



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

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Volume 2

Number 13

Incidents

Blue Ridge Parkway Driver Fatally Shot In Parkway Confrontation

A man was shot to death on the parkway last week in what may have been a road rage incident.

Chief Ranger Neal Labrie told *The Roanoke Times* that two men were driving on the parkway near Roanoke's Explore Park at Milepost 116 on the morning of Tuesday, April 10th, when the shooting happened. Labrie said that one person "presented a weapon and the other responded with shooting."

The shooter, 56-year-old Keith Sidwell, immediately called 911 to report the shooting, which he subsequently said was in self defense. Sidwell retired as a lieutenant with the Roanoke Police Department in 2006 to become police chief in Henderson, where he retired in 2013.

Source: [Charlotte Observer](#).

Lake Mead National Recreation Area Man Who Shot At Marina Security Guards Sentenced To Prison Term

A man who fired shots at security guards at a park marina last summer has been sentenced to a prison term of nearly seven years.

Jamie J. Dulus, 29, pleaded guilty in January to charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and use of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

The incident occurred on August 10, 2017 at the Las Vegas Boat Harbor Marina. Court records describe how Dulus, acting belligerently as the marina bar was closing, was asked by two security guards to leave the area. Dulus argued with the guards as he walked down the walkway leading to the parking lot. The guards followed him to ensure he left the area.

Dulus then set his beer bottle on the ground, lifted his shirt, and grabbed a .25 caliber Raven handgun from his waistband. Dulus aimed and fired once at each security guard, and then started running towards the guards firing one more shot. When Dulus reached the two guards, he pressed the barrel of the handgun to one guard's forehead. The second guard was able to pull Dulus's hand away as another shot was fired. The guards were able to wrestle Dulus to the ground, remove the gun from his hand, and restrain him until rangers arrived on scene.

An NPS special agent worked with rangers during the investigation, and prepared the case for prosecution by the US Attorney's Office, District of Nevada.

Source: [Investigative Services Branch](#).

New River Gorge National River Engine And Ten Cars Of CSX Train Derail In Park

A CSX train derailed in the McKendree area of the park on Monday morning. One engine and 10 empty gondola cars left the tracks.

Two engineers riding in the engine, which ended up on its side, were uninjured and were able to climb out and report the derailment. The engine came to a rest on the bank of the New River, which after recent rainfall was running high and flowing swiftly.

While there was initial concern that the engine's diesel fuel might have spilled into the water, a CSX HAZMAT team and representatives of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection were able to confirm that none of the nearly 5,000 gallons of fuel had leaked.

The train, a total of 97 empty cars and two engines, was traveling west to Hutchinson to load up with coal when it derailed. The accident is believed to have been caused by a rockslide across the tracks.

Source: [Beckley Register-Herald](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center Fire Activity Continues To Center On South, Southwest

Synopsis

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

Large fire activity continued in the South and Southwest last week. Firefighters contained 15 wildland fires. As of last Friday, another 16 large fires were still burning.

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 was declared fully contained on April 10th. A total of 259 acres burned in the blaze. Source: [Channel Islands NP](#).
- *Big Cypress NP* – As of this past Sunday, the Spoonbill Fire had burned 1,843 acres and was 85% contained. The Buzzard Fire had burned 2,000 acres and was 0% contained; 45 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 | 2 |
| Type 2 Teams | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Crews | 7 | 9 | 39 |
| Engines | 259 | 149 | 234 |
| Helicopters | 12 | 8 | 17 |
| Total FF/Overhead | 1,012 | 876 | 1,802 |

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Fires/Acreage

| Category | 2018 Total | 2007-2017 Ave | 2018 Variance |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Year-to-Date Fires | 13,696 | 15,055 | - 1,359 |
| Year-to-Date Acres | 612,804 | 696,093 | - 83,289 |
| | | | |

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.

National Park Service New Entrance Fees Announced

On April 12th, the NPS issued a memorandum regarding its new entrance fees, noting that the “modified fee structure addresses feedback from [the] public on [the] original fee proposal.” Here’s the full text of the memo:

As part of its ongoing efforts to address aging park infrastructure and improve the visitor experience, the National Park Service (NPS) announced today changes to the entrance fees charged at national parks. The changes, which come in response to public comments on a fee proposal released in October 2017, will modestly increase entrance fees to raise additional revenue to address the \$11.6 billion in deferred maintenance across the system of 417 parks, historic and cultural sites, and monuments.

Most seven-day vehicle passes to enter national parks will be increased by \$5 and will be implemented in many parks beginning June 1, 2018. Yosemite National Park for example will increase the price of a seven-day vehicle pass to the park from \$30 to \$35. More than two-thirds of national parks will remain free to enter. A complete list of park entrance fees may be found [here](#).

All of the revenue from the fee increases will remain in the National Park Service with at least 80 percent of the money staying in the park where it is collected. The funds will be used for projects and activities to improve the experience for visitors who continue to visit parks at unprecedented levels. Increased attendance at parks, 1.5 billion visits in the last five years, means aging park facilities incurring further wear and tear.

“An investment in our parks is an investment in America,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “Every dollar spent to rebuild our parks will help bolster the gateway communities that rely on park visitation for economic vitality. I want to thank the American people who made their voices heard through the public comment process on the original fee proposal. Your input has helped us develop a balanced plan that focuses on modest increases at the 117 fee-charging parks as opposed to larger increases proposed for 17 highly-visited national parks. The \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog isn’t going to be solved overnight and will require a multi-tiered approach as we work to provide badly needed revenue to repair infrastructure. This is just one of the ways we are carrying out our commitment to ensure that national parks remain world class destinations that provide an excellent value for families from all income levels.”

The price of the annual America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass and Lifetime Senior Pass will remain \$80.

“Repairing infrastructure is also about access for all Americans,” Secretary Zinke said. “Not all visitors to our parks have the ability to hike with a 30-pound pack and camp in the wilderness miles away from utilities. In order for families with young kids, elderly grandparents, or persons with disabilities to enjoy the parks, we need to rebuild basic infrastructure like roads, trails, lodges, restrooms and visitors centers.”

Fees to enter national parks predate the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916. For example, Mount Rainier National Park began charging an entrance fee in 1908. Factoring in inflation, the \$5 entrance fee the park charged in 1914 would be the equivalent of a \$123 entrance fee today—more than four times the price of the new seven-day \$30 vehicle pass.

Entrance fees collected by the National Park Service totaled \$199 million in Fiscal Year 2016. The NPS estimates that once fully implemented, the new fee structure will increase annual entrance fee revenue by about \$60 million.

In addition to implementing modest fee increases and enhancing public-private partnerships aimed at rebuilding national parks, Secretary Zinke is working closely with Congress on proposed bipartisan legislation to use revenue derived from energy produced on federal lands and waters to establish a special fund within the Treasury specifically for “National Park Restoration”. The bill follows the blueprint outlined in Secretary Zinke and President Trump's budget proposal, the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund.

The National Park Service has a standardized entrance fee structure, composed of four groups based on park size and type. Some parks not yet aligned with the other parks in their category will raise their fees incrementally and fully incorporate the new entrance fee schedule by January 1, 2020.

Please see the press release (below) for a table showing the entire “fee structure adjustment.”

Source: [Office of Communications](#).

Capitol Hill Weekly Legislative Roundup

New Public Laws

On March 27th, the president signed into law S. 188, to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the Federal Government. (P. L. 115–158).

On April 4th, the president signed into law, H.R. 4851, to establish the Kennedy–King National Commemorative Site in the State of Indiana, at the site in Indianapolis where Senator Robert F. Kennedy informed the crowd of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The bill was signed on the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s death. As enacted into law, it designates the local park site as a national commemorative site with language stating the site would not be unit of the national park system. The site would be part of the African-American Civil Rights Network, and the National Park Service could enter into cooperative agreements with private entities to do interpretive and educational programs. (P.L. 115–163).

Senate

On April 9th, the Senate confirmed the nomination of James Reilly, of Colorado, to be director of the United States Geological Survey.

On April 10th, the Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety held a hearing to examine cooperative federalism under the Clean Air Act, focusing on state perspectives. There were no witnesses from the federal government at this hearing.

House

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

On April 11th, the House Natural Resources Committee approved, 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 11, the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands held 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, was the witness for the department.

On April 12th, the House failed to pass by a required 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote, H.J. Res. 2, a proposed balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The proposed constitutional amendment failed by a vote of 233 yeas to 184 nays.

On April 12th, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing titled "The Benefits of the Navajo Generating Station to Local Economies." There was no witness from the department at this hearing.

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

Park People, Friends and Allies

Southern Arizona Office

Megan Kish Selected As New SOAR Superintendent

Meghan Kish has been named superintendent of the Southern Arizona Office (SOAR). Kish, who has managed three NPS units in New England since 2014, will assume her new post in Phoenix on April 16th.

Kish is now superintendent of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Roger Williams National Memorial and Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Before her current job, she was chief of interpretation, education and outreach at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, where she established the park's community outreach program for underserved audiences in downtown Los Angeles.

As head of SOAR, Kish will oversee regional support for southern Arizona parks, with direct responsibility over Tonto, Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. SOAR also provides administrative support for the Western Archeological & Conservation Center in Tucson and facility

management support for parks with deferred maintenance projects. In addition, Kish will be the state coordinator for Arizona's 22 NPS units.

Kish began her NPS career at Fire Island National Seashore and worked in Washington, DC, for the NPS Budget Office and at Rock Creek Park and the Washington Monument. She has also served at Shenandoah and Glacier National Parks. Before that, she worked for the National Park Foundation, the Department of the Interior's National Invasive Species Council, and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama.

Source: [Saguaro National Park](#).

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:

Correction To NPCA Centennial Story Request – As was announced last month, NPCA will be celebrating its centennial in 2019 and the Coalition is collecting stories highlighting their partnership with and support of the National Park Service through a series of stories. If you have a story (or know someone who does), with a tie to NPCA, please contact Mary Martin at her corrected email address: OSMAMO@me.com. Please share your story today.

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 federal government, the administration, DOI, the National Park Service, public lands and the environment.

Government and Administration

Federal Salaries Continue To Trail Those In Private Sector – The April 11th edition of the *Washington Post* has an article by Eric Yoder on a new report on federal salaries. The opening paragraph summarizes the Federal Salary Council report: “Federal employee salaries on average lag behind those of similar private-sector workers by just under 32 percent, a pay advisory council has said, while also deciding to reassess how it annually reaches similar conclusions, which are at odds with the findings of other pay comparisons.” The article goes on to talk about how hard it is to determine comparative salaries, noting that some conservative organizations have found that federal salaries are well above comparable private sector wages and that a more nuanced finding by the Congressional Budget Office showed that feds overall earn 3 percent more on average but that there are large differences by educational level. Source: [Washington Post](#).

Administration Moves To Weaken MBTA – On April 12th, the *Washington Post* carried a story on the administration's newest deregulatory action – weakening the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: “The Trump administration made it clear this week that it is sapping the strength of a century-old law to protect birds, issuing guidance that the law would not be used as it has been to hold people or companies accountable for killing the animals. In an opinion issued Wednesday to federal wildlife police who enforce the rule, the Interior Department said ‘the take [killing] of birds resulting from an activity is not prohibited by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act when the underlying purpose of that activity is not to take birds’ The MBTA will no longer apply even after a catastrophic event such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that destroyed or injured up to a million birds. After an oil spill, Interior would pursue penalties under the Natural Resources Damage Assessment program that is not specific to birds.” Source: [Washington Post](#).

Zinke Watch – Here's the latest on Secretary Zinke and his merry band at DOI:

- *Zinke's Wayward Staffers, Part II* – Back on March 21st, we carried a report on a couple of the secretary's staffers who got into hot water – one for advancing conspiracy theories and making anti-Muslim and anti-LGBT comments (fired) and the other for illegally attending partisan political events (fate uncertain). Now comes a third. According to *Talking Points Memo*, Kevin Sabo, who was originally hired for a career position in budget analysis at DOI but was promoted to the political role of acting chief of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at the Bureau of Reclamation, has repeatedly shared conspiracy theories on his personal Facebook page, including posts calling the students who survived the Parkland school shooting “Nazis” and alleging the massacre was a staged event. Sabo has held a number of positions in Washington over the years, but had one bad patch some time ago due to a number of legal difficulties, including being sentenced to 18 months in jail after being convicted of attempted malicious wounding for cutting the brakes on his ex-girlfriend's car, causing her to crash. Source: [Talking Points Memo](#).
- *Zinke and the Golden Knights* – *Politico* ran a story on Monday about another reporting “oversight” by the secretary: “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke failed to disclose relevant information to ethics officials when he traveled to Las Vegas to speak to the Golden Knights hockey team last year, the department's watchdog reported Monday — including the fact that one of his biggest campaign donors owned the team. The report by Interior's inspector general also raised questions about whether taxpayers should have been on the hook for a \$12,000 charter flight that Zinke took after the speech from Las Vegas to his home state of Montana. Because Zinke's speech did not even mention the Interior Department, the IG said it's unlikely ethics officials would have OK'd it as official business.” Source: [Politico](#).

National Park System

Fixing The Parks – *High Country News* has a short article by environmental historian Adam Sowards entitled “Reckoning With History: The Parks Have Been Fixed Before.” It provides an overview of the Mission 66 project, which was deemed a “rousing success” by some but also brought out opposition to the impacts of development on the parks themselves. Sowards provides this as background to the current discussion of inadequate NPS infrastructure funding: “The parks remain as popular as ever, but how lawmakers and administrators within the Department of the Interior support the agency remains crucial. A program that finds money for roads and buildings, but not endangered species and climate change, is all but guaranteed to undermine landscapes and generate a backlash among those who wish to see the nation's parks unimpaired and inviolate.” Source: [High Country News](#).

Next Week Is National Park Week – National Park Week will take place this year between April 21st and April 29th. The theme is “Park Stars,” the objective of which, says WASO, is to “celebrate everything from starry skies to superstar volunteers.” Three webpages have been established to provide more information – one on [National Park Week](#) itself, one with a [calendar of events](#), and one with free thematic [park guides](#) provided by the National Park Foundation. Source: [WASO Office of Communications](#).

Graffiti Artists Sue Over Artistic Property Rights – Over the past few years, the parks have seen an uptick in graffiti painted on boulders, cliff faces, rock walls inscribed with petroglyphs and every other possible surface, an act known as “tagging”. Successful cases have been made against a number of them, largely due to the “artists” inability to keep from posting images of their work on the web. A recent edition of *City and State New York*, though, carries a piece on graffiti artists suing – sometimes successfully – over their right to control their illegal sprayings. “[Some] some graffiti artists are now so fragile and entitled that they argue tagging someone else's premises gives them legal power over how it is used,” writes Ben Adler. “What's even stranger is that these claims aren't automatically being met with the dismissal they deserve.” Adler concludes with a disturbing question: “If graffiti artists can sue a private citizen for painting over their works, and they can sue a company for filming a commercial in a public park where they painted illegally, what's next? Will they start suing city governments for painting over their illegal works in public parks?” Source: [City and State New York](#).

Disappearing Natural Quiet – On March 27th, the *New York Times* ran an “Op-Doc” (defined as “short, opinionated documentaries, produced with creative latitude by independent filmmakers and

artists”) on its webpage entitled “Sanctuaries of Silence.” It features the Hoh rain forest in Olympic National Park, “one of the quietest places in North America” – but one suffering from increased sound encroachment, a problem also found in just about every park. This virtual reality Op-Doc, filmed by Adam Loftin and Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee, provides an “immersive experience” in the Hoh as told from the perspective of the acoustic ecologist Gordon Hempton, who believes that silence here and elsewhere is on the verge of extinction. Seven minutes long and worth your time. 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:

- *Denali NP* – The state of Alaska has imposed emergency bans on the hunting and trapping of wolves following the publishing of photos of a masked man with an AR-15 standing next to ten slaughtered wolves that he killed just outside of the park. The story caused a ruckus in Alaska and has led to renewed calls for a permanent no-kill buffer zone that would protect wild animals next to the park. The story and photos were posted on E&E News’ *Greenwire* and further disseminated by PEER in [this PDF file](#). Source: PEER.
- *Santa Monica Mountains NRA* – A [new report](#) evaluates eleven potential locations in the Santa Ana Mountains and seven in the Santa Monica Mountains where overpasses could be created for park and other wildlife. The report offers recommendations on the location and types of wildlife crossing structures proposed for two of the busiest freeways in the world – Interstate 15 in western Riverside County and U.S. 101 in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties – that bisect large areas of natural habitat and serve as major barriers to wildlife movement and gene flow, especially for mountain lions. Source: [Santa Monica Mountains NRA](#).
- *National Capital Region* – Four national parks in Maryland and the District of Columbia – Antietam, Catoctin, Monocacy and Rock Creek – recently concluded annual operations to reduce overabundant white-tailed deer and have donated more than 14,000 pounds of venison to local non-profits that serve those in need. Source: [Antietam NB](#).
- *John Muir NHS* – The park is seeking public comments on possible uses for the park’s Mt. Wanda Unit. Mt. Wanda is a 330-acre part of the historic Martinez ranch where John Muir lived. At Mt. Wanda, visitors can walk in Muir’s footsteps as they explore, research, and appreciate the wildness of this inspirational landscape. The plan for Mt. Wanda will identify new visitor opportunities and functions, facility needs and resource management strategies, while improving the connectivity of Mt. Wanda to other areas of the park and the broader community. For more information, go to the related [PEPC website](#). Source: [John Muir NHS](#).
- *Mount Rainier NP/Olympic NP/North Cascades NP* – The Elizabeth Ruth Wallace Living Trust has made a \$1 million donation to these three national parks in Washington. According to the fund, which was established by the late Elizabeth Wallace, the gift will be divided evenly among the three national parks. Olympic and Mount Rainier plan to use their portion to purchase a new dispatch system to improve communication with rangers working in wilderness areas; North Cascades will use its funds to upgrade park infrastructure and improve support for its volunteer network. Source: [Mother Nature Network](#).
- *Assateague Island NS* – The March 2018 census of the wild horses on Assateague Island has revealed that there are currently 82 horses in the Maryland herd, which is well within the ideal population range. The herd currently includes 21 stallions and 61 mares, and at least one mare is known to be pregnant at this time. Source: [Assateague Island NS](#).
- *Denali NP* – The 2018 Denali mountaineering season is off to an early start. The first expedition of the season has already come and gone, having reached Denali’s 20,310-foot summit on April 3rd. No teams are on the mountain at present, but several are scheduled to arrive in late April, with the initial big wave of check-ins scheduled for the first week of May. There are 743 climbers currently registered to climb Denali this season, and 10 registered to climb Mount

Foraker. Park rangers predict a similar, if not slightly higher than average number of mountaineers this season based on registrations to date, as well as discussions with guide companies and air taxi operators. In a typical year, approximately 1,200 climbers attempt Denali, while Mount Foraker sees between 15 to 20 attempts. Source: [Denali NP](#).

Climate and The Environment

Climate Change Causing Increase In Lyme Disease Cases – Heading out into the woods today? Better prepare for ticks, no matter where you may be. The *Pacific Standard* yesterday reported that “ticks that carry [Lyme disease] bacteria can now survive in environments where they previously would've frozen to death, resulting in an increased risk of infection.” The article favorably reviews a new book by Mary Beth Pfeifer entitled *Lyme: The First Epidemic Of Climate Change*. Although lots of headway is being made on treating Lyme disease, the problem will soon be epidemic: “By 2050, 12 percent of the U.S. population will likely be infected by the *Borrelia* pathogen, and many of those cases will become chronic. As our planet's climate warms and ticks are more able to spread their infections, even more people will be infected around the world. If we don't find effective treatments for Lyme and agree on how to address these illnesses, the problem will become even more unmanageable.” Source: [Pacific Standard](#).

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:

- *Lake Mead NRA* – Preparations for possible incidents at Lake Mead associated with the verdict in the Rodney King case began on Friday, April 9th, with the arrival of a ten-member Western Region special events team. In addition to augmenting park patrols, team members assisted the Lake Mead staff in providing law enforcement support to Boulder City. Backup support also was provided for Lake Mead rangers who would be staffing structural fire trucks in the event of civil disturbances in Las Vegas. Two other ten-member Western Region teams were on six-hour standby - one comprised of rangers, the other of Park Police officers. Las Vegas was the scene of major unrest following an earlier trial, and police intelligence indicated that another siege could be expected. Intelligence that had recently been received from San Diego police indicated that gangs were planning on travelling by caravan to Las Vegas to create trouble following the issuance of the verdict. The park was also expecting impacts from a large motorcycle rally named "Hog Heaven II," which was to be held in Laughlin, Nevada, at the southern end of the park. Event organizers anticipated over 20,000 participants, including motorcycle enthusiasts and spectators. Campgrounds at Katherine were nearly filled. Because many Metro Las Vegas officers had been reassigned to the city, no jail facilities would be available in the Laughlin area during the weekend; park personnel would therefore have to transport any prisoners from the southern end of the park to Las Vegas, a four hour round-trip. Paul Henry was IC for the incident.
- *Delaware Water Gap NRA* – On the morning of April 14th, three fishermen put in at Dingman's Launch on the Delaware River within the park. Their 14-foot aluminum outboard capsized almost immediately, dumping the three men into 41 degree water. Their cries for help were heard by a toll collector at Dingman's Bridge; the toll collector advised rangers, who responded by boat and by throwing lines from both shores. Two of the fishermen made it to shore on their own, where they were assisted by rangers; the third floated about three miles downstream, where he was picked up by the park's patrol boat. The trio had no lifejackets, but they did have floatable seat cushions which they were able to use to keep themselves afloat. All three were taken to Mercy Hospital in Port Jervis for examination because of their exposure to cold water. The boat was recovered by rangers.
- *Yosemite NP* – Six auto burglaries occurred in the Wawona campground between midnight and 8 a.m. on April 10th. The methods used in the clouts were very similar to those recorded over

the previous two years by the NPS, Forest Service and California State Parks at sites in California, Oregon, Montana, and Arizona. All the vehicles that were burglarized were at tent sites, with the point of entry into the vehicle on the side away from the tent. In each case, a wire was passed through the window molding to gain access to the vehicle; some were found with their passenger windows rolled down. The only items taken were compact discs and cash. Other items which were traceable were not disturbed. The FBI and NPS were working together on the case.

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

Thanks also to the following members for forwarding articles for inclusion in this newsletter – Steve Hastings, Cathy Halainen, Jeff Ohlfs, Duncan Morrow and Joan Anzelmo.

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

"Here is your country. Do not let anyone take it or its glory from you. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your county of its beauty, its riches, or its romance. The world, the future, and your children shall judge you as you deal with this sacred trust."

President Theodore Roosevelt

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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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