



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

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### Incidents

#### **East Coast Parks Severe Nor'easter Hammers Parks**

Although only a few reports have so far been filed either by parks or by their nearby news media regarding damage from the March 2nd storm, enough have appeared to provide a sense of its magnitude. For the record, the nor'easter produced sustained winds of near hurricane force, with gusts as high as 97 mph; snowfalls of 15 to 20 inches, with a high of 40 inches in one day in central New York; severe coastal flooding; and power outages to 1.9 million people. Here's what's been reported:

- *Delaware Water Gap NRA* – The March 2nd nor'easter brought heavy, wet snow and wind gusts in excess of 40 mph, toppling numerous trees and knocking down power lines. A second winter storm on March 7th dropped additional significant snowfall. As of March 9th, power had not been restored to all park areas and many secondary roads remained closed. Most park facilities, trails, and boat launches remain closed until further notice to allow crews to remove hazardous trees and repair power lines. Route 209 has reopened and crews are working to remove snow, trees, and power lines from other roads. For the latest updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS>.
- *Prince William Forest Park* – Park crews have cleared over 600 fallen and hazardous trees since last week's wind storm. Employees continue to clear damaged trees and debris, restore downed power lines, and repair damaged historic buildings across the park. It remains closed, as damaged trees and downed power lines continue to pose a threat to visitors. The park will likely reopen in two or three weeks. An ICS team arrived in the park last Wednesday to help assess and address storm damage throughout the park's 14,000 acres. Sawyers from nearby Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park are also onsite to help remove hazardous trees. The focus is currently on the most heavily used areas of the park; substantial progress has been made clearing trees from roads and trails near the visitor center. The Prince William Forest RV campground on Route 234 remains open, but some areas within the campground are currently closed off. For more updates and photos of the damage and clean-up, follow Prince William Forest Park on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- *Cape Cod National Seashore* – The park estimates that the storm caused about \$500,000 in damage, including damage to the staircase at Marconi Beach, which cost \$150,000 to build last year. A number of park buildings will need new shingles and repairs will have to be made to Moors Road in Provincetown and toilets at Herring Cove Beach.

- *Shenandoah National Park* – The park is cleaning up from the storm. Gusts that reached nearly 60 miles per hour dropped trees throughout the park; more than 100 fell onto Skyline Drive and crews found more than 460 trees on 45 of the park’s 70 trails that had been checked through last weekend. Workers have been using plows to remove fallen debris from roadways.

As we “go to press,” a third nor’easter is striking much of New England. Reports on that storm will appear next week.

Sources: Delaware Water Gap NRA [news release](#); Prince William FP [news release](#); *Cape Cod Times* [news story](#); WHSV [news story](#).

### **Big Cypress National Preserve Park Institutes Closures Due To Anhinga Fire**

The park has issued several emergency closures due to the Anhinga Fire. As of last Saturday, it had burned 518 acres and was only five percent contained.

The closures include Pink Jeep, Gator Head and Bear Island campgrounds, and Bear Island Grade Trail, Perocchi Grade Trail, and Bear Island Campground Road. All recreational use, including hiking, hunting and camping, are prohibited in the designated areas for visitor safety. Fire crews are aggressively fighting the wildfire from the air using helicopters and single engine air tankers.

The fire is currently burning in palmetto, pineland and cabbage palm habitat and growth is expected due to wind direction and low relative humidity. Firefighters are working hard to limit the growth of the fire to south of Bear Island Grade, west of Turner River Road and Perocchi Grade, north of I-75 and east of SR29.

Source: *Big Cypress NP* [news release](#).

### **Yosemite National Park Follow-up On Rock Fall Fatality**

An English coroner’s court has found that British climber Andrew Foster, 32, died while selflessly shielding his wife from a rockfall from El Capitan last September 27th.

Foster was seen running back to the rockfall to protect his wife, Lucy Foster, 28, and dived on top of her, saving her life. The two were on a week-long climbing trip to the national park with another British couple.

The court quoted from the NPS report on the incident:

“Lucy was walking approximately 50 meters behind Andrew when they heard the rocks begin to fall above them. Andrew yelled back to Lucy to run. As she began to run she lost her footing on the uneven terrain, causing her to fall to the ground. While on the ground Lucy began to hear large rocks strike the ground near her. After yelling to Lucy and witnessing her fall to the ground, Andrew ran back to Lucy, who was still on the ground. Andrew lay his body on top of Lucy, shielding her body from the rocks as they began to fall down on top of them. As the dust settled and the rocks stopped falling, Lucy saw Andrew was now lying beside her. Lucy was partially trapped by rocks on her legs. Lucy was able to successfully free herself and began shouting for help.”

Said the coroner in her findings: “Andrew was aware that his wife Lucy was in danger and took the loving and selfless act of protecting her from the fall using his own body to shield her from the rocks. In the event Andrew suffered fatal injuries and despite the emergency and rescue services being called it is clear the injuries were immediately unsurvivable.”

Source: *Shropshire Star* (UK) [news story](#).

### **News From Around Washington**

Reports from Capitol Hill, the White House, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service and other related agencies and NGO's.

### **National Park Service Updates Proposed To Rules On Transporting Bows Through Parks**

The National Park Service is proposing to allow sportsmen to transport unarmed bows and crossbows through NPS-administered areas without a permit. Under current NPS regulations, individuals may only carry unarmed bows and crossbows without a permit within motor vehicles and other forms of mechanical transport. The proposed updates would extend the same access to individuals transporting bows and crossbows on foot or horseback when accessing otherwise inaccessible lands or waters contiguous to a park area when other means of access are otherwise impracticable or impossible.

In some national parks, sportsmen wishing to access private property may need to park vehicles in privately-owned parking lots but then must cross a road maintained by NPS to get to the private property. Currently, the individual would need to obtain a permit from the park to lawfully cross the street with a bow and crossbow. The proposed updated regulations would no longer require the sportsmen to obtain a permit in these and other circumstances covered by the proposed rule.

The updated regulations would have no impact on hunting regulations within a given national park. Possessing bows and crossbows in this manner would be subject to applicable state laws and would not be allowed if the individual is otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a bow or crossbow.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed rule at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for the regulation identifier number (RIN) "1024-AE44". The comment period closes on May 1st.

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

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

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

On February 22nd, the president signed into law S. 1438, to redesignate the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Missouri, as Gateway Arch National Park (P.L. 115-128).

#### ***Senate***

On February 28th, the Senate passed:

- S. Res. 409, honoring the dedication and courage of the Buffalo Soldiers.
- S. Res. 418, expressing support for the designation of March 21, 2018 as ``National Rosie the Riveter Day".

On March 1st, the Senate passed S. Res. 420, designating March 3, 2018, as ``World Wildlife Day".

On March 8th, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources approved, among other bills the following:

- S. 1160, to include Livingston County, the city of Jonesboro in Union County, and the city of Freeport in Stephenson County, Illinois, to the Lincoln National Heritage Area.
- S. 1181, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions.

- S. 1260 and H.R. 2615, to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- S. 1135 and H.R. 2888, to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site, Missouri.
- S. 1446 and H.R. 1135, to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program.
- S. 1602, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, New York.
- S. 1692, to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.
- S. 2213 and H.R. 4300, to authorize Pacific historic parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II.
- 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.
- H.R. 1500, to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park".

### **House**

On February 28th, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on:

- H.R. 1992, to authorize the Department of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park and adjacent property in Jessamine County, Kentucky, to determine its suitability and feasibility to be a unit of the national park system.
- H.R. 3008, to authorize the Department of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the childhood home of former President George W. Bush, which is located at 1412 West Ohio Avenue in Midland, Texas, to determine its suitability and feasibility to be a unit of the national park system.
- H.R. 4731, to extend the retained use estate for up to 60 years for the Caneel Bay resort within Virgin Islands National Park in St. John, Virgin Islands.
- H.R. 5005, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the national park system.

There was no witness from the Department of the Interior at this hearing.

On March 6th, the House passed:

- H.R. 1132, to provide for a two-year prohibition on employment in a career civil service position for any former political appointee.
- H.R. 4043, to reauthorize the whistleblower protection program.
- S. 188, to prohibit the use of federal funds for the costs of painting portraits of officers and employees of the federal government.

On March 6th, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing entitled "Exploring Innovative Solutions to Reduce the Department of the Interior's Maintenance Backlog". P. Daniel Smith, deputy director, National Park Service, and Steve Guertin, Fish and Wildlife Service deputy director, were the witnesses for the department.

On March 7th, the House Committee on Natural Resources approved, among other bills, H.R. 4731, to extend the retained use estate for up to 60 years for the Caneel Bay resort within Virgin Islands National Park in St. John, Virgin Islands.

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

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

### **NPS Alumni**

#### **Passing Of Jack Hauptman**

John “Jack” Hauptman, superintendent of Acadia National Park from 1987 to 1991, died on February 3rd. He was 82.

Hauptman lived in Southwest Harbor during his time at Acadia. He helped start private fundraising efforts to restore the carriage roads and preserve scenic vistas.

Hauptman was superintendent at Fire Island National Seashore from 1982 to 1987 and from 1991 to 1997, when he retired from the National Park Service.

Source: *Mount Desert Islander* [news story](#).

## **Coalition News and Activities**

News and actions taken by CPANP and its members on behalf of the National Park Service and National Park System.

**Board Chair Phil Francis Speaks Out On Proposed NPS Budget** – On February 5th, the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* interviewed Phil about the (then) proposed NPS budget, which was correctly rumored to suffer drastic cuts under the administration’s overall budget proposal. The full text can be found on the newspaper’s website. Source: *Knoxville News-Sentinel* [news story](#).

**New Book Out By Member Tim Setnicka** – Tim Setnicka, who in 1981 wrote *Wilderness Search and Rescue: A Complete Handbook*, has written a new book entitled *Yosemite Search and Rescue: The Mafia Years*, which is [available on Amazon.com](#). Here’s the accompanying summary from the Amazon page: “Over four million people a year visit Yosemite National Park and most have a safe park experience.... but some will find themselves in great danger, often hurt, and some will die. Veteran, now retired, Park Ranger Tim Setnicka in his second book, explains what it was like to be involved in these rescue situations in 1970’s...including what happened when a plane load of tons of marijuana crashed into a remote Yosemite lake in the middle of winter... With more than 150 color photographs, taken during the actual rescues, he describes in detail 33 different operations and their particular hazards and difficulties. Each situation is accompanied with actual rescue photographs taken during rescues. These rescue images will shout out at you from the pages.”

## **Other Reports and Releases**

A brief summary of other recent news stories, web postings and agency press releases pertaining to the department, the National Park Service in general, public lands and the environment – particularly the impacts of climate change on park ecosystems, flora and fauna.

### **Administration**

**Administration Undercuts Elephant Hunting Ban** – “The Trump administration will allow Americans to bring tusks and other elephant body parts back to this country as trophies,” reports the *Washington Post*, “in a pivot away from the support President Donald Trump voiced for an Obama-era trophy ban after outcry last year. The decision, announced quietly last week in a March 1 memorandum from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, withdrew previous rulings on trophy hunting and said it would allow sport hunters to receive permits for the trophy items on a ‘case-by-case basis.’” The move contrasts sharply with the position taken by President Trump in November, when he affirmed the ban on elephant hunting, calling such killing a “horror show.” Source: *Washington Post* [news story](#).

**Zinke Updates** – Secretary Zinke seems to generate more news than just about anyone in the administration, excepting the president – enough to warrant a subsection with short abstracts of news stories about him and related links. So here we go:

- *Zinke and The Doors* – CBS News reported the following last week: “The Interior Department is spending nearly \$139,000 to upgrade three sets of double doors in the office of Secretary Ryan Zinke, the Associated Press reported. The contract for the doors was sole-source, according to documents CBS News reviewed, meaning there was no competition for it.” Source: [CBS News story](#).
- *Zinke and the Resigning Scientists* – In mid-February, the *Washington Post* reported that two senior USGS officials stepped down after Zinke asked that they provide his office with confidential data on the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska before it was released to the general public. The action, said the scientists, “violated the USGS’s scientific integrity policy because such commercially valuable data should not be shared in advance.” The secretary’s office said that the request was within Zinke’s authority. Source: *Washington Post* [news story](#).
- *Zinke and the Mysterious Trip* – A visit the secretary made to East Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was reported by a local paper there as “baffling.” Others were both bemused and suspicious: “Government watchdog groups and at least two congressional Democrats say Zinke’s trip smells of politics and seemed designed to benefit the GOP candidate in a special congressional election that Republicans are in danger of losing...” Source: *USA Today* [news story](#).
- *Zinke and the Spurious Claim* – “In a speech before oil and gas industry executives,” reports *Time Magazine*, “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke argued that the production and transportation of wind turbines contributes to global warming, but he overstated the factual case, especially when compared with other forms of energy.” The reality is that a typical wind plant generates between .02 and .04 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt-hour of electricity produced, spread out over the life cycle of a typical turbine. “Even at the high end, that’s less than 3% of the emissions from coal-generated electricity and less than 7% of the emissions from natural gas-generated electricity.” Source: *Time Magazine* [news story](#).

## **National Park System**

**Plan To Name A Utah Highway After President Fails** – Earlier this year, a Republican Utah lawmaker introduced a bill that would rename the state’s most scenic route in honor of the president, placing 62 Donald Trump signs along a 600-mile stretch that rolls through or near five national parks: Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon and Zion. A Democratic colleague threatened to add an amendment for a Stormy Daniels onramp if the bill moved forward. It hasn’t, and appears to be dead for the moment. Source: *New York Times* [news story](#).

**NPS 2017 Visitation Figures Released** – *CNN* ran a story earlier this month about the Service’s 2017 visitation, which was only slightly behind the numbers recorded during the centennial in 2016. Both figures were around 331 million visits. What changed, though, was the overall length of visitor stays in NPS areas – more than 1.4 billion hours were recorded last year, an increase of 19 million hours over 2016. The article also lists the ten most popular national parks and the ten most popular NPS sites in general. Source: *CNN* [news story](#).

**Funding The President’s Military Parade** – The president’s proposal to have a parade to display America’s military might has caused a furor, not the least because of the cost, which could run from \$10 million to \$30 million. Not to worry – the NPS can chip in from its budget surplus. According to a Congressional staffer, “the funding for the parade could be found without a formal budget request by using existing money already in the Department of Defense budget or possibly from the Department of Homeland Security or the National Park Service.” Source: *New York Times* [news story](#).

**Film About Edward Abbey Shot In Southeastern Utah** – According to the *Moab Sun News*, a movie about iconoclastic environmentalist, author (*Desert Solitaire*, etc.) and former park ranger Edward



Abbey called *Fiery Furnace* has been completed and will soon be released. The film, which features actor Sam Elliott as Abbey, was shot in Arches NP, where Abbey once worked, and areas around Moab. According to the paper, “(the) film captures Abbey’s spirit, his devotion to environmental preservation in general and specifically his passion for what is now Arches National Park.” Source: *Moab Sun News* [news story](#).

**New Movie ‘Brings Horror To National Park’** – Another NPS-related film came out this past Monday. The new movie, called *The Ranger*, is not about your average affable and helpful park ranger. Here’s the summary given on *Hollywood Reporter’s* web page: “Usually, getting fresh air in a national park is soothing for the soul, but as the teaser trailer for *The Ranger* demonstrates, that’s not always the case. The film from first-time director Jenn Wexler centers on a group of friends who flee the city after a run-in with the law. The group takes a hallucinogenic drug called Echo and settle in for a fun experience, but end up finding themselves pitted against a not-so-friendly park ranger. Soon their trip to nature is a nightmare.” *Hollywood Reporter* [news story](#).

**Sundry Actions and Updates** – Here, in brief, are additional reports on parks, culled either from park press releases or from newspapers:

- *Glen Canyon NRA* – The park has released proposed special regulations to manage ORV and on-road ATV use within the park, which will set the stage for completion of its ORV management plan. Details on which areas will permit what types of vehicles can be found in the park’s news release. Comments on the proposed regs can be found on the [Regulations.gov webpage](#); enter 1024-AD93. Or just click on [this link](#). Comments may also be mailed to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, 691 Scenic View Drive, Page, Arizona 86040. Click on [this link](#) for more information on the park’s EIS/ORV plan. Glen Canyon news release (not available on park website).
- *Point Reyes NS* – In response to a FOIA request, reports the *Point Reyes Light*, the park has released nearly 3,000 public comments on its initial concepts for an amendment to its general management plan that will determine the future of ranch and elk management in both Point Reyes NS and part of Golden Gate NRA: “Longtime farming activist Phyllis Faber and others, banded together in what they called the Resilient Agriculture Group, recently obtained [both the public comments and] a host of other documents. Their fear is that an institutional bias against ranching has defined the park’s public process around the amendment and shaped its ongoing land management. Seashore spokeswoman Melanie Gunn said that as a result of complying with the FOIA request, the park released the raw comments without an accompanying analysis to identify basic trends. The park will likely complete that task by the end of the month.” Source: [Point Reyes Light story](#).
- *Gulf Islands NS* – The park has completed the second year of a beach enhancement and asphalt removal project, an effort that began at Santa Rosa last September. Approximately 1,400 cubic yards of asphalt fragments and road base material were removed from just over 200 acres of the Santa Rosa Area. The Santa Rosa cleanup is part of a much larger five year project, which includes the Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa and Perdido Key Areas of the park. Throughout each area, asphalt pieces ranging from the size of large slabs to as small as a quarter of an inch in diameter, and other road base materials will be removed. The project is being funded by the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Early Restoration project to compensate the public for the injuries to recreational use of the national seashore caused during the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Source: [Gulf Islands news release](#).
- *Flight 93 NM* – Volunteers will be paired with forestry professionals to plant 14,960 native tree seedlings across 22 acres of the memorial next month. To date, volunteers have planted 101,358 native tree seedlings over 145 acres over the past six years. The work places the memorial one step closer to implementing the architect’s design and re-establishing 150,000 new trees on the site. Source: [Flight 93 news release](#).

- *Kings Canyon NP* – The University of California’s *Berkley News* reports that one of its alumni, a historical architect, came across a stone hut along the John Muir Trail within the park and subsequently determined through research that it had been built in 1930 to honor John Muir. Efforts are underway to make it an NHL and get it repaired. Source: [Berkley News story](#).
- *Grand Canyon NP* - In honor of Grand Canyon's 99th birthday on February 26th, the park and the Grand Canyon Association unveiled the logo for next year’s park centennial celebration. The logo, which can be seen in the association’s news release, was developed through a collaborative effort between the park’s official nonprofit partner, Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon National Park employees, and marketing firm Off Madison Avenue. Source: Grand Canyon Association [news release](#).
- *Arches NP* – The park is working to remove invasive tamarisk trees from its watercourses. Flooding has become a more frequent problem as tamarisk trees choke the washes that run near the road to Delicate Arch. To protect access to the popular site, the park is taking on an “unprecedented” 54-acre tamarisk removal project. Source: *Moab Times-Independent* [news story](#).
- *Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad NHP* – The new park, created in 2013, has proved a hit with the public. The National Park Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which run the site together, recorded more than 100,000 visitors in its first year. Not bad considering the 17-acre park, one of the Service's smallest properties, was designed to host a maximum of 75,000 per year. Source: *DelMarVa Now* [news story](#).

### **Public Lands/Land Management Agencies**

**Forest Service Chief Resigns** – Tony Tooke, the head of the US Forest Service, has resigned amid reports that the agency was looking into misconduct allegations against him. Here are passages from the email he sent to employees, as reported by CNN: "Many of you have seen the news reports which included the stories from women who told of their experiences with sexual harassment in the Forest Service. I admire their courage...In some of these news reports, you may have seen references to my own behavior in the past. This naturally raised questions about my record and prompted an investigation, which I requested and fully support, and with which I have cooperated. I have been forthright during the review, but I cannot combat every inaccuracy that is reported in the news media. What I can control, however, are decisions I make today and the choice of a path for the future that is best for our employees, the Forest Service and the US Department of Agriculture. I must also think about what is best for my family. Therefore, I have decided that what is needed right now is for me to step down as Forest Service Chief and make way for a new leader that can ensure future success for all employees and the agency." CNN [news story](#).

**Public Lands Legislation Now Before Congress** – The [Society for American Archeology](#) puts out a periodic newsletter on “government affairs” that provides, among other things, a listing of important bills affecting archeology and public lands that have been introduced in Congress. You can get the newsletter by joining SAA. Here are some bills reported in the most recent edition:

- H.R. 473 – The bill would amend the National Historic Preservation Act to allow federal land-managing agencies to object to the inclusion of properties under their control to the National Register, or its designation as a National Historic Landmark, for national security reasons. It would also allow land managers to remove properties already listed on the National Register.
- H.R. 2936 – This bill would, through the use of categorical exclusions in specified situations, speed forest health project reviews under NEPA and the NHPA. The measure would apply to lands under the control of the BLM and Forest Service, as well as tribal lands.
- H.R. 3990 – The House Natural Resources Committee has approved this bill, which would weaken the Antiquities Act by setting extensive conditions upon a president’s ability to designate new national monuments of more than 640 acres.
- S. 2354 – This legislation would respond to the president's reduction of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments by: 1) reinforcing that National Monuments



created by presidential proclamations can only be reduced by an Act of Congress; 2) requiring that presidentially-created Monuments be surveyed and have management plans put in place within two years of their inception; 3) expands the Bears Ears Monument to the 1.9 million acres originally proposed by the Tribal Coalition; and 4) provides increased funding and ensures access to the Monuments for "hunting, tourism, scientific research, conservation, and cultural uses."

**Utah Takes A Shot At The Antiquities Act** – Utah Public Radio reports that a measure asking Congress to exempt Utah from the 1906 Antiquities Act passed the Utah House in mid-February: "Lawmakers voted 59-13 to progress Rep. Carl Albrecht's House Joint Resolution 1, which calls on Utah's congressional delegation to draft legislation excluding Utah from future national monument designations by a president. Utah would join Wyoming and Alaska as the only states requiring congressional consent to create national monuments under the Antiquities Act." Utah Public Radio [news story](#).

## **The Environment**

**Sea Levels Rising Faster Than Previously Thought** – More bad news for the National Park Service's many areas along the nation's coastlines. CNN: "Sea level rise is happening now, and the rate at which it is rising is increasing every year, according to [a study](#) released Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences." The report reveals that the rising sea level, driven mainly by accelerated melting in Greenland and Antarctica, "has the potential to double the total sea level rise by 2100 as compared to projections that assume a constant rate, to more than 60 centimeters instead of about 30." Said one climate scientist: "[The report] confirms what we have long feared: that the sooner-than-expected ice loss from the west Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets is leading to acceleration in sea level rise sooner than was projected." Source: CNN [news story](#).

## **From The Archives**

This new section, put together for CPANP veterans who were regular readers of the Morning Report 25 years ago, will include news and incidents taken from issues published during the corresponding week in the appropriate month and year. Today we go back to March, 1993:

Parks from the Dry Tortugas to Acadia were reporting the impacts of a major mid-month storm that at the time was the worst such March storm ever recorded. Impacts included severe beach erosion, major snowfalls with huge drifts (10 to 20 feet in places), heavy rains, downed trees and building damage. The most memorable storm-related events, though, were probably two major searches for missing youth – one in Shenandoah, the other in the Smokies. Both received significant media coverage.

Searchers in Shenandoah looked for two adults and six eighth-graders from the Rectory School in Pomfret, Connecticut, who had been missing since they were last seen heading out on a hike in the park's South District the previous Thursday. The blizzard which struck the area deposited several feet of snow on the park, and high winds blew the snow into drifts up to 20 feet deep. Plows attempted to reach the group's van, which was parked where it was left at Brown's Gap Overlook, but for a number of days were unable to make the six miles from Route 33 to the overlook despite concerted efforts. Late on Sunday evening, rangers in a snowcat entered the lower end of Big Run drainage and moved along the Big Run Portal Trail; they found the missing hikers around midnight. All were in good condition.

Major search operations were simultaneously underway in the Great Smokies for approximately two dozen missing students from Cranbrook, Michigan, and for up to a dozen other groups of hikers scattered throughout the park. They were hampered by three to four feet of snow, huge drifts, and downed trees. Four helicopters flew the park, primarily along the Appalachian Trail, and lifted several hikers out of the woods. A number of military medics were also lowered into the park to treat hikers. Most treatment was for hypothermia in its beginning stages; no serious injuries were reported. The search eventually focused on three groups of eight people from the Cranbrook School, each comprised of seven teenaged students and a counselor. The effort came to a happy ending when searchers found them in good health and winched them out by helicopter. Two of the groups were in the Upper Hazel Creek bunkhouse; the remaining eight were at a backcountry campsite about a mile away. Groups

from the Cranbrook School visited the park each year for an "Outward Bound" type experience in which students hiked with counselors through the park for several days. In 1993, ten groups of eight came to the park. Searchers found the other seven groups on Monday. Between 90 and 100 park employees were involved in the effort. Jason Houck, the park's chief ranger, was the incident commander.

### Acknowledgements

This newsletter comes to you through the efforts of a number of people. First are our "regulars":

- Producer: Steve Pittleman
- Congressional Correspondent: Don Hellmann
- At Large Correspondents: Dennis Burnett and Rick Smith

Thanks also to Elizabeth Oster, Mark Forbes, Joan Anzelmo and Anonymous for their submissions.

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

"The wild things of this earth are not ours to do with as we please. They have been given to us in trust, and we must account for them to the generations which will come after us and audit our accounts."

[William T. Hornaday](#), from DOI's "Quotable Quotes: Relating to Conservation in General and the National Parks in Particular," 1951.

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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."

To receive a copy of this free publication, join the coalition. Any current, retired or former salaried (GS, wage grade, seasonal, temporary, or SES) employee of the National Park Service can join the Coalition. For more information, click on [this link](#). If you need to contact the Coalition office on other matters, including changes of address, click on [this link](#).

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