



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

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### Incidents

#### **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Eruption and Closures Continue**

Most of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park remains closed due to increased and damaging earthquakes, corrosive volcanic ash, and continuing explosions from Halema'uma'u, the summit crater of Kilauea Volcano.

Park staff have moved the park's collection of artifacts and exhibit features from Jaggar Museum due to all of the dramatic changes taking place at the summit of Kilauea. Although the building is damaged, the artifacts are now in a safe location.

"The process of removing art, artifacts and informative displays from Jaggar Museum really drives home how much has changed in the park and at the summit of Kilauea since late April, and how much damage the recent activity has done," said Jessica Ferracane, the park's PAO, in an email to the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*.

The museum and archive collection consists of more than 31,000 objects under the classifications of archeology, ethnology, history, biology, paleontology and geology, plus 1,350 linear feet of records, including documents and audio-visual material. Besides park publications, there are postcards, books, fine art paintings and the registers for the Volcano House, a hotel located on the park grounds.

As of Friday, June 24th, it was estimated that the park's closure had cost the island's economy more than \$19 million. Volcano House, a concession that sits at the edge of Halemaumau Crater, has laid off nearly 100 people.

For a good and largely current update on the shape of the park and the status of the eruption, see these two videos:

- [KHON News – a 4-minute news video](#)
- [Big Island Video News – a detailed 31-minute news briefing with the NPS and USGS](#)

For more information, go to the following sites or to the "source" links below:

- Hawaii Volcanoes NP – <https://www.nps.gov/havo/index.htm>
- Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) – <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/>
- HVO webcams – [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_webcams.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_webcams.html)

- HVO photos/videos – [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_chronology.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_chronology.html)
- HVO maps – [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

Source: [Hawaii Volcanoes NP](#); [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#); [KHON News](#); [Big Island Video News](#).

### **Lake Mead National Recreation Area Rangers Rescue 17 People From Two Boating Accidents**

Rangers rescued 17 people after one vessel sank and another was swamped near the shoreline on Sunday, June 24th.

Dispatch received a 911 call just before 2 a.m. in which the dispatcher could hear faint screams for help. GPS coordinates placed the call in the area of Lover's Cove, west of Callville Bay. Rangers responded in two vessels.

When they arrived on the scene, rangers could only see a distant light in the water. They found a partially submerged vessel with only the bow above the waterline; nine people, including two children, were in the water. Most were not wearing life jackets and all were reaching a point of exhaustion after swimming in the water for over an hour. The rangers pulled the people from the water and onto their boat. Medical care was provided for a pregnant woman and a 12-month-old baby.

A second NPS vessel saved another eight people who were on the shore, all of them associated with the group of people in the water. They were stranded after their boat became swamped and unusable.

All 17 people were taken to Calville Bay Marina. An ambulance transported two minors and one adult to a local hospital as a precaution for water inhalation.

Initial reports indicate that the accidents occurred due to a combination of the vessels being overloaded and dangerous weather conditions. The park's automated weather stations, run by the National Weather Service, recorded wind speeds up to 30 miles per hour and gusts at 38 miles per hour. Waves were likely running from three to four feet at the time of the incident.

Source: [KVVU News](#).

### **Washington National Parks NPS Helicopter Crew Makes Three Rescues In Three Parks In One Day**

A National Park Service helicopter crew conducted three rescue missions in a single day over the weekend before last – one rescue in each of Washington state's three large national parks.

The first distress call came in at 9 a.m. Sunday, reporting an 18-year-old backpacker with respiratory distress in the northwest section of the North Cascades National Park wilderness. By midday the clouds had lifted enough for the helicopter crew to get through to the hiker and hoist him aboard from the rugged terrain below. He was then flown to the hospital for treatment.

The pilot and crew then responded to Olympic National Park in the late afternoon to perform a medical evacuation of a 55-year-old man who had gotten lost after going out for a day hike on Tuesday, six days earlier. Rangers had hiked into the area on foot and found the man at about 2:30 a.m. on Sunday. But the man was found to be too weak to travel, and the terrain proved very difficult for ground-based rescue. So the helicopter crew flew in and evacuated the man to a local hospital.

The final rescue of the day was inside Mount Rainier National Park after rangers received an emergency beacon activation from two injured climbers on Mount Rainier's Liberty Ridge. The helicopter flew in and plucked the two injured women from a steep ridge at the 9,500-foot elevation of the mountain. Just before 9 p.m., the chopper landed back at its home base with the injured climbers.

The helicopter team was formed in 2015 at Mount Rainier National Park to assist climbing rangers with rescues. Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks now share a dedicated short-haul rescue helicopter on contract for the summer season. The three parks train together and have worked to hone their communication to allow for the interoperability that proved so valuable on Sunday.

Source: [KOMO News](#).

### **Mount Rushmore National Park Confrontation After Traffic Stop Ends With Driver Committing Suicide**

A New Mexico man barricaded himself inside his vehicle after being stopped by rangers for traffic-related offenses on the evening of Sunday, June 24th. He then shot himself.

The man was stopped on Highway 244, which runs through the heart of the park. During the stop, the man produced a handgun. He then barricaded himself in his vehicle, a conversion van, and began making statements clearly indicating he wanted to harm himself.

The Rapid City/Pennington County Special Response Team responded when it was determined that the man had additional firearms. They spent several hours trying to negotiate with him.

At 2:30 a.m. Monday, the team entered the van and found the man dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Source: [Rapid City Journal](#).

### **Chiricahua National Monument Search Resumed For Ranger Missing Since 1980**

Ranger Paul Fugate, 41, went for a hike on the afternoon of January 13, 1980 and vanished without a trace. Fugate was working at the time and was in uniform.

Numerous intensive searches were conducted, but no sign of him was ever found. Investigators suspected foul play. A formal missing-person case was opened, with a reward fund that eventually grew to \$20,000.

The NPS announced late last month that it has raised its reward fund in the case to \$60,000. Decades after initial leads in Fugate's disappearance grew cold, new information has prompted NPS investigators and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to renew their request for the public's help in solving the 38-year-old mystery.

Source: [NPS Investigative Services Branch](#).

### **North Cascades National Park Search In Progress For Missing Hiker**

Rangers and a team from the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office are searching for a man missing in the North Cascades.

Cornelius "Casey" Zippro, 31, went camping with a friend on Saturday, June 16th, at the Colonial Creek Campground near Rockport. He was last seen at the campground on Saturday. His friend reported Zippro missing on Sunday around 1:00 p.m.

Nearly two dozen people searched for Zippro on Monday. Some of his belongings were found, but there was no sign of Zippro.

Zippro is about 5-feet-9-inches tall, weighs about 190 pounds, and has dark blond hair and blue/green eyes. He was believed to be wearing jeans, a light gray shirt, a light green jacket and a black and white baseball cap.

Source: [KOMO News](#).

### **Katmai National Park Search For Man Missing In Park River Suspended**

The search for a 72-year-old California man who disappeared in American Creek after the raft he was in flipped over has been suspended.

Three people were rafting down the river on Tuesday, June 19th, when the accident occurred. The other two rafters were able to make it to shore and hike downstream to a guided camp, where they used a satellite phone to report the incident. The three friends were on an unguided trip.

An interagency search was launch via raft, helicopter and airplane. As of the following Thursday, no signs of the missing man had been found, so the search was suspended pending further evidence of his location. Pilots who frequent the area have been notified and are planning to continue the search.

The victim had extensive rafting experience on Alaskan rivers. He was not wearing a life-jacket at the time of the incident.

Source: [KTVA News](#).

## **National Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center NIFC Now At PL 3; More Than 50 Large Fires Burning Nationwide**

#### **Synopsis**

NIFC has raised the national preparedness level from PL 2 to PL 3. Wildland fire activity has picked up throughout the western states. Currently, 53 fires are burning; together, they've burned more than 648,000 acres.

#### **National Park Service Fires**

*Everglades National Park* – The Small Hammock Fire has burned 772 acres and is 60% contained. Full containment is expected on July 14th.

*Valles Caldera National Preserve* – As of last report (June 27th), the San Antonio Fire had burned 416 acres and was 75% contained. The IMT managing the fire was preparing to turn it back over to the park at the time of the report.

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>June 12th</b>	<b>June 19th</b>	<b>July 2nd</b>
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	0	1
Type 1 Teams	3	1	2
Type 2 Teams	2	2	5
Crews	123	101	238
Engines	280	191	687
Helicopters	48	36	100
Total FF/Overhead	4,865	4,204	10,237

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## **Fires/Acreage**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2018 Total</b>	<b>2007-2017 Ave</b>	<b>2018 Variance</b>
Year-to-Date Fires	29,111	31,161	- 2,050
Year-to-Date Acres	2,534,701	2,285,234	+ 249,467

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.

### **Capitol Hill Weekly Legislative Roundup**

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

On June 15th, the president signed into law H.R. 4910, to require the secretary of the interior to provide an outer burial receptacle, or grave liner, for each grave in an open national cemetery administered by the National Park Service, in a manner similar to those provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to those buried in national cemeteries administered by the National Cemetery Administration. This bill also provides for the reimbursement of a veteran's survivors who provide a privately purchased outer burial receptacle for use in a National Park Service cemetery. The bill affects the only two remaining active cemeteries within the National Park System - Andersonville National Cemetery in Georgia, and Andrew Johnson National Cemetery in Tennessee. (P.L. 115-184).

#### ***Senate***

On June 18th, the Senate passed H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by a vote of 85 yeas to 10 nays. Sec. 2836 of H.R. 5515, would modify the boundary of White Sands National Monument to include 2,826 of lands from the adjacent White Sands Missile Range and to include 5,766 acres of lands currently outside the boundary. The section would also transfer 3,737 acres of national monument land to the White Sands Missile Range. These same provisions were in the House version of H.R. 5515. However, the Senate version would also re-designate White Sands National Monument as White Sands National Park and would require the concurrence of each county in NM in which the park is located before the secretary of the interior could nominate the park to the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It would also require the notification of the secretary of the army prior to the nomination.

On June 20th, the Senate passed S. Res. 553, designating June 20, 2018, as "American Eagle Day" and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.

#### ***House***

On June 20th, the Committee on Natural Resources approved H.R. 6106, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to clarify the authorized categorical exclusions and authorize additional categorical exclusions to streamline the oil and gas permitting process.

On June 21st, the Committee on the Budget approved the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

On June 21st, the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing, among other bills, on:

- H.R. 4599, to redesignate Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia as Rock Creek National Park.
- H.R. 5613, to designate the Quindaro Townsite in Kansas City, Kansas, as a National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

Mr. Brian Steed, deputy director, policy and programs of the Bureau of Land Management, was the witness for the department.

On June 21st, the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on:

- H.R. 4644, to withdraw specified National Forest System land in the Custer Gallatin National Forest in Park County, Montana, outside Yellowstone National Park, and identified on the map titled "Emigrant Crevice Proposed Withdrawal Area," dated November 10, 2016, from: (1) location, entry, and patent under mining laws; and (2) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing.
- H.R. 5859, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require that a portion of revenues from new federal mineral and geothermal leases be paid to states for use to supplement the education of students in kindergarten through grade 12 and public support of institutions of higher education.

There was no witness from the department at this hearing.

On June 23rd, the House passed the Senate-amended version of H.R. 2229, a bill to provide permanent authority for judicial review of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

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

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

### **Yellowstone National Park Cam Sholly Named Superintendent**

Cameron (Cam) Sholly is the new superintendent of Yellowstone National Park.

Since early 2015, Sholly has served as regional director of Midwest Region, where he managed a team of 2,000 employees, a budget of over \$250 million, and the operations of 61 national park units spread across 13 states.

Over the past three years, national parks within Midwest Region transferred nearly 800 bison to state and tribal governments through a transparent and collaborative process. During his tenure in the Midwest Region, Sholly also has overseen several major planning processes, including the recent signing of the record of decision to reintroduce wolves to Isle Royale National Park. The region also supported efforts with states to develop wildlife and land management plans, including a plan to address chronic wasting disease in elk populations in South Dakota. He has improved business processes in the region and collaborated with partners on a variety of complex and important park issues. In 2016, Sholly also established a regional Office of American Indian Affairs in order to build stronger tribal relations across the region.

From 2012 to 2015, Sholly served as the associate director for visitor and resource protection in WASO, where he managed a national portfolio that included wilderness stewardship, fire and aviation management, risk management, public health, ranger law enforcement, regulations, and the United States Park Police. As associate director, Sholly guided the development and implementation of a national employee safety strategy which has helped dramatically reduce employee fatalities across the bureau. He also approved new national policies for wilderness stewardship, law enforcement, wildland fire, and many other NPS programs.

From 2009 to 2012, Sholly served as the superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway, overseeing NPS operations within a 444-mile-long, three-state corridor that includes 25 counties and 20 communities, with approximately 6 million visitors annually. In 2011, Sholly was named superintendent of the year in the Southeast Region for his sustained partnership and business planning efforts within the corridor.

Sholly's other previous assignments include chief of staff and deputy to the associate director for visitor and resource protection in WASO, a detail as special assistant to the NPS director, and chief of the ranger operations branch in Yosemite National Park. Sholly is a U.S. Army veteran who served in both infantry and combat military police assignments. He was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-1991.

Sholly has a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University with curriculum concentrations in environmental economics and law and policy. He earned a bachelor's degree in management from St. Mary's College of California, and is a graduate of the Harvard University Senior Executive Fellows Program.

In 2015, Sholly was awarded the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award for his executive leadership actions. He has been married for the past 21 years to Jill Walston Sholly. They have a high school-aged son.

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

## **NPS Alumni**

### **Ed Bearss Receives Lifetime Achievement Award**

Ed Bearss, former NPS chief historian (1981-1994), received the American Battlefield Trust's Lifetime Achievement Award in early June.

The event was described by Jim Lightizer, ABT's president, in a recent email posting:

"This week marked our first annual conference as the American Battlefield Trust, and we couldn't imagine a more fitting way to commemorate the occasion than by honoring legendary historian and storyteller Edwin C. Bearss.

"Ed accepted our re-dedicated Lifetime Achievement Award during an emotional ceremony in historic Newport News, Virginia. Ed also became the first inductee in our newly established Battlefield Preservation Hall of Fame. To represent his enduring contributions to history and preservation, the Trust will also be erecting a granite monument to Bearss on the Champion Hill battlefield in Mississippi."

Lightizer then listed some of the reasons for presenting the award to him:

- A keen and curious mind – From his dynamic and detail-rich tours to his recovery of the lost U.S.S. Cairo gunboat, Ed's phenomenal memory and tenacious curiosity have made him a powerhouse of knowledge and discovery.
- Singular charisma – As *Smithsonian Magazine* put it, "In Civil War circles, Bearss is nothing short of a rock star." Known for his booming voice and theatrical delivery, Ed inspires audiences to brave all kinds of weather to learn about history.



- Humility – In the words of friend and colleague Bill Vodra, a “Bearss groupie” who frequently travels with Ed on his history tours, “He's not pedantic and not a showoff. If he gets something wrong, he'll say, ‘Thank you for correcting me.’”
- Relevant experience – Growing up hearing personal accounts of the war from a veteran in his hometown of Billings, Montana, Ed was immersed in Civil War history from a young age. Later, he experienced the pain and camaraderie of war firsthand while serving in the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion during World War II.
- Respect – A common thread throughout Ed's career is his deep respect for people, land, and stories. This reverence has unified his diverse talents and interests, making him the exceptional historian and preservationist he is today.

More information: [American Battlefield Trust webpage](#).

## **NPS Alumni**

### **Passing Of Paul Chiles**

Career NPS interpretive ranger Paul Chiles, 69, died in Inwood, West Virginia, on June 22nd.

Paul graduated from Kemper Military Academy and the University of Nebraska, receiving a degree in U.S. history. He served as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Paul was a leading authority on historic weapons and lectured frequently on them and other historical topics throughout the nation. He served for many years as a historic weapons officer and black powder safety officer for the National Park Service. He was a life member of the National Rifle Association.

During his career, Paul worked at Gettysburg National Military Park, Badlands National Park and finally Antietam National Battlefield. He remained at Antietam for nearly 30 years, serving as chief of interpretation and chief historian and leading for the public and VIP's, including Premier Ehud Barak of Israel.

Paul managed the largest costumed volunteer interpretive program in the National Park Service, which included demonstrations of artillery, cavalry, and infantry tactics and camp life. The park's annual torchlight tour, which depicted life around Sharpsburg, including medical care after the battle, was very popular. With his guidance, the entire Antietam volunteer program won the Take Pride in America award, which included a White House ceremony.

Paul was a nationally known authority on artillery in the Civil War and at his death was writing a major study of artillery at Antietam. His previous writings include National Park Service interpretive pamphlets, book reviews for Civil War publications, and authorship of a special issue of *Blue and Gray Magazine* entitled “Artillery Hell.”

Paul was active in many organizations – the Sharpsburg Lions, American Legion, Hagerstown Civil War Round Table, Harpers Ferry Civil War Round Table (past president) and The Council on America's Past. He leaves a legacy of knowledge and of many accomplishments in the field of Civil War studies, and will be remembered for his fair treatment of his friends, park staff, and visitors to Antietam.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Chiles; her son, Brian Ferris and wife, Kimberly; and grandson, Ethan. He also leaves his sister, Annette Shneider, her daughter, Susie Nelson and husband, Curt, and their daughter, Katie.

In lieu of flowers please donate to The American Battlefield Trust, 1140 Professional Court, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

Source: [HeraldMailMedia.com](#).

## **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:

**Member's Letter On Protecting Land And Water Conservation Fund** – Member and past CPANP chair Maureen Finnerty has a letter in the June 25th *Miami Herald* in which she implores Secretary Zinke and Florida's Congressional delegation to “work to bring LWCF back from the brink of extinction.” While she was superintendent at Everglades, she says, LWCF provided (and continues to provide) an important funding source for the Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Plan. It will expire if not reauthorized by September 30th. Source: [Miami Herald](#).

**Add Your Voice On LWCF Reauthorization** – Reminder: Phil Francis, chair of the Coalition's executive board, has sent out an action alert calling on members to write personal letters to their representative and two senators urging them to reauthorize the LWCF. Letters should go out by the end of July at the latest. The [action alert](#) contains talking points for your use. Source: [CPANP Action Alert](#).

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

## **News 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.

### **National Park System**

Stories and articles pertaining to the parks, regions, technical and training centers, and WASO.

**NPS Search And Rescue Costs** – Fox News has an article on its webpage by Amy Lieu about the cost of SAR operations in the national parks. Last year they cost more than \$3 million, with Grand Canyon and Yosemite not surprisingly accounting for a high percentage of operations. Servicewide – the 290 SARs in Grand Canyon and 233 in Yosemite together came to 18% of the total of those conducted nationwide. The article contains other stats and several photos and graphics. It draws no conclusions about whether or not the cost is justified. Source: [Fox News](#).

**SAR Operations Increase Greatly In Utah Parks** – ABC News ran a story on June 24th on the dramatic increase in searches and rescues in Utah's national parks, which have increased by 68% since 2014. Most of them involved young men in their 20s. Zion and Bryce Canyon led the field – rangers helped 114 people in Zion in 2017, a 42 percent increase from three years ago; rescues at Bryce Canyon tripled from 19 in 2014 to 86 last year. Source: [ABC News](#).

**Social Media Having Impacts On Mountaineering Accidents** – “From the slopes of Mount Adams and across much of the West, there's growing concern that social media may be playing a role in the increasing number of mountaineering accidents,” reports Kaitlin Bain in the *Yakima Herald-Republic*. “While hard data is lacking, experts point to anecdotal evidence suggesting that social media is prompting more people to head into rugged backcountry where accidents appear to be growing.” People using social media are making more remote locations known to the public; the nature of social media messages – brief, superficial and photogenic – can mislead others as to the difficulty of access and the amount of preparation required, thereby leading to people getting in over their heads and having accidents. Source: [Yakima Herald-Republic](#).

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

- *Gateway Arch NP* – “On July 3, one of this country’s most recognizable landmarks will be reintroduced to the world with a new name, a new museum and a substantial redesign of its urban landscape,” writes Phillip Kennicott in the *Washington Post*. “A half-century after Eero Saarinen’s Gateway Arch was inaugurated in 1968, it has been reconnected to the city of St. Louis, with a sleek underground entrance facing the city, an expanded and redesigned visitor center and museum, a cleaner landscape and an elevated and more elegant waterfront along the Mississippi River. An old parking garage has been removed and a parklike pedestrian platform over Interstate 44 allows visitors from downtown St. Louis to visit the city’s most popular attraction without having to brave traffic lanes.” The article also includes an analysis of some of the reasons for the name change and how they reflect changing perceptions of America’s westward expansion. Source: [Washington Post](#).
- *Yosemite NP* – The park is now giving visitors the opportunity to purchase their park entrance passes electronically through a system called YourPassNow. Once visitors purchase and save their digital pass to their cell phone, or print and bring their purchased pass with them, rangers will scan their pass at the entrance station. The new service will give visitors the choice of purchasing a park pass in advance or purchasing a pass in person at the entrance station. Source: [KMPH News](#).
- *Manassas NBP* – Archaeologists have found a “limb pit” where two soldiers and the amputated arms and legs of other soldiers were buried. “Nothing like it has been found before,” reports the *Washington Post*, “and a century and a half after the battle, when a Park Service archaeologist examined the fallen Yankee’s thigh bone, the bullet was still stuck in it.” The men were Union soldiers who were shot during the Second Battle of Manassas. Source: [Washington Post](#).
- *Grand Canyon NP* – The park has asked North Rim visitors to limit their water usage as crews work to fix a pump that supplies water. They’ve been asked to flush toilets less frequently and take shorter showers, North Kaibab Trail backpackers must hike in their own water, and the Grand Canyon Lodge is using disposable plates and is serving water only on request. Source: [KJZZ News](#).
- *The Presidio* – Fort Winfield Scott, part of the Presidio of San Francisco and Golden Gate NRA, is about to become a major new public facility. In January, the Presidio Trust put out a [request for concept proposals](#) from parties interested in turning its collection of 22 buildings into a “Campus for Change,” with an estimated \$200 million cost of revitalization. Proposals are due this month. The Presidio Trust is seeking “a mission-driven organization to transform Fort Scott into a campus for environmental and/or social change.” Source: [SF Weekly](#).
- *Voyageurs NP* – The United States Mint has issued its newest park quarter, this one for Voyageurs National Park. The coin design depicts a common loon with a rock cliff in the background. It was launched at a ceremony in the park on June 14th. Source: [International Falls Journal](#).
- *Petrified Forest NP* – The park has been officially designated as an International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark-Sky Association. In order to qualify for such recognition, a site has to possess “an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment.” Achieving official Dark Sky Park status is an extensive process, and park staff worked for years to gather and interpret night sky data, make lighting retrofits, meet all criteria for official IDA designation, and prepare the 100+ page application. Source: [International Dark-Sky Association](#).
- *Sequoia NP* – The dilapidated 1964 backcountry ranger station, formally called a “wilderness visitor contact station,” located at the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp is being replaced. Crews are currently in the process of modifying the foundation and building the floor for a new station. Over past weeks, the park helicopter transported lumber, plywood, and rebar, all materials

that cannot be safely hauled via pack stock. At the same time, materials from the deconstructed cabin were back-hauled, a practice that park managers use to reduce the total number of helicopter flights over wilderness. The park stock don't get to sit this one out though. The mules have delivered 150 bags of cement to the project site. Source: [Kaweah Commonwealth](#).

- *Hot Springs NP* – Renovation has begun on a \$1.25 million project that will transform the historic Hale Bath House into a “boutique hotel.” The work is being done under a lease signed last August. See the article for details. Source: [Arkansas Online](#).
- *Yellowstone NP* – Yellowstone Forever is providing \$5.9 million to fund 53 priority park projects, including its wolf program, trailhead information displays, and black bear research. The article also includes details on some of the projects. Source: [Explore Big Sky](#).

**Public Comments Solicited** – A listing of planned actions in parks open to public comment, arranged in chronological order by their closing dates. New entries are in **dark red**:

- *Alaska Region: Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves* – An NPS-proposed rulemaking entitled “Alaska; Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves” was posted in the May 22nd edition of the Federal Register. Here’s the synopsis: “The National Park Service proposes to amend its regulations for sport hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska. This proposed rule would remove a regulatory provision issued by the National Park Service in 2015 that prohibited certain sport hunting practices that are otherwise permitted by the State of Alaska. These proposed changes are consistent with Secretary of the Interior Orders 3347 and 3356.” The notice provides background information on the proposed revision and details on the changes that will be made to 36 CFR 13.42. Closes: **July 23rd**. [Federal Register link](#).
- *Yellowstone NP: Lewis River Bridge Replacement* – The park is looking at the possibility of replacing the existing 273-foot long Lewis River Bridge, built in 1960, in order to address widespread deterioration. Closes: **July 23rd**. [PEPC link](#).
- *Canaveral NS: Space Coast Trail Bike Path* – The Coast to Coast trail network is at its core designed to complement and enhance existing and planned recreation areas. The Space Coast Trail portion of the overall trail would provide a link to/from larger recreation areas such as Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Canaveral National Seashore, Parrish Park, Haulover Canal and other numerous sites currently permitted for public use. Closes: **August 31st**. [PEPC link](#).
- *Redwood N&SP: Greater Prairie Creek Ecosystem Restoration* – The NPS and the California Department of Parks and Recreation are beginning the planning process for restoration of the Greater Prairie Creek watershed through forest and aquatic restoration and road removal. Closes: **August 6th**. [PEPC link](#).
- *Gulf Islands NS: Backcountry Stewardship Plan* – Access to backcountry camping by hiking in has been temporarily suspended due to increased resource damage by irresponsible campers over the past several years. The park is committed to evaluating a range of alternatives for managing use of the back country camping area at the Perdido Key area. Ideas are solicited from the public. Closes: **October 31st**. [PEPC link](#).

## **Editorial Opinions**

Links to editorials and op-ed commentary on issues pertaining either directly or indirectly to the National Park Service.

- “[Don’t Let The Mall Become An Untouchable Relic](#),” Editorial Board, *Washington Post*. Topic and opinion: The newspaper objects to an NPS draft proposal to ban organized sports and

recreational activities on the National Mall: “The plan, though well-intentioned, should be rethought.”

- [“Grizzly Bears Not Safe In Our Oldest National Park,”](#) Maria Fotopoulos, *Times Herald*, Port Huron, Michigan. Topic: Wyoming grizzly hunt and impacts on Greater Yellowstone Area.
- [“The Truth About Fish And Wildlife Management In Alaska,”](#) Sam Cotton, Anchorage Daily News. Topic and opinion: Cotten, the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, speaks out in support of the recently proposed amendments to hunting and trapping practices on national preserves.
- [“Let the States Manage Resources on Federal Lands,”](#) Nicolas Loris, *Washington Times*, reprinted on the Heritage Foundation webpage. Topic and opinion: Full responsibility for energy management should be turned over from the federal government to the states, as per a bill now in Congress, because state management would be more efficient.
- [“Don’t Let Politicians Kill Conservation’s Bank Account,”](#) Ben Long, *High Country News*. Topic and opinion: Editorial strongly supportive of renewing the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## **From The Archives**

This section contains incidents taken from *Morning Report* issues published during the corresponding week (approximately) 25 years ago. This week we go back to June, 1993. All entries appear in the original verb tense.

- *Glen Canyon National Recreation Area* – The Memorial Day weekend literally began with a bang when a 36-foot homemade houseboat blew up at Lone Rock at noon on Thursday, May 27th. Although there were no injuries, the blast, which was caused by a propane leak, caused \$75,000 in damage to the boat. The centers of subsequent activities at the park were Hobie Cat Beach, Lone Rock Beach and Antelope Point. There were between 8,000 and 10,000 youths at Hobie Cat throughout the weekend. Although binge drinking was common, there were few medical emergencies and no deaths. For the second year in a row, there were gangs present at both beaches. Two unidentified white gangs showed up at Lone Rock and apparently engaged in racial attacks against blacks; all reports were by third parties, though, and rangers were unable to confirm the incidents or make contact with either group. Tongan groups were again present at Hobie Cat. In one incident, they retaliated against a couple for stealing firewood by severely beating both of them with boards. The male lost six or eight of his front teeth and also suffered facial fractures. Activities there this year featured a female strip show and open performance of sexual acts. Representatives from approximately ten agencies were at Hobie Cat, but only two were at Lone Rock. Because of the decrease in EMS calls, rangers and officers were able to allocate more time to law enforcement. There were 124 arrests, almost all involving alcohol violations (DUI, boating under the influence, public intoxication and fighting), and 262 citations. The U.S. magistrate heard 78 cases over the weekend from Hobie Cat Beach alone. There were 40 drug arrests; associated with these arrests were the seizures of five vehicles, a 40-foot motor home, and a 35-foot fifth-wheel camper. This year, Hobie Cat attracted persons from as far away as California, Oregon and Alabama. The park brought in assistance from several areas, including Washington and San Francisco. Most of the drug cases were made through the use of two undercover USPP officers from San Francisco and a canine officer and his dog from Washington. The latter worked with counter-narcotics rangers and local sheriff’s department officers. At one point, an undercover Utah Bureau of Investigation officer approached a ranger, advised him that the beach was unsafe for uniformed officers, and suggested that he leave.
- *El Malpais National Monument* – On June 9, 1992, rangers intercepted about two dozen people exiting the park with a variety of artifacts. Upon further inquiry, the rangers learned that a member of the group, Steve Hoskins, was operating an outfitter guide service for treasure hunters, and that he had charged each of the individuals \$5,000 to hunt for treasure. Hoskins

had spoken before a dozen service clubs in the Denver area between September, 1991, and February, 1992, and had told listeners that he knew the location of Spanish treasure worth millions which had been lost in 1756. He said that interested persons could join him in the recovery effort for \$5,000 each. About 30 men joined up; together with silent partners, they paid Hoskins about \$130,000. The expedition then headed for El Malpais. Hoskins was unable to "find" the cave with the gold, but did come upon and remove a black-on-white Anasazi ladle from about 1050 AD. When contacted by El Malpais and BLM rangers and other enforcement officers, they also had pottery and World War II bomb parts in their packs. The artifacts, packs, tools and a .357 revolver belonging to Hoskin's son were seized. The subsequent investigation by El Malpais rangers Cindy Ott-Jones and Al King and BLM agents Steve Fleming and Ed Petrovsky resulted in interviews with all participants. Rocky Mountain Regional Office coordinated involvement of the IRS, Postal Service and Colorado attorney general's office. A search warrant was served on Hoskin's residence and documentary evidence was seized. Subpoenas produced bank records, testimony, car purchase data and other information. On June 10th, a Federal grand jury returned three felony mail fraud indictments against Hoskins. The indictments lead to front page news articles and radio and TV stories. A segment on NBC included hidden video and audio recordings of Hoskins soliciting participants. More legal actions, including ARPA charges, CFR misdemeanors and civil proceedings, are pending.

- *Mammoth Cave National Park* – On June 12th, a woman approached a young deer standing alongside the park's South Entrance Road, picked it up, and placed it in the front seat of her car. The entire episode was videotaped by two park visitors, who also recorded her saying that she was taking the deer to her home. The visitors notified rangers and turned the videotape over to them to help in the investigation. The rangers were able to identify the woman as a local resident. When they questioned her, she admitted to taking the deer. The animal was recovered and taken to a state rehabilitation center. The U.S. attorney's office is reviewing the case for prosecution.

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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**

"Parks are first-aid – also prevention. They prevent more law-breaking than policemen; cure more than physicians, give more ideas than sermons; more development than schools. The pace and pressure of modern life, its daily duties and examinations, require that everyone must be steadily refreshed, and for this sustaining and ever-invoking refreshment nature is a perennial, cheering source. Nature takes mind and body and puts them at their best. Here one comes to know himself and to be the self he would like to be. Nature is the lifesaver of the race; the great out-of-doors is the lifesaving station of the nation. Probably the best way to delay death, the best medicine to lengthen life, is to take to the woods. This life-sustaining prescription is most effective as a preventive and should be regularly used. Like a sermon, it should be taken once in a while whether needed or not. It is Mother Nature's cure-all, and there are no substitutes just as good..."

[Enos Mills](#), "father" of Rocky Mountain National Park

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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.

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