



The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Volume 3

Number 9

Incidents

Rocky Mountain NP Search In Progress For Missing Tennessee Man

A search is underway for Tennessee visitor James Pruitt, 70, who hasn't been heard from since February 28th. Searchers are currently focusing their efforts on the Glacier Gorge drainage, the Loch Vale drainage and the Glacier Creek drainage. As of Monday, about 40 people were involved in search operations, including 29 people in the field. Larimer County Search and Rescue, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, a dog team from LCSAR, and personnel from the Colorado Search and Rescue Board have been assisting the park's SAR team.

Almost two feet of snow have accumulated in the Glacier Gorge area since last Thursday. The recent snowfall in this mountainous terrain make finding clues to Pruitt's whereabouts even more difficult.

When Pruitt's unattended vehicle was found at the Glacier Gorge Trailhead (9,240 feet) on Sunday morning, rangers contacted his family in Tennessee. They confirmed that he was in the area and that he hadn't been heard from since Thursday morning. Pruitt arrived to the area on February 22nd. This is his third winter visit to Rocky Mountain National Park over the past three years.

Pruitt may be wearing a blue jacket and red or orange hat and have micro-spikes on his hiking boots. Rangers would like to hear from anyone who has been in the Glacier Gorge and Bear Lake areas since Thursday, February 28th, or who may have had contact with Pruitt regarding his planned route for Thursday. Please call Rocky Mountain National Park at (970) 586-1204.

Source: Kyle Patterson, [Rocky Mountain NP](#).

Zion NP Roads And Trails Closed Due To Storm Impacts

Heavy rains late last week led to slides that forced the closure of a principal park highway and access to several park trails.

The Zion-Mount Carmel Highway was closed on the evening of March 2nd due to a rockslide onto the switchbacks below the tunnel. A retaining wall failed and an eight-foot section of the road was severely undercut east of the first switchback. The highway will be closed from the East Entrance to Canyon Junction until further notice.

Several trails that are accessed from the road have also been closed, including the Canyon Overlook Trail and the Keyhole, Canyon Overlook, Pine Creek, Spry, Clear Creek, Fat Man's Misery, and Lodge Canyon canyoneering routes.

Other trail closures remain in effect. The Kayenta Trail and Upper Emerald Pools Trail remain closed due to a landslide that occurred last July. The East Rim Trail, as well as total access to Hidden Canyon and access from the main canyon to Observation Point, remain closed due to a landslide that occurred in January.

Zion Canyon has received 10.12 inches of precipitation over the past five months. During the same time period a year ago, the same area received 2.77 inches of precipitation.

Source: Aly Baltrus, [Zion NP](#).

National Park System Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents

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

- *Golden Gate NRA* – The search for the woman who was buried in a landslide at Fort Funston last week has ended. Park staff reported that they'd "exhausted all possible actions" and said that there was a "high probability that the woman was taken out to sea by high tide." Source: Bay City News Service, [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

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

February 15 – The president signed into law H.J. Res. 31, to make further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019. This joint resolution includes appropriations for the remainder of the fiscal year for a number of federal agencies whose appropriations bill had not yet been signed into law, including the Department of the Interior. (Public Law 116-6).

Senate Actions

February 27 – The Senate passed H. Con. Res. 21, a resolution to rename S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act, as the "John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act" in honor of the conservation work of former Rep. Dingell. See House action on this resolution, below, for further information on Rep. Dingell's legacy.

February 27 – The Committee on the Budget held a hearing to examine the Budget Control Act, focusing on a review of cap-adjusted spending, after receiving testimony from Theresa Gullo, assistant director for budget analysis, Congressional Budget Office.

February 27 – The Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to examine S. 383, to support carbon dioxide utilization and direct air capture research, to facilitate the permitting and development of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects and carbon dioxide pipelines. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at this hearing.

February 28 – The Senate confirmed the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The vote was 52 yeas to 47 nays.

House Actions

February 26 – As reported in last week’s edition, the House passed S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act, by a vote of 363 yeas to 62 nays. This bill is the most significant parks and public lands legislation since 2014. [See last week’s report](#) for further information about the legislation. Subsequent to passage of S. 47, the House passed H. Con. Res. 21, a resolution to rename S. 47, the “John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act” in honor of the conservation work of former Rep. Dingell. Rep. Dingell passed away on February 7, 2019, after having served over 59 years in Congress, which made him the longest-serving member of Congress in U.S. history. Rep. Dingell was a National Park Service ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park during his college years. As of the time of this report, the bill is still awaiting the president’s signature.

February 26 – The Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Public Witness Hearing.” Among other public witnesses, Dick Ring, a board member of the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, testified before the subcommittee on the FY 2020 budget for the National Park Service. “With inflation increasing by 17.3% since 2009,” he testified, “the NPS would need \$3.84 billion in appropriations this year just to stay even with inflation. Thus, the Coalition requests NPS appropriations be increased by \$565 million in FY 2020 to bring the NPS back to the level of services the agency provided back in FY 2009.” A copy of Dick’s full statement can be found [at this link](#).

February 26 – The Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Oversight Hearing: Understanding the Changing Climate System and the Role of Climate Research.” Testimony was heard from Michael H. Freilich, director, Earth Science Division, Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and Neil Jacobs, assistant secretary of commerce for environmental observation and prediction, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

February 26 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “EPA’s Enforcement Program: Taking the Environmental Cop Off the Beat.” Testimony was heard from Susan Bodine, assistant administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Environmental Protection Agency, and public witnesses.

February 26 – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “The State of Water Supply Reliability in the 21st Century.” There were no witnesses from federal agencies at this hearing.

February 26 – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “The Denial Playbook: How Industries Manipulate Science and Policy from Climate Change to Public Health.” There were no witnesses from federal agencies at this hearing.

February 26 – The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a hearing entitled “Examining How Federal Infrastructure Policy Could Help Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change.” There were no witnesses from federal agencies at this hearing.

February 27 – The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Sea Change: Impacts of Climate Change on Our Oceans and Coasts.” There were no witnesses from federal agencies at this hearing.

February 28 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “We’ll Always Have Paris: Filling the Leadership Void Caused by Federal Inaction on Climate Change.” There were no witnesses from federal agencies at this hearing.

National Park Service

National Park System

Planning Underway For Commemoration Of 400 Years Of African American History – This year, the 400 Years of African-American History Commission will coordinate the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival in August 1619 of the first Africans to North America at Point Comfort, Virginia, a locations that is now within Fort Monroe National Monument. The anniversary will serve as a touchstone to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States to recognize and highlight the contributions of African Americans since 1619. It will encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand understanding and appreciation of the contributions of African Americans. The commission's work will highlight commemoration activities across the country, including the August opening of a new visitor center at Fort Monroe National Monument, established through a partnership between the Fort Monroe Authority and the National Park Service. Additional events and programs are in development by the NPS, other agencies, and partner organizations. As plans are finalized, the commission hopes to have an online resource where the public can learn more about how to participate in the commemoration. Source: [National Park Service](#).

Around The Parks

Reports on activities in the parks, listed in alphabetical order.

- *Cape Cod NS* – An investigation into potential contaminants in the ground at the former site of Camp Wellfleet, now part of the park, is nearly complete. Preliminary sampling indicates no issues with contamination. The investigation of the site occurred last year and a draft version of the investigation report is currently under review; it should be out late this spring. In the early 1940s, the U.S. Army used Camp Wellfleet for antiaircraft training, and in the mid-1940s the U.S. Navy used it for missile testing and for mobile radar training. Source: [Military.com](#).
- *Gulf Islands NS* – For the first time in 50 years, the park no longer has either a Camille Cut or an East and West Ship Island. Millions of cubic yards of sand have been dredged up to close the gap between the two parts of Ship Island, which was divided by Hurricane Camille in 1969. The two islands were slowly coming together until Hurricane Katrina extended the rift to more than three miles. Although the NPS normally would not fill such a breach, it's being done in this case to save the smaller east part of the island and to create more area to better protect the mainland from future storms. The first phase, which connected the two parts of the island with a slip of land five feet above sea level and 500 feet wide, was completed on February 8th. In the next phase of the contract, which is about to begin, the new land will be raised by two more feet and widened by another 500 feet. The following article includes a short video of the first phase of the project. Source: Mary Perez, [Biloxi Sun Herald](#).
- *Lake Mead NRA* – The park has acquired a Cessna 206 modified with floats for patrol and emergency response. It can reach any part of Lake Mead within 30 minutes. Although the plane is 12 years old, it's been upgraded with a new turbine engine and all new avionics. The floats have retractable wheels within them so that it can also touch down on land. The article has a good photo of the plane. Source: Henry Breaun, [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#).
- *Lassen Volcanic NP/Yosemite NP/Death Valley NP* – A new study has named three NPS sites as among eight volcanic areas in the state of California that have moderate, high or very high threat of eruption over the next 30 years. The eight are Mt. Lassen, Mt. Shasta, the Long Valley volcanic region (a 20-by-10-mile basin left by a cataclysmic explosion 767,000 years ago) on the eastern side of Yosemite National Park, Medicine Lake Volcano in Siskiyou and Modoc counties, Clear Lake Volcanic Field in Lake County, Coso Volcanic Field on the east side of the Sierra Nevada at the northern end of the Mojave Desert, Ubehebe Craters in Death Valley National Park, and the Salton Buttes in the state's southeast corner. The report looked at both the potential for disruption of nearby community facilities and services and possible statewide impacts. [The full report can be read at this link](#). Source: John Antczak, [Associated Press via Redding Record Searchlight](#).

- *Olympic NP* – The Olympic National Park Wilderness Information Center is about to move to an online reservation system allowing backpackers to check the availability of sites in real time, plan their trips, and receive immediate confirmations. The online reservation system will launch through recreation.gov at noon on March 18th. Source: [Associated Press via KOMO News](#).
- *USS Arizona Memorial* – Repairs to the visitor loading ramp at the *USS Arizona*, which has been closed for 10 months, will not be completed this month as scheduled. The loading ramp was closed last May after a vessel operator noticed a crack in the ramp. Investigators subsequently determined that the memorial's structure was not supporting the weight of the ramp as designed, creating a safety hazard. No new date for completion of the project has been announced. Source: Max Walker, [KNXV News](#).
- *Yosemite NP* – “Free Solo,” the film about rock climber Alex Honnold’s ascent of El Capitan without ropes in June 2017, was named best documentary at the Oscar awards last week. Honnold’s ascent has been called “what may be the greatest feat of pure rock climbing in the history of the sport.” Said climber Tommy Caldwell, who made his own history in 2015 with an ascent of the Dawn Wall, El Capitan’s most difficult climb: “This is the ‘moon landing’ of free soloing.” The film, which was shot by husband-and-wife directors Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, was shown on the National Geographic channel last Sunday. A clip from it appears in the article that follows, which also has details about the climb, including a map of his route. Source: Mark Synnott, [National Geographic.com](#).

Federal Government

Recent news stories, web postings, statements, and press releases pertaining to Congress (excepting official business, which appears above), the administration, DOI, and other public land management agencies that have bearing on the NPS.

Administration and Government

MSPB Board In Limbo – The *Federal Times* reports that March 1st marked the first day in the entire history of the Merit Systems Protection Board that all three of the board member positions were vacant, “a situation that could have significant repercussions for federal employee watchdogs and the disciplinary appeals process.” This is the longest absence of a quorum in the history of the agency; unlike other agencies, the vacant seats at MSPB cannot be filled in an acting capacity. MSPB cannot pass judgement on cases or change delegations of authority without a quorum of members, meaning at least two of the three seats have to be filled. Now all three members have left. This staffing shortage has meant a backlog of appeals that reached 1,975 cases as of last month. Source: Jessie Bur, [Federal Times](#).

Department of the Interior

Grand Jury Looking Into Charges That Zinke Lied To Investigators – In mid-February, prosecutors began presenting evidence to a grand jury in Washington in their probe into whether or not former DOI Secretary Ryan Zinke lied to federal investigators. The closed-door deliberations are focused on Zinke’s decision not to grant a petition by two Indian tribes to operate a commercial casino in Connecticut, according to reports from two people who spoke to the *Washington Post* on the condition of anonymity because grand jury proceedings are not public. Both the Justice and Interior Departments have declined to comment on the matter. Source: Juliet Eilperin and Lisa Rein, [Washington Post](#).

House and Senate

How the Natural Resources Management Act Passed – *Outside* magazine posted a story with that headline on February 14th. The author believes that there are two reasons in particular for its successful passage. First is that the bill provides conservation benefits for every state through the

LWCF; second is that the bill's bipartisan support came about in the way that most of the individual bills it includes were created – that is, “by convening multiple stakeholders, including those on opposite sides of the issues, to help hash out agreements.” The article also includes an evaluation of the bill's component sections. Source: Frederick Reimers, [Outside](#).

Climate and Conservation

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

National and Worldwide Issues

The Bad News – The news on climate and conservation issues these days is inevitably grim, but needs to be shared – mitigated, when and where possible, with good news, which follows. First the former:

- *Methane Gases Again Rising* – “Twenty years ago the level of methane in the atmosphere stopped increasing,” reports the *Los Angeles Times*, “giving humanity a bit of a break when it came to slowing climate change. But the concentration started rising again in 2007 — and it's been picking up the pace over the last four years, according to new research. This surge could imperil the Paris climate accord. That's because many scenarios for meeting its goal of keeping global warming ‘well below 2 degrees Celsius’ assumed that methane would be falling by now, buying time to tackle the long-term challenge of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.” Scientists aren't sure why methane levels are again rising, but humanity again is the prime suspect, as human activities produce about half of all methane emissions. Leaks from fossil fuel operations are a big source, as is agriculture. The report on which this story is based can be found [at this link](#). Source: Julia Rosen, [Los Angeles Times](#).
- *Antarctic Melting, Continued* – Regular reports continue to appear on the demise of ice in Antarctica, most recently news that cracks growing across Antarctica's Brunt Ice Shelf have revealed that the shelf is poised to release an iceberg with an area about twice the size of New York City. The crack first appeared in late October 2016 and continues to grow eastward from an area known as the McDonald Ice Rumples. Previously stable for about 35 years, this crack recently started accelerating northward as fast as 2.5 miles per year. When the crack cuts all the way across the ice shelf, the area of ice lost will likely be at least 660 square miles. Although that's not an enormous iceberg by Antarctic standards, it might be the largest berg to break from the Brunt Ice Shelf since observations began in 1915. Source: Eleanor Imster, [EarthSky.org](#).

The Good News – Despite the continuous drumbeat of bad news on the climate and conservation fronts, some headway is being made in meeting and dealing with related issues:

- *Capping Coal Production* – An investor coalition, Climate Action 100+, joined with the Anglican Church in successfully urging the multinational commodities firm Glencore (the largest coal exporter in the world) to cap at current levels the amount of coal it extracts. Said the company: “As one of the world's largest diversified mining companies, we have a key role in enabling the transition to a low carbon economy.” Source: Monica Medina and Miro Korenha, [Our Daily Planet](#).
- *Ozone Hole Closing* – In the 1980s, scientists began to realize that ozone-depleting chemicals, such as chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs), were creating a thin spot – a hole – in the ozone layer over Antarctica. Through an international effort to decrease the use of CFCs, the ozone layer is starting to mend, and scientists believe it should mostly recover by the middle of this century. NASA has released a two-minute video, available at the following link, to show how ozone concentrations in the stratosphere have changed from 1979 through 2018. Source: [NASA Earth Observatory](#).

National Park System Issues

Climate Change – News pertaining to the impacts of climate change on park lands, waters, species and other assets:

- *Outer Banks Group* – The encroaching waters of Kitty Hawk Bay, which are rising due to climate change, are threatening to close Moor Shore Road, one of the oldest roads on the Outer Banks and one used by the Wright Brothers during the time they were testing their first plane there. To protect the road, a [living shoreline](#) is being constructed. Living shorelines deflect and dissipate wave energy through offset sills or breakwaters, allowing sediment to accrete on the landward side of the protection. As the sediment increases, grasses and reeds take root recreating the marsh that was lost. The plants of the marsh further dissipate wave energy. Source: Kip Tabb, [Coastal Review Online](#).

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:

- *Saguaro NP* – The February 20th edition of *The Guardian* included a story about cactus poaching in Saguaro NP and elsewhere. Saguaro cacti go for as much as \$100 per foot on the black market, where they're enormously popular with landscapers. As reported previously, the park has been implanting cacti with microchips in order to track down thieves; that action and the associated media attention have made for an effective deterrent to poaching. "In the last decade, cacti have exploded in popularity, becoming a mainstay of hipster decor around the world – from the homes of China's growing middle class and the meticulous cactus gardens in Japan to the fashionable cafes of Europe," reports the paper. "In the US alone, sales of cacti and succulents surged 64% between 2012 and 2017; a market that is now estimated to be worth tens of millions. But rising demand has met a thorny problem: cacti are extremely slow-growing, with some species taking decades to grow from seed to full maturity. Hence, many opt for the shortcut: pulling them right out of the ground." Source: Annette McGivney, [The Guardian](#).
- *Isle Royale NP* – Four Canadian wolves have been relocated to the park as part of an ongoing effort to restore the predator species there. Helicopter crews employed net guns last week to capture a female and a male near the mainland city of Wawa, Ontario, and two males on Michipicoten Island Provincial Park in Lake Superior. All four were sedated and examined by veterinarians before being flown to Isle Royale, where they were given another checkup and released. Source: John Flesher, [Associated Press](#).

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:

- *Glen Canyon NRA/Lake Mead NRA/Curecanti NRA* – In January, the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council sent a letter to the Department of the Interior recognizing specific National Park Service staff and these three parks for their tireless efforts to try to control aquatic invasive species – specifically, the quagga mussel. The NPS specialist leading the charge to contain aquatic invasive species has credited "a large, dedicated team from Glen Canyon, Lake Mead, and Curecanti" for "the progress they've made so far." In spite of those efforts, visitors now deem some areas of Glen Canyon NRA undesirable because of the great numbers of quagga mussels along the lake's shores. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#).
- *Biscayne NP* – The battle against invasive lionfish continues. These exotics were accidentally or intentionally released along Florida's shore early last century; since then, their numbers have exploded and expanded along both Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Reef species, lionfish cruise these aquatic habitats for prey, both outcompeting native fish and gobbling up their future generations. They were first found in the park a decade ago. Since they won't take a hook, they are captured by divers. Park staff have so far removed 8,000 of them. Source: Erika Zambello, [National Parks Traveler](#).

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

- *Appalachian Trail NST* – A federal appellate court has declined to reconsider its ruling that the Forest Service lacked the power to authorize a major natural gas pipeline to cross the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Three 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges in December pulled the agency's permits for the 600-mile Atlantic Coast pipeline to cross two national forests and the Appalachian Trail. Both Atlantic Coast and the Forest Service asked the full court to revisit its finding that trail-crossing authority falls within the jurisdiction of the NPS. On February 25th, the circuit court denied the petition for a rehearing en banc, igniting speculation that the case could head to the nation's highest court. Source: Pamela King, [Energy Wire](#).

The Coalition

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

Coalition Testifies On NPS Budget – On February 26th, executive council member Richard Ring testified before the House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies regarding the FY 2020 budget for the National Park Service. His testimony can be read [at this link](#).

Blog Posting On Budgetary Issues – The Coalition's blog has a new posting entitled "Let's Talk Budget" that provides a good overview of the Service's current and future fiscal needs and on related budgetary realities. The good news: "Congress rejected the large budget cuts presented by the Trump administration for FY 2019. Instead, they've created a bipartisan act which provides \$3.22 billion for the national park service, which is \$20 million above the amount from FY 2018, and \$521 million above the president's request." The bad news: "The backlog of maintenance and restoration needs continues to grow. And it does no good to repair park buildings and other assets if there is inadequate annual funding to maintain them. The Coalition believes the National Park Service needs a dedicated source of revenue to address the maintenance backlog, such as that being proposed in the Restore Our Parks Act. There will be no reduction in the backlog if funding is unreliable from year to year. And this revenue must be in addition to current annual appropriations, not in place of annual funding....[But] the deferred maintenance backlog is only a piece of the budget puzzle. The NPS just does not have the funding to adequately staff and protect our parks...The Coalition believes Congress must increase NPS appropriations by \$565 million in FY 2020 to bring the NPS back to the level of services the agency provided back in FY 2009..." There's much more in the posting, all of it valuable information and worth checking out. The posting can be read [at this link](#).

House Commended For Passage Of Natural Resources Management Act – The Coalition praised the members of the House of Representative for passing S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act, a bipartisan bill negotiated last year that was recently passed the Senate by a vote of 98-2. The Coalition's statement can be read [at this link](#).

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

Park People

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:

- *Springfield Armory NHS/Coltsville NHP* – Kelly Fellner has been selected as the new superintendent of Springfield Armory NHS. She will also administer Coltsville NHP, which is in the process of being established as an NPS site. Fellner has worked for the NPS for 30 years. Since 2015, she has served as assistant superintendent at Fire Island NS, overseeing, partnerships, planning, and public affairs. Prior to that, she spent five years as the Northeast

Region youth and volunteer programs manager, where she increased the number of partnership programs as well as the funding for service and work opportunities for diverse youth. Source: John Harlan Warren, [Coltsville NHP](#).

- *Great Smoky Mountains NP* – Tennessee native Lisa Hendy has been selected as the park's chief ranger. She will assume her new duties in April. Hendy is now the chief ranger at Big Bend NP, and has experience working at a number of other parks, including the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone. Hendy was the 2011 recipient of the Harry Yount Award and has also received Intermountain Region's Exemplary Service Award in 2007 for lifesaving efforts at the Grand Canyon. Source: [Channel 4000](#).
- *Dinosaur NM* – On March 31st, Paul Scolari will become the superintendent of both Dinosaur NM in Colorado and Fossil Butte NM in Wyoming. Scolari has over 24 years of National Park Service experience and is currently the chief of resource management and planning for San Francisco's Bay Area parks. Source: Vanessa Lacayo, [Dinosaur NM](#).
- *Apostle Islands NL* – Lynne Dominy, Acadia NP's chief of interpretation and education for the past nine years, has been appointed superintendent of Apostle Islands NL. She will assume the position in about two weeks. She has been with the NPS since the 1980s and has worked at a number of parks. Source: Dick Broom, [Mount Desert Islander](#).

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.

- *Saguaro NP* – At 4 p.m. on February 14th, one of the park's rangers was returning to the Madrona ranger station after packing supplies to a trail camp in the Rincon Mountains when he stopped on a mountain portion of the trail to adjust a pack saddle on one of his mules. While avoiding a kick from a mule, he lost his balance, stepped into a crevice, and dislocated and fractured his left ankle. The accident occurred at a point about three and a half miles north of the ranger station. He tried calling for assistance by radio, but found that he was in a dead spot for radio communications. Rangers were notified that he was overdue at 10 p.m. and began a search for him. A rescue party arrived at the accident scene at 1:30 a.m. and took him to the Madrona ranger station. At 4:15 a.m., he was air lifted to Tucson Medical Center, where he's currently recuperating from his injuries. He told rangers that he'd heard a mountain lion stalking his horses and mules while awaiting rescue, and that he'd seen the lion just as the first member of the rescue party arrived on scene. Submitted by Chief Rangers Office.
- *Everglades NP* – On the morning of February 13th, rangers in the park's Northwest District (Everglades City) received a report of an abandoned commercial fishing net inside park waters near Plover Key and found approximately 300 yards of trammel net loaded with fish at that location. Species in the net included nurse sharks, black tip sharks, bonnet head sharks, lemon sharks, stingrays, skates, spotted eagle rays, cobia, black drum, pompano, catfish, horse conch, blue crabs, stone crabs, and spider crabs. Fish originally caught in the net were attracting other fish, which subsequently became entangled. Commercial fisherman unlawfully fishing in the park are known to cut their nets and flee when they believe a ranger boat may be approaching. The net apparently was cut and abandoned several days before it was discovered. Submitted by Law Enforcement Specialist Phil Selleck.
- *Cape Cod NS* – Following the receipt of reliable information on drug transactions taking place in the Coast Guard Beach parking lot, two rangers began surveillance of the area. On the afternoon of February 18th, they saw a man and woman enter the area in a vehicle; the man subsequently got out, walked around the lot, looked into several parked vehicles, then entered an unlocked Buick and took several items from it. As they drove out of the lot, the rangers

attempted to stop them. They refused to halt, though, and a short pursuit ensued. The vehicle was eventually stopped by the two rangers and Eastham police officers, and the occupants were arrested. Investigation revealed that the man has a lengthy criminal history, including multiple larceny arrests and a conviction for attempted murder. Submitted by Chief Ranger Rick Obernesser.

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, Emily Thompson, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Mike Murray, Mark Forbes, Bill Walters, Bob Martin

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 hour is late, the opportunities diminish with each passing year, and we must establish here a Common Market of conservation knowledge which will enable us to achieve our highest goals and broadest purposes. With each day that passes, the natural world shrinks as we exert greater artificial control over our environment."

[Stewart L. Udall](#), Secretary of the Interior (1961-1969)

* * * * *

The *Coalition Weekly 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](#).

--- ### ---