



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

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

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### Incidents

#### **Olympic National Park Two Men Charged With Theft And Burglary From Park**

Two Port Angeles men – Jory Barclay, 32, and Brandon Hall, 34 – have been charged with burglarizing Olympic National Park entrance stations and stealing more than \$2,000 worth of property from them.

Hall is facing three counts of theft of government property and two counts of second-degree burglary. Barclay is facing one count each of theft of government property and second-degree burglary.

The National Park Service began investigating the pair for a series of thefts after a Clallam County deputy pulled Hall over for speeding in a school zone while driving a stolen 2018 GMC Yukon earlier this month. Barclay was a passenger, but was not arrested at the time.

Deputies found a generator in the back of the vehicle that was believed to have been stolen. Inside backpacks found in the vehicle were burglary tools, eight stolen credit cards, ten checks written to Olympic National Park, two military identification cards, four social security cards and a Washington state ID card. There also was a tool kit with tools labeled “USDI NPS ONP.”

Source: [Peninsula Daily News](#).

#### **Voyageurs National Park Three Hurt In Boat Crash**

Three people were hurt in a boat crash on Crane Lake in the early hours of Saturday, October 6th.

A 24-foot cuddy-style boat struck the southern tip of Indian Island after a mechanical malfunction with the spotlight caused it to stop working. As the driver was attempting to slow the boat, it struck the island.

Two women were in the cabin at the time of the crash. A 33-year-old woman was uninjured while a 60-year-old woman sustained significant injuries and was transported to St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. Both the 37-year-old male driver and 65-year-old male passenger were transported to Cook Hospital for minor injuries.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation, but the sheriff's office says alcohol does not appear to have been a factor.

Source: [WDIO](#)

### **Rocky Mountain National Park Search Underway For Missing Man In Longs Peak Area**

On Saturday, October 6th, rangers began a search for Ryan Albert, 30, of Marlton, New Jersey, who was reported overdue from a planned climb of Longs Peak. His rental car was found at the Longs Peak trailhead on Friday afternoon.

Members of the park's SAR team began searching the Longs Peak area on Saturday, including the Boulder Field, the Keyhole Route, The Loft, Chasm Cirque, North Longs Peak and Boulder Brook.

Albert was last seen leaving the Denver area early on the morning of Thursday, October 4th. He was wearing dark clothes and a backpack; the park press release also includes a photo of him.

Rangers would like to hear from anyone who has been in the Longs Peak area since last Thursday or who may have had contact with Albert regarding his planned route on Longs Peak. The number to call is 970-586-1204.

Source: [Rocky Mountain National Park](#).

### **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Visitor Killed In Fall While Attempting To Take Selfie**

Tu Than Nguyen, 32, was hiking by herself on the North Country Trail on September 19th when she stopped east of Grand Portal Point to take pictures of herself. While doing so, she fell about 200 feet off the cliff edge into Lake Superior.

The fall was witnessed by two kayakers who were able to retrieve her and bring her to shore near Chapel Beach. A local kayak company radioed for emergency services for assistance. Arriving rangers and Alger County paramedics confirmed that the woman died as a result of injuries sustained in the fall.

Source: [WLUC](#).

### **Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Child Drowns In Lake After Falling Off Houseboat**

A three-year-old Utah boy drowned near Willow Creek Canyon at Lake Powell on September 28th after falling off the upper deck of a houseboat into the water. The child was transported to the Halls Crossing launch ramp, where it was met by responding rangers.

Investigation revealed that the child was asleep on the upper deck of the houseboat and fell off into five feet of water during the night. He was not wearing a life jacket.

The Kane County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident with the assistance of the NPS and San Juan County Sheriff's Office.

Source: [St. George News](#).

### **Cape Hatteras National Seashore Visitor Drowns In Rip Currents Off Rodanthe**

A 63-year-old New York man died on the morning of Monday, October 1st, while swimming in the Atlantic Ocean near Rodanthe. Rip currents were reported off the park shoreline at the time.

Around 10 a.m., dispatchers received a call regarding two swimmers who were in distress. Dare County Sheriff's Office deputies and National Park Service rangers responded.

The man's friend began CPR efforts, which were continued by Chicamacomico Banks Water Rescue and Dare County Emergency Medical Services. Their efforts were unsuccessful. The Dare County Sheriff's Office and National Park Service Rangers also responded to the incident.

There have been five swimming-related fatalities in the park this year. There were seven swimming-related fatalities in 2017 and eight in 2016.

Source: [WTKR](#) and [Cape Hatteras National Seashore](#).

### **National Park System Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents**

Below are short follow-ups on incidents previously reported in this newsletter:

- *Great Smoky Mountains NP* – Searchers have found the body of Mitzie Sue "Susan" Clements, 53, who disappeared on September 25th during a hike with her daughter. The body was found two miles west of the Clingmans Dome parking area, three-fourth miles south of the Appalachian Trail. The cause of death has not yet been determined. Source: [CBS News](#).
- *Natchez Trace Parkway* – A federal judge has revoked the bond for Marshall Neely, who was sentenced a month ago for hitting a cyclist on the Natchez Trace in 2017. Neely was taken into custody by U.S. Marshals and is awaiting transfer to the Bureau of Prisons to begin serving his sentence. A filing on October 1st alleged that Neely broke his bond agreement by leaving inpatient alcohol treatment early and arriving at Nashville International Airport intoxicated on Monday. On September 27th, Neely checked himself out of an inpatient facility for treating his alcoholism. He didn't have permission to leave the treatment facility until Tuesday and was prohibited from any alcohol or drug intake. Source: [The Tennessean](#).

Sources: As indicated above.

### **National Fire/Incident Situation**

#### **National Interagency Fire Center National Preparedness Level Drops To PL 1**

##### **Synopsis**

The national preparedness level has dropped to [PL 1](#), the lowest of five preparedness levels. Although 53 large fires are still burning nationwide, favorable weather conditions have helped firefighters make significant progress toward containment goals.

**NOTE:** This will be the last fire/incident situation report unless conditions change.

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

The following significant fires are burning in NPS areas:

- *Glacier NP* – Two fires continue to burn in the park. The Howe Ridge Fire is now 90% contained; the Boundary Fire is 95% contained. There have been no acreage increases on either fire since the last weekly report.
- *Bryce Canyon NP* – The Lonely Fire has burned 872 acres and is 98% contained. No further information is available.

- *North Cascades NP* – The Little Fork Fire has burned 425 acres; the Arctic Jim Fire has burned 880 acres. No further information is available.
- *Yosemite NP* – The Indian Fire has burned 225 acres. No further information is available.

### Active Incident Resource Commitments

Category	September 25th	October 2nd	October 9th
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	1	1	1
Type 1 Teams	4	2	1
Type 2 Teams	8	3	2
Crews	165	111	56
Engines	431	269	159
Helicopters	79	49	31
Total FF/Overhead	8,142	5,530	3,287

### Fires/Acreage

Category	2018 Total	2008-2017 Ave	2018 Variance
Year-to-Date Fires	47,853	52,569	- 4,986
Year-to-Date Acres	7,741,081	5,986,513	+ 1,754,568

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

### Official 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.

#### Capitol Hill Weekly Legislative Roundup

#### *New Public Laws*

On September 28th, the president signed into law H.R. 6157, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. This bill also makes continuing appropriations for the Department of the Interior through December 7, 2018. Section 130 of the bill authorizes an extension of authority for the federal public lands fee program through September 30, 2020, so that all federal land management agencies can continue to sell the annual pass for another year. (Public Law 115–245).

#### *Senate*

On October 2nd, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources approved the following bills:

- S. 32 and 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: 1) expand the Death Valley National Park Wilderness by 91,596 acres; 2) authorize the continued operation and maintenance of the Mormon Peak Microwave Facility on one acre of land within the Death Valley National Park wilderness; 3) transfer 39,369 acres from BLM to NPS to add to the boundary of Death Valley National Park; 4) transfer 25 acres from BLM to NPS in Mojave National Preserve where an

NPS-owned maintenance facility exists; 5) transfer 2,900 acres from BLM to NPS along the northern boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, and the adjustment of the boundary for a donation of 1,600 acres from the Mojave Desert Land Trust; 6) authorize NPS to acquire the Joshua Tree Visitor Center outside the boundary of the park, now owned by the Joshua Tree National Park Association; 7) designate as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 6.1 miles of Amargosa River and 7.1 miles of Surprise Canyon Creek, both near Death Valley National Park.

- S. 569, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations. The bill makes permanent the authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million annually, and allows the money to be expended without further appropriation.
- S. 941, to withdraw specified National Forest System land in the Custer Gallatin National Forest in Park County, Montana, north of Yellowstone National Park from location, entry, and patent under mining laws; and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing.
- S. 1403, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in national service positions to conserve, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States.
- H.R. 3186, to establish a program, to be known as the “Every Kid Outdoors program”, to provide free access to federal land and waters for fourth-grade students and up to three accompanying individuals or all accompanying adults in a car. The bill would codify the program begun under the Obama administration to allow every fourth grader free access to federal lands and waters.
- S. 2290, to improve wildfire management operations and the safety of firefighters and communities with the best available technology.
- S. 2831, to redesignate the Golden Spike National Historic Site as the Golden Spike National Historical Park and to require the establishment in the National Park Service a program to commemorate and interpret the Transcontinental Railroad.
- S. 2870, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as “Amache”, a Japanese American relocation site in World War II in the State of Colorado.
- S. 2876, to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Pike National Historic Trail.
- H.R. 4895, to establish the Medgar Evers Home National Monument in the state of Mississippi upon the acquisition of sufficient lands to constitute a manageable unit.
- S. 3172, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service. The bill provides \$1.3 billion for each of FY 2019 – 2023 to help address the deferred maintenance backlog.
- H.R. 5979, to establish the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument as a unit of the national park system upon the donation of sufficient lands to constitute a manageable unit.
- H.R. 5655, to establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, upon sufficient lands being acquired to constitute a manageable unit and upon donation of the land.

## ***House***

The House is in recess until after the mid-term elections.

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

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

### **National Park System Recent NPS Administrative Changes**

Several changes in park management have made the news over the past month or so:

- *Hopewell Culture NHP* – Karen Beppler-Dorn, who has been superintendent at Pinnacles NP for the past seven years, has become the new superintendent at Hopewell Culture NHP. Dorn began her career as a law enforcement ranger in 1985 at Cuyahoga Valley NRA, then worked in several national parks from West Virginia to Washington state. Before arriving at Pinnacles, she served as superintendent of Klondike Gold Rush NHP in Washington and chief of natural and cultural resource management at Petrified Forest NP. Source: [Benito Link](#).
- *Great Sand Dunes NP&P* – Pam Rice has taken over as the park’s superintendent. Rice spent much of her career with the National Park Service in Alaska as chief of interpretation at Gates of the Arctic in Fairbanks. She also did a brief time of service in Washington as part of Senator Lisa Murkowski’s staff. After Washington, she spent some time working at the Glen Canyon complex. Source: [Alamosa News](#).
- *Steamtown NHS* – Superintendent Debbie Conway has taken a position in the regional office in Philadelphia. No word yet on who will follow her. Source: [WNEP News](#).
- *New Group Superintendent* – Mike Tranel has taken a newly created position overseeing four parks in Wyoming and Montana – Bighorn Canyon NRA, Devil’s Tower NM, Fort Laramie NHS, and Little Bighorn Battlefield NM. Tranel was raised in Big Horn, Wyoming. He left the West to get his undergrad degree at Notre Dame and then got a master’s in geology from the University of Iowa. He soon joined the Park Service and spent time as a ranger at Ocmulgee NM, Gulf Islands NS, Timpanogos Cave NM, Denali NP&P, and in WASO. He returns home to Wyoming after 25 years in Alaska, most recently as the superintendent of the Klondike Gold Rush. Source: [Powell Tribune](#).

## **Coalition News**

News about CPANP, its members, and kindred associations and allies.

**Member Op-Ed On Protecting Public Lands** – Member Rick Jones has an op-ed piece in the *Pueblo Chieftain* on protecting Colorado’s public lands from destruction. Its concluding paragraph summarizes Rick’s message: “As a longtime steward of our public lands, I urge the administration to balance energy production with true conservation and concern for our national heritage. Science and reasonable compromise should supplant money, politics and personal gain. We must hold the president and Secretary Zinke accountable for squandering away our treasured public lands, while we continue to speak up and protect them for current and future generations to experience and enjoy.” The full editorial is available at the following link. Source: [Pueblo Chieftain](#).

**Member Article On Saving Cultural Resources On Landscape Scale** – Coalition Executive Council member Brenda Barrett has an article in *Living Landscape Observer* on the challenge of saving cultural resources on a landscape scale. “There is a growing recognition that cultural resources should be viewed as part of the larger landscape,” she writes. “The concept that there is a unity of nature and culture has created a significant opportunity for cultural resource practitioners to contribute to the new field of landscape scale conservation. And there are compelling reasons to partner up with this emerging movement. The nature conservation field has long recognized that threats to natural resources occur at multiple and much larger spatial scales than those usually addressed in cultural resource preservation.” She then goes on to address challenges that need to be met to make such a partnership work. Source: [Living Landscape Observer](#).

**ANPR Rendezvous To Be Held Next Month In Bowling Green** – The Association of National Park Rangers’ 41st annual Ranger Rendezvous will be held at the Holiday Inn University Plaza in Bowling Green, Kentucky, from November 7th through November 11th. ANPR has put together an excellent program of presentations, training sessions and “after-hours” activities. The draft program, registration information and hotel reservation information can be found at [www.anpr.org](http://www.anpr.org) (go to “events” and “ranger rendezvous 2018”). Discount registration expires on September 29th; the hotel

room block expires on October 7th, after which rooms will be available at the regular rate. Source: Bill Wade.

## **News Reports and Releases**

A brief summary of recent news stories, web postings and agency press releases pertaining to the Service, the federal government, the administration, DOI, and other public land management agencies that have bearing on the NPS.

### **Federal Government**

Stories and articles pertaining to the administration, DOI and other federal agencies and organizations, except for the National Park Service (below).

**Protecting The ‘Endangered’ Federal Work Force** – Last Sunday’s edition of the *Washington Post* had an editorial by Fred Hiatt, the editorial page editor, arguing that the nation continues to pay “too little attention to that endangered and essential national resource known as the federal civil service.” One of the critical problems facing that workforce concerns the lack of young people coming into government. Despite the fact that many of them are idealistic and willing to work in the public sector, fewer than six percent of the nation’s two million civilian workers are younger than 30, which compares to four times that many in the private sector. In government IT, for example, there are more than five times as many people over the age of 60 as under 30. The outdated civil service system is part of the problem, he says: “[I]f you set out to design a system to repel the best of those mission-driven people, you might arrive at something like the way the federal government operates today.” Added to that is the abuse heaped on federal employees for decades, including workers who’ve excelled in protecting the public interest. “[I]f we just keep kicking the people who serve, and discouraging the people who would like to serve, we shouldn’t be surprised if less and less of [that] kind of work gets accomplished.” Source: [Washington Post](#).

### **National Park Service and System**

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

**Around The Parks** – Brief reports on parks and regions, culled either from park press releases or from newspapers, with links to the source news articles. The reports are in alphabetical order by park name.

- *Death Valley NP* – The park is proposing to revise its special regulations to designate the Saline Valley Warm Springs Airfield, commonly known as the Chicken Strip, as a location available for the operation of aircraft. The airstrip has been in use since before the NPS began managing the Saline Valley Warm Springs area in 1994 and this rule would codify the continued use of the airstrip (36 CFR 2.17(a)(1) prohibits the operation or use of an aircraft on lands or waters other than at locations designated pursuant to a special regulation). [Comments on the proposed revision may be made online](#) before November 19th. Source: [Death Valley National Park](#).
- *Grand Canyon NP* – The September 20th edition of *Pacific Standard* included a profile of Sjors Horstman, who has been a VIP at Phantom Ranch since 1987: “[Horstman] has spent the last 31 years of his life at the bottom of the Grand Canyon as a volunteer for the National Park Service. As of April he’d logged 60,085 volunteer hours, an average of about 36 hours per week since 1987, making him one of the longest-serving volunteers in NPS history and a repository of firsthand knowledge of a place most people see only from a vertical mile above.” Source: [Pacific Standard](#).
- *Haleakala NP* – The park has completed a comprehensive plan and EA for the Kipahulu District. The plan provides guidance on improvements to areas including the visitor center, trails, campground, operational facilities, fee station, staff housing, and staff offices. Comments may be made through October 31st at [this park website](#). Source: [Maui Now](#).

- *Isle Royale NP* – The two wolves brought to Isle Royale National Park on September 26th have been seen on wildlife cameras and tracked via a GPS monitoring collar, moving around the island and feeding on moose carcasses left for them. The carcasses were placed in specific areas on the landscape to provide initial nutrition and attract wolves to these locations while subsequent wolf translocations occur in different areas. Source: [Isle Royale National Park](#).
- *Katmai NP* – It's October and therefore time for the annual Fat Bear Week competition at Katmai. It began on October 3rd and continued through October 9th (we hope to run the name of the winner in the next issue). The bears are eating almost non-stop at present to prepare for hibernation, which lasts five to six months and sometimes longer, so the fatter the better. Each day, [two bears are matched against each other on Facebook](#) and the one to get the most likes is the day's winner and advances to the next round of the bracketed competition. Note that the competition is open through the end of today, so you can still get in your vote. Source: [The Guardian](#).
- *Oregon Caves NM&P* – A major repair and rehab project has begun to address “life, health, safety and accessibility concerns” at Oregon Caves Chateau, a national historic landmark. Work will continue throughout 2019 and possibly into 2020. Cave tours will not be affected during that period. Source: [Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve](#).
- *USS Arizona Memorial* – As you'll no doubt recall, the boat ramp to the USS Arizona Memorial was damaged earlier this year, thereby making disembarkation hazardous and limiting visitors to boat tours of the area. Now the 180-foot-long shoreline dock at the memorial's visitor center is sinking, making it too risky for visitors to get onto the boats. Harbor tours of the memorial were accordingly halted on September 30th. The park hoped to get the dock fixed in short order. Source: [Honolulu Star Advertiser](#).
- *Yellowstone NP* – The park's geysers have been making the news. On October 2nd, there was a short story on SFGate.com about the September 15th eruption of Ear Spring Geyser with photos of all the items that were blown out of its vent at the time, ranging from coins to a baby pacifier. See the images at the link below. In late September, Montana Public Radio ran a piece on the eruptions of Ear Spring and Steamboat Geysers – both after long periods of dormancy – that featured an interview with Wendy Stovall, the deputy scientist in charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, about the cause(s) for their activity, discounting any relationship with any possible volcanic eruption. Source: [SFGate.com](#) and [Montana Public Radio](#).
- *Yosemite NP* – The “Find Your Park” initiative has taken on a new and unintended meaning for Yosemite and its adjoining communities – Google Maps is having trouble “unclosing” the area following the three-week shutdown that came during the Ferguson Fire. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, “[the] popular navigation app is regularly showing that roads to and from Mariposa are closed, when really they're not, making it appear as though the region is still gripped by disaster. At least four such errors have occurred in the past two months, according to numerous reports from residents. Efforts by retailers, county leaders and even the National Park Service to prevent the misinformation have been unsuccessful, meaning only more lulls in tourist traffic — and an emerging sense in the community that a small town is of little concern to big tech.” Source: [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

## **Environmental and Land Management Agencies**

Stories on federal and state agencies that are responsible for environmental oversight or the management of America's public lands.

**Administration Cuts Back USFWS LE Capability** – On September 21st, Fish and Wildlife announced to its employees that refuge managers who were also trained to police their refuges would no longer be able to act in any enforcement capacity. According to a report in *The Hill*, which first broke the story, “the decision came as a shock to many of the people who have worked in the position, known as dual-



function officers, including retirees who had spent decades in the role at their respective refuges.” Said one former refuge manager: “It means there will be lots of violations, wildlife violations as in over-bagged hunting areas, damaged fences, signs, roads and all kinds of damage to the environment. If there is no one there to enforce the law, that would spread like wildfire. It’s an extreme disservice to the American people because they expect us to take care.” FWS will strip 51 refuge employees of their enforcement duties in two stages between now and January 1st. Source: [The Hill](#).

## **The Conservation Crisis**

This section covers the myriad interconnected, conservation-related threats that are transforming the national parks – all are linked together under the heading of conservation, defined by Webster’s as “a careful preservation and protection of something; especially planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.”

### **Climate Change**

**‘Unprecedented’ Actions Required To Check Carbon Emissions** – As part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is required to prepare a report on the progress being made in meeting the limits deemed necessary to avoid a climate disaster. The news is not good. “The world stands on the brink of failure when it comes to holding global warming to moderate levels, and nations will need to take ‘unprecedented’ actions to cut their carbon emissions over the next decade,” reported the *Washington Post* on October 8th. “With global emissions showing few signs of slowing and the United States — the world’s second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide — rolling back a suite of Obama-era climate measures, the prospects for meeting the most ambitious goals of the 2015 Paris agreement look increasingly slim. To avoid racing past warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) over preindustrial levels would require a ‘rapid and far-reaching’ transformation of human civilization at a magnitude that has never happened before...” Erik Solheim, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program, said that the need “to either stop emissions entirely by 2050 or find some way to remove as much carbon dioxide from the air as humans put there ‘means net zero must be the new global mantra.’” Solheim emphasized the nature of the crisis with this telling observation: “[The numbers on rising CO2 emissions] are like a deafening, piercing smoke alarm going off in the kitchen. We have to put out the fire.” Source: [Washington Post](#).

### **Oceans and Freshwaters**

**NPS Funding, Climate Change And Coastal Parks** – Member Mike Murray has offered a perspective on the variance between the proposed NPS budget increases and the actual costs that will be incurred by the Service due to changes brought on by climate change, particularly by the many coastal parks that will be dealing with expensive infrastructure issues as oceans rise: “The NPS’s massive \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog has been in the news recently. As we have reported, there is a bipartisan bill in Congress that would begin to provide NPS with significant annual funding to address the backlog – a welcome proposal to all who support the National Park System. Unfortunately, at the same time Congress appears willing to provide significant funding for facility maintenance, Trump Administration environmental policies, including increased oil and gas development on public lands and rollbacks of various air emissions standards, will likely accelerate climate change and exacerbate the impacts of climate change in parks. For example, as described in a 2015 NPS report, [available at this web site](#), 40 coastal parks that were studied have over \$40 billion in facility assets with high exposure to being severely damaged or destroyed by sea level by the end of the current century. Providing NPS with funding to address the \$12 billion maintenance backlog is significant progress that is long overdue, but it pales in comparison to \$40 billion in increased risk to NPS facilities resulting from the Administration’s reckless environmental policies.”

### **Exotics, Invasives And Diseases**

**Valley Fever Rising Due To Extreme Weather** – The following is taken from a recent edition of *Our Daily Planet*, a free daily online newsletter that focuses on “stories shaping our environment”: Valley fever is an infection caused by a fungus that lives in the soil. About 10,000 cases are reported in the

United States each year, mostly from Arizona and the Central Valley/Desert of California. The disease is spread to the lungs when spores are inhaled; while symptoms can be treated with antifungal medication, if left untreated it has the potential to turn into a chronic disease. Fungal spores are inhaled when they're kicked up into the air, and climate change is now causing dust storms which are spreading them even further. Most cases surface between September and November, but through August this year more than 5,000 cases were reported in California, putting the state on pace for a new record. Ian McHardy, co-director of the Center for Valley Fever at UC Davis told KQED that "We're seeing a huge increase in new cases in the past two-and-a-half years. It's striking. We're seeing double and triple the cases. It's a catastrophic change, and it's getting worse." Source: [Our Daily Planet](#).

## **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.

- *Yosemite NP* – Early on the morning of September 25th, a man called park dispatch and reported that he'd recently witnessed a BASE jumping accident at El Capitan. He said that he feared that the accident involved a person he'd dropped off at the Yosemite Falls trailhead the previous day; he claimed he didn't know the person's name, but that he knew she was planning to BASE jump off El Capitan on the morning of the 25th. He also said that he'd seen three parachutes deployed near the face of El Capitan that morning, but that he'd also seen what appeared to be a human body freefall all the way to the top of the tree line at the base of El Capitan. He'd lost sight of it, but thought he'd heard it strike the rocks there. Investigating rangers found severely traumatized human remains below the New Dawn Wall route on El Capitan with two parachutes tangled in the trees above. The victim had not been positively identified at the time of the report. Investigators subsequently determined that the man who reported the fall was a principal participant in the jump; he was arrested and placed in custody on charges of illegal air delivery and conspiracy.
- *Canaveral NS* – On May 21st, Canaveral rangers began issuing citations for violations of the state law for nudity, which the park has assimilated under newly ceded concurrent jurisdiction. The state statute makes public nudity a first degree misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$1,000 and a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, but does not associate public nudity with either disorderly conduct or lewd and lascivious behavior. The park has issued 91 citations to date. At present, rangers are issuing nudity citations for mandatory court appearances for first offenses and citations for disorderly conduct and interfering with an agency function for subsequent offenses. On September 28th, the first 19 individuals were called before a U.S. magistrate. One pled guilty and was fined \$100; the remaining 18 pled not guilty. Eight of them are scheduled for trial on October 26th, and the remainder for November 23rd. All of the individuals scheduled in October are being represented by the same attorney. It's expected that the other cases will follow the precedent established in the first case. The assistant U.S. attorney feels that rangers have full authority to issue these citations, and intends to prosecute to the full extent of the law. There is concern, however, over the degree of impact that continued violations may have on the U.S. attorney's office and the district court system. The magistrate's decision will likely be appealed no matter what he rules. In an effort to reduce the impact on the court system yet continue a positive course of enforcement, the U.S. attorney has discussed the possibility of postponing all but the first few cases until the appellate process has been completed. If the initial decision is not in the park's favor, other alternatives will be pursued.
- *Crater Lake NP* – On September 27th, six rangers spent about ten hours pursuing between 40 and 50 Laotians and Cambodians who were illegally harvesting mushrooms from the park along Highway 62. Thirteen citations for commercial picking and three for weapons violations were issued; 62 pounds of mushrooms were seized. The mushrooms are valued at between \$40 and \$75 per pound. All the pickers were armed with knives, some over a foot long. Many other weapons were seen, but were outside park boundaries. Most of the citations were written well inside the park, rather than near the boundary as in the past. Pickers report that

mushrooms are becoming extremely scarce, and that they are traveling great distances to find and harvest them. Forest Service officers believe that some buyers are advising pickers to come into the park. Pickers are suspected of starting seven fires on the Deschutes National Forest. The park had one small fire near Mount Scott which was probably started by pickers. Firefighters saw eight or nine vehicles near the mountain, but enforcement personnel were not in the area due to the problems along Highway 62.

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- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Mike Murray

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**

"Instead of denouncing government, public servants and the people who respect, protect and celebrate the Earth's wild places, we should practice global CPR: Conserve by using these places more carefully, preserve the wilderness we can never replace, and restore as best we can the natural and human systems we have been careless about."

[Dave Brower](#), conservationist and "[archdruid](#)", Earth Island Institute, 1996

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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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