe.com](#).

- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs* – An innovative project dedicated to capturing the sounds of the parks at different elevations and in different ecosystems has been completed. The story map and video use geographic context to take a visitor on a virtual tour of the sights and sounds that they might find while traversing one of the parks’ trails. The story map uses a set of interactive maps, text, photos, illustrations, video, and audio to take the visitor from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada to the alpine peaks, and tells the story of each of the ecosystems encountered along the way. The video also follows this path and matches the sounds with the sights that created them. You can access map and video [at this website](#). Source: [Sierra Sun Times](#).

## **Briefly Noted**

Other matters of interest pertaining to the parks and their people.

- *Best NPS Apps* – A travel organization called Afar has posted a list of NPS apps on its web page that it says will help guide visitors while in the parks: “You can download comprehensive park guides, engaging audio tours, detailed trail reviews, backcountry maps, and point-and-identify apps for flora, fauna, and other natural features. And because almost all of these apps have offline capabilities, it doesn’t matter how out of range you go—but don’t forget to bring an extra battery pack.” The list includes the REI Co-op National Parks Guide, the Chimani National Parks Guide, and two dozen individual park guides. Click on the following link to see all the apps. Source: Maggie Fuller, [Afar](#).
- *New Book On 1977 Yellowstone Bear Mauling* – *Mountain Journal*’s website has an excerpt from bear biologist Barrie Gilbert’s new memoir, *One Of Us*, entitled “My Yellowstone Mauling And Mountaintop Rescue.” It includes both a harrowing account of his attack by a grizzly on Crowfoot Ridge and particulars concerning his prompt rescue by a helicopter pilot and smoke jumpers from West Yellowstone, the superb treatment he received at Lake Clinic and the University of Utah Medical School, and the interplay with reporters who all too often were “exploitive, invasive and thoughtless.” You can read more of the excerpt from his book at the following link. Source: [Mountain Journal](#).

## **The Federal Government**

### **The Administration**

News from the administration – including the Department of the Interior – of consequence to federal land management and environmental protection agencies and to their employees.

- *DOI Violated Law In Using Fee Money To Operate Parks During Shutdown* – GAO just came out with a report showing that DOI violated the law when it used fee money to pick up trash, clean restrooms, and conduct other operational activities at the parks during the government shutdown earlier this year. Here’s a key passage from the report: “The Department of the Interior violated the purpose statute when, during a partial government shutdown, it obligated [Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act](#) fees for expenses that it would normally charge to Operation of the National Park System (ONPS) appropriations. Because National Park Service did not have an ONPS appropriation at the time that it incurred the obligations at issue, the Department of the Interior also violated the Antideficiency Act and should report its violation as required by 31 U.S.C. § 1351. While the Department of the Interior should correct its Antideficiency Act violation, it must report the violation to Congress and enumerate actions it has taken to prevent recurring violations in the event of future funding lapses. With this decision, we will consider such violations in the future to be knowing and willful violations of the Act. Congress has expressed its prerogatives through laws that it enacted through the process set forth in the Constitution. Interior disregarded not only the laws themselves but also the congressional prerogatives that underlie them. Instead of carrying out the law, Interior improperly imposed its own will. Interior cannot select which restraints apply to its appropriations and when these restraints apply. Congress provided Interior extraordinary



authority with the enactment of FLREA, permitting Interior, without further congressional action, to collect and use fees. The [approach used by DOI] is an abuse of the trust Congress placed in Interior with the enactment of FLREA.” The full 17-page report can be found [at this link](#). For media commentary on GAO’s finding, see [this article in USA Today](#) or this piece in [Government Executive](#).

- *DOI Offers To Pay Part Of BLM Employee Relocation Costs* – “The Interior Department is offering employees impacted by its relocation efforts 25% of their base salaries as an incentive to move from Washington, D.C., to western states, seeking to follow through on its pledge to ensure as smooth a transition as possible” reported *Government Executive* on September 12th. “The Bureau of Land Management workers will also receive a ‘permanent change of station’ allowance, which will let them either accept 60 days of temporary housing and related living expenses or take an agency-funded house-hunting trip to their new location before reporting there. The announcement comes just days after the acting head of BLM told Congress his goal was to not lose a single employee as the bureau relocates most of the employees in its D.C. headquarters to western states.” The article also contrasts this offer with the one given to Agriculture employees who are being forced to move (see article below). Source: Eric Katz, [Government Executive](#).

## **House and Senate**

News stories on legislation, hearings and other Congressional activities that either supplement or expand upon the “Congressional Actions” section above.

- *House Votes to Block Arctic Wildlife Refuge Drilling* – “Lawmakers in both houses of Congress were scrambling this week to try to block oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, as the clock ticks toward the government’s first fossil fuel lease sale in an area considered one of the nation’s last truly wild places,” reports Inside Climate News. “On Thursday, the House passed a bill that would prohibit the lease sale. A day earlier, Democrats in the Senate introduced legislation that would put the refuge off limits for development. The Trump administration, meanwhile, issued a key environmental report on the lease plan Thursday afternoon, starting a 30-day comment period, after which it can formally offer up the region for oil and gas leasing. Environmental groups were just beginning to study the environmental impact statement but expected to sue.” The latter is particularly likely since any legislation to stop the lease sale will have to get through a Republican-controlled Senate that has strongly supported the Trump administration and its fossil fuels agenda. Source: Sabrina Shankman, [Inside Climate News](#).

## **Elsewhere In Fedland...**

News items pertaining to other agencies and organizations, both in the nation’s capital and in its far flung outposts.

- *USDA Agency Relocation ‘Ripping Apart’ Employee Lives* – Last month, Interior announced that most of BLM would be moved out of DC, either to western Colorado or elsewhere. The potential impact on employees can be judged by a recent *Washington Post* story about what’s happened to the people in two of USDA’s agencies, the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which are being shipped to Kansas City. “[The] abrupt decision ...shocked the federal workforce and meant immediate disruption for hundreds...In the months since the [June] announcement, two-thirds of USDA employees decided to leave their jobs rather than move, according to data released by the department in July. Academics have lamented the cost to science, saying the talent loss will devastate the agencies...Beyond the statistics, the move also is devastating families and forcing employees at all stages of life into wrenching decisions.” USDA says it’s worth it, though, as it’ll save the agency about \$20 million a year for 15 years. Source: Hannah Natanson, [Washington Post](#).

## **Climate and Conservation**

This section covers the myriad interconnected, conservation-related threats that are transforming the national parks, their ecosystems, and the world ecosphere, often simultaneously.

### **National and Worldwide Issues**

Reports on the national and international climate and conservation crisis.

- *New NBC Unit Will Focus On Climate Change* – For too many years, the media have paid insufficient attention to the evolving worldwide climate crisis, but that’s beginning to change for the better. Last Sunday, NBC’s launched its new Climate Unit with a week-long series entitled “Climate In Crisis” that will continue through this Friday. The new unit, which was created at the behest of longtime NBC meteorologist Al Roker, will focus on how climate change affects all different areas of society, making it possible for Roker to expand his climate change coverage from simply reporting on weather events to explaining how they’re affecting everything from economics to health. You can read more about the new unit [at this link](#) and see the premier episode, “Trouble At The Top Of The World,” [at this link](#). Here’s one of the startling facts reported in this first show: Greenland’s glaciers are vanishing at an astonishing rate, much faster than previously thought. Just this year, ice melts in the country contributed to an average global sea level rise of more than one millimeter. That may not seem like a lot, but after the hottest summer in Greenland’s record, about 440 billion tons of ice have melted off the country’s massive ice sheet. Over time, there’s enough ice in Greenland to raise sea levels by more than seven meters. Source: Jessica Klein. [FastCompany.com](#).

### **National Park System Issues**

Reports on NPS issues will resume with next week’s edition.

### **The Coalition**

Summary of recent developments within the Coalition, including some of the actions that CNPCA took on your behalf.

- *CPANP Sends Letter Opposing DOI Reorganization To Congress* – Phil Francis, the Coalition’s chair, has written to the chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources regarding the proposed reorganization of BLM and its potential impacts on the NPS: “We urge the committee to examine the facts of the proposed reorganization and its effect not only on the BLM, but also on the NPS and other bureaus within the department and on other federal agencies that work with the BLM on a regular basis. Your first commitment by law is to the protection of our national parks and public lands and not catering to the desires of states, corporations, or individuals that want to exploit them for their own profit and purposes.” Read the text of the letter [at this link](#).
- *CPANP Executive Committee Members On The Hill* – Members of the Coalition’s executive committee traveled to The Hill on Monday and Tuesday to meet with members of the House and Senate and to attend a hearing on BLM’s reorganization yesterday. Details will be provided in the next issue.
- *Coalition Launches Member Challenge* – The Coalition Executive Council is challenging each of our current members to recruit new members to join us in the fight to protect our national parks. We are encouraging you to reach out to current, past, and retired NPS employees and volunteers and sign them up as members of the Coalition. As an additional incentive for our membership challenge, Coalition members who recruit new members will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card. Each new recruit equals one entry - so the more members you recruit, the better your chances of winning. We’ll select three gift card winners. New members can be signed up [using this link](#). Make sure that the new member lists your name in the comments section of the sign-up form (we must have your name in order to give you credit



for the new recruit). The membership challenge will run from September 16th through October 15th. Winners will be notified by email no later than October 20th.

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

## From The Archives

This section contains incidents taken from *Morning Report* issues published during the corresponding period (approximately) 25 years ago in 1994. All entries appear in the original verb tense; “submitters” are those people who originally submitted the incident report.

- *Dry Tortugas NP* – On the morning of September 3rd, 22 Cubans - five male children, nine adult males and eight adult females - arrived at the main dock at Garden Key in front of Fort Jefferson in a 20-foot covered fishing boat. They had left Puerto Del Rio, Cuba, around 4:30 a.m. the previous morning. All were in good health, but a little dehydrated and hungry. The refugees were kept at Garden Key while arrangements were made to have them picked up. Two Border Patrol agents arrived on an Everglades boat that afternoon and departed a short time later with all 22 riding on the boat's rear deck. No incidents occurred during transit. On September 5th, seven Cubans - a female and six males, all adults - landed in the park at Loggerhead Key. The group had left from Santa Lucia on August 26th and had been without food for four days and water for three days. Park staff fed them baby food, as per Coast Guard medical procedures for handling refugees. Border Patrol agents again traveled to the park on an Everglades boat. Two of the older men said that they wanted to return to Cuba, but INS decided to take them into custody with the rest of the group, and the entire group was taken to Key West. All 29 Cubans will be transported to an INS detention facility in Port Isabel, Texas, because they made landfall on U.S. soil. The park is west of the edge of the Coast Guard blockade, so any boat traffic through there will be unimpeded. The Coast Guard is patrolling the area of the Gulf Stream that carries unpowered and more unseaworthy crafts and their more numerous occupants. Submitted by Phil Selleck.
- *Big Bend NP* – On the evening of Sunday, September 4th, an off-duty deputy U.S. marshal and his female companion took a drive on Old Ore Road, a 25-mile-long, rough backcountry road. About 15 miles down the road, the couple's Ford pickup became stuck; in the process of attempting to free the truck, it became overheated and broke down. After making several attempts to start the vehicle, the man used the only available water they had, meltwater from ice in a cooler, to refill the radiator. All efforts to get the pickup going again failed, however, so the couple spent the night in the desert without food or water, then began walking out the next morning to seek help. After walking about ten miles in over 100 degree heat, the man became exhausted and delirious. The woman employed a handgun he was carrying to fire several shots as a distress signal, then pressed on when it became apparent that he could walk no further. She walked several more miles, firing additional rounds to attract attention, then took shelter under a small creosote bush for shade. She rested for several hours, then began walking again around 8 p.m. After walking a total of 16 miles in beach thongs with no water, she reached a paved park road, where she was discovered by a park concession employee and transported to park headquarters. A search was immediately begun for the man, who was found dead a short time later at the location where the woman had last seen him. Although a number of spent bullet cartridges were found next to his body, there is no indication of foul play at this time. An autopsy is being performed and the investigation continues. Submitted by Law Enforcement Specialist Roger Moder.
- *Grand Canyon NP* – On the afternoon of September 7th, the park received reports that two men were stuck on a ledge at the 5,200-foot level on the canyon's Redwall formation about three miles down the Grandview Trail. Aerial observation revealed that two men were trapped on a small ledge with a 50-foot cliff below them and a 25-foot vertical pourover above them. After initial reconnaissance, an emergency helispot was established in the Grandview overlook parking lot to ferry personnel and equipment down to the Horseshoe Mesa area to expedite the technical portion of the evacuation before nightfall. Responding rangers established anchors

and rappelled to the stranded climbers just as darkness fell. A lengthy technical rescue in extremely steep and rugged terrain ensued. The two men had been scrambling off trail on the previous afternoon and had stranded themselves on the ledge without food or water. They were returned to the South Rim, where both were treated for mild dehydration and one was treated for a compound fracture in his right hand. Submitted by Grand Canyon Dispatch.

## Acknowledgements

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- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Bob Martin, Bill Walters, Mark Forbes

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

"America's national parks will ultimately contribute more to the moral strength of the nation than all the law libraries in the land."

[James Bryce](#), British Ambassador to the United States, early 1900s

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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 or support the coalition. Any current, retired or former salaried employee (GS, wage grade, seasonal, temporary, or SES) of the National Park Service can join the Coalition ([click on this link](#)). Coalition supporters can also join and receive the newsletter ([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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