



The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, November 20, 2019

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Editor's Note

There will be no edition of this newsletter on November 27th due to the holiday. The next issue of CWR will come out on December 4th.

Incidents

Zion NP

Rockfall Forces Closure Of Angels Landing Trail

Angels Landing trail beyond the Scouts Lookout waypoint was closed after a rockslide last Saturday. Park staff learned of the rockslide, which occurred in a steep section of the trail where chains are affixed to the rocks for handholds, later that day. No one was hurt or trapped in the slide.

A rock about the size of a refrigerator, as well as several other smaller rocks, are obstructing a very narrow section of the trail. Several of the rocks are unstable, so the trail will remain closed – probably until Friday – so that the rocks can be broken up and removed,

The West Rim trail remains open,

Source: Paighen Harkins, [Salt Lake Tribune](#).

National Park System

Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents

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

- *Cape Lookout NS* – Two months after the passage of Hurricane Dorian, the park has discovered storm survivors alive and well on North Core Island – three local cows from nearby Cedar Island. It's believed that they got there by swimming four to five miles across the Core Sound during the hurricane. All three were living on Cedar Island when the hurricane generated a “mini tsunami” on September 6th, sweeping much of the wildlife off the island, including 28 wild horses that perished. The cattle – affectionately known as “sea cows” along the coast – are part of a wild herd of about 20 cows that roamed private land on Cedar Island. The park is seeking proposals from the public on how to get them back home. Source: Mark Price, [Charlotte Observer](#).

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

November 7 – The president signed into law [S. 693](#), to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property. (Public Law 116–67).

Senate Actions

November 12 – The Senate passed [H.R. 1865](#), to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, after agreeing to an amendment. The bill now returns to the House for further action.

November 13 – The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation approved the following, among other bills:

- [S. 10](#), to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida.
- [S. 1982](#), to improve efforts to combat marine debris.
- [S. 2429](#), to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force.

November 14 – The Senate agreed to [S. Res. 422](#), recognizing November 15, 2019, as "America Recycles Day" and expressing the sense of the Senate that recycling promotes a healthy economy and responsible environmental stewardship.

House Actions

November 12 – The House passed [H.R. 1424](#), to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure the Secretary of Veterans Affairs permits the display of Fallen Soldier Displays in national cemeteries.

November 13 – The House passed [H.R. 1773](#), to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition and other material to win the war, that were referred to as "Rosie the Riveter", in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

November 13 – The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing entitled "[Strengthening Transparency or Silencing Science? The Future of Science in EPA Rulemaking](#)". Testimony was heard from Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, Office of Research and Development, Environmental Protection Agency; and public witnesses.

November 14 – The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled "[Water and Geothermal Power: Unearthing the Next Wave of Energy Innovation](#)". Testimony was heard from David Solan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Renewable Power, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; Joseph Moore, Manager, Utah Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

November 14 – The Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hearing entitled "Member Day", in which members of the House could appear to offer their views on the climate crisis. Testimony was heard from 26 members of the House.

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.

- *Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee Disbanded* – The highly controversial advisory committee on recreation on public lands established by former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was quietly disbanded earlier this month by Deputy Director Vela. Here’s an extended excerpt from the report in *National Parks Traveler*: “Vela [said] that the agency was reviewing recommendations made by the committee, including the one on modernizing campgrounds. The committee had called for improved WiFi, food trucks, a mobile ‘camp store,’ and other improvements to national park campgrounds. ‘No action has been taken on the committee’s recommendations nor will any action be taken in the future unless and until the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service determine the recommendations will improve the visitor experience, protect national park resources, and are determined to be prudent investments,’ he added. ‘With growing interest in expanding and supporting public recreational access, the NPS is working to create a second century campground experience that supports sound investment and management for campgrounds that may be enjoyed by all. To this end, we are coordinating a campground modernization and rehabilitation strategy.’ The deputy director said the Park Service isn’t planning on modernizing every campground in the system, ‘but strives to make smart, consistent decisions on when to modernize or rehabilitate a campground based on the park’s unique circumstances, local market and financial factors, and applicable policies and regulations. As we implement this strategy, the NPS will engage the public and stakeholders for their feedback.’” There are 1,421 campgrounds in the National Park System, with 1,340 managed by NPS and 81 managed through concessions contracts. 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.

- *Aniakchak NM&P* – Paleontologists have hit the jackpot in Aniakchak. Recent field work there has revealed over 75 new dinosaur track sites, dramatically increasing the dinosaur record from the Alaska Peninsula. Most of the combined record of tracks can be attributed to hadrosaurs, the plant-eating duck-billed dinosaurs. Tracks range in size from those made by full-grown adults to juveniles. Other tracks can be attributed to armored dinosaurs, meat-eating dinosaurs, and two kinds of fossil birds. The findings were reported in PLOS One, an open-access, peer-reviewed online journal. [You can read the full report at this link](#). Source: Beth Verge, [KTUU News](#).
- *Rocky Mountain NP* – Astronaut Vance Brand is donating 40 acres of land to the park and has approached Congress about passing an act accepting the donation. Brand bought the 40-acre parcel in 1967, land that is bordered on two sides by the national park that he says he loved and visited his entire life. The property is in rugged terrain above 9,000 feet in altitude, about four miles northeast of the summit of Longs Peak. Brand and his family recently donated the property to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, the nonprofit partner to the national park, with the goal of ultimately adding the land to Rocky Mountain National Park. The conservancy accepted the donation, but for it to become an official piece of the national park, the United States Congress must approve a minor boundary change. Source: Pamela Johnson, [Loveland Reporter-Herald](#).
- *Wind Cave NP* – The elevator that takes visitors down to the cave, closed on June 29th, remains closed. The park’s elevator service company, Thyssenkrupp, said it has been having trouble getting parts and that delivery was still two weeks out. Along with disappointed visitors, the park is dealing with a significant revenue loss – during a comparable period last year, 77,158

people paid a total of \$660,393 for cave tours at the park. This July through October, because of the elevator problems, both of those numbers were zero. Source: Seth Tupper, [Rapid City Journal](#).

- *Zion NP* – On November 12th, work began on the new south entrance station. It will include the widening of the roadway to accommodate new lanes, the construction of additional fee booths, the addition of traffic islands, and the construction of an employee parking area. The project is expected to carry on through April next year. According to the first phase of the traffic control plan for the project, work crews will primarily be clearing and grubbing on both sides of the road and doing earthwork to expand the roadway for incoming and outgoing lanes. Once that is complete, paving will be done to move both incoming and outgoing lanes to the west side of the fee stations, which is where it will stay for the duration of the construction. Source: Mori Kessler, [St. George News](#).

The Federal Government

News from around the federal government – including DOI, kindred agencies and the courts – of consequence to the NPS.

- *Another Stopgap Spending Bill In The Wings* – “Lawmakers plan to kick the deadline to keep agencies open to December 20, using a second stopgap spending bill to avert a shutdown later this month,” reports *Government Executive*. “Congressional leaders have agreed to that end date for another continuing resolution as negotiators seek an agreement on full-year appropriations, Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., who chairs the House Appropriations Committee, told reporters on Tuesday. Current funding runs through November 21, and lawmakers hope the additional month will provide sufficient time to reach a resolution on the line-by-line funding for each federal agency. The House is expected to take up the CR next week, setting up a tight timeline for passage. The White House has indicated President Trump will sign the measure, as long as it does not attempt to block the construction of barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border....In the coming weeks, congressional leaders hope to set allocations for each of the 12 spending bills lawmakers must pass annually. Once those funding levels are set, appropriators can attempt complete the work of writing each bill and resolving the remaining sticking points.” Source: Eric Katz, [Government Executive](#).

Climate and Conservation

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

National and Worldwide Issues

Reports on the national and international climate and conservation crisis.

- *Five Global Trends Shaping Our Climate Future* – That’s the headline of an article that appeared on November 12th in the *New York Times*. Here’s an excerpt: “Wind turbines, solar panels and electric vehicles are spreading far more quickly around the world than many experts had predicted. But this rapid growth in clean energy isn’t yet fast enough to slash humanity’s greenhouse gas emissions and get global warming under control. That’s the conclusion of the International Energy Agency, which on Tuesday published its annual [World Energy Outlook](#), an 810-page report that forecasts global energy trends to 2040. Since last year, the agency has significantly increased its future projections for offshore wind farms, solar installations and battery-powered cars, both because these technologies keep getting cheaper and because countries like India keep ramping up their clean-energy targets. But the report also issues a stark warning on climate change, estimating that the energy policies countries currently have on their books could cause global greenhouse gas emissions to continue rising for the next 20 years. One reason: The world’s appetite for energy keeps surging, and the rise of renewables so far hasn’t been fast enough to satisfy all that extra demand. The result: fossil fuels use,

particularly natural gas, keeps growing to supply the rest.” As for the five future trends, they’re as follows: 1) renewable energy will soon pass coal as an energy source; 2) offshore wind will keep growing dramatically and become “mainstream;” 3) SUV sales will continue to offset energy progress made by electric cars; 4) energy efficiency efforts are slowing; and 5) the course that increasing urbanization and development take in Africa will be critical to our collective future. Source: Brad Plumer, [New York Times](#).

- *Majority Of US Superfund Sites Could Be Affected By Climate Change* – “At least 945 toxic waste sites across the country face escalating risks from rising seas, more intense inland flooding, voracious forest fires and other climate-fueled disasters, according to [a new study from a congressional watchdog agency](#),” reported the *Washington Post* on Monday. “The report, published Monday by the Government Accountability Office, found that climate impacts threaten 6 in 10 Superfund sites overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency. GAO investigators said the agency needs to take more aggressive action to acknowledge risks facing some of the nation’s most polluted sites — and to safeguard them amid a changing climate.” Not to worry, says EPA in its statement on the GAO report: “The EPA strongly believes the Superfund program’s existing processes and resources adequately ensure that risks and any effects of severe weather events, that may increase in intensity, duration, or frequency, are woven into risk response decisions at non-federal [National Priorities List] sites.” Source: Dino Grandoni and Brady Dennis, [Washington Post](#).

National Park System Issues

Native Flora and Fauna – Recent news pertaining to the protection, propagation and advancement of species now or formerly native to the national parks – or removal of those that aren’t:

- *Joshua Tree NP* – In August, USFWS issued a decision that the Joshua tree does not require protection under the Endangered Species Act, saying that it had determined that “the Joshua tree’s habitat is primarily on federally managed land, and has seen ‘no major contraction in populations’ in the last 40 years.” The petition that led to the decision, filed by Wild Earth Guardians, “cited climate models indicating the Joshua tree could lose roughly 90% of its habitat in the next 80 years, should the most severe climate conditions bear out. The gradual warming and drying of Southern California, which could see average maximum temperatures in July rise by as many as five or six degrees, could reduce the Joshua tree population in California to one small refuge in the center of Joshua Tree National Park.” Source: Gabrielle Paluch and Janet Wilson, [Desert Sun](#).

Invasive and Exotic Species – News on exotic or invasive species that have appeared or may soon appear in NPS areas and efforts to counter them:

- *Voyageurs NP* – An aquatic invasive species known as the Chinese Mystery snail has been confirmed in Kabetogama Lake. These snails tend to outcompete native species for both food and habitat in lakes and other waterways, and are also known to be hosts for parasites that can kill waterfowl. According to the park, there is currently no known management option to remove the snails from a lake once an infestation has been discovered. Source: [KARE News](#).
- *Grand Canyon NP* – Thirty-one bison from the park have been donated to the Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma. Hundreds of bison live in the park, so many that park officials say they’re spoiling water sources and harming the landscape. Two years ago, the park introduced a pilot program for corralling and relocating bison from the canyon’s North Rim. Plans to reduce the population of bison in the park were moved to this fall after bad weather canceled the planned capture in late 2018. The North Rim has about 600 bison; the park’s intent is to reduce that number to fewer than 200 over the next three to five years. Source: Kimberly Barker, [CNHI News Service](#).

Park Carrying Capacity – Management challenges pertaining to the balance between park protection and use.

- *Systemwide* – Jordan Payne has written a thoughtful piece in *Mountain Journal* (“Is Geotagging Putting A Bullseye On The Last Best Places?”) about the growing problem of once remote park places getting overrun due to social media postings: “Digital media is [sic] putting a target bullseye on sensitive and once harder to reach locales unlike ever before. The hordes are having unintended consequences that can range from resource destruction caused by overuse, to loss of character, displacement of wildlife, serious acts of vandalism, including graffiti, and serve as reminders that the wonders of the natural world are finite and fragile.... One of the central tenets of Leave No Trace is take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints. But when your pictures lead to footprints upon footprints or wildlife fleeing areas, can you really claim that sharing them is responsible even though you walk away with the impacts out of sight and mind?” The article offers some ideas on how to check this growing problem, including the “Tag Responsibly” campaign. Source Jordan Payne, [Mountain Journal](#).
- *Big Bend NP* – In order to deal with increasing visitation, the park is proposing to significantly increase the number of sites available for reservation at developed campgrounds as well as the number of months when reservations will be accepted. For many, this will greatly reduce the frustration of driving all the way to Big Bend, only to find that all campsites are full. Currently, backcountry permits are issued only in person at park visitor centers, and include primitive car camping sites as well as backpacking and river itineraries. During peak seasons, after a very long drive to Big Bend, visitors often encounter long lines to obtain camping permits and fully booked camping options. In order to better serve park visitors by decreasing wait times at visitor centers and to allow for more opportunities to plan ahead, park managers are proposing adding primitive campsites to the reservation system available through www.recreation.gov. See the following article for details. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#).
- *Pictured Rocks NL* – The park is seeking comments on a visitor use management plan that would help it deal with the “dramatic increase” in visitors to the park that has occurred over the past few years. According to the park, high concentrations of visitors, changes in visitation patterns, and increased commercial kayaking have contributed to a degraded visitor experience, conflicts between visitors, safety concerns, and damage to facilities and natural features, especially between Munising Falls and Spray Falls. The draft plan identifies long-term strategies and improvements to address these issues, including additional restrooms, changing stations at popular beaches, more parking, and road upgrades to enhance traffic flow. Comments are being taken at [the park’s PEPC site](#) until December 7th. Source: Justine Lofton, [Michigan Live](#).
- *Glacier NP* – “A reservation system for the entire Going-to-the-Sun Road corridor, timed entry permits at entrances, and parking permit systems for popular sites are among the more drastic measures under consideration by Glacier National Park officials as they seek ways to alleviate congestion brought on by the unprecedented increase in visitation,” reports the *Missoulian*. “Other potential actions included in a new Going-to-the-Sun Road Corridor Management Plan include limiting commercially guided hiking tours, adding vehicle parking spots, expanding shuttle service and making some trails one-way.” See the article for additional details on the problems that the park is attempting to address. Source: Eve Byron, [Missoulian](#).

External Issues – Management issues related to usage or development in culturally or naturally sensitive areas abutting parks.

- *Grand Canyon NP* – FERC is reviewing a request by Pumped Hydro Storage, LLC, of Phoenix for a permit to build two hydroelectric dams on the Little Colorado River not far upstream from the main Colorado River as it flows into the park. The plan is to construct one dam rising 240 feet above the Little Colorado and another 140 feet high. The proposed Navajo National Salt Trail Canyon Pumped Storage Project would also include six 250-megawatt turbine-generator units with a total capacity of 1,500 megawatts, a 20-mile-long, 500-kilovolt transmission line from the powerhouse to the existing Moenkopi switchyard, and related facilities. At peak capacity, such a setup would have an average annual generation of 3,300 gigawatt-hours. The filing would not allow the company to begin construction, but instead would "grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term." Opponents fear that if the project

is eventually approved, it would harm the endangered humpback chub and most definitely disrupt the ecosystem within Grand Canyon National Park. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#).

The Coalition

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

- *George Hartzog Award* – The Coalition is seeking nominations for this year’s George Hartzog Award, which is given annually to an individual or individuals “who demonstrate outstanding support for the mission of the National Park System and/or the National Park Service.” Nominations must be made by December 15th. [Click on this link](#) to go to the nomination webpage.

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

Park People

NPS Alumni Passing Of Pat Lee

Pat, husband of career NPS ranger and superintendent Tomie Patrick Lee, died of cancer on November 15th at their home in Pine, Arizona. He was 80 years old.

Memorial services are being planned for December 7th at the Strawberry Chapel, Strawberry, Arizona. Additional details will follow.

Donations in Pat’s honor can be made to either the Arizona Highway Patrol & Department of Public Safety Heritage Museum (<http://www.arizonapolicemuseum.org/>) or the Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, 2946 E Banner Gateway Drive, Gilbert, AZ 85234.

You can write to Tomie at her home address, PO Box 2032, Pine, AZ 85544.

Source: Marcia Blaszak

NPS Alumni Additional Details On Death Of Wayne Merry

Wayne Merry, 88, a former NPS ranger well-known for making the first ascent of El Capitan, died on October 30th. He was living in Atlin, British Columbia, at the time of his death.

Wayne married eighteen-year-old Lucinda (Cindy) Barrison on March 22, 1959. They spent their honeymoon on a trip up the Inside Passage from Ketchikan in a wood and canvas kayak.

Wayne had many accomplishments in his life, but he was best known for the first ascent of El Capitan in 1958 with Warren Harding and George Whitmore. He later helped establish Yosemite Search and Rescue, the Yosemite Mountaineering School, and the Yosemite Mountain Shop in the 1970’s.

He was chief ranger in Denali National Park in the late 1960’s, where the family lived for a time at the Wonder Lake ranger station. In 1972 he led the first ski traverse of the Brooks Range.

In 1974 the Merry family emigrated to Canada, settling in Atlin. Wayne became volunteer fire chief and worked to get a firehouse built and the department trained, equipped and modernized. He was the first official unit head of the B.C. ambulance service for Atlin, was later certified as a local ambulance instructor, and would eventually become area coordinator for the provincial emergency program, a search and rescue Instructor, an advanced tracker, and a deputy B.C. fire marshal.

At other times, Wayne served as president of the Atlin Historical Society, president of the Protect Atlin Lake Society, participated in the local improvement district, and sat on the steering committee of Rivers Without Borders.

For many decades, he pioneered, taught and advocated for search and rescue and northern survival in Canada. Wayne provided training to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian rangers, Parks Canada, and search and rescue organizations in the Yukon, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

His awards and recognitions include a lifetime achievement award from the British Columbia Provincial Emergency Program, a Congressional resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of El Capitan, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for service to Canada.

His published works include the *St. John's Ambulance Wilderness First Aid Guide* and *Basic Ground SAR in Canada: A Home Study Guide*, as well as contributing chapters and photos for several works with other authors. He had numerous non-fiction articles published in magazines such as *Sunset*, *Outside*, *Backpacker*, and *Mother Earth News*. He was also featured in the online version of *Atlantic Magazine*. Wayne was a prolific letter writer and his many unpublished works of prose and poetry were shared with and enjoyed by friends and family.

Wayne drew satisfaction from mentoring and befriending others and sharing in adventures – both outdoors and literary. He also enjoyed interacting with climbers on the “SuperTopo” online climbing forum, where he frequently posted as “Fossil Climber”.

Wayne is survived by Cindy, his wife of 61 years, his brother Bill, his sons Scott and Kendall, and his grandson Tristan James Hovest (Merry). A celebration of life will be held in Atlin early next summer, date and time to be determined. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation or note of appreciation to the Atlin Historical Society (Atlin Historical Society, Box 111, Atlin, BC V0W 1A0) or the Atlin Supportive Living Society (Atlin Supportive Living Society, Box 347, Atlin, BC V0W 1A0).

Source: Anne Hendrickson

National Park Service Recent NPS Management Changes

Here's a listing of recent personnel changes in the NPS. Click on the links following the brief summaries for additional details:

- *Gettysburg NMP/Eisenhower NHS* – Steven Sims has been named the new superintendent of the two parks, both in Gettysburg. Sims currently serves as superintendent of Valley Forge NHP, Hopewell Furnace NHS, and Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT. During his 22-year federal career, Sims has also served as the chief facility manager for Northeast Region, facility manager for Independence NHP, and civil engineer/facility manager for the National Mall and Memorial Parks. Source: Mariana Veloso, [Hanover Evening Sun](#).
- *Independence NHP and Chickasaw NRA* – Although this section deals with “personnel changes,” we'd be remiss in not acknowledging the departure – one by death, the other by retirement – of two career NPS canines. “Ken Franklin,” who died unexpectedly on November 13th, became a member of the staff at Independence after completing a ten-week-long Philadelphia PD training course in May, 2013. The German Shepherd was “known for his law enforcement skills and professional demeanor.” “Boomer,” Chickasaw's drug-sniffing lab, has been at the park since 2001 and also assisted rangers in Lake Meredith, Organ Pipe Cactus, Mount Rushmore, Jewel Cave, Wind Cave, San Antonio Missions, and Washita; he also assisted the Forest Service and US Postal Service on occasion. Said a park spokesperson: “He will remain in the Sulphur area, where he plans to spend more time with his family, receive as many belly rubs as he can guilt them into providing, chase squirrels and continue to be a very good boy.” Sources: Michael Slobodian, [Independence NHP](#), and Hicham Raache, [KFOR News](#).

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.

- *Glen Canyon NRA* – On the evening of November 11th, the park received a report of a stranded climber on a small ledge in Ribbon Canyon. Rescuers responding from Halls Crossing and Bullfrog worked throughout the night attempting to reach and rescue the man, who was perched on a small ledge about 115 feet above the canyon floor. Night time rescue operations were hindered by a light rain and poor quality sandstone rock. At first light, a rescue party consisting of rangers Matt Vandzura and Russ Miller and maintenance workers Pat Horning and Greg Taylor succeeded in attaining a position on a higher ledge from which Vandzura was able to traverse across to a position above the stranded man and from there complete the rescue by lowering him to the ground. The man had spent nearly 19 hours standing on the small ledge. He was clad in t shirt, shorts, hiking shoes, and an inexpensive plastic rain poncho. The latter likely kept him from developing hypothermia. Investigation following the rescue indicated that he and his party were BASE jumpers who have frequently visited remote areas of the park and were all present in the nearby Escalante Canyon area when a fruebd died during a BASE jump in September. This particular rescue was not related to BASE jumping, however, as the victim was simply free climbing in a narrow side canyon. Submitted by Chief Ranger Tommie Lee.
- *Shenandoah NP* – On November 15th, rangers concluded a two-month-long undercover investigation of illegal drug use and distribution involving concession employees at Skyland Lodge. Based on information and evidence obtained by undercover officers, one misdemeanor and five felony warrants were obtained. Four of these were executed on the 15th. At least 11 individuals are being charged, some on multiple counts. Several consent searches were conducted, which lead to the seizure of numerous items of paraphernalia, small quantities of drugs, and burglary tools. The investigation was led and coordinated by Central District investigator Tim Alley; the undercover work was conducted by an NPS investigator from another park and by Park Police officers. The names of those arrested are being withheld at this time. Additional leads developed during the operation are now being pursued in a joint effort with state and local drug units. Submitted by Shenandoah NP.
- *Mojave NP* – Five members of the Western Region special events team have been assigned to the new, 1,419,800-acre preserve to bring a uniformed National Park Service presence to the area until the park can be staffed. Team members arrived on site on October 31st, the day President Clinton signed the bill creating Mojave National Preserve. Their primary function is to contact as many visitors and local landowners as possible to establish positive working relationships for the future. Team members are also patrolling and monitoring approximately 2,500 miles of secondary roads and 235 miles of paved roadway. Law enforcement incidents have included cattle trespass, mining trespass, residential trespass, recreational bulldozing, motor vehicle accidents, stolen vehicles, search and rescue, vandalism, off-road use, dumping, and modern day train bandits. Many of these are being jointly investigated with BLM rangers. Hunting is authorized in the area, so rangers have been contacting hunters, most of whom come from the Los Angeles basin. Team members are also employing maintenance skills to work on generators, water heaters, pumps, fences, new NPS signs on roads and trails, and facilities. The rangers are currently working and living at the "Hole In The Wall" fire station, located in the middle of the preserve. Favorable comments have already been received from visitors and some landowners concerning the team and its work. Current plans are to keep them on site until after Thanksgiving, at which time other personnel will be assigned. Submitted by Aniceto L. Olais.

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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: Marcia Blaszak, Anne Hendrickson, Bill Walters

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

"Parks are not to be placed on the economic scales to be weighed against kilowatts, productive acreage, school buildings, housing developments, parking spaces and what not. They are not to be valued in money. Just as well attempt to appraise the value of your child's impish grin, of the confessional, or your first or last love. How will you value the view of the Tetons from the Hole, of the tulip trees in Turkey Run, of the Falls at Letchworth, or the first glimpse of El Capitan? How can the joy of millions in the natural canyons of the Green and the Yampa at Dinosaur over 100 years - why not 2000 years - be weighed against the meager, short-lived value of dams, kilowatts, and irrigation water elsewhere obtainable? Parks are inviolate. This is the strategic stance to assume when attacks are made to dissipate park lands or values."

Charles "Cap" Sauers, *Planning and Civic Comment Magazine*, 1952

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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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