



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

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### Editor's Note

There will be no editions of CWR over the holidays – that is, the next two Wednesdays. The next issue will be out on January 8th.

### Incidents

#### **White Sands NM Trump Group Being Investigated For Theft Of Park Sand**

The New Mexico group [Cowboys for Trump](#) is facing criticism after members brought iconic gypsum sands from the park to the annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in Washington, a violation of federal law.

The group brought four “big plastic bins” of the sand to the event. The group’s leader said in a video posted to Facebook that the Cowboys for Trump were bringing “some of the most beautiful treasure out of New Mexico” to Washington.

Removing natural resources from a park is of course illegal without specific permission. The illegal taking of resources from within the national monument is a Class B misdemeanor punishable with a \$5,000 fine or six months in jail.

Source: Associated Press via [KNAU News](#).

#### **Point Reyes NS Suspected Auto Burglar Arrested**

Rangers have arrested an East Bay man for an auto burglary in the park.

The investigation was begun several weeks ago in response to a series of break-ins. On Saturday, November 16th, a ranger spotted a man near Olema whose description and vehicle were a potential match to the suspect.

Joseph Harold Wyles, 20, of Antioch was booked into the Marin County Jail on suspicion of burglary, vandalism, possession of burglary tools, credit card fraud, possession of stolen property and a gun-related offense. As of late last month, he remained in custody in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Source: Gary Klein, [Marin Independent Journal](#).

#### **National Park System**

## Park Operating Status Summary

A summary of recent openings, closures and other changes in the status of parks and their facilities,

- *Blue Ridge Parkway* – A storm forecast to bring freezing rain and ice across western North Carolina led the National Park Service to shut down the parkway last Friday. All but a few sections of the 469-mile-long road were closed. No word yet on the parkway's current status. Source: [Charlotte Observer](#).
- *North Cascades NP* – The North Cascades Highway is about to close for the season -- its latest closure date in over a decade. December 11th tied the date for the eighth-latest closure since records began being kept in 1972. It's the first time the pass has remained open through November since 2013, when it closed on December 3rd. It's now the latest closure since 2008, when it closed on December 15th. Source: Scott Sistek, [KOMO News](#).
- *Indiana Dunes NP* – Lake View Beach in Beverly Shores will be closed until at least May 1st due to erosion concerns. Access to the beach and western end of the parking lot will be restricted until then, or further notice depending on conditions; the picnic area and parking lot directly south will remain open. The higher lake level this winter, in combination with recent storm waves, has resulted in continued erosion and narrower beaches along Lake Michigan. Estimates by the Army Corps of Engineers' Detroit District office state Lake Michigan is nearing the record water levels set in 1986. Source: Meredith Colias-Pete, [Gary Post-Tribune](#).
- *Acadia NP* – The park will be closing a six-mile section of its carriage road network next year while improvements are made to the road. The closed section will be around Eagle Lake in Bar Harbor. The shutdown is expected to run from April to November. Source: Bill Trotter, [WGME News](#).

## National Park System

### Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents

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

- *Appalachian NST* – Kirby Morril, the hiker who was attacked by a man with a knife while thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail earlier this year, has announced that she plans to return to the trail next year. In May, Morril was camping with three other thru-hikers when she and another hiker, Ron Sanchez, were beaten and stabbed by James Jordan, a hiker with known mental health issues. Sanchez died from his injuries. Morril managed to escape the attacker, hiking three hours to safety. She suffered 9 stab wounds and 40 lacerations and has been recovering at her home in New Brunswick, Canada, since the attack. Morril says she plans to head back to Georgia in March to start the Appalachian Trail over again. "I always wanted to do the whole trail from end to end, and I didn't get to do it," she told Canada's CTV News. Source: Kim Dinan, [Blue Ridge Outdoors](#).
- *Cape Hatteras NS* – The park and local officials are warning people who abandoned flooded vehicles after Hurricane Dorian that they will need to be removed from certain areas. Many vehicles have been abandoned along the side of the roads within the village and on NPS property; many of these vehicles are in the North Carolina Department of Transportation right of way north of the Ocracoke Village, which is on NPS property. All vehicles within the boundaries of the park must be removed by December 20th to avoid citation for illegal dumping. Source: [WTKR News](#).

## 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 21** – The president signed into law [H.R. 3055](#), making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020 (Public Law 116–69).

**November 25** – The president signed into law [H.R. 2423](#), to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote (Public Law 116–71).

## **Senate Actions**

**December 5** – The Senate passed [H.R. 2486](#), to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions, with an amendment. The bill now returns to the House for further action.

**December 10** – The Senate passed [H.R. 5363](#), to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions. This bill includes the same text as H.R. 2486, above, as passed by the Senate on December 5. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

**December 12** – The Senate confirmed the nomination of Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service by a vote of 52 yeas to 39 nays.

**December 12** – The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources approved the following, among other bills:

- [S. 225](#), to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War.
- [S. 298](#), to require a study of the location of the Springfield Race Riot in the State of Illinois.
- [S. 327](#), to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability.
- [S. 389](#), to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in the District of Columbia.
- [S. 434](#), to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.
- [S. 641](#), to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument.
- [S. 774](#), to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor.
- [S. 1152](#), to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Arlington, Virginia. The bill would transfer just over 16 acres encompassing Memorial Avenue – the road leading into Arlington National Cemetery – from the National Park Service to the Secretary of the Army, which runs the cemetery. The National Park Service would receive just over 1 acre adjacent to Arlington House – The Robert E. Lee Memorial, which includes wooded land and an historic building, from the Secretary of the Army.
- [S. 2660](#), to establish a grant program for wind energy research, development, and demonstration.

## **House Actions**

**December 4** – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing, among other bills, on the following:

- [H.R. 1702](#), to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' demonstrations and special events at war memorials on Federal land.

- [H.R. 2317](#), to designate the Peter J. McGuire Memorial and Peter J. McGuire Gravesite located in Pennsauken, New Jersey, as a National Historic Landmark.
- [H.R. 3094](#), to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806.
- [H.R. 3349](#), to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.
- [H.R. 3465](#), to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.
- [H.R. 5068](#), to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

Testimony was heard from members of Congress; David Vela, Deputy Director, Operations, Exercising the Authority of the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

**December 5** – The Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “[Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Solutions for Economy-Wide Deep Decarbonization](#)”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**December 5** – The Committee on Natural Resources approved, among other bills, the following:

- [H.R. 2642](#), to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers.
- [H.R. 3742](#), to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies.

**December 10** – The House passed [H.R. 729](#), to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian Tribes to further achievement of Tribal coastal zone objectives, by a vote of 262 yeas to 151 nays. The bill includes a number of provisions to address specific climate change issues along coastal areas, the Great Lakes, and across the nation.

**December 11** – The House agreed to the conference report to accompany [S. 1790](#), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by a vote of 377 yeas to 48 nays. As passed, the conference report includes the following:

- Division A, Title III, Subtitle B, Sec. 325, to require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a plan for real-time monitoring of noise relating to field carrier landing practice from flights associated with the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, and conducted above or adjacent to Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, and Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve. The Secretary is required to work with the Director of the National Park Service and the Chief of the Forest Service in developing the plan.
- Division A, Title V, Subtitle D, Sec. 540N, to express the sense of Congress that the secretary of the Navy should, as appropriate, recommend executive action in favor of the 49 remaining Port Chicago sailors with general court-martial convictions and the 207 remaining sailors with summary court-martial convictions following the deadliest home front disaster in World War II.
- Division A, Title XVII, Subtitle B, Sec. 1750, to authorize the secretary of defense to contribute up to \$5 million to the National Maritime Heritage Grants program, which is administered by the National Park Service. This action is likely a result of the Defense Department having the law changed a few years back, without any input from the National Park Service, that required all funds from the sale of vessels sold for scrap to be returned to the Defense Department instead of being split with the National Park Service as they had been in the past. The NPS had been in discussions with the Defense Department to have its share of the funds reinstated.

- Division B, Title XXVIII, Subtitle C, Sec. 2834, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Arlington, Virginia. The bill would transfer just over 16 acres encompassing Memorial Avenue – the road leading into Arlington National Cemetery -from the National Park Service to the Secretary of the Army, which runs the cemetery. The National Park Service would receive just over 1 acre adjacent to Arlington House -The Robert E. Lee Memorial, which includes wooded land and an historic building, from the Secretary of the Army.
- Division B, Title XXVIII, Subtitle E, Sec. 2851, to authorize the establishment of the White Sands National Park consisting of the White Sands National Monument and 8,592 acres transferred from secretary of the army from the White Sands Missile Range. The bill also authorizes the transfer of 3,737 acres from the secretary of the interior to the secretary of the army.
- Division F, Title LXXVI, Subtitle A, Sec. 7601-7606, to provide paid family leave of 12 weeks for every 12-month period for federal employees.

Provisions of the bill that were dropped in conference:

- Sec. 1094 and Sec. 10990, to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the *U.S.S. Frank E. Evans* killed on June 3, 1969. The Department of Defense has jurisdiction over which names go on the memorial wall and they have determined that the lost crew members of the *U.S.S. Frank E. Evans* do not meet the criteria for inclusion. While honoring the service of these individuals, the conferees said there was an established process for adding names to the wall and that process should be followed to preserve the integrity of the wall.
- Sec. 1099U, to increase the limitation on federal funding for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor from \$12 million to \$14 million.
- Sec. 2812, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Arlington, Virginia. The bill would transfer just over 16 acres encompassing Memorial Avenue – the road leading into Arlington National Cemetery -from the National Park Service to the Secretary of the Army, which runs the cemetery. The National Park Service would receive just over 1 acre adjacent to Arlington House -The Robert E. Lee Memorial, which includes wooded land and an historic building, from the Secretary of the Army.

**December 11** – The Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled “[Climate Change in the Era of Strategic Competition](#)”. Testimony was heard from Maria Langan-Riekhof, Director, Strategic Futures Group, National Intelligence Council, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and the following Department of Defense officials: Neill Tipton, Director for Defense Intelligence (Collection and Special Programs), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; Victorino Mercado, (Acting) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities; and Milan Nikolich, Director, Defense Research and Engineering for Research and Technology, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

**December 11** – The Select Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hearing entitled “[Creating a Climate Resilient America: Smart Finance for Strong Communities](#)”. Testimony was heard from Mark Gaffigan, Managing Director for Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; 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.

- *Movement To Privatize Parts Of Parks Presses On* – “The disbanding of an Interior Department advisory committee last month quieted some of the talk on privatizing features of national



parks,” reports the Public News Network. “But Jayson O'Neill, deputy director of the Western Values Project, a Montana-based public lands watchdog group, says that was the beginning of plans to monetize some of the country's most iconic sites...National parks face a maintenance backlog of \$12 billion. The Trump administration says modernizing the parks with private sector help can address infrastructure issues. O'Neill says the Made in America Committee was packed with industry concessionaires that currently profit off of national parks. At least three members were flagged by the Interior Department as having potential conflicts of interest.” Source: [Public News Service](#).

- *Ranger Border Deployment* – In a December 5th article, *USA Today* reported that Acting Director David Vela had testified before a Congressional subcommittee that he did not know much about his own agency's deployment of park law enforcement rangers to assist the Border Patrol with illegal immigration. Vela was responding to Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM), chair of the subcommittee, who questioned him about a story published in November that revealed the extent of the NPS border deployments. The story reported that the Trump administration ordered rangers from national parks around the country, from as far as Alaska and the U.S. Virgin Islands to travel to the U.S.-Mexican border to fight illegal immigration and drug traffickers. Said Vela: “Clearly the president has some very specific interests and objectives on the border that we are doing our best to satisfy,” adding that he'd seen NPS involvement in similar missions in the past. “This is a little more defined, more focused, but in my history in the NPS, this is something we have done from time to time for certain mission and certain causes.” Source: Karen Chávez, [USA Today](#).

## **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.

- *Big Bend NP* – This is the park's 75th anniversary and the Postal Service is about to offer a commemorative stamp. Here's how it's described: “Echoing the classic artwork of WPA-era National Park posters, the Big Bend stamp depicts the Rio Grande flowing between the sheer limestone cliffs of Santa Elena Canyon, in a remote part of Big Bend National Park.” The story has a very nice image of the new stamp. Source: Nathan Cone and Becky Fogel, [Texas Standard](#).
- *Capitol Reef NP* – The park will launch a pilot mandatory canyoneering permit system on January 1st. Permits will be free of charge and require self-registration either at the park VC or online on the park website. These permits will be required for all canyoneering and climbing activities within the park. Park staff have observed a substantial increase in canyoneering and rock climbing activities in the park over the past ten years. The pilot permit system will allow managers to track use and determine levels and locations of activity. Regulations are listed on the permit and on the park website. No personal information is required and there is no limit to the number of permits given. Source: [Capitol Reef NP](#).
- *Golden Gate NRA* – Here's the latest in the continuing saga of dog management in the park: Three dog owners' groups and a recreation association have sued the park in federal court in San Francisco, challenging proposed restrictions on dog walking. The lawsuit claims that some of the rules in the 2019 Superintendent's Compendium are “substantial and controversial changes” to the park unit's existing pet policy, which dates back to a plan developed by a citizens' advisory commission in 1979. The suit asks for court orders requiring the recreation area to complete an environmental study of the proposed changes and to follow the National Park Service's requirements for public notice and an opportunity for public comment on significant policy changes. Source: [Bay City News Service](#).
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks* – The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission has received a building permit from the National Park Service for the first construction phase of the new National World War I Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue. The first phase of construction will be

a 360-day project to rebuild the former Pershing Park and prepare the site for the eventual installation of the memorial bronze sculpture when it is completed. The building permit was awarded after the memorial design was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission earlier in 2019. Pershing Park is located on Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street Northwest, with the Willard Hotel to its north side and the White House Visitor Center to its south. You can see details of the design and the construction plan [at this link](#). Source: [US World War I Centennial Commission](#).

- *Yosemite NP* – A recent donation of photos to the park’s archives “provides a small window into the past that was previously unknown to the public.” A number of black-and-white photographs were donated by the grandson of Herbert Asa Sawin, a photographer who worked with H.C. Best in Yosemite and showcased Yosemite in the mid-1910s. The newspaper’s article includes 163 of the images. Source: Dianne de Guzman, [SFGate.com](#).

## **Briefly Noted**

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

- *Crooks Using Bluetooth In Auto Break-ins* – Thieves involved with auto burglaries, better known in the NPS as “car clouts,” have found that Bluetooth provides them with a useful tool for identifying targets. Here’s an excerpt from this issue of *Outside*: “[California] is currently experiencing an epidemic of vehicle break-ins, and police there report that thieves are using [Bluetooth] technology. ‘There are some people, auto burglars, who actually detect that signal and target your car for that,’ a San Jose Police Department representative told CBS. San Francisco saw a 24 percent increase in vehicle break-ins between 2016 and 2017, and while 2018 saw a slight decrease, 2019 is on track to be a record year.” So what’s to be done, outside of not leaving valuables in your car? “Putting a device in airplane mode or entirely powering it off will both work, according to a report in *Popular Mechanics*. Some devices may still emit trace Bluetooth signals while sleeping, so closing the lid on your laptop isn’t enough. For additional protection, you can place those devices in a Faraday fabric sleeve or wrap them in a blanket made from the same material.” Source: Wes Siler, [Outside](#).
- *SAR And Tech Tools* – The *Washington Post* ran a story on December 15th entitled “Lost In The Wilderness: Tech Tools Help But They Don’t Always Find Someone In Time” – an altogether too familiar theme in searches these days. “GPS, cellphones, thermal imaging, infrared cameras and drones have improved many aspects of search and rescue,” writes the author, “yet finding people lost in the wild remains a stubbornly difficult task. And finding missing persons is urgent, especially if they weren’t prepared to spend the night outdoors.” Former NPS ranger Todd Berkenfield and others are interviewed about the realities of searches – threats to lost persons (particularly hypothermia), techniques for finding them, and the difficulties locating a person in a wilderness. Source: Christie Aschwanden, [Washington Post](#).

## **The Federal Government**

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

- *Federal Employees In Line For 3.1% Pay Raise* – This just in: “Congress is set to provide federal civilian employees with an average pay raise of 3.1% next year as part of a spending deal that must pass before Friday’s deadline [that is, December 20th] to avert a government shutdown. According to a House Democratic aide, language in the spending legislation, which lawmakers still were finalizing Monday afternoon, would provide feds with a 2.6% across-the-board raise, along with an average 0.5% increase in locality pay.” Source: Erich Wagner, [Government Executive](#).
- *Survey Released On Fed Employee Relationships With Their Agencies* – “As agencies struggle to attract talented young people to government, new research shows more cause for worry: Less

than half of federal workers would stay in their jobs if they were offered a similar position elsewhere,” reports *Government Executive*. “A newly released survey found that a majority of federal employees take pride in their work, but have low levels of trust in leadership and lack confidence that their organization aligns with their agency’s stated core values...According to the survey, 72% of respondents said they are proud to work for their organization, yet only 38% said they trust their executive leadership. Additionally, the majority of respondents reported workplace culture is important for their organization’s productivity, efficiency and success. While 75% of federal employees said their organization possesses ‘core values,’ just 55% said their organization aligns to those values.” You can read more about the report [at this link](#). Source: Courtney Bublé, [Government Executive](#).

- *BLM Employees Declining To Move* – On December 13th, *Government Executive* ran a story under this headline: “Few BLM Employees Agree to Relocate as Interior Attempts to Ease Pain of Those It Will Fire.” The subhead made it clear just how reluctant people are to move: “So far just two employees have agreed to move from Washington headquarters to new locations in western states.” BLM is also offering impacted employees early retirement and buyouts. Employees have until January 17th to accept the offers and January 30th to leave. Buyouts will be worth the statutory maximum of \$25,000. Source: Eric Katz, [Government Executive](#).

## **The Coalition**

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

- *E-Bikes* – Coalition Chair Phil Francis spoke with *National Parks Traveler* at the end of last week regarding a recent lawsuit filed to overturn the Interior Department’s move to expand e-Bike access in the National Park System. You can read it [at this link](#).
- *Op-Ed Articles On LWCF Funding By Coalition Members* – Two op-ed pieces on the importance of LWCF made it into Maine newspapers – the first by Mike Murray in the *Sun Journal* and the second by Sheridan Steele in the *Bangor Daily News*. You can read the former [at this link](#) and the latter [at this link](#).
- *CPANP Joins Partners In Opposing BLM Move* – The Coalition joined 11 other partner agencies and signed on to a full page ad from the Public Lands Foundation opposing the BLM move. The ad ran in *Politico* this week and can be seen [at this link](#).

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

## **Park People**

### **NPS Alumni Passing Of John Good**

Former National Park Service superintendent John M. Good died at home in Meridian, Idaho, on December 5th. He was 95 years old.

Good began his NPS career in 1951 as a cave guide at Carlsbad Caverns and retired as superintendent of Everglades in 1981. He worked at seven parks during his career, including tours as chief naturalist at Yellowstone (1960-68), superintendent at Acadia (1968-71), deputy superintendent at Yosemite (1971-76), and superintendent of Everglades National (1976-81).

Highlights of his career included:

- A series of land exchanges in Acadia that solidified park boundaries and serving on the initial board of trustees during the establishment of the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor.



- Working with Yosemite Superintendent Lynn Thompson and Chief Ranger Jack Morehead as the NPS faced the challenges of a rapidly changing society and visitor demographics in the wake of the Yosemite riot.
- Protecting Florida Bay by eliminating commercial fishing and initiating the legal efforts that required the state of Florida to acknowledge perpetual water rights for Everglades National Park. The Florida Bay work earned him an “attaboy” from Boston Red Sox slugger and avid Florida fly fisherman Ted Williams, who had told him he didn’t think ending commercial fishing could be done.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Good acquired his lifelong love of the outdoors spending summers at his aunt and uncle’s farm in the Ozark Mountains of southern Missouri. After serving in the Navy during WWII, he attended Washington University in St. Louis for both his bachelor and master’s degrees in geology. He worked for a brief time as an exploration geologist for Standard Oil of Texas after graduation.

While on vacation he had visited several parks and became interested in working for the National Park Service. He joined the agency in 1951, dedicating his working life to national parks and their mission of preserving natural and cultural resources for public use and enjoyment.

After retirement, Good finished his field work and wrote *Interpreting the Landscape: Recent and Ongoing Geology of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks* with his good friend, USGS geologist Dr. Ken Pierce. He worked as a volunteer for years for the Yellowstone wolf reintroduction project with Rick McIntyre. The success of the reintroduction made him quite happy, as he knew the key role they play in restoring the Yellowstone country. He also tutored in the Teton County schools for many years. He continued to spend as much time as possible outdoors fly fishing, cross-country skiing, hiking, camping, paddling and bird watching for as long as he could in many areas of the country and around the world.

Good is survived by his wife of 45 years, Edna, her son Randy Carroll, daughter Katherine Good-Smith, son Lou Good and grandson John Beck.

“My father loved working and playing in national parks,” said Lou Good. “He considered being a park ranger the best job a person could have and was fortunate to work during the era when a ranger’s job was to range. He mentored countless young men and women in the agency. His enthusiasm, knowledge and experience were infectious. He went on to say, “As he prepared to leave Jackson for the last time I reminded him that he had lived and worked in either Mammoth Hot Springs or Jackson for almost half his life, close to 44 years. His face just lit up and he said, ‘Not bad, not bad at all!’ We should all be so lucky.”

Services will be announced later. The family asks that, in his memory, everyone fights hard to preserve our public lands and public access to them as John Maxwell Good did his entire life.

Source: [Mount Desert Islander](#).

### **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:

- *Ozark NSR* – Superintendent Larry Johnson is retiring on January 3rd. He’s been the superintendent at the park since 2015, and has been with the National Park Service for 36 years. A retirement luncheon will be held at noon on Friday, December 20th, at park headquarters in Van Buren. Guests are welcome and can R.S.V.P. by calling 573-323-4852. Source: [Ozark Radio News](#).
- *Nez Perce NHP/ Whitman Mission NHS/ Big Hole NB* – Ashley Adams is the new deputy superintendent for Nez Perce, Whitman Mission and Big Hole. The article on her arrival

includes an interview with the managing editor of the newspaper. Source: Craig Clohessy, [Lewiston Morning Tribune](#).

## **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.

- *Western Parks* – On December 14th, Richard J. Skalski of Redwood City and Marc L. Grinnell of Santa Rosa pleaded guilty in federal district court to charges of violating the Endangered Species Act and other international wildlife conventions. The two were arrested last year for poaching butterflies between 1983 and 1992 in Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Death Valley, Golden Gate, Point Reyes and a number of wildlife refuges. More than 2,200 butterflies, including 210 protected under the Endangered Species Act, were taken for commercial gain over the period. The case was developed after Fish and Wildlife agents and Grand Canyon rangers and investigators began an investigation two years ago into poaching of a rare species of butterfly from the park. Collectors have paid hundreds of dollars for some of the rarer butterfly species the two men collected, which included the San Bruno elfin, mission blue and Lange's metalmark. This is reportedly the first federal case ever made against butterfly poachers. Skalski and Grinnell could receive fines of up to \$250,000 and prison terms of up to five years. Reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.
- *Yellowstone NP* – Ronald Christensen, 27, of Salt Lake City, was killed in a snowmobile accident near Fountain Paint Pots on the Grand Loop Road around 4 a.m. on December 16th. Christensen was traveling by himself on a snowmobile ahead of two companions on another machine. His companions did not witness the accident, but found Christensen off his machine, lying on the edge of the groomed snowmobile trail with serious head and face injuries and without signs of life. The accident was reported at Old Faithful and responding rangers found Christensen dead at the scene. Investigators have determined that the victim's snowmobile struck an elk and that speed was likely a factor in the accident. Christensen was not wearing a helmet. Submitted by Assistant Chief Ranger Mike Murray.
- *Arches NP* – On the afternoon of December 15th, a bighorn ram knocked down and injured a visitor who'd walked into the herd to take photographs. The man had gotten between the ram and the herd, then had turned his back on the ram and knelt down to take photos of the rest of the herd. Three smaller rams came to the front of the group and stared at the man, cocking their heads. When the man stood up, the large ram charged him, striking him on his right shoulder and knocking him to the ground. The man got up slowly and began screaming for help. Two passers-by ran to assist him, but the ram ignored them and charged again, striking the man in the middle of the back and again knocked him down. The visitors yelled and waved their arms at the ram, but he stood his ground. The ram did not charge again, though, and the visitors were able to get the man back to his car. Although the man suffered a bruise to his shoulder, severe abrasions on his back and complained of pain around his collarbone, he declined to report the incident and refused medical assistance offered by one of the witnesses. According to another of these witnesses, all of the rams displayed aggressive poses - lowering and cocking their heads - throughout the incident. This herd is well known in the Moab area because it grazes just off Utah Highway 191 along the park's southern border during the fall, winter and early spring. Many visitors stop to take photographs of the animals, but they usually move up the steep slopes into the park when photographers get too close. This is the first known instance of a bighorn butting a visitor. Submitted by Karen McKinlay-Jones.

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- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Bill Walters, Judy Hazen Connery, Bob Martin, 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**

"Every great landscape carries in its beauty the seeds of its own destruction. Primitive wilderness characteristics give the national parks their real prestige and will increasingly add to their distinction as these qualities disappear elsewhere. But these qualities are readily destroyed; they are fragile things. How preserve them? The answer may well depend upon how clearly we define our aims."

[Newton B. Drury](#), Director, 1940-1951

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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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