



The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, April 29, 2020

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Incidents

National Park System Coronavirus Response Update

The summary that follows focuses on articles of note on how the NPS is dealing with the pandemic, as there are far too many closure and modified closure notices from the 400+ units of the National Park System to list them here. You can, however, find specifics on the status of just about any park by going to the Service's ["Active Alerts In Parks" webpage](#) and using the search engine to find information on a particular site. See also the "Coalition Actions" section further on in this edition for information on CPANP's actions on coronavirus issues.

- *President Announces Imminent Reopening Of Parks* – National parks will be reopening soon after being closed for weeks to contain the spread of the coronavirus, President Donald Trump announced Wednesday," reported *USA Today* on April 23rd. In a comment made during an Earth Day ceremony at the White House, Trump had this to say: "Thanks to our significant progress against the invisible enemy, I'm pleased to announce that in line with my administration's guidelines for opening up America again, we will begin to reopen our national parks and public lands for the American people to enjoy. That's going to be very exciting; we have a lot of land to open up, too. People are going to be very happy." The president didn't discuss a timeline or plan for reopening the parks. It's also unclear what will happen to parks in states that have not relaxed their stay-at-home orders yet. Source: Nicquel Terry Ellis, [USA Today](#).
- *Secretary Writes Op-Ed On DOI CV Response* – On April 17th, an editorial by Secretary Bernhardt appeared on the Fox News webpage. Relevant excerpts follow: "President Trump has led and coordinated an 'All-of-America' strategy to combat the coronavirus pandemic and slow the spread of the virus. The Department of the Interior, as the primary public lands manager in the United States, has accordingly done its part to protect the health and safety of the public and our employees. From the advent of this pandemic, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and other bureaus have taken measures to try to maintain basic accessibility to our lands, while adhering to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as state and local public health authorities. Our response to this public health crisis has been led by our incredible public health officials on staff and those of state and local jurisdictions....We have implemented our pandemic plan in conducting risk assessments of our public lands and facilities and relied on the guidance of public health officials in modifying or even closing access to some of our country's most iconic places, such as Yellowstone National Park, Grand Canyon National Park and the Washington Monument. Closure is a last but sometimes necessary resort to best protect the public during this pandemic. But by working in close coordination with public health experts and with the

cooperation of the public in following social distancing, we have been able to keep most of our public lands open. Many national monuments, memorials, battlefields and other public lands remain generally accessible, as are a majority of Bureau of Land Management's 245 million acres and the Fish and Wildlife Service's 90 million acres, despite most facilities and amenities being closed. Based on the guidance of public health officials, we have made – and will continue to make – necessary changes to our operations that attempt to keep America's public lands accessible during this pandemic, allowing the public to have a place to be socially distant, together.” Source: [Fox News](#).

- *Acting Director Addresses Next Phase Of Pandemic Response* – Acting Director Dave Vela sent a message to all regional directors, associate and assistant directors and superintendents on April 25th concerning the “operating posture of the National Park Service as we transition to the next phase of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.” Key passages follow: “Based on current White House, OPM, and DOI HR guidance calling for a three-phase approach, there should not be an immediate change to your work status while we take the time to develop our plan for next steps. We are currently working with the Department of the Interior on the framework for a gradual resumption of operations. The framework will be based on this guidance....Decisions on a phased recovery of operations will be made in each park or support office based on what is occurring in the respective State and local community. White House guidance requires certain conditions be met to understand the status of the pandemic in a particular area of the country before phased recovery may begin...Our plan will include phased reassessments of conditions and modifications of operations, gradually increasing access to parks in accordance with federal, state and local public health guidance and in coordination with the Department of the Interior. We are committed to working with state and local officials to reopen national parks, facilities, and offices in a safe manner.” Vela concludes by saying that WASO “will share the plan with you as soon as possible.” Source: National Park Service.
- *Return Of The Natives* – There have been reports from all over the world about animals that are normally rarely seen returning to the now empty streets of cities and other public places – including national parks. Yahoo News recently ran [an article on wildlife “reclaiming” Yosemite](#); CBS News had one in the same vein that reported on [the uptick in bear sightings in normally public places in Yosemite](#) (a park biologist says that the bears are having “a party” with humans gone); *The Guardian* has a great illustrated piece on [a pride of eight lions snoozing on a normally busy road in South Africa’s Kruger National Park](#) (they like the dry, warm ground);
- *President’s Fourth Of July Event To Continue* – Despite concerns about the spread of coronavirus, President Trump said last week he is planning to hold another Fourth of July celebration on the National Mall this summer, [reported DCist.com](#), quoting the president’s comment at a coronavirus task force briefing a few days ago: “On July 4, we’ll be doing what we had at the Mall. We’re going to be doing it. Last year was a tremendous success, and I would imagine we’ll do it, hopefully I can use the term ‘forever.’ That was a great success.” Trump said that this year attendees will most likely still be following social distancing guidelines—standing six feet apart or more—and noted that attendance could be down to as little as 25 percent of last year’s.
- *Misdemeanor Violations Increase In Parks* – It’ll come as no surprise to anyone who recalls last year’s shutdown to find that decreased park staffing means increased crime, usually misdemeanors. Here are a few examples: At Cape Cod NS, says the [Cape Cod Times](#), rangers are seeing an upswing in illegal dumping, ATVs using trails and dogs roaming off leash (particularly in shorebird breeding areas). [WNEP News](#) reports that Delaware Water Gap NRA rangers have found sofas tossed by streams, construction debris dumped in the woods, household trash dumped into and around park trash bins, and windows broken in numerous structures. And [CNN](#) reports that a vandal who left graffiti around Death Valley has confessed to his crimes and apologized to the park.

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center COVID-19 Response Continues

NIFC remains at PL 1.

Large fire activity was reported in several southern states last week. Active large fires were burning in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Texas. Firefighters contained ten large fires.

Three area command teams (Team 1 Stutler, Team 2 Sexton and Team 3 Jalbert) remain assigned by the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) to develop a national COVID-19 wildland fire response plan. A NIMO (Houseman) has been assigned to COVID-19 support at Forest Service headquarters in Washington D.C.

National Park Service Fires

Significant fires are currently burning in these national parks:

- *Big Cypress NP* – The Silverking Fire has burned 610 acres in timber and southern rough. It's 40% contained. As of last Friday, 82 firefighters and overhead personnel were committed to suppression operations.

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	April 3	April 3	April 17
Area Command Teams	3	3	3
NIMO Teams	1	1	1
Type 1 Teams	1	2	0
Type 2 Teams	1	1	0
Crews	1	1	3
Engines	30	80	64
Helicopters	3	0	6
Total FF/Overhead	163	281	495

Fires/Acreage

Category	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Total	Difference
United States: YTD Fires	15,686	10,845	- 4,841
United States: YTD Acres	732,184	216,040	- 516,144

Sources: [NICC Incident Management Situation Report](#); [National Interagency Fire Center](#); [IMSR Archives](#); [InciWeb Incident Information System](#).

Congressional Actions

Reports on legislation, upcoming hearings and new public laws of relevance to the national parks, prepared by Don Hellmann, former assistant director, legislative and Congressional affairs for the National Park Service.

New Public Laws

Nothing to report.

Senate Actions

April 21 – The Senate passed [H.R. 266](#), making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. This bill was renamed and used as the vehicle for Congress to pass the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act in response to the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) outbreak by providing additional funding for small business loans, health care providers, and COVID-19 testing. All provisions passed by the House regarding appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies were struck from the bill in the Senate. It is anticipated that those provisions will be included in another appropriations bill later this year. The bill now returns to the House for further action.

House Actions

April 23- The House agreed to the Senate amendment to [H.R. 266](#), the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act in response to the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) outbreak by providing additional funding for small business loans, health care providers, and COVID-19 testing, by a vote of 388 yeas to 5 nays, with one answering "present". The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

National Park Service

Around The Parks

Park reports are in alphabetical order. Included are proposals in the works for new areas or changes in designation for current NPS units.

- *Cape Hatteras NS* – Initial plans are being made to begin a major project to restore the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Built in 1868-70, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse has suffered wear and tear due to regular exposure to salt air, high winds, intense sunlight, and the 2,900-foot move to its current site in 1999. The renovation will include repairs to deteriorated masonry, metal components, windows, marble flooring, and the lantern itself. The project will also restore important architectural components, including missing pediments over the lighthouse windows and missing interior doors. Source: Joy Crist, [Island Free Press](#).
- *Lassen Volcanic NP* – The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), an international supplier of GIS software, web GIS and geodatabase management applications, has posted an article to its webpage about a project they undertook to help solve the daunting problems associated with plowing snow on Route 89, which runs through the park. Each spring, crews must remove up to 40 feet of snow, much of it along a road with an unmarked edge – a challenging and dangerous task. The park replaced its global navigation satellite system and installed new ones to collect more precise data points along the highway that have generated a highly accurate map of the road that provides plow drivers with safer and more reliable navigation. The article details all the technical aspects of the project. Source: Tim Smith, [National Park Service](#).
- *Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program* – “National Park Service officials who have worked on the federal grant program dedicated to preserving what's left of Route 66 say they will continue to support the program with limited services despite the fact that it came to an end last year,” reports *Hemmings* magazine. “However, they warn that their efforts cannot continue indefinitely without any input from Congress.” The ten-year preservation program, which was approved in 1999 but not funded until 2001, promised matching grants for preservation projects focused on the special places and stories of the historic highway. Congress reauthorized the program for another ten years in 2009. Source: Daniel Strohl, [Hemmings](#).
- *Upper Delaware S&RR/Delaware Water Gap NRA* – The Delaware River has received national recognition as “River of the Year” from [American Rivers](#). In making the selection, the organization had this to say: “American Rivers gave the Delaware this honor to recognize its

momentous progress for water quality, river restoration and community revitalization. Key to this success are the countless local individuals and groups who have worked for decades on the river's behalf. The progress on the Delaware illustrates the power of partnership and collaboration." Source: Amy Souers Kober, [American Rivers](#).

- *Zion NP* – Pendleton Woolen Mills has announced the addition of a Zion National Park blanket to its [National Park Collection](#). The Zion National Park stripe will carry over into additional lifestyle products such as outerwear, mugs and socks. This newest blanket is the first for a Utah national park. Current national parks featured in blankets include Glacier, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Olympic, Acadia, Crater Lake, Yosemite and Zion. The Pendleton National Park Collection is a curated selection of lifestyle products with sales of the blankets and select additional partner product supporting the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks. Since the creation of the partnership between Pendleton and the National Park Foundation in 2016, Pendleton and its collaboration partners have contributed over \$900,000 to the National Park Foundation. Source: April Rodgers, [Pendleton Woolen Mills](#).

NPS Projects

A listing of significant National Park Service projects which are currently open to public comment, plus due dates and URL's to related sites. Park/agency names for new entries are in **boldface**.

- ***Cape Hatteras NS*** – The park is preparing an EA for a sediment management framework that will include certain sediment management activities implemented by the seashore and by local jurisdictions, state agencies, and other federal agencies. [Comments may be made until May 10th](#).
- ***Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP*** – The National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000, as amended, requires that all persons conducting or intending to conduct a commercial air tour operation over a unit of the National Park system apply to the FAA for authority to undertake such activity. Helmet and Goggles Adventures, Inc., a fixed-wing tour operator, has requested permission to conduct tours over the park. As part of the air tour voluntary agreement process, a 30 day public review and comment period must occur prior to the execution of the agreement. [Comments will be taken until May 17th](#).
- ***Great Smoky Mountains NP*** – Great Smokies is seeking public feedback on several transportation and recreation planning efforts that will address visitor access, safety, transportation, and recreation in the Sevier County portion of the park. [Comments can be made on the relevant documents until May 22nd](#).
- ***North Cascades NP*** – The park is developing an environmental assessment to make modifications to the trail and camps in lower Thunder Creek in the Stephen Mather Wilderness. Flooding, erosion, and resource protection concerns have informed the proposed action. The preliminary proposal is to reroute 1,500 feet of trail and relocate a hiker and group camp in the vicinity of McAllister Camps on the Thunder Creek Trail. The park also proposes to construct a new administrative camp near Junction Camp another 3.5 miles up the same trail. A washed out bridge with very large steel stringers formerly used to access a closed camp would be removed by helicopter. [Comments will be taken until May 1st](#).

Climate and Conservation

This section covers the myriad interconnected, conservation-related threats that are transforming the national parks, their ecosystems, and the world ecosphere, often simultaneously.

National and Worldwide Issues

Reports on the national and international climate and conservation crisis.

- *Wildlife Collapse From Climate Change Forecast* – “Climate change could result in a more abrupt collapse of many animal species than previously thought, starting in the next decade if greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced, [according to a study published this month in Nature](#),” reports Catrin Einhorn in the April 15th New York Times. “The study predicted that large swaths of ecosystems would falter in waves, creating sudden die-offs that would be catastrophic not only for wildlife, but for the humans who depend on it.” The article provides details on the methodology used in the study. Source: Catrin Einhorn, [New York Times](#).
- *Twelve Rangers Killed In Virunga NP* – In the battle against poaching and other resource deprecations, there is no place on earth as dangerous as Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Twelve rangers were among 17 people killed in the park on April 24th in one of the worst massacres in the park’s recent history. The park blamed members of a Rwandan rebel group for the attack. Since it’s creation as Africa’s first national park in 1925, hundreds of rangers among the park’s dedicated team of 700 rangers have been killed. The park spans 3,000 square miles and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. The lush volcanic forests of the park in eastern Congo are home to unparalleled biodiversity, including forest and savanna elephants and hundreds of bird species, along with the endangered mountain gorillas. But poaching, logging and unrest stemming from Congo’s civil wars have damaged the wildlife population and made the park vulnerable to attacks by militia groups. Source: Abdi Latif Dahir, [New York Times](#).

National Park System Issues

Climate Change – News concerning the impacts of climate change on park lands, waters, species and other assets.

- *Great Lakes Parks* – “Along the Great Lakes--America's "Third Coastline"--rising lake levels coupled with erratic weather patterns are causing alarming levels of erosion,” reports Our Daily Planet. “Each year, people's homes, as well as utility lines, are becoming dangerously close to the lake's edge. Stronger riptides, dangerous crashing waves, and boats ramming objects hidden below the lake surface are all growing concerns for public safety officials.” The causes and future of shoreline erosion are hard to predict, because there are several forces at work – increasingly heavy rains bring more water, warming weather causes evaporation, and extreme cold air outbursts as well as disappearing winter ice barriers on the sand. “We don’t know what the long-term standing water level is going to be,” says a University of Michigan expert on coastal zone management. “We do believe variability is going to continue between low water and high water. And when the water comes up, it’s going to come with a vengeance.” Source: Monica Medina and Miro Korenha, [Our Daily Planet](#).

Native Flora and Fauna – Recent news pertaining to the protection, propagation and advancement of species now or formerly native to the national parks:

- *Joshua Tree NP* – Joshua trees have lived in the Mojave desert for 2.5m years, but they may not make it for much longer. Last year, a study found that even in a best-case scenario, with major efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, 80% of the trees’ habitat will be whittled away. It’s for this reason that, following decades of drought, development, and vandalism, California state officials are recommending that the Joshua tree be considered for listing as an endangered species. The Mojave Desert is warming so quickly that it exceeds previous warming periods that the trees have survived and is increasing the likelihood of their extinction. Source: Monica Medina and Miro Korenha, [Our Daily Planet](#).
- *Yosemite NP* – One of the most elusive creatures in North America has been caught on one of the park’s trail cameras. The Sierra Nevada red fox, a solitary and nocturnal creature with fewer than 50 remaining in the region, was photographed in the park’s backcountry. The park said the image was taken in October, but only recently retrieved. This is the first time the fox has been seen on a camera south of Tioga Pass Road since the surveys began in 2011. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Nevada red fox is “genetically and

geographically distinct from all other red foxes.” There are likely only two populations left, with fewer than 50 and perhaps fewer than 20 individuals. Those that remain are threatened by logging, off-road and over-snow vehicles, livestock grazing, fish stocking and climate change. Earlier this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing it as endangered, saying there may be as few as ten adults remaining. Source: Ed Mazza, [Huffington Post](#).

Ecosystems and Habitat – News about actions that affect park and adjoining ecosystems and habitat:

- *Big Cypress NP* – A month after the Corps of Engineers said a Texas company searching for oil had damaged park wetlands, the agency has reversed itself. In a letter to Burnett Oil, Col. Andrew Kelly said the Corps had taken another look at information, talked to staff at the preserve, and changed its mind. Last month, the Corps’ chief compliance officer warned Burnett Oil that it had found damage that amounted to a violation of the Clean Water Act, but that warning has been overridden. “Given the environmental sensitivity in the Big Cypress National Preserve and your expressed commitment to environmental stewardship,” wrote Kelly, “Jacksonville District looks forward to working with you on any future actions to clearly and transparently identify and take the appropriate action on any regulatory requirements and communicate in a professional manner.” Source: Jenny Staletovich, [WLRN News](#).

Coalition Actions

Summary of recent developments within the Coalition, including some of the actions that CPANP took on your behalf. Links to specified documents are embedded in each entry.

- *Park Closures and Park Funding* – CPANP has been involved in another round of communications with the media regarding the closing of parks and also the need for funding for parks and public lands in the next stimulus package. Phil did several interviews, including this [article that ran in the St. George Spectrum and Daily News](#), part of the USA Today Network.
- *DOI Royalty Relief* – The Coalition joined over 90 other groups in [a sign-on letter](#) urging Secretary Bernhardt to reject calls by lawmakers for measures to relieve the oil and gas industry of essential obligations to American taxpayers that would do little to preserve jobs. These calls risk putting corporate profits above the emergency response required to mitigate the pandemic at a time when the government’s focus should be on the health and safety of communities and workers across the nation.
- *Uranium Mining Industry Bailout* – CPANP [signed on to a letter](#) that was sent to Congressional leadership, urging them to continue to prioritize the health and wellbeing of the public and reject any bailout for the uranium mining industry in any future COVID-19 emergency response packages.
- *Sage Grouse Protection* – The Coalition also [signed on to a letter](#) urging Congressional leadership to ensure that a rider from previous years prohibiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from considering greater sage grouse for protection under the Endangered Species Act is excluded from the final FY 2021 appropriations bill for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.
- *Covid Infections In NPS Employees* – Following numerous unsuccessful attempts to receive regular public notice of the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 among NPS employees and at which parks those cases have occurred, the Coalition [submitted a FOIA request](#) to the NPS for this information:
- *Statement On DOI Pandemic Response* – The Coalition [issued a short statement](#) in response to an op-ed by Department of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt in which the Secretary defended his lackluster response to the coronavirus pandemic, which many experts have warned puts park workers, volunteers, and visitors at risk of infection:

- *Reopening Of National Parks* – CPANP also [issued a short statement](#) in response to President Trump's remarks that he would begin to reopen national parks. "Parks should not open before the safety of National Park Service employees, concessionaires, volunteers and other partners, including those in gateway communities, can be ensured. And not before we have the necessary capacity to protect our resources," said Phil Francis, the Coalition's chair. "This includes adequate staff, personal protective equipment, and employee training. There must be system wide and individual park plans in place, made available to the public, that can be executed prior to reopening."
- *Challenging Trump Affordable Clean Energy Rule* – The Coalition and NPCA took legal action this week by filing an amicus brief in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The brief supports a challenge to the Trump administration's Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, which fails to set effective limits to reduce carbon pollution from the nation's coal-fired power plants, accelerating and intensifying the effects of climate change on public health and our national parks. We also [issued a joint press release](#) on this filing.

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

Park People

NPS Alumni Passing Of Phil Iversen

Former Glacier National Park superintendent Phillip R. Iversen died on April 7th at his home in Kalispell. He was 96.

Iversen was superintendent of Glacier from February 1974 to September 1980. During his tenure he made the decision to ban the use of snowmobiles in Glacier, citing impacts to wildlife, particularly along Lake McDonald. Iversen was also known for pulling the plug on the filming of *Heaven's Gate* inside the park boundaries. The film transformed the east shore of Two Medicine Lake into the fictitious town of Sweetwater. He found it caused far too much damage to the park and pulled director Michael Cimino's filming permit. In addition, livestock were killed during filming in Many Glacier.

"My patience with Mr. Cimino had reached the limit and it came to a conclusion when he slaughtered a cow in the park, an attraction for grizzly bears and the contract time limit was exceeded by a couple of weeks," he recalled. "I canceled the contract and instructed Mr. Cimino and company to be out of the park within one week. I caught a lot of guff for awhile, mostly from the Kalispell business community because the production was pumping a lot of money into the town and a lot of people were working as extras and laborers. However, to his credit, Mr. Cimino did an excellent job of cleaning up the site, but he did take a few parting shots at me."

Iversen's career in total spanned 30 years with the Park Service. He worked at Grand Canyon National Park twice; was the first park ranger assigned to the newly established C&O Canal National Historic Park in Maryland; and also worked in Petrified Forest National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Arches, Canyonlands National Park, Natural Bridges National Monument, and Dinosaur National Monument. He also served as assistant regional director for Midwest Region and as state director of the National Parks in Utah.

Source: Chris Peterson, [Daily Interlake](#).

NPS Alumni Passing Of Career Seasonal Bob Hoyle

Robert "Bob" C. Hoyle, of Moose, Wyoming, and Fairview, North Carolina, died of cancer on March 2nd. He was 75.

Bob worked 47 seasons as a ranger at Grand Teton National Park, where he developed the park's astronomy interpretive program, and 10 seasons on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, where he performed interpretive outreach in the local public school system. He loved the National Park Service and all that it represented.

Bob received his BS in physics from Lenoir Rhyne College in Massachusetts, in astronomy from the University of Virginia, and was a Morehead Fellow in Planetarium Administration at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He began his career as a college professor of physics and astronomy at Lenoir Rhyne College (now university), and later taught at Catawba College and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He also taught courses at Western Wyoming Community College, the Teton Science Schools, and Yellowstone Institute.

His career continued with the NPS, where he shared his knowledge and all that he loved with park visitors and students. His wife, Blair, is retired from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

He was a passionate teacher, astronomer and telescope enthusiast, model train collector, photographer and environmentalist. He loved his family and grandkids, holidays, winter, traveling, classical music and cats.

Celebrations of life gatherings are being held in the North Carolina and later this summer in Grand Teton National Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Grand Teton National Park in support of astronomy interpretive education activities in Grand Teton National Park. Checks can be made to Grand Teton National Park, P.O. Box 170, Moose, WY 83012, in memory of Robert C. Hoyle.

Source: [Jackson Hole News and Guide](#).

NPS Alumni Passing Of Dave Vasarhelyi

Former NPS ranger Dave Vasarhelyi died at 53 from a stroke on March 8th. Dave is survived by his wife Jennie, chief of interpretation and visitor services at Cuyahoga Valley NP, and by daughters Leah and Kayla.

Dave became a ranger with the National Park Service at age 21, working for 17 years in some of our greatest national parks. When not working as a field ranger, Dave founded the West Creek Conservancy, established in 1997. Through his efforts the land he helped save became part of the Cleveland Metroparks system.

In 2005 Dave left the NPS to join The Trust for Public Land as a senior project manager. For over 15 years he helped acquire over 5,000 acres of parkland throughout Ohio.

For his conservation accomplishments, Dave received many accolades from city, state, and agency officials. His ability to build the bridges needed to achieve a conservation goal were renowned.

Memorial contributions in Dave's name can be made at www.westcreek.org

National Park Service Recent NPS Management Changes

Here's a listing of recent personnel changes in the NPS. Click on the links following the brief summaries for additional details:

- *NPS Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12* – There are two new members of the leadership team for [four of the NPS regions defined by the recent DOI reorganization](#), all of them managed from the old regional office in San Francisco. Cindy Orlando and Woody Smeck have been selected as permanent deputy regional directors for the NPS/Interior Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12. Both will be

duty stationed in the San Francisco regional office and are expected to EOD on June 7th. Cindy has been serving as acting deputy regional director since March 2019 and currently serves as the field special assistant for Interior Region 12, the Pacific Islands. She'd been the superintendent at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park since 2004; she brings 30 years of service as a park manager with the NPS and has also worked for the Washington Office as then chief of concessions. Prior to WASO, she was superintendent at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. She has worked on NPS policy level issues in the San Francisco and Seattle regional offices and has a background in administration and cultural resources. In 2004, Cindy received a meritorious service award for her work as chief of concessions. Cindy enjoys sharing the aloha spirit and tending to her fruit trees, including mangoes, oranges and avocados, at her home in Hawaii. Woody is currently superintendent at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, where he has led the management team since 2013. Woody is a 29-year veteran of the National Park Service and has also held positions as superintendent at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and deputy superintendent at Yosemite National Park. He has held a number of leadership positions across the service, including regional director in the former National Capital Region and recently as acting superintendent at Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks. He started his NPS career as a landscape architect and holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in landscape architecture and planning from Cal Poly. Woody enjoys spending time with his family, including wife, Karen, and daughters, Allison and Megan. Source: National Park Service.

From The Archives

This section contains incidents taken from *Morning Report* issues published during the corresponding week (approximately) 25 years ago in 1995. All entries appear in the original verb tense; "submitters" are those people who originally submitted the incident report.

- *Glacier Bay NP* – On April 25th, one of three mountaineering parties climbing 10,495-foot Mt. Orville in the Fairweather Mountains reported finding the bodies of three climbers below the mountain at the head of North Crillon glacier. The accident, which was reported by radio-telephone, apparently occurred a day or two previously and had been caused by an avalanche or fall at the 4,900-foot level. Rangers and an Alaska state trooper flew to the scene that afternoon, but were unable to land. Two climbing rangers from Denali, a ranger from Glacier Bay and a state trooper finally reached the scene of the accident by helicopter and ski plane the following day. Initial investigation revealed that the three climbers were descending when they fell at least 2,000 feet to their deaths. A foot of new snow had fallen while the party was on the mountain, and avalanches were frequent while the recovery team was on the glacier. The bodies were flown to Juneau and turned over to state troopers. Names are being withheld pending notification of families. Submitted by Randy King.
- *Lava Beds NM* – A five-year investigation has culminated in the arrest of Jeff Ketchum, 30, for possession of Native American remains taken from the park. In July of 1990, Ketchum began showing off a human skull at local bars which he said he'd taken from "the lava beds." Efforts were made at the time to develop a case against him, but park staff were unable to gather sufficient evidence. At the request of the Klamath tribe, the case was reopened in 1993 when Ketchum began showing off the skull in Oregon, this time with a wig resembling a mohawk cut. The county sheriff's office and Oregon state police were both brought into the investigation, but Ketchum and the skull disappeared. When he resurfaced last summer, a search warrant, based partly on the park's investigation, was served on him by Oregon state police, who found and seized two skulls (one of an adult, the other of a child), bald eagle feathers, and methamphetamine. He was charged with possession of Native American remains, possession of protected bird parts, and illegal possession (as a previously convicted felon) of a firearm. Ketchum is currently awaiting trial; the skulls are being returned to the Klamath tribe. Submitted by Lava Beds NM.

- *New River Gorge NR* – On the morning of April 30th, a group of juvenile delinquents and a counselor from Camp Elliot began the second day of a planned six-day backpacking trip in the park. They were hiking upriver along a railroad near Cunard when a slow-moving freight train forced them to leave the tracks. Two of the juveniles, a nine-year-old boy and his friend, became separated from the group on the opposite side of the tracks. When the freight train stopped to let an Amtrak train go by, the two boys decided to crawl under the freight train to reach the rest of the group. While still under it, the train began to move and the nine-year-old's arm was caught under a wheel and severed about two inches below the elbow. He stayed in the center of the track until the rest of the train - about five cars - passed over him, then was carried out a half mile to Cunard Landing by his companions and some bystanders. Maintenance worker Frank Bragg transported the boy in his truck to town where he was transferred by ambulance and helicopter to a hospital in Louisville. His arm was surgically reattached in an operation that reportedly went very well. At last report, he was in stable condition in the hospital. Submitted by Acting Chief Ranger Rick Brown.

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- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, Emily Thompson, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Doug Crispin, Bill Carroll, Steve Pittleman, John Townsend, Cathy Halainen, Terry Allen

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. Please don't submit them via his personal email address or Facebook page.

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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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