



The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, September 25, 2019

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Editor's Note

There will be no issue next week. CWR will return on Wednesday, October 9th.

Incidents

Fire Island NS Watch Hill Marina Burns

Investigators are trying to determine the cause of a fire that swept through a concession area and restaurant at the Watch Hill Marina on Fire Island early on Wednesday, September 4th, destroying both the building and adjacent deck area.

The fire was reported in a 911 call to Suffolk County police at 1:35 a.m.. The caller said that there was a fire in the kitchen at the restaurant, which includes a concession area and a main kitchen area. A subsequent caller reported the entire building was engulfed in flames.

Firefighters from multiple departments battled the blaze. The building is believed to be a total loss. The general store, marina and campground were unaffected by the blaze.

The NPS has sent a Serious Accident Investigation Team to join country investigators attempting to determine the cause of the fire.

Source: John Valenti, [Newsday](#).

Rocky Mountain NP Five Injured In Crash Off Trail Ridge Road

Five people, including two children, were taken to a hospital on September 3rd after the vehicle they were in crashed within the park.

The incident began near the Alpine Visitor Center as the vehicle sped the wrong way through the parking lot and struck a stopped vehicle, pushing it onto a sidewalk. It then continued out of the park via the inbound entrance, narrowly missing a park volunteer. The vehicle jumped a small island separating the center from Trail Ridge Road, crossed it, then flipped near Ute Trail, coming to a rest on its tires about 75 feet from Trail Ridge.

Eight passengers were in the vehicle that crashed. Five of them, including two children, were taken by ambulance to Estes Park Health. The two children were not properly restrained. Three people suffered serious injuries.

Source: Kieran Nicholson, [Denver Post](#).

Bryce Canyon NP Rangers Join In Response To Mass Casualty Bus Accident

Rangers from Bryce Canyon joined personnel from other law enforcement and emergency service organizations last Friday in responding to a fatal tour bus accident just outside the park.

The bus was carrying 30 Chinese-speaking tourists toward the park when it rolled off State Route 12 and crashed into a guardrail. Four of the passengers were killed and another dozen or more had “very critical” injuries.

Investigators said the bus drifted off the road to the right and the driver then overcorrected to the left, tipping the bus over and causing it to roll. The vehicle struck a guardrail as it rolled and landed with its wheels blocking the westbound lanes.

It’s unclear what caused the accident, which occurred on a stretch of open road where there were no sharp turns or particular reasons for the driver to lose control.

Source: [St. George Spectrum and Daily News](#).

Santa Monica Mountains NRA Hiker Dies Of Hyperthermia

A 64-year-old man died when a group of hikers in Malibu ran out of water on the afternoon of September 2nd.

Emergency responders found a group of several people in the Zuma Canyon area who had been hiking in 85 degree heat without water. Six needed medical attention and one was airlifted to a nearby hospital. One man died from heat stroke, despite efforts to resuscitate him. The hikers had left an official park trail and entered an area that the park had closed after last year’s destructive Woolsey Fire.

Multiple agencies and two helicopters also responded to calls for help from hikers in three other locations, saving eight hikers in total. They were found at four different locations near Newton Canyon and Zuma Edison Road along an abandoned, rapidly eroding and treacherous road.

The road is not an official trail and is part of an area that has been closed since last November in order to protect both visitors and recovering vegetation.

Source: Madeleine Pauker, [Santa Monica Daily Press](#).

Olympic NP Teenager Rescued From Rock In Sol Duc River

Personnel from the park and several Clallam County fire districts rescued a 15-year-old boy who was stuck on a rock in the Sol Duc River on the afternoon on September 2nd. The boy was cold and wet but otherwise unharmed.

It’s not clear how the boy got stuck out on the rock, which was directly below the bridge overlooking the Sol Duc waterfall. The falls are about a mile hike from the trailhead, which is located on Sol Duc Hot Springs Road about 13 miles south of U.S. Highway 101 near Lake Crescent.

Source: Jesse Major, [Peninsula Daily News](#).

National Park System Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents

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

- *Cape Hatteras NS* – Hurricane Dorian washed away 30 sea turtle nests in the park and partially damaged another 35 – the greatest loss of nests since at least 2009, when researchers began keeping online records. Still, the destroyed nests amounted to only seven percent of the record 471 nests found in the park this year. Three days before Dorian struck, rangers counted 166 viable nests; turtles in most of the rest had already hatched for the season. A count after the storm found that 83 nests remained. Source: Jeff Hampton, [Virginian-Pilot](#).
- *Hawaii Volcanoes NP* – About two miles of the Kilauea Iki Overlook and its trailhead were opened back up in May, but some sections of the trail had been so heavily damaged by last year’s eruption that they couldn’t be reopened to the public at that time. Work on those sections has now been completed and the trail is now fully open. Repairs cost \$100,000. Source: [KITV News](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center NIFC Remains At PL 2

NIFC remains at National Preparedness Level 2. As of yesterday, there were 42 large fires active in 11 states; together, they’d burned 369,000 acres. New large fires were reported in Alabama and Mississippi

Fire News – Stories pertaining to wildland fire and fire-related activities that involve the NPS, its fellow agencies, and nations worldwide.

- *Images Of Smoke From Indonesian Fires* – NASA’s Earth Observatory has posted images of the fires that have blanketed the region in a pall of thick, noxious smoke over the past few weeks. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA’s Aqua satellite captured an image of Borneo on September 15th that shows the density and breadth of the smoke. Many of the fires were burning in an area known for having extensive peat deposits, which are made up of a mixture of partly decayed plant materials formed in wetlands. Satellites have detected evidence of fires burning in this region throughout much of August, but the number and intensity of the fires increased in the first week of September. Other images show the climate warming gases being produced by the fires. You can see the images and read the explanatory text at the following webpage. Source: [NASA Earth Observatory](#).

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	September 3rd	September 17th	September 24th
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	2	0	1
Type 1 Teams	4	1	0
Type 2 Teams	4	4	3
Crews	139	134	68
Engines	267	380	161
Helicopters	62	39	23
Total FF/Overhead	7,063	6,524	3,001

Fires/Acreage

Category	2019 Total	2009-2018 Ave	2019 Variance

United States: YTD Fires	38,264	49,214	- 22%
United States: YTD Acres	4,352,981	6,123,521	- 29%

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

Nothing to report.

Senate Actions

September 17 – The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to examine the sourcing and use of minerals needed for clean energy technologies, after receiving testimony from Daniel Simmons, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and public witnesses.

House Actions

September 18 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Pathways to Net Zero Industrial Emissions.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 18 – The Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment and the Full Committee of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a joint hearing entitled “Voices Leading the Next Generation on the Global Climate Crisis.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 18 – The Committee on Natural Resources approved the following, among other bills:

- H.R. 182, to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission through September 30, 2028. The bill makes the extension retroactive to September 26, 2018.
- H.R. 473, to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia in commemoration of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.
- H.R. 2490, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail.
- H.R. 2819, to extend through January 2, 2027, the authority of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a commemorative work in Washington, D.C. in honor of Gold Star families.

September 18 – The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “The Administration’s Priorities and Policy Initiatives Under the Clean Water Act.” Testimony was heard from Dave Ross, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency, and public witnesses.

September 19 – The House passed H.R. 4378, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, by a vote of 301 yeas to 123 nays. The bill extends funding for all federal agencies through November 21, 2019.

September 19 – The Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Marine Debris: Impacts on Ecosystems and Species.” Testimony was heard from Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Program Management/Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Anne Kinsinger, Associate Director Ecosystems Mission Area, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; Linsey Haram, Marine Ecologist, Marine Invasions Research Lab, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Smithsonian Institution; and public witnesses.

September 19 – The Committee on the Budget held a hearing entitled “Solutions to Rising Economic Inequality.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 19 – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on, among other bills, H.R. 2485, to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop and maintain an inventory of real property developed through collecting, storing, retrieving, or disseminating graphical or digital data depicting natural or man-made physical features, phenomena, or boundaries of the earth, and any information related to the data. Testimony was heard from members of Congress and public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 19 – The Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 3458, to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to increase opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners; and H.R. 3879, to modify the procedures for issuing special recreation permits for certain public land units. Testimony was heard from Leah Baker, Acting Assistant Director, Resources and Planning, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Chris French, Deputy Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

September 19 – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing, among other bills on:

- H.R. 1312, to recognize tribal cooperation in the environmental review of proposed actions affecting the revised Yurok Reservation (the bill affects some lands held in trust for the tribe within the boundary of Redwood National Park);
- S. 216, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam.
- H.R. 3846, to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage by increasing penalties associated with violations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and to make internationally applicable NAGPRA, the Archeological Resources Protection Act and the Antiquities Act to facilitate the international repatriation of Native American cultural items, Native American archaeological resources, and Native American objects of antiquity.

Testimony was heard from members of Congress Darryl La Counte, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Rear Admiral Chris Buchanan, Deputy Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; Sonya Baskerville, Manager, National Relations, Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon; and public witnesses.

September 19 – The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a markup on the following, among other bills:

- H.R. 1620, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program through FY 2024.

- H.R. 1132, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay.
- H.R. 2247, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound.
- H.R. 4031, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through FY 2026.
- H.R. 4044, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program through FY 2024,
- H.R. 4275, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program through FY 2024.

September 19 – The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress held a hearing entitled “Recommendations for Improving the Budget and Appropriations Process: A Look at the Work of the Joint Select Committee.” Testimony was heard from Chairman Lowey and Representative Womack; Megan Lynch, Specialist on Congress and the Legislative Process, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

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.

- *Memo Issued On Coordination Of Activities With Other Agencies* – Last month, Acting Deputy Director for Operations David Vela sent out a Systemwide memorandum entitled “[Coordination and Communication on External Review and Comments](#).” *National Parks Traveler* has posted a review of the memorandum; excerpts follow: “[The memo} has raised concerns that park officials in the field will be muzzled when it comes to expressing concerns about energy and infrastructure development on lands adjacent to their parks. The 3-page memo... requires that Park Service comments on neighboring development projects be reviewed internally before being submitted ‘to ensure they are within NPS’s statutory authorities and special expertise.’ Vela stressed that this process be followed ‘on other agencies’ proposals and projects that relate to DOI priorities, including energy development and associated infrastructure, utility related infrastructure, broadband or telecommunications access, access to park resources or recreational opportunities, and wildlife corridors.’ Notifying personnel in the Park Service’s Washington, D.C., headquarters, he continued, ‘is needed to ensure that NPS comments receive appropriate senior-level awareness and coordination.’ Under Vela’s directive, parks are required to notify, when possible, Washington staff three weeks in advance of filing comments on a project. That notification should provide ‘a summary of any substantive issues or concerns raised in the NPS comments. ... Parks should be prepared to provide the comments to (NPS headquarters) upon request.’” NPT also quotes Teresa Pierno, head of NPCA: “The administration is touting this guidance as a way to provide coordination and engagement between federal agencies, but in reality, this is nothing more than an intimidation tactic, deterring park experts on the front lines from expressing views that might contradict the administration’s aggressive pro-fossil fuels energy policy. This unprecedented memo will infringe on park staffs’ ability to provide expert comments on projects put forth by other agencies that could have damaging impacts on parks, hindering the Park Service from fulfilling their duties to protect park resources.” Source: Kurt Repanshek, [National Parks Traveler](#).

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.

- *Grand Canyon NP* – Tusayan’s town council and Stilo, a development corporation based in Italy, are making another attempt to facilitate “a massive development project” at the edge of

the park. They've sent a new road easement proposal to the Forest Service in order for Stilo to develop its Kotzin and 10X properties. The previous application was "returned" in 2016 because it failed to meet Forest Service requirements. More than 200,000 people also sent messages in opposition. In response to the public outcry Stilo agreed to scale back the commercial square footage to around 1.43 million at Kotzin and about 360,000 square feet at 10X. Hundreds of homes would still be built. The town is also claiming no groundwater would be used for commercial properties, but there is no such promise for residential. And there are no clear explanations as to how this would be enforced. The Sierra Club is very skeptical. It issued the following statement: "Stilo is being squirrely once again. They're proposing to build 1.8 million square feet of commercial development and claiming they won't use groundwater for that - but they are not disclosing how many residential units they will build, nor where the water for those residential units will come from. This is not for the good of the American public or citizens of the Grand Canyon region; this only benefits Stilo's bankroll." Source: [Grand Canyon Watchdog](#).

- *Grand Teton NP* – A plan to improve cell service in the park has been approved by the National Park Service. It calls for the installation of 63 miles of fiber-optic cable and nine cell towers at Kelly, Moose, Beaver Creek, Jenny Lake, Signal Mountain Lodge, Jackson Lake Lodge, Colter Bay, and Flagg Ranch. The park isn't requiring that the towers look like trees, but portions of the towers may be painted to blend in with their surroundings. Source: [Tetongravity.com](#).
- *Minute Man NHP* – The historic Buttrick Mansion, which is located near the North Bridge in Concord and serves as a park visitor center, will shut for a \$1.2 million restoration on November 1st and reopen next April. The restoration, funded by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, will give attention to the rehabilitation of the building's exterior, which will include repairs to the roof, doorways, home windows, trim, and portico. A brand new accessible ramp will be put in on the southeast loggia. Work inside the building will include restoration of water-damaged ceilings, improvements to the restrooms, upgrades to plumbing and electrical services, and addition of a brand new air conditioning unit. Source: [Herald Publicist](#).
- *Missouri NRR* – The park has released a management plan for 800-acre Goat Island, which it acquired three years ago. Under the final plan, the Park Service will allow hunting and trapping on the island, though deer and turkey hunting will be restricted to archery, while waterfowl hunting will be allowed with firearms per the laws and regulations of state hunting licenses and NPS regulations. There also are plans to establish two backcountry primitive campgrounds on the island and to allow backcountry camping outside of the hunting seasons. More details of the management plan can be found [at this page](#). Source: [National Parks Traveler](#).
- *Natchez Trace Parkway* – Each end of the iconic Natchez Trace Parkway Bridge – the scene of numerous suicides over the years – now has a solar-powered emergency phone. They are the first of several planned safety features meant to stop frequent suicide attempts. The phones have two buttons: One dials 911, and the other rings the Tennessee suicide prevention hotline. The end goal for suicide prevention advocates is to install netting or a taller railing, given that the existing barriers are less than three feet tall. Even if such fencing could be scaled, it would give people in crisis another opportunity to turn back. Source: Blake Farmer, [Nashville Public Radio](#).
- *Pipestone NM* – Pipes carved from pipestone will no longer be sold at the park's visitor center out of respect for Native American beliefs. The National Park Service and the Pipestone Indian Shrine Association recently reached that decision in consultation with federally recognized tribes associated with the park. The cultural demonstration program at the Pipestone will continue, with added financial support from the Service. This interpretive program employs Native American carvers and craftspeople to share their culture and history with the public. The store at the park will continue to offer Native American-made items, including small pipestone crafts with additional information about their significance. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#).

- *Valles Caldera NP* – A federal judge has rejected an effort by a Native American tribe to reclaim the park. U.S. District Judge James Browning recently issued a sealed opinion denying Jemez Pueblo's claim that its aboriginal property rights were never extinguished. In a court filing that summarized his findings, the judge said the federal government had clear title to the land and the case was being dismissed. Jemez Pueblo considers the nearly 140-square-mile (362.6-square kilometer) swath of federally managed public land as a spiritual sanctuary and part of its traditional homeland. The property is home to vast grasslands, the remnants of a massive volcanic eruption and one of New Mexico's most famous elk herds. Source: Susan Montoya Bryan, [Associated Press](#).
- *Washington Monument* – The 555-foot marble obelisk honoring America's first president reopened last Thursday morning after a three-year renovation project that included an update to its elevator system and built a new security screening facility. Source: [USA Today](#);
- *Yellowstone NP* – The Montana Department of Transportation has begun rehabilitation work on the Yellowstone River Bridge in Gardiner. At the height of tourist season in July, as many as 60,000 to 70,000 vehicles a month drive over the bridge to enter Yellowstone National Park through the iconic Roosevelt Arch. MDT decided to do this project in two phases that are scheduled to minimize impacts to motorists visiting the park as well as locals who rely on the commerce that tourist season brings. Phase One will run through mid-November; Phase Two will begin next April and end in June. Source: [Missoulian](#).

Briefly Noted

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

- *Posters Of Least Visited Parks* – Reservations.com runs a blog called Runaway Suitcase that currently features posters of the 20 least visited national parks. They're not posters you can buy, just online creations. Still, they're pretty good. The authors offer this reason for their compilation: "We love some of the most popular national parks, like Yosemite and Yellowstone. But overpopulated tourist hotspots can cause unsustainable environmental problems, and impact the nature and wildlife we seek to protect. By visiting one of the least visited national parks in the world, you're doing your part to rebalance the flow of humans into nature." Source: [Reservations.com](#).
- *Best National Park Hikes* – As we've seen in entry after entry in this newsletter over the past summer, park aficionados just can't resist making lists of favorite parks or park assets. *Outside* has just compiled and published a list of "the best hikes in each park, according to the wilderness guides, park rangers, and hikers who know them." By "park", they literally mean areas designated as national parks. The alphabetized listing begins with the Penobscot and Sargent Mountain Loop at Acadia and ends with the Observation Point Trail at Zion. In between are such trails as the Grand View Point Trail in Canyonlands, Lake Solitude Trail in Grand Teton, and the Petroglyph Point Trail at Mesa Verde. If you're interested in moving beyond bagging parks, this list provides sixty plus great trails for your bucket list. Source: Jonathan Olivier, [Outside](#).

The Coalition

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

- *Fiscal 2020 NPS Funding* – The Coalition has sent a joint letter on Senators Lisa Murkowski and Tom Udall, respectively the Republican chair and ranking Democratic member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies, asking that appropriators "capitalize on [their] recent 302(b) subcommittee allocation to improve the NPS budget in FY20." The signatories to the letter recognize the need for the subcommittee to deal with competing priorities, particularly given fiscal constraints, but ask that they nonetheless

consider a small increase. “[Even] a modest increase can keep the agency from falling significantly behind. The increase last year was very helpful for our parks, their staffs, their resources, and the people who visit them. We recognize as well that again the 302(b) allocation is a modest increase over last year’s. In this context, we respectfully ask you to do your best to improve funding for our national parks, as they continue to face significant challenges in meeting their needs.” [You can read the letter at this link.](#)

- *CPANP Chair Quoted In Washington Post Article* – CPANP Chair Phil Francis was quoted recently in a *Washington Post* article regarding a recent memo instructing NPS superintendents to gain supervisory permission prior to commenting on partner agency plans (particularly in relation to energy development). [You can read the article at this link.](#)

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

From The Archives

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

- *Channel Islands NP* – On September 12th, the United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, filed a ruling affirming the decision of a district court which had previously ruled in favor of the government and denied the appeals of the four remaining defendants in a 1987 case dealing with theft of marine archeological resources from the park. At that time, an investigation and undercover operation by park rangers on a dive boat off the park's islands led to the citing of 19 individuals and one corporation with 53 violations of state and federal criminal and civil laws. To date, all charges but one have been successfully prosecuted in favor of the government. The four remaining defendants face individual civil penalties that range from \$1,000 to as high as \$100,000. It does not appear likely that the matter will be heard by the Supreme Court. The Ninth Circuit ruling on this case has major significance both within the circuit and nationally; it establishes precedent for the protection of submerged cultural resources in national parks and marine sanctuaries. Submitted by Chief Ranger Jack Fitzgerald.
- *Kennesaw Mountain NBP* – A 29-year-old man was sentenced in county superior court to five years' incarceration and five years' active probation as part of a negotiated settlement stemming from his June, 1993, burglary of the park's visitor center. He was also permanently barred from entering onto park lands. The man removed \$400 from the park's donation during the break-in, then lacerated his leg while leaving the building through the glass front door that he'd broken in order to gain admission. Rangers followed a trail of blood and money and found him in the woods about 50 yards from the building. He was arrested, then brought to a hospital for treatment of his injuries. Submitted by Chief Ranger Richard Hanks.
- *Delaware Water Gap NRA* – Last week, contractors completed work within a forested area of the park which stemmed from restitution being made from a resource violation which occurred last year. In August, 1993, a local summer resident was charged and subsequently pled guilty to cutting and damaging trees within a pristine hemlock grove. The 26-year-old defendant felled eight trees, and made several circumferential saw cuts to three very large hemlocks which were well over 100 years old and measured approximately 40 to 45 inches in diameter. Contract arborists examined the hemlocks, determined that two of the trees would succumb to their injuries, and treated the remaining trees with bark trace in an attempt to save them. Rangers were interested in seeking restitution to restore the area and remove the standing hemlocks, which were considered to be potential hazards to visitors and a nearby residential area. The park's maintenance division assisted by writing a contract to mutual specifications for bid, which was awarded to a local tree company. The defendant was ordered by the court to pay \$2,000 to the contractor in restitution. The park administrative division held the check in abeyance until the work was completed to standards specified in the contract. The large

hemlocks will be used by a local historical society for restoration of an old grist mill within the park. This was the park's first significant resource violation involving restitution, which was only possible through the combined efforts of the several involved divisions. Submitted by Acting Pennsylvania District Ranger Linda Alick.

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

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. Please don't submit them via his personal email address or Facebook page.

A Closing Observation

"The chief biologic and economic reason for preserving wilderness areas is that they preserve the balance of nature; that they are the refuge of the predators, who are constant in their value to us; that they are great reservoirs of the serene order of nature, where things work the way they ought to. They are the right answers in the back of the book, from which we can get help in solving our problems outside them, when we make a mess of things, as we usually do."

Naturalist and author [Donald Culross Peattie](#)

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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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