



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

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### Incidents

#### **Joshua Tree National Park Hiker Missing For Three Days Found By Searchers**

The search for a missing 76-year-old hiker reported in the last issue ended happily when searchers found him around 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24th, his third day in the park.

David Sewell was conscious and talking when searchers made contact with him in the Johnny Lang Canyon area. He was not on a marked trail, but was in the general area he mentioned in a note left in his car on the morning of April 21st.

A California Highway Patrol helicopter crew flew him to the Quail Springs parking lot near the Joshua Tree entrance to the park. From there, Morongo Basin Ambulance took him to Hi-Desert Medical Center. His current condition is not known.

Sewell began hiking toward Johnny Lang Canyon from Quail Springs Road around 8:45 a.m. on Saturday. He left a note saying that he would need help if he had not returned by Sunday. Rangers saw this his car was still in the lot on 8 p.m. and found the note. When he failed to return as forecast, a search was begun. Sewell's daughter, who lives in Oregon, told searchers that he had significant health problems that required medication and that he was legally blind, though he could still see.

About 50 searchers and two K-9 teams set out to look for Sewell on the ground; the California Highway Patrol provided air support.

Source: [Hi-Desert Star](#).

#### **Little River Canyon NP Teenager Rescued After Disappearing In Little River**

A 17-year-old boy who disappeared after jumping into a stream near the Little Falls area on April 24th was subsequently found alive by searchers.

Rangers received a call from a bystander on the evening of April 24th reporting the incident. Agencies from two counties – DeKalb and Cherokee – assisted in the ensuing search. The boy was found under an overhang along the east side of the river. He was treated and released.

The park issued a reminder that river levels can fluctuate rapidly and water temperatures remain cold at this time of the year. With increased rains over the last several days, Little River has been experiencing record high water levels and has become more dangerous.

Source: [WHNT News](#).

## **Olympic NP Interagency Investigation Results In Burglary Conviction, Property Recovery**

Last fall, the park experienced a series of burglaries and thefts of government property. Rangers and Border Patrol agents began an extended surveillance operation that culminated with the arrest and conviction of 29-year-old Alexander Turney of Port Angeles for second degree burglary.

The subsequent cooperative investigation by the Port Angeles Police Department, Clallam County Sheriff's Office, OPNET, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington and the National Park Service led to several federal and state search warrants being served in the Port Angeles area. These warrants resulted in six additional arrests, including the federal indictment of Anthony Cannon and Rebecca Doninger (both of Port Angeles) on second degree burglary charges, and the recovery of thousands of dollars of stolen government and personal property from thefts within the park and the local community.

Turney's conviction was the result of a plea agreement in which he received a sentence of time served in federal detention, an order to pay \$16,297.54 in restitution to the victims of his crimes, and a federal supervision period of three years. Turney was sentenced on March 30th.

Source: [Olympic NP](#).

## **National Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center Fire Activity Continues To Center On Southern States**

#### **Synopsis**

NIFC is at PL 2. Ten large fires burned more than 95,000 acres last week. Most large fire activity is occurring in the southern half of the United States, with two large fires in the northern part of the country – one in Oregon and the other in Minnesota.

#### **Big Cypress National Preserve**

The Avian Complex includes the Buzzard, Vulture and Caracara Fires. An ICT3 (Thatcher) is managing the fires; 89 firefighters and overhead are currently assigned. Status:

- *Buzzard Fire* – Rain fell across the fire on Monday, slowing its progress. The fire continues to move westward towards the Oasis Trail, and crews have focused on prepping any structures potentially at risk by removing brush, and any other fuels from around buildings. The revised [closure order](#) impacts that trail. During this closure, all recreational use, including ORV's, hiking, hunting, camping and commercial activities, are prohibited in the designated areas. This is to promote visitor safety during wildfire activity in this area. Travel through the preserve on US-41 has not been impacted by the fire. The fire has burned approximately 8,500 acres and is 40% contained. The cause of this fire has been identified as a lightning strike.
- *Caracara Fire* – The fire, which is located in the sanctuary portion of the preserve near the canal, has burned approximately one acre, and is 100% contained. The cause is under investigation.
- *Vulture Fire* – This fire is also fully contained.

Source: [InciWeb](#).

#### **Active Incident Resource Commitments**

Category	April 11th	April 24th	May 1st
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	0	0
Type 1 Teams	2	1	2
Type 2 Teams	2	2	0
Crews	39	29	36
Engines	234	251	147
Helicopters	17	15	18
Total FF/Overhead	1,802	1,878	1,699

### Fires/Acreage

Category	2018 Total	2007-2017 Ave	2018 Variance
Year-to-Date Fires	17,692	19,340	- 1,648
Year-to-Date Acres	976,686	961,772	+ 14,914

Sources: [National Interagency Fire Center](#).

### News From Around Washington

Reports on official actions and activities 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**

#### **Visitors Spent Nearly \$36 Billion In Parks In 2017**

Visitor spending in communities near national parks in 2017 resulted in a \$35.8 billion benefit to the nation's economy – a nearly \$1 billion increase from 2016 – and supported 306,000 jobs.

According to *2017 National Park Visitor Spending Effects*, the Service's annual report on spending, more than 330 million visitors in 2017 spent \$18.2 billion in the communities near national parks. Of the 306,000 jobs supported by that spending, more than 255,000 were in those same communities that lie within 60 miles of a park.

Visitor spending varied across the National Park System, from big parks like Yellowstone National Park which attracted 4.1 million people and supported more than 7,350 jobs, to smaller parks like Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site that attracted more than 45,000 visitors and supported 43 jobs.

The lodging sector received the highest direct contributions with \$5.5 billion in economic output to local gateway economies and 49,000 jobs. The restaurants sector received the next greatest direct contributions with \$3.7 billion in economic output to local gateway economies and 60,500 jobs.

According to the 2017 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging/camping (32.9 percent) followed by food and beverages (27.5 percent), gas and oil (12.1 percent), souvenirs and other expenses (10.1 percent), admissions and fees (10.0 percent), and local transportation (7.5 percent).

The report's authors also produced [an interactive tool](#) that enables users to explore visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added, and output effects by sector for national, state, and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data.

Source: [NPS Office of Communications](#).

### **Capitol Hill**

## **Weekly Legislative Roundup**

### ***New Public Laws***

Nothing to report.

### ***Senate***

On April 23rd, the Senate passed H.R. 4300, to authorize Pacific Historic Parks, a cooperating association of the National Park Service, to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces and Allies who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, at a suitable location at the Pearl Harbor site of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, HI. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

On April 25th, the Senate passed:

- S. 2758, to amend Title 36, United States Code, to provide for the display of the National League of Families POW/MIA flag at the World War I Memorials on certain days of the year.
- S. Res. 401, designating May 5, 2018 as the "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls".
- S. Res. 483, recognizing the contributions of senior volunteers and designating the week of April 29 through May 5, 2018, as "National Senior Corps Week".
- S. Res. 485, honoring the life of First Lady Barbara Bush.

On April 25th, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation approved, among other bills, S. 2369, to authorize aboriginal subsistence whaling in Alaska pursuant to the regulations of the International Whaling Commission.

On April 25th, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard held a hearing to examine enhancing the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

On April 26th, the Senate agreed to S. Res. 495, expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States.

### ***House***

On April 24th, the House agreed to H. Res. 838, honoring the life of First Lady Barbara Bush.

On April 25th, the Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing entitled "The Weaponization of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Implications of Environmental Warfare". There was no witness from the department at the hearing.

On April 26th, the House agreed to H. Con. Res. 118, authorizing the printing of "United States Capitol Grounds: Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted's Design for Democracy" as a House document.

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

## **Park People, Friends and Allies**

### **NPS Alumni**

#### **Passing Of Don Field**

Don Field, 78, former NPS senior scientist for sociology, co-founder of *Park Science*, and member of the CPANP board, passed away on Saturday, April 7th, at the St. Mary's Care Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

He was born March 9, 1940 in La Crosse, Wisconsin., the son of Lenore Reed Field and Donald E. Field. He was married for 55 years to Nancy Hayden Field.

Don received his BS and MS degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a Ph. D in rural sociology from Pennsylvania State University in State College. His distinguished professorial career included many national and international academic appointments, starting in 1968 as assistant professor of rural sociology at South Dakota State University in Brookings.

In 1970, Don moved to Seattle as chief scientist for the Service's Pacific Northwest Region and professor of forest resources at the University of Washington. He moved to Oregon State University in Corvallis in 1983 as professor of forestry and was appointed the first National Park Service senior scientist in sociology. Don spent the last 23 years of his career at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he served as associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, director of the School of Natural Resources, and professor of rural sociology and forest and wildlife ecology.

As the intellectual leader of social science research on natural resources, he spearheaded the creation of a new professional society, the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (IASNR). He is the author of several academic books, co-founder of the publication *Park Science* for the National Park Service, now a popular full color magazine, and was a founder of the international scholarly journal, *Society and Natural Resources*, as well as editor of other scholarly journals.

Don will always be remembered for his positive attitude, wonderful sense of humor, and gentle kindness as patient father and loving husband. He followed and encouraged the performance of his children on the soccer field and led family backpacking, sailing and outdoor scouting activities. He and his sons raised sheep while living on a five-acre farm in Oregon.

As an honored and respected professor, he had an extraordinary ability to guide students to the practical application of their skills—encouraging them to put their research into the service of the natural environment and society.

He is survived by his wife and three children – Peggy (Chris) Lippert of Denver, Colorado, Andrew Field, also of Denver, and Donald (Erin) Field of Crownsville, Maryland – as well as six grandchildren: Kendall and Reed Field-Lippert plus Robby, Ian, Alec and Samantha Field and a large extended family.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 12th, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 2015 Parmenter Street, Middleton, Wisconsin. Visitation starts at 10:00 am, followed by Mass at 11:00. A reception follows with sharing of memories

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that those wishing to honor Don consider a contribution to the UW Foundation scholarship fund. Make memorials payable to the "UW Foundation-Donald and Nancy Field Natural Resources Scholarship", US Bank Lockbox 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278.

Source: [Cress Funeral Home](#).

### **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/NPCA Column On Wyoming Grizzly Hunt Posted To Bozeman Newspaper** – Phil Francis, chair of the Coalition, and Theresa Pierno, president and CEO of NPCA, have a column in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* on stopping the upcoming hunt for grizzly bears along the borders of Yellowstone and Grand Teton. Here is a key paragraph from the letter: "Through a flawed process finalized in July 2017 by U.S. Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke, Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzlies were removed from federal

protections. The final rule fails to ensure the bears' long-term health and gambles decades of work and millions of tax payer dollars invested in restoring the population. The removal sparked widespread outrage and prompted lawsuits by National Parks Conservation Association, tribal partners and other conservation organizations. Montana took a cautious approach this year by not advancing a hunt; however, Wyoming's shortsighted action reaffirms our concerns about the long-term health of the population." Pierno and Francis urge people to write to the governor of Wyoming and urge him to stop the hunt. Source: [Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#).

**Member Letter On Protecting Florida Parks Published** – Member Dick Ring has a letter in the Broward County *Sun-Sentinel* on the need to strengthen protection of the Everglades and other Florida parks. Here's an excerpt: "Everglades National Park and the 10 other units of the National Park System in Florida are in grave jeopardy as sea levels and temperatures rise, as oceans acidify, and particularly as catastrophic storms become more frequent and weather patterns are severely altered. But the current administration is committed to rolling back the very policies we need to combat these threats, including repealing the Clean Power Plan." Click on the following link to read the entire letter. Source: [Sun-Sentinel](#).

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

## **Other Reports and Releases**

A brief summary of 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 climate and environment.

## **Government and Administration**

**NPS Leadership Shakeup In The Works** – The April 27th *Washington Post* ran a story entitled "Proposed Shake-Up At National Park Service Could Make Senior Leaders Hit The Road," written by Dino Grandoni, Juliet Eilperin and Joel Achenbach: "A major management shake-up could be underway at the National Park Service, including the proposed reassignment of the veteran superintendent of Yellowstone National Park and six other senior executives, according to several individuals familiar with the plan. The transfers, which are not yet official, would come just days after the Interior Department's inspector general found that officials failed to explain why they shuffled 35 top department employees last June. That round of reassignments, which forced those staffers to decide on short notice whether to move or step down, prompted sharp criticism from Democratic lawmakers..." Seven people would be affected:

- Margaret Goodro, superintendent of Biscayne, would become regional director in Alaska. Bert Frost, who holds that position, would be reassigned.
- Dan Wenk, superintendent of Yellowstone, would be ordered to report to Washington and the office covering National Capital Region. Leaving the NCR post would be Bob Vogel, bound for Southeast Regional Office.
- Cameron "Cam" Sholly, regional director for Midwest, would take over the Yellowstone job and would be replaced by Sue Masica, who is RD for Intermountain. Masica's post would be filled by Lizette Richardson, superintendent at Lake Mead.

Interior says it moves people in SES jobs as part of an effort "to better utilize our workforce and senior leaders to improve the Department..." Others see it in an entirely different light. Says Jeff Ruch of PEER: "These multiple moves resemble a purge and have no apparent management motivation other than to marginalize and disrupt." Source: [Washington Post](#).

**Koch Brothers and U.S. Environmental Policy** – The *Guardian*, a highly-respected English newspaper, has a story in its April 26th edition entitled "Democratic Senators Scrutinize Koch Brothers' 'Infiltration' Of Trump Team." The senators have written a joint letter to eight government

bodies and the White House “demanding information about what they call the Koch brothers’ ‘infiltration’ of the Trump administration, charging that Koch-linked personnel have secured key federal jobs and are determining US environmental and public health policy.” Résumés obtained through public records requests by the newspaper and Documented, a government watchdog group, show the close links between high-ranking federal staffers and the “stridently conservative” Koch network. They include nine Koch-affiliated staff at the Department of the Interior. Source: [The Guardian](#).

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

- *Zinke and the Deceptive Park Funding Plan* – An article in *Fortune* magazine takes exception to the sincerity of the secretary’s plan to raise money for national parks, noting that there’s a catch to it: “As the saying goes: If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Take Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s proposal to use new revenues from drilling and mining on America’s public lands and oceans to fix up bathrooms, roads, and parking lots in the national parks. At first glance, the concept seems benign. In fact, a bill to codify it—the National Park Restoration Act—has attracted a bipartisan handful of cosponsors in the Senate and the House. Read the fine print of Zinke’s proposal, however, and you find a policy proposal that is as diabolically cynical as it is fiscally negligent. Zinke’s National Park Restoration Act specifies that only if federal energy revenues exceed \$7.8 billion per year will the national parks begin to see money for maintenance. For context, federal energy revenues from 2015 to 2017 averaged \$6.4 billion per year. In other words, the national parks will not receive a single extra dollar unless oil, gas, and coal revenues to the federal government rise dramatically.” The author argues that a far more preferable way to raise funding is through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, which is up for renewal this year. Source: [Fortune](#).
- *Zinke, Pruitt and The ‘Public Trough’* – *Esquire* magazine has posted an article on some of the more self-serving actions taken by Zinke and EPA’s Scott Pruitt. In a story entitled “Sell Off Public Resources, Live Large on the Public Dime,” the magazine looks at Zinke and Pruitt and their lavish spending of taxpayer dollars for their own benefit, itemizing a number of them that are being investigated. “[The] entire Interior Department seems to be dedicated to allowing private interests to gorge on public lands while its officials go up to their elbows in the public trough,” writes the author. Source: [Esquire](#).
- *Zinke and the Backwards Ranger Hat* – Although a minor matter, it would seem that someone who spent his life in the military would have an appreciation for proper appearance in uniform. Well, not exactly. *Outside* magazine has a short piece on Secretary Zinke’s appearance in a photo promoting the Junior Ranger program while wearing an NPS ranger flat hat backwards; that is, with the band reversed so “USNPS” is on the back. It includes both that photo and one showing how to wear it correctly. Source: [Outside](#).

## **National Park System**

**Video On National Park Service History** – Vimeo, a video-sharing website where users can upload, share and view videos, has a four-minute video from a filmmaker entitled “(Unofficial) History of the National Parks.” While it’s unlikely to ever show up in a VC auditorium, it’s an interesting work with a mixed perspective on the agency. Source: [Vimeo](#).

**NPS Authority On Regulating Park Waters Upheld** – The current edition of the *National Law Review* includes an article on an important and long-running battle between an Alaska resident and the National Park Service regarding the Service’s authority to regulate navigable waters in Alaska’s national parks and to prohibit the use of hovercraft. The case had gone to the Supreme Court, but that court remanded it to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The circuit court’s ruling has “affirmed congressional intent to permit Park Service authority to manage navigable waters in Alaska’s national parks, especially those parks meant to preserve wild rivers, and describes the balance between state and federal jurisdiction.” Source: [National Law Review](#).

**Around The Parks** – Brief reports on parks, culled either from park press releases or from newspapers:

- *Yellowstone NP: New Research On Super Volcano* – The prospect of a catastrophic eruption from the “Yellowstone super volcano,” which would be thousands of times as powerful as the one at Mt. St. Helens, has again made the news, this time in the April 20th edition of the *Washington Post*. An article in that issue concerns efforts to find out when such an eruption might happen again and how strong it would be. It focuses on a recent study that shows there are two magma chambers under the old caldera and what that might mean, but also dispels chronic rumors that it’s about to blow: “Contrary to Internet rumor-mongering, as well as conspiracy theories about government cover-ups, there’s no sign that a fourth cataclysmic event is about to happen,” says author Joel Achenbach. “It’s possible, in fact, that Yellowstone is getting a bit old and tired. It may be ready for a long nap rather than a major eruption.” Source: [Washington Post](#).
- *Everglades NP: Python Population Explosion* – The number of pythons in the park and surrounding South Florida counties continues to grow, reports *USA Today*. Researchers recently discovered the largest breeding aggregation (eight pythons) found to date in the central and eastern Everglades, where the invasive and elusive predator has decimated entire populations of small mammals. Pythons are “the top predator in the Everglades,” reports the author. “From their stomachs, biologists have pulled bobcat claws, deer hooves, birds, rabbits, opossums and raccoons.” Over the past year, 25 paid python hunters have removed 922 of the invasive snakes from Broward, Miami-Dade and Collier counties. It’s estimated that they collectively ate over 150,000 animals. And the future doesn’t look good. “It’s increasingly clear to all involved that it is likely the snakes will never be eradicated. They’re too hard to find and too good at hunting. The goal now is to slow or stop the spread of the snakes further north and west. No one is certain they will have success.” Source: [USA Today](#).
- *Rainbow Bridge NM: New Dark Sky Sanctuary* – The monument has been named the fourth international dark sky sanctuary in the world, “distinguishing it as one of the darkest, most remote places on Earth with unparalleled, light-pollution-free views of the night sky.” It joins Cosmic Campground in western New Mexico's Gila National Forest, Chile's Gabriela Mistral, and New Zealand's Aotea/Great Barrier Island in the group of four sanctuaries. Source: [The Weather Channel](#).
- *Death Valley NP: Reopening Of Dante’s View Delayed* – Construction delays have extended the closure of a popular park overlook. Dante’s View was originally slated to reopen early this month after extensive renovations, but the viewpoint is now expected to remain closed through May. The upgrades include new viewing platforms, improved parking and the installation of a touchable bronze relief map of the area. Source: [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#).

**Public Comments Solicited** – A listing of planned actions in parks open to public comment along with their relevant PEPC links:

- *Acadia Draft Transportation Plan and EIS* – The NPS invites the public to provide feedback on the range of management alternatives and potential environmental impacts identified in the Draft Transportation Plan and EIS. Closes: June 26th. [PEPC link](#). Source: [Acadia NP](#).
- *Mississippi Civil Rights Sites* – The Service has begun to examine key civil rights sites in Mississippi for possible designation as a national park area and invites the public to weigh-in at the start of the project that could run two years. Closes: June 1st. [PEPC link](#). Source: [Natchez Trace Parkway](#).
- *Lassen Volcanic Wilderness Stewardship Plan EA* – The park has prepared a range of alternatives on its draft wilderness stewardship plan EA and is accepting through the end of May. Closes: May 26th. [PEPC link](#). Source: [Lassen Volcanic NP](#).



- *Pictured Rocks Visitor Use Management Project* – The park has opened its visitor use management plan to public comment. It focuses on analyzing visitor use issues at high visitation areas from Sand Point to Spray Falls. Closes: June 6th. A link is not yet available, but will be after May 8th. Source: [Pictured Rocks NL](#).

## **Climate and The Environment**

**Record Hawaiian Rainfall A Sign Of The Future** – Last month, the Hawaiian island of Kauai experienced torrential rains that caused serious flooding and set an all-time record for highest rainfall in 24 hours in the United States – originally recorded as around 44 inches, the National Weather Service has since determined that it was closer to 50 inches. “Now, as Kauai continues to recover,” reports the *Los Angeles Times*, “scientists warn that this deluge on April 14 and 15 was something new — the first major storm in Hawaii linked to climate change.” The newspaper interviewed a local natural resource manager who summed up the issue with this observation: “In the Pacific Islands, we don't have the luxury of debating whether climate change is real,” he said. “Climate change is affecting us, and has been for some time. There are striking similarities with the flooding that we experienced on Kauai and the recent flooding in California. The warmer atmosphere is holding more moisture and that builds up until it meets with cold dry air, creating this massive unstable system, which causes what some meteorologists are now referring to as a rain bomb.” Source: [Los Angeles Times](#).

**New Report Forecasts Increasingly Volatile Weather For California** – The *Los Angeles Times* also had an article last month on a newly-released report that forecasts increasingly violent shifts in weather for the state: “Californians should expect more dramatic swings between dry and wet years as the climate warms, according to a new study that found it likely that the state will be hit by devastating, widespread flooding in coming decades. UC researchers in essence found that California's highly volatile climate will become even more volatile as human-caused climate change tinkers with atmospheric patterns over the eastern Pacific Ocean... Such sudden swings between severe drought and intense storms will increase the threat to aging dams and flood-control networks, accentuate the wildfire threat and make management of the state's complex waterworks even more daunting.” Source: [Los Angeles Times](#).

## **From The Archives**

This section contains news and incidents taken from Morning Report issues published during the corresponding week 25 years ago. This week we go back to late April and early May, 1993. All entries appear in the verb tense that they were in the original edition.

- *Hawaii Volcanoes NP* – This follow-up report was sent in to the Morning Report a day or two after the original report (which was in last week's newsletter) and appeared in the MR on April 20, 1993: The search for victims of the volcanic explosion which took place at Lae Apuki Village Monday night - including Prem Nagar, 46, of Kealakakua, Hawaii, who witnesses saw fall into the ocean - continues. Investigation indicates that as many as 20 visitors were in the closed area on the lava bench when it collapsed without warning. The collapse was followed by three distinct earthquake-like events, then the sudden explosion of a lava tube that had been filling with water. Enough steam pressure was produced to blow rocks up to a quarter meter across over 100 meters inland from the shoreline. Many of these rocks were incandescent and burnt visitors who were trying to escape. Injuries sustained included serious abrasions and third degree burns from falling rocks, scalding ocean water and lava fragments. Nagar did not try to leave the area when the first collapse occurred and was seen falling into the ocean. The sequence is recorded on a video made by a visitor which has been given to the park. Another camera was found at the site during the investigation, and its film is being processed in hopes of obtaining additional information on the event. Investigators also determined that visitors in the area had not read the abundant warning and specific closure signs posted there; most stated that they were just attracted to the active lava areas. Search efforts will continue for at least two more days.
- *South Florida Parks* – Reported on April 23, 1993: Eight months have now passed since Hurricane Andrew came ashore in south Florida and recovery efforts are still underway.

Everglades just finished its winter visitor season, during which it employed some innovative techniques and opportunistic interpretive themes. While awaiting completion of the "interim temporary visitor center", park naturalists set up an orientation table in the parking lot. The main visitor center, which is to be demolished, was enclosed in chain link fence to protect visitors from their curiosity, and a challenging maze of fence and handrail was constructed to provide access to the bathrooms. The new, temporary visitor center is now open and serving visitors. The conceptual design for the new permanent visitor center is done, and teams are now working on other projects, including hurricane exhibit design, signing and other building modifications. Long Pine Key campground remains closed, partly due to administrative use and partly because work must still be done there. Both Long Pine Key and the Chekika area should open for the 1993-94 winter season. The Anhinga boardwalk is more than two-thirds finished and has been the site of many photos of the hurricane's impacts. The tree islands and hammocks have lots of new foliage, but reportedly look like giant bonsai because the leaves cluster at the ends of the main trunks and the few remaining branches. The Flamingo facilities were opened to visitor use when the main park entrance reopened last December 15th, but tourism in the hurricane area has dropped as much as 45 percent below previous winter seasons. Biscayne is also open. Staff moved into the new headquarters and maintenance buildings on March 25th. The furniture arrived the next day. Telephone service, however, remains limited. A&E contracts have been awarded to replace facilities. The Elliott Key harbor complex is open; all other islands remain closed. The concessioner has one boat operating for the glass-bottom, snorkel and scuba tours, but visitation was down 75 percent in the first quarter of 1993. Resource recovery appears promising, except for the red mangrove forest, which may take 15 to 20 years for regrowth from base roots. Homestead is still in bad shape. Although progress in cleaning up the area has been made, mountains of debris still line the streets. Many shopping facilities, particularly strip malls, are being demolished. Many park people have been able to move back into their homes, but others continue to live in temporary quarters. The park also passed on the following, written by PAO Pat Tolle: "Sometimes (Hurricane Andrew) seems a lifetime ago, particularly when we talk of how things used to be or how we used to think and plan. Sometimes we feel as if it is still with us, especially when a howling storm awakens us in the middle of the night. Sometimes we acknowledge that we are still too close to the event to objectively assess where we are in the recovery process. To all of the people who came to south Florida as part of the emergency response team, we can say that the progress has been truly remarkable. A significant amount of the credit - especially during the early weeks when many of us were still catatonic - belongs to you. You not only did the dirty work under the worst possible conditions - August and September in the Everglades is no picnic under the best of circumstances - but you also brought spirit and shared your strength and determination to overcome when we had none of our own. The hurricane relief fund passed the \$200,000 mark, and 177 people have received desperately needed help from your generosity. One of the facts we must face very quickly is the onset of the 1993 hurricane season on June 1st. Many of the lessons learned must be put into practice, but it's difficult to react with any sense of urgency. It seems too soon to worry about that possibility. Yet, worry we must - and prepare. As we revise our hurricane plans to meet the present conditions, we begin with developing objectives - the basic principle of all-risk management and the incident command system. We have seen how it works and we have experienced its effectiveness. The legacy of Andrew is the institutionalization of ICS as THE management system of choice for emergency events. It worked because of the organization and the people it brought us. Thank you from the south Florida parks. So say we all!"

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- Regular Correspondents: Dennis Burnett and Rick Smith
- Issue Correspondents: Duncan Morrow, Mike Murray, Jake Hoogland, Deb Liggett, Dick Martin 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](mailto:BHalainen@gmail.com). Please don't submit them via his personal email address or Facebook page.

### A Closing Observation

"In my experience in connection with [Yellowstone NP], I have been very forcefully impressed with the danger to which it is subjected by the greed of private enterprise. All local influence centers in schemes whereby the park can be used for pecuniary advantage. In the unsurpassed grandeur of its natural condition, it is the pride and glory of the nation, but, if under the guise of improvement, selfish interests are permitted to make merchandise of its wonders and beauties, it will inevitably become a by-word and a reproach."

[Capt. Moses Harris](#), U.S. Cavalry, Superintendent, Yellowstone, 1886 – 1889

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The *Weekly National Park System Report* is a publication of The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks. It is prepared by Coalition member Bill Halainen, former editor of the *NPS Morning Report*, and produced and disseminated by Coalition member Steve Pittleman.

The Coalition is a non-profit organization of past and current NPS employees and their allies that "studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation and protection of the National Park System and mission-related programs of the National Park Service."

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