



Coalition To Protect America's National Parks Weekly National Park System Report

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Volume 2

Number 12

Incidents

California Parks Storm Causes Flooding And Closures

A “Pineapple Express” Pacific Ocean storm brought heavy rains to the West Coast last weekend, causing significant impacts to several NPS areas:

- *Yosemite NP* – Yosemite Valley was closed from Friday until noon on Sunday due to high water. Visitor facilities and concessions have since reopened. Water levels in the Merced River crested at 13.73 feet at Pohono Bridge, which is approximately four feet over flood stage. Park roads were from two to four feet underwater from Saturday afternoon through late Saturday night. Flood waters receded on Sunday morning. Park crews are working to clear water, rocks, and debris from valley roads. For updated 24-hour road and weather conditions for Yosemite National Park, please call 209-372-0200, press 1 and press 1 again. Updated information is also available on the park’s website at www.nps.gov/yose.
- *Golden Gate NRA* – Many areas in the park and around San Francisco were flooded due to rain that fell on Saturday; precipitation totals included 2.68 inches in Mill Valley, 2.26 inches in Novato, 1.23 inches in Kentfield and 1.12 inches in San Rafael. Muir Woods and Stinson Beach were closed to visitors and vehicles for public safety on Saturday because of the storm; the reopening date remains uncertain. Both Tennessee Valley Beach and the westernmost segment of the Tennessee Valley Trail were closed from Thursday through Sunday for public safety in anticipation of the storm. The Point Bonita Lighthouse was closed Saturday and Sunday. A river of water rushing through the Stinson Beach parking lot caused some water damage to the patio market and snack bar at the Parkside Cafe, but the main restaurant was spared because it is built on a higher level. For a video showing the “river” running through the Stinson Beach parking lot, check out [this SFGate video](#).

Sources: [Yosemite National Park](#); [Marin Independent Journal](#)

Fort Smith National Historic Site Man Gets 30 Year Jail Term For Assaulting Jogger

A man has been sentenced to serve 30 years in prison, bringing to a close an interagency investigation and bringing justice to the victim of a violent attack.

Elijah Z. Reed, 27, pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree murder and kidnapping at a recent court hearing. The charges stemmed from an August 2017 incident in the park.

On August 30, 2017, Reed attacked a woman as she jogged along a park path. After taking the woman's cellphone and throwing it, Reed stabbed her in the neck and head several times, went to the river and washed his shirt, then ran away. The woman was able to alert others in the park, who summoned help. Reed was located several blocks from the park later that day and taken into custody.

The case was a cooperative effort between a ranger from nearby Pea Ridge National Military Park and the City of Fort Smith Police Department. In addition to the prison term, the judge issued Reed a no-contact order with the victim.

Source: [Investigative Services Branch](#).

Yosemite National Park YouTube 'Star' Booted Out Of Park

A rowdy camping trip that involved pitching tents atop a "Cool Bus" led to YouTube star [Logan Paul](#) getting kicked out of Yosemite National Park.

At one point, Paul and his friends were reportedly sitting inside the tents as the bus was moving. Paul was cited for the unsafe operation of a motor vehicle and improper food storage before being asked to leave the park following noise complaints by fellow campers.

Paul posted a YouTube video Monday of his Yosemite trip that's received more than three million views.

The video starts with Paul waking up in a tent atop his bus in a Yosemite Valley parking lot. This exchange follows: "So, it was my birthday," Paul tells a ranger, "and we just wanted to come to Yosemite and we got here at 4 a.m. and this was empty. So we just kind of parked here." "So," the ranger responds, "a couple of issues with that. If everyone who wanted to camp wherever they felt like it did, think of how trashed this place would be." Paul avoided a ticket in that instance, but later received two others.

Before the "YouTube sensation" was booted out of the park, he received an enthusiastic singing of "Happy Birthday" from a crowd of young fans who spotted his bus. Paul's YouTube channels have more than 21 million subscribers.

Source: [Sacramento Bee](#).

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Man Sentenced To More Than Two Years In Jail For Assaulting Ranger

An East Stroudsburg man has been sentenced to 27 months in prison for driving his vehicle into a park ranger two years ago. Damari Roulhac, 26, was convicted by a federal jury last September for assaulting a ranger and fleeing from other rangers.

Rangers patrolling the park on the evening of July 1, 2016, ordered Roulhac to stop his vehicle, but he instead accelerated toward a ranger. The ranger first was forced to jump out of the way of Roulhac's vehicle; when the ranger ran back toward the vehicle, Roulhac drove into the ranger, prosecutors said. The ranger was not seriously injured.

Roulhac was arrested days later at the Pike County Courthouse, where he was being sentenced in an unrelated 2014 drunken driving case.

Source: [The Morning Call](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center

Fire Activity Remains Centered On South

Synopsis

NIFC is at Preparedness Level 1, the lowest of five levels.

Large fire activity continues in the Southern Area, where 11 new large fires were reported last week. Another 11 fires were contained. Activity centered on Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas.

National Park Service Fires

The following NPS fires were reported either on InciWeb and/or the NICC Situation Report:

- *Channel Islands NP* – The Santa Cruz Fire is now estimated to be 90 percent contained. Eleven firefighters continue to monitor and tend to any potential hot spots left from the blaze. The public closure for the entire isthmus area of Santa Cruz Island has been lifted. Source: [InciWeb](#).
- *Big Cypress NP* – As of last Friday, the Spoonbill Fire had burned 1,843 acres and was 40% contained. Forty-three firefighters and overhead were committed.

Active Incident Resource Commitments

Category	March 28th	April 4th	April 11th
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	0	0
Type 1 Teams	0	0	0
Type 2 Teams	0	0	0
Crews	7	9	8
Engines	259	149	78
Helicopters	12	8	4
Total FF/Overhead	1,012	876	500

Fires/Acreage

Category	2018 Total	2007-2017 Ave	2018 Variance
Year-to-Date Fires	12,754	13,187	- 433
Year-to-Date Acres	530,488	617,869	- 87,381

Sources: National Interagency Fire Center; NICC Incident Management Situation Report.

News From Around Washington

Reports from Capitol Hill, the White House, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service and other related agencies and NGO's.

Capitol Hill Weekly Legislative Roundup

New Public Laws

Nothing to report.

Senate

The Senate was in recess from April 2nd to April 6th for the Easter holiday.

House

The House was in recess from April 2nd to April 6th for the Easter holiday.

On April 11th, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will have a hearing on the FY 2019 Budget of the Department of the Interior. Secretary Ryan Zinke will be the witness for the department.

On April 11th, the House Natural Resources Committee will mark up, among other bills, the following:

- H.R. 3997, to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans demonstrations and special events at war memorials on federal land.
- H.R. 4257, to authorize 13 western states to exchange state school lands within the boundaries of federal land management areas, including national parks, for other public land of equal value.
- H.R. 5005, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the national park system.

On April 11th, the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold a hearing on:

- H.R. 1037, to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.
- H.R. 1791, to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington.
- H.R. 2991, to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 3045, to amend the National Trails System Act to extend the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Joy Beasley, acting associate director, cultural resources, partnerships, and science, National Park Service, will be the witness for the department.

On April 12th, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will hold an oversight hearing titled “The Benefits of the Navajo Generating Station to Local Economies.”

Source: Don Hellmann, former assistant director, legislative and congressional affairs for the National Park Service.

Park People, Friends and Allies

WASO Fire and Aviation Management Meg Gallagher Named NPS Aviation Chief

Margaret “Meg” Gallagher has been named the new branch chief for the Service’s aviation program, succeeding Jon Rollens, who retired at the end of 2017. Meg is currently the acting aviation branch chief, having previously served as the Service’s national helicopter specialist.

Meg began her career in the federal government as an SCA volunteer for Olympic National Park, working as a backcountry ranger. Over the next five years, she worked in wildland fire management for the Forest Service, NPS, and Bureau of Land Management as a seasonal wildland firefighter on hotshot crews, in fire dispatch, fire prevention, and as a helitack crewmember.

In 1992, two years after completing the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program, she moved to the Toiyabe National Forest as the assistant helicopter manager in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1995, she became the helitack program manager of the Bridger-Teton/Grand Teton interagency rappel/shorthaul program in Jackson, Wyoming. The following year, Meg spent a season on the “ice” as a helicopter specialist for Antarctica Support Associates at McMurdo Station in Antarctica.

In 1998, as a warranted contracting officer, she became the aviation resource specialist for the Department of the Interior Office of Aircraft Services, then five years later stepped into the role of aviation training specialist for the thirty-seven states in OAS’s Eastern Region. In 2009, Meg was hired by the NPS as an aviation management specialist. Among her diverse duties, she filled the role of regional aviation manager for NPS’s three eastern regions.

Most recently, Meg became the national helicopter specialist for the NPS Aviation Program in 2014. For the past four years in Boise, she has built national operational plans for NPS’s high-risk programs with the experts in the regions and parks, as well as kept the Service up-to-date on quickly changing policy that shapes the Service’s aviation operations.

Meg and her partner reside near Boise. When not working, she enjoys travelling, riding her motorcycle, snowshoeing, and enjoying fine Idaho vintages.

She will begin her new position on April 15th.

Source: [Fire and Aviation Division](#).

Coalition News and Activities

News and actions taken by CPANP on behalf of the National Park Service and National Park System, plus news about members of the Coalition:

CPANP Issues Action Alert On Grizzly Bear Hunting – The Coalition launched a sign-on letter for members yesterday whereby they can express their concern over the proposal put forth by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to allow hunting of up to 24 Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bears this coming fall. “We are urging Gov. Mead to halt the proposed hunt given that it is premature to proceed until all issues, including appeals to the courts, pertaining to the delisting are resolved,” said Phil Francis, CPANP executive council chair. “During the process to delist the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear, the Coalition expressed our concerns that the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to remove this population from protections of the Endangered Species Act did not do enough to ensure the long-term conservation of this population. The Coalition opposed the delisting primarily due to our concern that the Final Delisting Rule would allow significant increases in human-caused mortalities of Yellowstone grizzly bears. This proposal reaffirms our concern. The Coalition’s impact is directly tied to our members raising their voices on these important issues. We hope you will support this effort to protect Yellowstone’s grizzly bears.” Please review the letter and sign on using the Google form, which can be found [at this link](#).

Other CPANP news, including Coalition actions, can be read about in the April edition of [Coalition Briefs](#).

Other Reports and Releases

A brief summary of other recent news stories, web postings and agency press releases pertaining to the department, the National Park Service in general, public lands and the environment – particularly the impacts of climate change on park ecosystems, flora and fauna.

Administration

Administration Losing In Its Deregulation Efforts – A professor of law at Georgetown University writes that the administration’s efforts to undo myriad regulations in all agencies are running into

legal problems. “[Courts] are not receiving the first phase of Trump’s deregulatory surge well,” writes Professor Lisa Heinzerling. “Federal courts have rejected the administration’s attempt to delay or suspend existing rules on such diverse matters as lead paint, energy efficiency and methane emissions from oil and gas facilities. Other pending cases may suffer similar fates. The outcomes of these rulings are notable in their own right, but the reasoning behind the rulings may be more portentous. The courts have found elementary legal mistakes in the Trump administration’s approach to agency decisions. Specifically, they have concluded that the administration has misread legal provisions, ignored factual evidence and bypassed required processes. And the courts have done so without breaking a judicial sweat. In other words, these cases haven’t been close, from a legal perspective.” Source: [Washington Post](#).

EPA Vs. the Public and Media – *Media Matters*, “a web-based, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) progressive research and information center dedicated to comprehensively monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative misinformation in the U.S. media,” has published a damning report entitled “How Scott Pruitt’s EPA Is Attacking Journalists And Stifling The Media.” Writes author Evlondo Cooper: “Since Scott Pruitt took the helm of the Environmental Protection Agency in early 2017, the EPA has consistently refused to release basic information, blocked reporters from attending agency events, and attacked journalists and outlets whose coverage it didn’t like.” The Society of Environmental Journalists sent a letter to EPA’s press office in January in the hopes of improving journalists’ access to EPA information and “[beginning] a conversation about journalists’ basic needs.” The letter made five requests, which the group summarized [on its website](#). EPA never bothered to answer. The article goes on to list more than a dozen concrete examples “of Pruitt’s EPA assailing the press or frustrating journalists’ efforts to cover the agency’s actions.” Source: [Media Matters](#).

Zinke Updates – Here’s the latest on Secretary Zinke, who continues to draw nearly as much media attention as the president:

- *Zinke and the National Monuments Flap* – *The Hill* published an opinion piece entitled “Trump’s Monumental Deception Unravels” last week. Tracy Coppola of Earth Justice writes that Zinke was duplicitous when he said that the only reason for shrinking two monuments was to “strike an ideological blow against federal overreach in protecting the nation’s public lands.” At the time, Zinke said that the decision was not about energy and that there were “no oil or gas assets” involved. Not so says Coppola: “[The] Trump team’s deceptive web is unraveling fast. Thousands of pages of Interior Department documents now reveal how mining and drilling interests were indeed at the center of Trump’s attack on national monuments.” The piece goes on to provide further evidence that the administration’s actions were driven by monetary considerations rather than political philosophy. Source: [The Hill](#).
- *Zinke and the Hatch Act* – Last Friday, CNN reported that Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, is seeking an investigation into whether or not Secretary Zinke has violated the Hatch Act when he traveled to Florida to hold a press event with Florida GOP Governor Rick Scott to announce he would exempt Florida from the new plans to expand offshore drilling off the US coast. Since Scott is the likely Republican Senate candidate for Florida, critics have suggested that the move was politically motivated. Source: [CNN](#).
- *Zinke and Political Favoritism* – Speaking of the secretary’s trip to see Governor Scott: The editorial board of the *Washington Post* has chastised Zinke for his blatant favoritism in waiving offshore drilling for Florida while blowing off other states. “Mr. Zinke has given no other state such attention. His Florida announcement drew quick complaints from state officials from South Carolina to Massachusetts and California to Washington state. Many of these states have unique interests in preserving their coastlines, as Florida does. None have been told that new offshore drilling is ‘off the table’ for them — months after Mr. Scott got immediate, in-person service from Mr. Zinke...[His] behavior suggests that major government policy will be made on his whim, according to whether petitioners have ingratiated themselves with the Trump administration or which political ally requires a favor. With the Florida drilling episode in mind, it is hard not to see the same thinking at work as Mr. Zinke has exempted sections of

his home state, Montana, from oil and gold mining. As capricious, clan-based government advances, the public good is forgotten.” Source: [Washington Post](#).

- *Zinke In 2024?* – According to KPAX, a station that serves Missoula and western Montana, Zinke’s name is being floated in Iowa in connection with a possible 2024 presidential election run. A polling firm has been calling Republicans in Iowa to test Zinke’s name recognition. He’s being seen as a “potential successor” to the president, assuming that the incumbent is reelected in 2020. Source: [KPAX](#).

National Park System

Proposed Entrance Fee Increase Bites The Dust – As predicted, the huge entrance fee hike proposed by the administration to some national parks is officially dead – but will be replaced by a new fee schedule. The original proposal, which would have applied during the peak visitor season at 17 parks, including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Yosemite, called for a \$70 fee for noncommercial vehicles, up from \$30. The fee for motorcycles would rise to \$50 from \$25, while pedestrians and cyclists would be charged \$30, up from \$15. The proposal went out for comment and got more than 109,000 responses, most of them objecting to the increase. The *New York Times* now reports that the NPS has taken those objections seriously and will be coming out with an amended plan. “No information was available about how the plan was amended,” says the *Times*. Source: [New York Times](#).

Sundry Actions and Updates – Here, in brief, are additional reports on parks, culled either from park press releases or from newspapers:

- *Glacier NP* – As we all know for years of experience, there’s nothing the public likes better than cute animals, particularly mammals. Even better are mammals displaying human-type behavior – like a bear trying to wake up after being asleep all winter. One of Glacier’s bear cams recently picked up a bear waking up from hibernation and looking out from its hole in the tree, looking for all the world like he/she badly needs a large cappuccino. The video has gone viral. Here’s the [link to the video as it appears on YouTube](#), which has a little music added. Source: [Glacier NP](#).
- *Grand Canyon NP* – After several weeks of pipeline breaks and water restrictions, water in storage on the South Rim of Grand Canyon has reached sustainable levels. Park operations will return to – and maintain – Level 1 water conservation measures. See the park press release for details on Level 1 constraints. Source: [Grand Canyon NP](#).
- *Grand Canyon NP* – More on park water issues: On March 29th, the park begin installing one test well and two monitoring wells next to Bright Angel Creek near Phantom Ranch to help determine if this is a feasible water source for the replacement of the park’s critical drinking water supply, the Transcanyon Pipeline. Replacement of the pipeline is in the preliminary design phase. NEPA compliance is underway to identify the preferred alternative and evaluate the environmental consequences of a range of alternatives. Source: [St. John News](#).
- *Olympic NP* – Road began this past Monday on a five-month project to rehabilitate the first five miles of Hurricane Ridge Road from the intersection with Mt. Angeles Road to the Heart O’ the Hills entrance station. The road work will include utility upgrades, pavement rehabilitation, culvert installation, guardrail installation, and paving. The \$6.9 million road rehabilitation project is a partnership between the National Park Service, the Federal Highway Administration and Washington State contractor Columbia Pacific Construction, Inc. Source: [Olympic NP](#).
- *Great Sand Dunes NP&P* – Leroy Garcia, the minority leader of the Colorado State Senate, has written an opinion piece in the *Pueblo Chieftain* strongly opposing a new proposal by BLM in which the mineral rights to 18,000 acres of land east of the park would be sold. One parcel is located just a mile from the dunes. Says Garcia: “This federal push to auction off pristine public lands is a direct threat to our communities, our economy and our way of life. Just as we

do every time they come for our water, so too must Southern Colorado band together to resist this latest effort by out-of-towners to take our resources for their own benefit.” Anyone can comment on the proposal by emailing blm_co_rg_comments@blm.gov or sending a letter to the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office, Attn. September 2018 Lease Sale, 3028 E. Main St., Canon City, CO 81212. Source: [Pueblo Chieftain](#).

- *Booker T. Washington NM* – Supporters of the park have come up with a novel approach for raising money to help fund its operation, reports WSLs news in Roanoke. Richard Millar, a park volunteer and board member with the Friends of Booker T. Washington group, is the brainchild behind the "101st Booker T. Washington Bucket Challenge." The goal is to get 101 businesses and community members to donate \$100 to support the park's mission and programs. Millar said the Bucket Challenge will continue until the group reaches its \$10,100 goal, and may continue after that. The challenge's name recognizes the 101st anniversary of the National Park System, and the bucket references a part of a speech Washington gave in 1895. Source: [WSLS](#).
- *Crater Lake NP* – Crater Lake Hospitality, LLC, a subsidiary of Aramark, has been selected to operate visitor services at Crater Lake National Park and Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve. The concessioner will operate lodging, a campground, boat tours, food service, and retail at Crater Lake and operate a lodge, food service, and retail at Oregon Caves. This concession contract combines two currently separate operations under one contract. Source: [KTVZ](#).

Conservation, Climate and The Environment

Colorado River Runoff Forecast To Be Among Lowest In 55 Years – The April 4th edition of the *Arizona Republic* has an article about the prospect for seriously diminished runoff into the Colorado River drainage this year: “Colorado River forecasters say the Southwest should brace for the sixth-driest runoff season into Lake Powell since the government erected Glen Canyon Dam there 55 years ago. Winter snowfall failed to measure up across most of the basin that supplies meltwater to the river, with the exception of Wyoming’s Green River watershed. The result is a projected April-July runoff season supplying just 43 percent of what Lake Powell receives in an average year. River flow into Lake Powell is a key measure of water supplies on the Colorado, a critical water source for millions of people in seven Western states.” Conservationists say that it’s time for the region to act to “curb its thirst,” as the river has pretty much been in drought status since 2000 and prospects are not good for the situation to improve. Source: [Arizona Republic](#).

Species Being Confused By Climate Change Induced Alterations To Seasonal Calendar – An article in the *New York Times* last week explored an evolving problem in the natural world – species normally in sync with and dependent on each other’s annual rhythms are being befuddled by the early or late arrival of seasons caused by climate change. Spring, for instance, now arrives several weeks earlier in parts of the world than it did a few decades ago. “Not all species are adjusting to this warming at the same rate, and, as a result, some are falling out of step,” reports the *Times*. “Scientists who study the changes in plants and animals triggered by seasons have a term for this: phenological mismatch. And they’re still trying to understand exactly how such mismatches – like the blooming of a flower before its pollinator emerges — might affect ecosystems.” The article goes on to provide five examples of such mismatches. Source: [New York Times](#).

From The Archives

This section, put together for both CPANP veterans who were regular readers of the Morning Report 25 years ago and those who joined the NPS during the ensuing period, contains news and incidents taken from issues published during the corresponding week in the appropriate month and year. This week we go back to April, 1993:

- *Kennesaw Mountain NBP* – On the afternoon of April 11th, a park visitor told a ranger that he'd seen a man metal detecting on the earthworks on Pigeon Hill. Rangers responded and found a man employing a metal detector along some recently rehabilitated earthworks on the

crest of the hill. He was detained and an investigation into his actions was begun. The man had dug about seven holes and had several Minié balls and shell fragments in his possession. His wife soon arrived on scene; she asked one of the rangers if she was investigating a metal detecting case, and said that it was her husband who was doing the metal detecting. She said that they'd been in the park for only a few minutes and that she'd been waiting in the car below. After conferring with the assistant U.S. attorney, both husband and wife were released on their own recognizance. The man was later charged with an ARPA violation after a regional archeologist examined the area.

- *Grand Canyon NP* – The Morning Report for April 13th contained the briefest of reports on a falling fatality: “While her husband was setting up a tripod for a picture at Horse Shoe Mesa on April 11th, Donna Spangler, who was not paying attention to her surroundings, walked backwards over the canyon rim and fell to her death.” The subsequent multi-year investigation revealed not only that Robert Spangler had in fact killed her, but that he was a serial murderer. Here’s an extract from a related FBI summary of the case: “Robert Spangler wasn’t your typical serial killer, methodically murdering citizens in the community. He was killing off members of his own family. In December 1978, he killed his first wife and their two teenage children in their home in Littleton, Colorado. He left a fake suicide note to make it look like his wife had taken their children’s lives and then her own. The coroner concluded that it was a double homicide/suicide and the case was eventually closed. In April 1993, Spangler pushed his third wife off a 160-foot cliff in the Grand Canyon during a backpacking trip. He told authorities she had slipped and fallen...and even went on television to talk about the hazards of hiking in the Grand Canyon. His wife’s death was ruled an accident; he was never charged. In 1994, his second wife died of an apparent accidental drug overdose after the couple had reunited. The case was never investigated by law enforcement. In 1994, these unsolved ‘cold cases’ were linked by two federal law enforcement agencies and local authorities in Arizona and Colorado.” The FBI was called in and they in turn brought in investigators from their National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime to tackle the cases. Investigators employed “behavioral analysis, specialized interview techniques, and other assistance...to get Spangler to talk. In the end, Spangler confessed to murdering his first and third wives and his own two children, saying ‘You’ve got your serial.’ He was sentenced to life without parole and later died in prison.”
- *Gulf Islands NS* – Three people died and one was rescued and hospitalized after their small boat sank between Horn Island and the Mississippi mainland on the evening of Friday, April 9th. Earlier that day, their 18-foot boat had developed engine problems. Rangers Bill Wilson and Ben Moore had helped them get started again, and had radioed in to the Coast Guard as the foursome headed back to the mainland. During the trip back, the engine again stalled, this time in rougher seas, and the boat capsized and sank. James Landry, 26, was rescued by the vessel "Fiesta" some 12 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico. The bodies of his brother, Lee Landry II, 29, and his in-laws, Todd Burdette, 30, and Fred Burdette, 53, were recovered from the Gulf. All four had put on their life jackets prior to the sinking and had floated for more than 14 hours in the chilly ocean waters. During that time, tides pulled them some five miles through the Mississippi Sound and another 12 miles into the Gulf, thereby complicating NPS and Coast Guard search efforts.

Editor’s Note

A reader of this newsletter who’s at an NPS address had delivery of her last issue blocked, with an automated reprimand from the Big Brother overseeing DOI email systems stating that it contained “objectionable content.” Just what kind of entry, we wondered, could have triggered such a response?

Given the current administration, it seemed possible that it could have been set off by some word or phrase that would imply an article not to the liking of those on the seventh floor, like “climate change” or “species extinction” or “Zinke.”

Evidently not; it appears that a semi-obscene word that appeared in the headline of the *Men’s Journal* article cited in the last issue (the word was “***hole” – I’m not going to get caught again) triggered the message. Moreover, it was blocked by an automated filter employed by a service operated by Google,

the DOI contractor, rather than anyone in Interior. So much for getting a coveted Objectionable Content Certificate, suitably framed, from the department...

This minor incident, though, reinforces the importance of receiving this newsletter at your home email address, not a government address (i.e., nps.gov).

Acknowledgements

This newsletter comes to you through the efforts of a number of people. First are our “regulars”:

- Producer: Steve Pittleman
- Congressional Correspondent: Don Hellmann
- At Large Correspondents: Dennis Burnett and Rick Smith

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

Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City, and Carl Pope, former head of the Sierra Club, have jointly authored a book entitled *Climate Of Hope* that addresses the problems of climate change and how to resolve them. They are, surprisingly, optimistic about our chances. Here's why:

“No matter what regulations the Trump administration adopts or rescinds, no matter what laws Congress may pass, market forces, local (and in some cases state) governments, and consumer demand for cleaner air will, together, allow the United States to meet and exceed the pledges that the Obama administration made in Paris. The reason is simple: Cities, businesses, and citizens will continue reducing emissions, because they have concluded...that doing so is in their own self-interest. If this seems overly optimistic, bear in mind that over the past decade Congress has not passed a single bill that takes direct aim at climate change. Yet at the same time, the United States had lead the world in reducing emissions. That progress has been driven by cities, businesses, and citizens – and none of them intend to let up now. Just the opposite: all are looking for ways to expand their efforts...

“I'm optimistic that [progress on climate change] will accelerate, but not because Congress will become more enlightened. Congress does not lead; it follows. To the extent that the public see things changing, I think you'll see Congress changing: slowly but surely. The good news is that it's already starting to happen, as voters all over the country see storms growing stronger and more frequent, as they see floods where they never had them before, and as they suffer through droughts that are worse than they've ever experienced. Americans are a lot smarter than the elected officials they send to Washington. Our country's citizens want to avoid these disasters – and they know they can do something about it.”

[Michael Bloomberg](#), former mayor, New York City

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The *Weekly National Park System Report* is a publication of The Coalition To Protect America's National Prks. 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 the coalition. Any current, retired or former salaried (GS, wage grade, seasonal, temporary, or SES) employee of the National Park Service can join the Coalition.

For more information, 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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