



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

**Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

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### **Incidents**

#### **Statue of Liberty National Monument Woman Arrested For Climbing Statue Of Liberty**

A woman wearing an anti-Trump T-shirt climbed the base of the Statue of Liberty on Independence Day, sparking a mass evacuation of Liberty Island and a nearly four-hour standoff with first responders before she was taken into custody.

The protester, identified as Therese Okoumou, 44, was seen scaling the base of the statue about 3 p.m., moments after the group Rise and Resist had begun a protest on the island against Immigration and Customs Enforcement and their actions in separating immigrant children from their parents along the border with Mexico. Okoumou then tied herself to a copper vent at the foot of the statue.

Okoumou's impromptu statue scaling triggered a call to police. Officers from NYPD's Emergency Services Unit spent more than three hours trying to talk her off the nearly 200-foot-high perch. She declined and threatened to push a ladder that officers were using to reach her off the statue's base. Once she was convinced by officers that they wanted her to come down safely, she became more cooperative. Okoumou was charged with trespassing, disorderly conduct and interference with government agency functions.

According to Rise and Resist, Okoumou's decision to climb the statue "was made independently of the group, without consulting any other member of the group," though they shared her desire to see children released from detention and reunited with their parents.

Park Police officers evacuated the island as a precaution as they tried to bring the climber down. Park workers also cordoned off the base of the statue with chairs to prevent anyone from getting close.

Sources: [New York Daily News](#) and [Wall Street Journal](#).

#### **Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Two Hikers Drown In Attempted River Crossing**

On July 2nd, rangers recovered the bodies of two hikers along the Sanford River. They were last seen on June 22nd, when they were dropped off by an air taxi operator at the Sanford Glacier airstrip less than two miles from where their bodies were found.

The backpackers were 62-year old Rochelle Renken and 62-year old Michael Huffman, both from Columbia, Missouri. Both were experienced backpackers and Renken had been to Alaska several times in the past and had previous experience crossing Alaskan rivers.

After the hikers failed to make their airstrip pick-up at the Dadina River on June 27th and missed two pre-planned satellite phone calls with the air taxi service, the service notified the park. Rangers launched an intensive aerial and ground search for the couple that day; by June 28th, there were 27 people and five aircraft involved in the search for the missing couple.

Search crews subsequently found footprints along the Sanford River where it emerges from the Sanford Glacier. They showed that two people were preparing for a river crossing at that location. Over the ensuing weekend, search crews found two backpacks and other backpacking gear strewn along a seven mile stretch of the river below the glacier, then discovered the footprints.

Water levels in the Sanford River receded on Friday and Saturday, leaving items stranded in dry channels along the river. Based on the evidence that was found by searchers, it appears that the couple attempted to cross the river near the toe of the glacier and were swept away by its powerful waters.

Source: [Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman](#).

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

Most of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park remains closed due to earthquakes, corrosive volcanic ash, and continuing explosions from Halema'uma'u, the summit crater of Kilauea Volcano. There's been little change since last week's report. For more information, go to the following sites or to the "source" link below:

- 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: [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park](#).

### **New River Gorge National River Body Of Man Who Drowned In Attempt To Help Child Recovered**

The body of 49-year-old Terrance Bell was recovered from the New River on the morning of Monday, June 25th. Bell drowned while trying to save a child who was struggling to swim the evening before.

The accident occurred at Fayette Station, a popular area for rafting companies and for people to have parties and picnics. Several children were swimming in the river with life jackets while other members of their family were preparing a picnic. When the children were called to come out of the water, one child didn't respond and appeared to be in distress. Several adults went into the water to help. While doing so, Bell disappeared under the water. He was not wearing a life jacket. Park crews searched for him through the night but without luck.

Several agencies assisted in the search and the investigation – Fayetteville Fire, Ansted Fire, Nuttall Fire, Oak Hill Fire, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and Jan-Care Ambulance Service.

Source: [WSAZ News](#).

### **Haleakala National Park Rangers Recover Poached Silversword Plants**

On Monday, June 25th, rangers and Maui PD officers recovered rare Haleakalā silversword plants or “ahinahina” that had been removed by a visitor from Haleakalā’s summit.

A park visitor witnessed an individual removing two “keiki” (juvenile) silversword plants from the ground earlier in the day and placing them in her clothing before leaving the area in a vehicle. The witness took a picture of the vehicle and immediately notified park staff, who then notified rangers. They were able to locate the woman in Paia Town about an hour later. She still had the plants in her possession. Charges are pending against her and against the driver of the vehicle.

Park biologists will attempt to replant the recovered silverswords. The Haleakalā silversword (*Argyroxiphium sandwicense* subsp. *macrocephalum*) is federally listed as threatened and found only on the slopes of Haleakalā at altitudes above 6,900 feet.

Source: [MauiNow](#).

### **North Cascades National Park Body Of Missing Hiker Found**

The body of a 31-year-old Seattle man who has been missing since June 16th was found last Tuesday in a remote wooded area near the park campground where he was last seen. As noted in the last issue, rangers and searchers from the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office had been looking for him ever since.

Casey Zippro was last seen at the campground on Saturday, June 16th. The friend he was camping with reported him missing the next day. Zippro’s death has been ruled a suicide.

Source: [Bellingham Herald](#).

### **Zion National Park Trail Closed Due To Rockfall**

A park trail has been closed due to two rock falls on successive days.

The park reported that the Hidden Canyon Trail would be shuttered on the July 4 holiday and at least through the following day until a hazard geologist could examine the area and the trail could be cleared.

The first rock fall occurred on the afternoon of Monday, July 2nd, along a 45-foot section of the strenuous trail where hikers must hold onto chains. A second rock fall occurred Tuesday. No injuries occurred in either rock fall.

Source: [KSL News](#).

### **Blue Ridge Parkway Man Gets Jail Term For Significant Vandalism**

A man who was arrested last October on multiple counts of vandalism on the Blue Ridge Parkway and in Shenandoah National Park was sentenced last month in the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

Joseph Duva of Charlottesville, Virginia, pled guilty to multiple vandalism related charges involving property damage to park signs, historic structures, mechanical equipment and vehicles. Duva was sentenced to 11 months in jail and three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$15,483 in restitution.

His arrest and charges stem from a high volume of vandalism on the Virginia side of the parkway and in Shenandoah between April and September 2017. The Blue Ridge Parkway spans 469 miles from Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to Cherokee, at the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina.

Source: [Asheville Citizen Times](#).

### **Great Smoky Mountains National Park Woman Dies In Bicycling Accident In Cades Cove**

A 55-year-old woman from Florida died after falling off her bicycle on the Cades Cove Loop Road on the afternoon of June 29th.

The cyclist, Sandra Hull, of Sarasota, Florida, fell off her bicycle near the exit on the Tennessee side of the Great Smokies. She sustained injuries to the back of her head and was flown to the University of Tennessee Medical Center, where she later died.

Hull was riding a rental bicycle and was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

Source: [Asheville Citizen-Times](#).

### **Grand Teton National Park Solo Climber Dies In Fall from Teewinot Mountain**

The body of Burak Akil, 27, was found on the east face of Teewinot Mountain on Monday, June 25th.

Akil was solo climbing when he fell while descending. He was wearing a helmet and equipped with appropriate climbing gear, including an ice axe and crampons.

When Akil did not report to work Monday morning, coworkers who knew he had been climbing in the park called the park's dispatch center and went to the Lupine Meadows Trailhead to search for his vehicle. The vehicle was found at the trailhead parking area.

Two rangers hiked the area at about 8:45 a.m. while other rangers scanned the peaks with spotting scopes and found an area of interest on Teewinot's east face. Rangers hiked to the location, confirmed the fatality at 11:45 a.m., and recovered the body.

Source: [Wayne Patch](#).

## **National Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center Wildfire Activity Accelerates; More Than 15,000 Firefighters Committed**

#### **Synopsis**

NIFC remains at Preparedness Level 3. Large fires are burning in a dozen states; together, they have burned more than 987,000 acres. The Martin Fire in Nevada displayed extreme fire behavior and increased in size by 160,000 acres on Monday. The Klamathon Fire in California also made a significant run of 15,000 acres.

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

No large fires are reported anywhere in the national park system.

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>June 19th</b>	<b>July 2nd</b>	<b>July 10th</b>
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	1	1

Type 1 Teams	1	2	5
Type 2 Teams	2	5	8
Crews	101	238	374
Engines	191	687	871
Helicopters	36	100	136
Total FF/Overhead	4,204	10,237	15,162

## **Fires/Acreage**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2018 Total</b>	<b>2007-2017 Ave</b>	<b>2018 Variance</b>
Year-to-Date Fires	33,574	31,219	- 2,355
Year-to-Date Acres	2,616,134	3,270,089	+ 653,955

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.

### **Department of the Interior Zinke Provides Update On DOI Reorganization**

On June 21st, Secretary Zinke sent out an all employee message to the "Interior Team" entitled "Update on Departmental Reorganization." The full text follows:

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In response to President Trump's March 13, 2017 Executive Order to reorganize the executive branch, I have worked with many of you over the past year on a plan to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the Department of the Interior by reorganizing certain Agency functions and Bureaus.

You have been an important part of the process; I appreciate all the feedback you have given to help reorganize DOI to be a better steward of the land and wildlife that we manage, and better meet the needs of the American people in the 21st century.

Today, President Trump reaffirmed our reform efforts when he announced a proposal to merge administrative responsibilities of other Agencies into DOI to improve the efficiency of the regulatory process.

First, under the proposal, the Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service would return to DOI and merge with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This would consolidate the administration of the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act into one Agency within DOI. This merger would also combine the two Agencies' science and management capacity, resulting in more consistent Federal fisheries and wildlife policy and improved service to the public, particularly on infrastructure permitting.

Second, DOI would take on certain duties of the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works, including flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and other regulatory activities. This realignment would allow for more rational public policy outcomes and better investments.

Third, some of DOI's environmental cleanup programs would be consolidated into the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program. This consolidation would reduce the number of decisions and

approvals, eliminate policy inconsistency among Agencies, and expedite the cleanup of contaminated sites.

These proposed reforms underscore the Administration's commitment to put the American people first and hold the Government accountable. They align with our efforts at DOI to reduce administrative redundancy and jurisdictional and organizational barriers to citizen service, share resources more effectively, improve coordination, and facilitate joint problem solving and effective decision making.

With your continued support, we will make DOI a more effective agency.

I am proud of the work you are doing. Thank you for the passion, dedication, and service you bring to your jobs each day. We will continue to engage with you all as we move forward. In addition, we will continue to communicate with Congress and various stakeholders who will play a part in making this reorganization a success.

If you have ideas or questions, please don't hesitate to share them by emailing [reorg@doi.gov](mailto:reorg@doi.gov) or visiting [www.doi.gov/employees/reorg](http://www.doi.gov/employees/reorg) .

## **Capitol Hill Weekly Legislative Roundup**

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

On June 22nd, the president signed the following bills into law:

- H.R. 1397, to authorize a land exchange between the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center of the Federal Highway Administration to allow better access to the center. (P.L. 115-190).
- H.R. 1719, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, for inclusion in the John Muir National Historic Site. (P.L. 115-191).

### ***Senate***

On June 28th, the Senate passed S. Res. 568, designating June 2018 as "Great Outdoors Month".

### ***House***

On June 25th, the House passed:

- H.R. 5751, to redesignate the Golden Spike National Historic Site as the Golden Spike National Historical Park, and to establish the Transcontinental Railroad Network, which shall consist of all units and programs of the National Park Service that are determined by the secretary to relate to the history, construction, and legacy of the Transcontinental Railroad and other federal, State, local, and privately-owned properties that have a verifiable connection to the railroad. The network also would produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials relating to the railroad and be authorized to enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance to related properties, and to create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the network.
- H.R. 805, to allow for the conveyance of two properties, and the relinquishment of their reversionary interest, currently owned by the Union Pacific Railroad, to the City of Tulare, California, which uses the properties for youth recreational opportunities.
- H.R. 857, to provide for conservation and enhanced recreation activities in the California Desert Conservation Area. The bill makes several changes to the California Desert Conservation Act (P.L. 103-433), including provisions to expand Death Valley National Park Wilderness by 88,000 acres (the Senate bill, S. 32, proposes 92,000 acres); designate one acre of land, the Mormon Peak Microwave Facility, within Death Valley National Park, as potential wilderness; transfer 35,292 acres from BLM to the NPS to add to the boundary of Death Valley National Park (S. 32 proposes 40,000 acres); transfer 25 acres from BLM to the NPS in Mojave

National Preserve where an NPS-owned maintenance facility exists (S. 32 has the same provision); transfer 2,900 acres from BLM to the NPS along the northern boundary of Joshua Tree National Park and adjust the boundary for a donation of 1,600 acres from the Mojave Desert Land Trust (S. 32 has the same provisions); authorize the NPS to acquire the Joshua Tree Visitor Center outside the boundary of the park, now owned by the Joshua Tree National Park Association (S. 32 has the same provision); designate as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 7.5 miles of Amargosa River and 7 miles of Surprise Canyon Creek, both near Death Valley National Park (S. 32 has the same provision).

- H.R. 1791, to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area.
- 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.

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

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

### **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Pamela Rice Takes Over As Superintendent**

Pamela Rice has been named superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve. Rice, currently an assistant superintendent at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, will assume her new duties on July 22nd.

Rice is now assistant superintendent for external affairs at Glen Canyon and Rainbow Bridge National Monument. Her work there has included forging a partnership with Page, Arizona, to manage the heavily visited Horseshoe Bend area and an agreement with air tour operators to manage flights near Rainbow Bridge and other park sites sacred to American Indian tribes.

In 2017, Rice served four months as acting superintendent of Capitol Reef National Park. She also was acting superintendent of Kenai Fjords National Park for four months in 2013.

Rice joined the NPS in 2007 as an interpretive ranger in Alaska, where she had worked for several years for the Bureau of Land Management. She was chief of interpretation for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve from 2009 to 2015. She then worked two years in legislative affairs in Washington, DC, as a Bevinetto Congressional Fellow.

Rice has a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from Texas A&M University and two master's degrees – one in interpretation and environmental education from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and one in cross-cultural studies and leadership from Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Source: [Alamosa News](#).

### **Great Basin National Park James Woolsey Selected As Park's Superintendent**

James Woolsey has been named the next superintendent of Great Basin National Park. He replaces Steve Mietz, who was promoted to superintendent of Redwood National & State Parks.

Woolsey has more than 25 years of experience working at sites of natural and historical significance, including 20 years with the National Park Service and five years with the American Battle Monuments Commission. He is currently the superintendent of both Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Massachusetts and Coltsville National Historical Park in Connecticut. Woolsey is expected to report to Great Basin National Park in late July.



Over his career, Woolsey has served at national parks in the Washington D.C. area, New England, Utah and the California Mojave Desert. In 2006, he took an assignment in France with the American Battle Monuments Commission. The commission manages 24 overseas U.S. military cemeteries and 25 monuments located in France, England, Holland, Belgium, Tunisia, Philippines, Mexico, Italy, and Luxembourg. For two years Woolsey was the director of visitor services at the Normandy American Cemetery. He was later promoted to be the commission's Paris-based director of interpretation and visitor services for all 24 overseas cemeteries. He returned stateside and rejoined the National Park Service in 2011 as the superintendent at Springfield Armory and Coltsville.

Woolsey holds a bachelor's degree in history from Humboldt State University and a master's degree in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Source: [Great Basin 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.

**History Of Coalition Published** – Retired NPS historian and CPANP member Janet McDonnell has written a history of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks. The decision to do this was made at the Coalition Executive Council meeting last December. The council felt it was very important to capture this detailed history. Janet played a key role in the 2016 Coalition centennial biographies, writing many and editing all of them. Her work is a fitting way to celebrate the Coalition's 15th birthday in 2018. You can read Janet's work at this link: [The Coalition To Protect America's Parks: An Early History](#).

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Other CPANP news, including Coalition actions, can be read about in the [July 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.

## **Government and Administration**

Stories and articles about DOI, the government and the administration.

**Reactions Continue To Dan Wenk's Removal From Yellowstone** – Secretary Zinke's decision to forcibly move Superintendent Dan Wenk out of Yellowstone, which led to his decision to retire, continues to draw outraged comments from numerous people and publications. Here are some recent articles:

- ["Is the DOI Strong-Arming National Park Leaders?"](#), *Outside Magazine* – "Dan Wenk was a career Park Service official who was well-respected by Republicans and Democrats. But he made the mistake of disagreeing with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke."
- ["The New West: The Dishonorable Ousting of Wenk,"](#) *Planet Jackson Hole* – "After 42.5 years toiling for the same company, doing exceptional, laudable things on behalf of the clients who pay his salary, most employees would at least get a gold watch of gratitude...Wenk [instead] was notified he had been officially replaced via an Interior Department press release that was emailed out and which didn't even mention his name."



- [“Zinke Playing Politics In Yellowstone?”](#), *Billings Gazette* – “If Wenk’s ouster is a political power play, Zinke should know that the world is watching.”
- [“Wenk’s Ouster Raises Concern For Park Policy,”](#) *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* – “It wasn’t that long ago – a few decades at most – when high-level supervisory land-management positions in the Park Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were largely apolitical. They were held by highly experienced professionals with long records of applying science to land and wildlife management issues. These latest moves by Zinke and the Trump administration signal these critical posts will now go to those more supportive of the administration’s positions, regardless what’s best for the natural resources involved. And that’s truly unfortunate. American national parks, forests, wildlife and other publicly owned natural resources must not be entrusted to the volatile whims of politicians.”
- [“House Democrats Call Upon Zinke To Explain Forced Transfer of Dan Wenk,”](#) *Mountain Journal* – “A ranking Democrat on the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee and 13 Congressional colleagues are calling upon U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to explain the forced removal of Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk from the helm of America’s first national park.”
- [“Zinke Sounds Off On Yellowstone Head's Departure”](#), Yellowstone Public Radio – Zinke says that Wenk was forced out of his job early in part because Superintendent Dan Sholly’s teenage son wanted to start the new school year in Montana.

## **National Park System**

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

**Still No Nominee For Director – But Maybe Soon** – Boise State Public Radio ran a story on June 29th on the lack of agency directors in DOI and the impact this is having on the respective agencies: “A year and a half into the Trump presidency and several federal land agencies do not have directors, including the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Former land managers say the lack of leadership has grave consequences for the future of public lands.” According to an edition of *The Hill* published on July 3rd, though, it appears that Dave Vela, currently superintendent of Grand Teton National Park, will soon be nominated. Sources: [Boise State Public Radio](#) and [The Hill](#).

**Panoramic Paintings Of Several Parks Now Available Online** – The iconic illustrations by Austrian artist Heinrich Berann have been digitized in high resolution for the first time, three decades after they were created. The panoramas were created in the 1980s and 90s as part of a poster program to promote the national parks. Source: [National Geographic](#).

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

- *Arches NP* – The July 2nd edition of the *New York Times* has a long article by John O’Connor entitled “The Balancing Act of Arches,” with this subtitle: “Decades ago, the pioneering writer Edward Abbey immortalized then-empty Arches National Park. Can it survive the modern influx of visitors?” O’Connor describes the dramatic changes in the park between the mid-1950s, when Abbey was a ranger there (which he wrote about in the legendary *Desert Solitaire*), and the present – visitation now runs to about 1.8 million people per year, as opposed to 25,000 in Abbey’s day, a 7000% increase. O’Connor also notes that similar crowding, with all the associated problems, is now common in parks across the nation. Source: [New York Times](#).
- *Glacier NP* – The Service has issued the results of an independent review and investigation of the fire that burned the dormitory of the Sperry Chalet in August 2017. The review outlines the origins and growth of the Sprague fire over the course of the three weeks that passed before it reached the Sperry Chalet complex. It concludes that, despite the best efforts of firefighters to

protect all the structures at Sperry Chalet, an ember entered the structure near a second story window and ignited the wooden portion of the structure. Source: [KSEN News](#).

- *National Mall* – A federal commission has approved a site on the National Mall for the future National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial. The U.S. Commission on Fine Arts voted to place it on one-quarter acre at the southwest corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, just north of the Lincoln Memorial. Source: [Military.com](#).
- *Lake Clark NP&P* – Constantine Metal Resources, a mineral exploration company from Canada, has signed an agreement with an Alaska Native regional corporation to study a long-dormant gold prospect on native land within the park. The company plans to finalize a 10-year lease with a native corporation for 21,000 acres on the west side of Cook Inlet near Tuxedni Bay. Source: [Anchorage Daily News](#).
- *Golden Gate NRA* – The docks where thousands of tourists board boats for Alcatraz Island each day will be turned into a shiny new welcome center with expanded ferry service, including possible trips to Fort Baker in Sausalito, under a plan that has been approved by the Port of San Francisco. Nearly a decade in the making, the \$34 million overhaul of Piers 31, 31½ and 33 on the Embarcadero is part of a 30-year deal that the port’s governing board signed off on with the National Park Service. Source: [San Francisco Chronicle](#).
- *Baltimore-Washington Parkway* – DOI has agreed to study ways of transferring ownership of a 19-mile stretch of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (Interstate 295) to Maryland. The two parties have signed a non-binding general agreement to “explore potential legislative solutions” to transfer or exchange the expressway section that runs through Prince George’s and Anne Arundel counties. Secretary Zinke expressed optimism for a potential trade for “land more suited to the mission of the National Park Service,” which manages the parkway. The highway, which runs between Baltimore and Washington, carries about 120,000 commuters per day. Source: [Baltimore Sun](#).
- *Canyon de Chelly NM* – An agreement has been signed by the Navajo Nation, BIA and the NPS that defines the management roles of the three agencies and lays the groundwork for cooperative stewardship of the park. It comes 86 years after the park’s creation. Source: [Navajo Times](#).
- *Redwood N&SP* – The Klamath River Renewal Project is proposing to remove four hydroelectric dams along the river, which runs through the park. The dam removal and river restoration project, which will be the largest dam removal project in U.S. history, is expected to improve water quality, revive fisheries, create local jobs, and boost tourism and recreation. Source: [Eureka Times-Standard](#).
- *John Muir NHS* – A new law recently signed by the president will increase the size of the park by 44 acres. The John Muir Land Trust donated the land, which is on the south side of Mount Wanda. Because the parcel is too large for the National Park Service to acquire administratively, the transfer required Congressional approval. Source: [Martinez News-Gazette](#).
- *Denali NP* – Climbing season on Denali has ended – there are no more mountaineering or ranger teams on North America’s tallest peak. Out of just over 1,100 climbers who made the attempt, 45% reached the summit this season. There have been no fatalities in the Alaska Range this year, which is the first time in 15 years that there has not been either a medical or climbing related death on Denali. Source: [KTNA News](#).
- *USS Arizona Memorial* – Plans to reopen the site by the Fourth of July proved optimistic, as it’s taken longer than anticipated to figure out how to repair the dock that allows visitors to board the memorial, which rests on pilings over the sunken battleship. The memorial is one of the most-visited tourism sites in Hawaii, and it’s unclear when it will be reopened. The anchoring

system that holds the dock in place has partially failed and a solution has yet to be found.

Source: *Los Angeles Times*.

**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](#).
- *Stonewall NM: Draft Foundation Document* – The park’s draft foundation document is open for comments through the rest of the month. Closes: **July 31st**. [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.

- “[A Modest Proposal: Make the National Parks Free](#),” Rachel Zurer, *Backpacker Magazine*. Zurer argues that entrance fees don’t do much to fund maintenance backlog issues. Better to have the parks open and free as they once were: “There’s a sense of invitation that emerges when we remove the financial gate in front of the crown jewels of our wilderness system. It’s the difference in tone between being welcomed as a beloved guest and being accommodated as a paying customer. With doors flung wide open, the message is: Come. This is your home, your place. You belong here.”
- “[Don’t Let The Mall Become An Untouchable Relic](#),” Editorial Board, *Washington Post*. 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.”

- [“Changes At Interior,”](#) Editorial Board, *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*. The paper reports on a meeting with David Bernhardt, Zinke’s deputy, during a visit to the area and comments favorably on Zinke’s planned reorganization of the department: “We can argue about the policy goals of the department, but the streamlining of process and decisiveness is a welcome change.”
- [“In A Heating-Up West, Must Business-As-Usual Conservation Be Interrupted?,”](#) conservationist Lance Olsen, *Mountain Journal*. Olsen “reviews reasons to accept that we can’t restore ecosystems to what they were, can’t keep them as they are, and that heresy may be our best path to hope.” His question to fellow conservationists: “Is it time to walk away from forests and wildlife we hold dear, and devote our time and efforts to species that have a chance in a hotter, drier Northern Rockies region?”

## **From The Archives**

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

- *Yellowstone National Park* – Several park concession employees wandered off a designated trail in the Old Faithful Fountain Paint Pots thermal area around midnight on June 21st; one of the members of the group, a 20-year-old woman, subsequently broke through a thin crust area and received second degree burns to her left foot and ankle. She was driven 42 miles back to her dormitory in the Canyon Subdistrict before a request for assistance was made to NPS personnel. A park medic responded and provided medical treatment. The woman was then taken to Lake Hospital. Alcohol was a contributing factor in the accident, which is still under investigation.
- *North Cascades National Park* – On June 18th, a juvenile from Clarkstown, Washington, was parking a van borrowed from the Stehekin Valley Ranch at the Stehekin landing when she lost control, ran over a retaining block, and entered Lake Chelan. The vehicle floated upright, but soon started to fill with water. The driver was able to lower her window and exit the van, but her mother had difficulty getting out the passenger side window. Marc Brown, a North Cascades Lodge concession employee, yelled for help and jumped into the frigid water. Brown was able to pull the mother from the vehicle and get her to an adjacent dock, where bystanders helped her out of the water. Brown then swam back to the driver, who was disoriented and hyperventilating, and helped her swim to the dock. None of the three was injured in the incident. The van submerged in Lake Chelan within minutes. Scuba divers dove down 20 feet to the van the following day, attached cables to it, and removed it from the lake. The incident is under investigation.
- *Colonial National Historical Park* – Three North Carolina men were arraigned in federal district court in Newport News, Virginia, on July 1st after a grand jury returned felony indictments for ARPA violations, conspiracy, theft and destruction of government property. The three men had been caught digging in the park in November. A lengthy investigation led to discovery of the following: One of the men met with the owner of a Civil War museum in Williamsburg last summer and showed him a topographical map of the Yorktown area of the park, which was the site of a Civil War siege. On November 10, 1992, the three men traveled to Yorktown and scouted the area for Civil War objects. About a week and a half later, the men parked in an isolated area, unloaded their equipment, then began scouring the battlefield area for artifacts. On November 19th and 20th, they allegedly dug up 214 artifacts from the Civil War and possibly the Revolutionary War. A search of their car by arresting rangers led to the discovery of metal detectors equipped with headsets, hand spades, camouflage clothing, topographical maps, Civil War artifact price guides, a Civil War battlefield atlas, batteries and a compass. The men allegedly planned to sell the items they dug up at a collectors' show in Richmond last November.

## Acknowledgements

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- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Linda Finn, Deb Liggett

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

"No other nation on earth so swiftly wasted its birthright; no other, in time, made such an effort to save what was left. We need to remind ourselves constantly that the land itself is what must be saved; that, like liberty, democracy, and all the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, like everything we truly value to the point where we might die for it, the heritage of our lands is not a fact, but a responsibility, an obligation, a task. A pleasure."

[Wallace Stegner](#)

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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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