



The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, September 30, 2020

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Incidents

Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P Hunter Killed By Grizzly Bear

Austin Pfeiffer, 22, of Ohio was killed by a grizzly bear in the park late on Sunday, September 20th, while on a moose hunting trip. This is the first recorded fatal bear attack in the park since it was established in 1980.

The incident occurred in a remote area approximately 50 air miles from the nearest community of Northway, Alaska, and 130 miles from park headquarters. The attack occurred near the Cottonwood Creek drainage, an area of mixed tundra and forest lands with dense vegetation, while the hunting party was salvaging meat from a moose harvested the day before. The park's investigation determined this was a surprise attack and that a defensive firearm or other deterrent, like bear spray, was not readily available to the victim.

The NPS was notified about the incident at approximately 7:30 p.m. on September 20th. Through coordination with a local air taxi service used by the hunters, the NPS ensured the site was secure and that the victim's hunting partner was safely evacuated from the area. The following day, the NPS coordinated with Alaska Wildlife Troopers to recover the victim's body, which was transported to the Alaska State Medical Examiner's office in Anchorage, Alaska.

Rangers found no evidence that the bear remains in the area, and no other park visitors are known to be in the immediate vicinity of the incident location. The site is extremely remote, but rangers will continue to monitor the area for bear activity.

Source: [National Park Service](#).

Great Smoky Mountains NP Camper's Body Found Being Scavenged By Black Bear

A man whose body was found being scavenged by a black bear in a remote area of the park on September 11th apparently had been camping alone.

Investigators have not yet determined whether Patrick Madura, 43, of Elgin, Illinois, was mauled by the bear or whether he died of some other cause.

Madura had a backcountry reservation for a multi-night trip. He was scheduled to stay alone at campsite 82 in the Hazel Creek area on the night of September 8th. One tent and one sleeping bag were found at the campsite – no one else was scheduled to camp there either that day or the next three days.

On the afternoon of September 11th, backpackers hiking near the campsite found Madura dead and a bear nearby. The backpackers left the remote, densely wooded area of the park to regain cellphone service and notified park officials, who arrived shortly after midnight to find the bear "actively scavenging" on the man's remains. Rangers killed the bear.

Source: Travis Dorman, [Knoxville News Sentinel](#).

Mount Rainier NP Hiker Dies In Severe Weather Conditions

The body of Alex Fitzgerald, 27, of Seattle, was recovered last Thursday after he perished in whiteout snow conditions while trekking in the park.

Fitzgerald and his hiking partner, a woman who was visiting from Virginia, experienced high winds, heavy rain and whiteout conditions while they were at a 9,300-foot elevation after spending the night in a tent at Camp Muir. Rangers received a 911 cell phone call from the woman at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Rangers monitored their descent, while a quick-response team was dispatched to assist them.

The woman, who was not immediately identified, was found by the rescue team shortly before 4 p.m. at the top of the Skyline Trail, about 7,200 feet elevation, being assisted by two other hikers. She told the arriving rangers that Fitzgerald had become disoriented and then unresponsive. She told the rangers that she left to get help after she was unable to move him or to get a cell phone signal.

His body was found about 4:45 p.m. at about 7,700 feet on the Muir Snowfield. Rangers returned to the scene Thursday and recovered Fitzgerald's body with help from Olympic, Tacoma, Central Washington, Seattle, and Everett Mountain Rescue volunteers. His body was brought back to the trailhead and turned over to the Pierce County medical examiner.

The route to Camp Muir follows a trail from Paradise (elevation 5,400 feet) to Pebble Creek, and then across the Muir Snowfield the rest of the way to the high camp at 10,180 feet, according to park officials.

Source: Alfred Charles, [KOMO News](#).

Yosemite NP Two Bitten By Rattlesnakes

Two visitors were bit by rattlesnakes in separate incidents in late August.

On August 26th, a rattlesnake bit a hiker who was fishing barefoot in the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne. The hiker had stepped onto a rock, causing it to shift under his weight, and suddenly a rattlesnake – apparently underneath the rock – bit him on his left foot.

His wife went to go get help on her own after they tried hiking together. The husband was ultimately transferred to a park ambulance, where a paramedic treated him for dehydration, nausea and pain. The hiker was eventually flown to a Modesto hospital, where he was given two doses of the anti-venom CroFab.

Three days later, a rattlesnake struck a hiker's left knee. One of the hiker's companions said that they were hiking by ankle-high shrubs, when the snake struck with no rattle, hiss, or any other sound.

Another hiker with cell service called 911. They opted to apply a tourniquet but were told to remove it after they spoke with a park ranger-paramedic (applying a tourniquet to a limb that has been envenomated blocks blood flow and can lead to tissue damage). He was also later transferred to an air ambulance and received treatment for dehydration, nausea and pain, along with four doses of CroFab. He was hospitalized, but released a few days later.

Source: David Oliver, [USA Today](#).

National Park System Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents

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

- *Gulf Island NS* – Hurricane Sally gouged three breaches into the eastern tip of Perdido Key, separating the isolated stretch of the barrier island into three small islands. The affected area is undeveloped, sandy shoreline east of Johnson Beach and just south of Robertson Island. Even before the hurricane, the region was inaccessible by road and was primarily used by hikers and boaters as a recreation spot for camping, kayaking and swimming. The three new channels created by Sally may make the farthest corner of the island even more remote. Source: Kevin Robinson, [USA Today](#).
- *Appalachian NST* – Attorneys for James Jordan, who is accused of killing an Appalachian Trail hiker in southwest Virginia last year, intend to employ an insanity defense at his trial. Attorneys are asking the court to direct any evaluation of 31-year-old Jordan's mental state at the time to be conducted in the least restrictive manner possible. Jordan remains in custody at the Southwest Virginia Regional Jail in Abingdon. His attorneys ask that he remain at the Abingdon facility and undergo any necessary evaluations and treatment in the region, rather than be transferred into federal custody. Source: Robert Sorrell, [Bristol Herald-Courier](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center Crews From Army, Marines, Mexico And Canada Join Firefighting Efforts

NIFC remains at Preparedness Level 5, the highest of five levels.

Forty-two large fires are burning nationwide. Although no large fires have been contained in recent days, firefighters continue to achieve suppression goals.

Firefighters are being supported by Air National Guard aircraft and by crews and overhead from the Army (14th Brigade Engineer Battalion), Marines (7th Engineer Support Battalion), Canada and Mexico.

Park And Park-Related Fires

- *Yosemite NP* – The park reopened last Friday after several days' closure due to smoke. Several fires are burning in in park wilderness areas in a fire adapted ecosystem. Numerous trail closures are in effect around Yosemite Creek and the southern part of the park. Smoke from each fire is settling locally at night, rising in the morning, then dispersing to the north and northeast in the early afternoon. These are the principal fires, with acreages and status as of last Friday – Blue Jay Fire (4,498 acres, 50% contained), Wolf Fire (1,087 acres, 35% contained), North Whizz Dome Fire (75 acres, 0% contained), and the Horse Fire (35 acres, 0% contained). Click on the following link for more info. Source: [Sierra Sun Times](#).
- *Rocky Mountain NP* – The Cameron Peak Fire has burned 124,026 acres, up from 104,157 acres last Tuesday, and is now 21% contained. It has burned approximately 7,050 acres in the park, largely in the Cascade Creek, Hague Creek and Mummy Pass Creek drainages. The fire there is burning in steep thick beetle killed forests with significant standing dead trees as well as dead and down fuels. A list of closures and a current map of the fire can be found [at this link](#).

- *Point Reyes NS* – The Woodward Fire has burned 4,929 acres (no change from the last report in this newsletter) and is 97% contained. Full containment is expected by tomorrow.
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs* – The Moraine Fire has burned 668 acres, up from 575 acres reported last Tuesday. It is 70% contained.
- *Crater Lake NP* – On September 10th, Crater Lake issued a Level 1 evacuation notice for the entire park. Based on the status of nearby fires, local forecasts with cooler temperatures and some precipitation, and long-range projections for fire behavior, the park canceled that evacuation notice last Friday.
- *Oregon Caves NM* – The park remains closed due to the proximity of the Slater Fire.

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	September 15	September 22	September 29
Area Command Teams	3	3	3
NIMO Teams	4	4	4
Type 1 Teams	20	19	16
Type 2 Teams	23	16	13
Crews	579	534	515
Engines	2,266	2,379	1,972
Helicopters	251	231	236
Total FF/Overhead	30,116	30,681	27,172

Fires/Acreage

Category	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Total	Difference
United States: YTD Fires	47,615	44,091	- 3,524
United States: YTD Acres	6,104,188	7,468,335	+ 1,364,147

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

September 23 – The Committee on Armed Services received a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations in support of efforts to protect the integrity of United States national elections from malign actors from Kenneth P. Rapuano, Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense and Global Security, and General Paul M. Nakasone, USA, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command and Director, National Security Agency, and Chief, Central Security Service, both of the Department of Defense.

September 23 – The Committee on the Budget held a hearing to examine the Congressional Budget Office's updated budget outlook. Testimony was provided by Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

September 23 – The Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to examine [S. 4589](#), to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to increase transparency, to support regulatory certainty, and to reauthorize that Act, focusing on modernizing the Endangered Species Act. Testimony was provided by Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, Cheyenne; and public witnesses. There was no witness from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 23 – The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing to examine COVID-19, focusing on an update on the federal response. Testimony was provided by Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Robert Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Admiral Brett P. Giroir, Assistant Secretary for Health, and Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

September 24 – The Senate passed the following:

- [S. Res. 715](#), expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- [S. Res. 718](#), reaffirming the Senate's commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States.
- [S. Res. 719](#), recognizing September 22, 2020, as "National Voter Registration Day".

House Actions

September 21 – The House agreed to [H. Res. 1128](#), expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

September 21 – The House passed the following bills:

- [H.R. 3349](#), to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia.
- [H.R. 3465](#), to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.
- [H.R. 139](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site associated with the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in the State of Illinois.
- [H.R. 1702](#), to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.
- [S. 1321](#), to prohibit interference with voting systems under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.
- [H.R. 5309](#), to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.
- [H.R. 6294](#), to require data sharing regarding protecting the homeless from coronavirus.

September 22 – The House agreed to [H. Res. 1135](#), electing certain Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. Among others, Rep. Nanette Barragán, (D-CA) was elected to the Committee on Natural Resources.

September 22 – The House passed the following bills:

- [H.R. 8337](#), making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, by a vote of 359 yeas to 57 nays with one answering "present". The bill extends funding for all federal government programs through December 11, 2020.

- [H.R. 1923](#), to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.
- [H.R. 4104](#), to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Negro Leagues baseball.

September 22 – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Trump Administration Broken Promises on Renewable Energy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 23 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Health Care Lifeline: The Affordable Care Act and the COVID-19 Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from Dean Cameron, Director, Idaho Department of Insurance; and public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 23 – The Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment held a hearing entitled “Green Recovery Plans for the COVID-19 Crisis”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 23 – Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship held a hearing entitled “Immigrants as Essential Workers During COVID-19”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 24 – The Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing entitled “The 2020 Wildfire Year: Response and Recovery Efforts”. Testimony was heard from John Phipps, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

September 24 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce held a hearing entitled “Mainstreaming Extremism: Social Media's Role in Radicalizing America”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 24 – The Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing entitled “Diversity in America: The Representation of People of Color in the Media”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 24 – The Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Climate Change, Part IV: Moving Towards a Sustainable Future”. Testimony was heard from Christopher Castro, Director of Sustainability and Resilience, Orlando, Florida; Reed Schuler, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, Governor Jay Inslee, Washington; and public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 24 – The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Water Management in Florida”. Testimony was heard from Noah Valenstein, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Chauncey P. Goss II, Chairman, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board, Florida; and public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 24 – The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress held a business meeting on recommendations to improve the congressional schedule and calendar, boost congressional capacity, reclaim Article One responsibilities, reform the budget and appropriations process, identify administrative inefficiencies, and improve technology and continuity in Congress; and to consider the Committee's Final Report. Recommendations and the Committee's Final Report were approved, without amendment.

Joint House and Senate Meeting

September 22 – The Joint Economic Committee held a hearing to examine the economic impact of America's failure to contain the Coronavirus. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

National Park Service

National Park System

A summary of articles pertaining to management and oversight of the NPS, to current trends and issues affecting the National Park System, or to either all or parts of the entire system.

- *NAPA Report On NPS Construction Program Released* – Earlier this month, the director of the Denver Service Center a report on the Service's construction program conducted by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). The 110-page report – [Assessment and Analysis of the National Park Service Construction Program](#) – assesses design and construction costs, design and construction process and contracting methods, use of best management practices, and major construction program management costs. The study provides 10 findings and 13 recommendations. It also identifies five “good practices” theme areas for all project delivery by DSC and NPS – enhance project stewardship and accountability, build internal expertise to effectively manage/deliver projects, enhance data/systems integration, employ collaborative acquisition strategies, and pursue continuous operational improvements. Source: National Park Service.
- *Easing Overcrowding In Parks* – A publication called *5280: Denver's Mile High Magazine* recently ran an interesting article with eight suggestions for relieving overcrowding in the parks. Space limitations preclude inclusion of details on each suggestion. Here, though, are the headings – see the link below for a full discussion: Solution 1: Shut the Gates; Solution 2: Ditch the Cars; Solution 3: Alter Pricing; Solution 4: Point Out the Road Less Traveled; Solution 5: Manage the Ick; Solution 6: Ask People Not To Do It for the 'Gram; Solution 7: Spread the Love; Solution 8: Do Your Part. Source: Elisabeth Kwak-Hefferan, [5280: Denver's Mile High Magazine](#).

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.

- *Gettysburg NMP* – A video by a park visitor which allegedly shows what appears to be a ghost sighting at the battlefield has launched an online debate. A New Jersey man took the video with him on a trip to the park earlier this month. It appears to show a ghostly figure walking around two cannons on the battlefield. Upon viewing the video, the New Jersey Paranormal Research Organization posted to their Facebook page that the 'ghost sighting' wasn't actually a ghost at all, but rather water droplets on the camera. Judge for yourself – the video is included in the following link. Source: *New York Post* via [KOMO News](#).
- *Lowell NHP* – The park's visitor center closed last Sunday for an extensive heating, ventilation and air conditioning renovation that is expected to be completed in February. The work will include rehabilitating the building's decades-old HVAC system, adding new coolant technology, air handler, roof top chiller and chiller lines, as well as improved return fans and vents and a properly sequenced and balanced design. Source: Alana Melanson, [Lowell Sun](#).
- *Mill Springs Battlefield NM* – On September 21st, legislation was signed that establishes Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument in Nancy, Kentucky, as the 421st unit of the National Park System. Mill Springs was the site of the first major victory for the Union Army during the Civil War. Land for the new national monument was acquired through donations from the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and Pulaski County, Kentucky. The Battle of Mill Springs

helped to maintain Kentucky's Union affiliation throughout the war and offered more than a strategic victory for the Union Army – it served as a national rallying call heralded by the Union and provided a much-needed boost to morale, helping to re-energize Northern war interests. Source: Steve Rogers, [WTVQ](#).

- *Point Reyes NS* – On September 18th, the park released the final version of a controversial plan to extend leases of historic ranches in the park and to cull some tule elk to prevent conflicts with private ranching. In its final environmental review of the park's general management plan amendment ([available at this link](#)), the National Park Service's preferred option is to extend leases for private ranchers from five-year terms to up to 20-year-terms. The 24 ranching families in the park and neighboring Golden Gate National Recreation Area would also be able to diversify their livestock beyond cows on a case-by-case basis to include other animals such as goats, chickens and pigs. To address conflicts between the free-roaming Drakes Beach tule elk herd and ranches, the plan would allow park staff to kill some elk to keep the population to 120 elk. The herd had 138 elk as of the last count in late 2019. The decision is intensely controversial, as can be seen [in this article](#). Source: Will Houston, [Marin Independent Journal](#).
- *Rocky Mountain NP* – A new trail and overlook at Alluvial Fan, an area named for the shape it took after major floods, should be ready for phased reopening at the end of this month. The area closed in July for long-anticipated construction. The short, paved path will span the rock field of the parking lot's west side and the forest to the east, opening up for views of the mountain-back-dropped meadow of Endovalley and Horseshoe Falls. Alluvial Fan was formed by a dam break and flood in 1982. Soon, the area became popular for hikers, leading the park to build an asphalt trail and pedestrian bridge. Those were destroyed by another flood in 2013. The project is being jointly funded by the government and by the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Source: Seth Boster, [Colorado Springs Gazette](#).
- *World War II Valor In The Pacific NM* – The park is planning to replace the shore side floating dock and anchoring system at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial Visitor Center. The new dock will provide the capability to accommodate mooring of park owned boats on both ends of the docks. The dock will have a new anchoring system and new or rehabilitated concrete abutments necessary to support new strut anchoring and gangplanks. Comments are being taken on the project until October 4th. Source: [National Park Service](#).
- *Zion NP* – Middle Emerald Pools Trail reopened to visitors on September 23rd. The trail has been closed since it was damaged by a storm in 2010 and again in another storm in 2016. Funding came from several grants and contributions from the Zion Forever Project and National Park Foundation. Engineers, geologists and masons using hand tools fixed the 85-year-old trail. Source: Sabrina Schnur, [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#).

The Coalition

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.

- *Wildlife Corridors* – The Coalition [signed on to a letter](#) sent to California officials requesting that they make wildlife movement corridors a priority issue to be addressed in the project design of the XpressWest High Speed Rail Project.
- *Oil And Gas Leasing Reform* – CPANP [issued a short statement](#) in support of Senator Bennet's two bills to tackle the growing orphaned oil well crisis in the short and long term while restoring robust public participation and tribal consultation during decisions about whether public lands should be leased for drilling.
- *Endangered Species Act Amendments* – The Coalition [joined numerous other organizations in a sign-on letter](#) sent to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee regarding the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2020, which would fundamentally undermine ESA.

- *USFS/DOA Oil And Gas Resources Rule* – CPANP [signed-on to a letter](#) sent to the Department of Agriculture and the US Forest Service requesting that they issue a 90-day extension of the ongoing public comment period for the nonessential oil and gas resources proposed rule, given the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic:

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

Park People

NPS Alumni

Passing Of Jim Martin

Jim Martin, 80, a career ranger for the NPS, passed away on September 7th after a battle with squamous cell carcinoma. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Maria, son Stephen (Krista) Martin and daughter Dinorah (David) Lawson. He also leaves behind four grandchildren, whom he adored, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and brother Phillip Martin.

The following remembrance was sent along by his daughter, Dinorah Lawson:

Jim was born in 1940 to parents Francis O. Martin and Frances D. Martin in Los Angeles, California. Jim graduated from San Gabriel High School in 1957 and attended Humboldt State University. He married Maria Elias in 1965.

Jim dedicated his life to the preservation and protection of our nation's cultural and natural resources as a national park ranger for over 40 years. His love for our national parks began in the early 1950s with a serendipitous visit to Bandelier National Park, where he met a young naturalist who took the time to teach him and his brother about the unique cultural history of the park rather than scold them for the removal of a cultural artifact.

That interaction had a lasting effect on Jim. He began his career as a seasonal wilderness/climbing ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. From there, Jim went on to work at Carlsbad Caverns National Park (where he met his future bride and love of his life, Maria), Cabrillo National Monument, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Saguaro National Park, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Yosemite National Park, Channel Islands National Park, Petrified Forest National Park (temporary assignment), and finally back to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, where he retired as superintendent in 2003.

Throughout his life and career, Jim was known for being a trailblazer. As young boys, Jim and his brother Phillip spent countless hours exploring their own Southern California backyard unbeknownst to their parents, who might have assumed they were off with their scout troops. However, once they achieved their Eagle Scout rank, both were asked to leave the troop as they were too "adventurous."

Together, Jim and his brother started free-diving off the Southern California coastline armed only with their spear guns and wool long john underwear as protection, and knowledge they gleaned from *Skin Diver Magazine* in the early 1950s. Once his brother could drive, the pair climbed mountains (and sometimes buildings) and explored caves extensively between Mexico and Canada, including the East Face of Mt. Whitney in 1957 at age 17.

Jim's love of nature and proficiency in the wilderness was influenced by famous mountaineers such as Glenn Exum and Paul Petzoldt, whom he met as an awestruck teenager at Grand Teton National Park; Cabrillo National Monument superintendent Tom Tucker, who taught him how to be a firm, fair and progressive supervisor; wildlife ecologist and author Aldo Leopold (*A Sand County Almanac*); and NPS Pacific Area Director Bryan Harry, who was his friend and mentor and taught him how to lead quietly by setting a good example.

As a park ranger, Jim was often unconventional in his approach to rangering and never wavered in his belief and dedication to the National Park Service and its mission. Jim was a mentor and inspiration to many park rangers; he supported equally the divisions of resource management, interpretation, maintenance, and law enforcement. Moreover, that mentorship often extended beyond the workday; it was not uncommon to find one or more wayward rangers gathered at the dinner table sharing meals and holidays with the Martin family. His encouragement and friendship spread far and wide throughout the NPS community and his gregarious nature made park visitors feel welcome.

Jim believed that the parks belong to everyone and that if the rangers could go somewhere or do something then so could the general public. That being said, as a park manager, Jim resisted pressure to build fences or close dangerous areas; he believed that visitors should be educated and given the tools to make their own informed choices. As a supervisor, Jim used tact, humor, knowledge, diplomacy and enthusiasm to move a group of people with varying interests toward a common goal, such as facilitating the NPS acquisition of the Kahuku Ranch, adding 116,000 acres to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

Jim's lifelong relationship with his surrounding environment allowed him to face his final days with grace and dignity. He believed that there is a constant and reliable impermanence to life. While he is physically gone, his echoing voice and sly smile will always be with us. His family asks that his memory is honored by continuing to be his voice and "speak for the trees."

Those of you who worked with him in all the wonderful, wild places, will no doubt have a memorable moment or two to share. Please pass any Jim Martin stories on to the family: Maria Martin, c/o Dinorah Lawson & family, 6755 Xana Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009. We will be 'talking story' forever.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i (select Hawai'i under gift designation) [at this link](#) or The Elizabeth Hospice [at this link](#).

Source: Dinorah Lawson via Holly Bundock.

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.

- *Crater Lake NP* – A helicopter with two people aboard crashed and sank into Crater Lake on Saturday, September 23rd. Neither occupant survived. The pilot was George Causey, 52, of Enumclaw, Washington; his sole passenger was Edward Tulleners, 45, of West Linn, Oregon. A search is underway for any clues on the cause of the accident. The helicopter, an Aerospatiale As-350 B-1 Astar owned by American Euro Helicopter of Grand Prairie, Texas, was en route from Seattle to Las Vegas when the accident occurred. The helicopter crashed in open water about a mile from the shoreline of the lake below Crater Lake Lodge. It broke up on impact, and pieces of the craft sank quickly to an estimated depth of about 1500 feet. Neither body has been recovered. The park is exploring methods for determining the location of the wreckage. Jet fuel and other contaminants were released into the lake's pristine waters. Most of the spilled jet fuel has already evaporated, and it's likely that 99% will evaporate over the next few days or weeks. There are also small amounts of more viscous fluids in the helicopter, which will take longer to evaporate. The park will conduct water testing and analysis for hydrocarbons at the crash site this week. The cause of the crash is still unknown. The weather was clear at the time the helicopter went down. Submitted by Mark Forbes, PNWRO.
- *Indiana Dunes NL* – On September 6th, Gregory Buchheit of Villa Park, Illinois, was swimming off the Beverly Shores beach when he nearly drowned. He was taken from the lake in a semi-conscious state and transported to a hospital. Buchheit first claimed that he'd experienced difficulties because of rip currents, but investigators determined that the lake had been very calm that day. He then stated that some type of electrical occurrence had caused his mishap,

but investigators also ruled out that possibility. The park then received calls from the news media concerning claims by Buchheit's wife that the park was not making any efforts to make the beach safe from the creature that had attacked her husband, allegedly a sturgeon. One news channel discovered and reported that a sturgeon weighing several hundred pounds had in fact been caught in the area in the 1930s. The park contacted the emergency room physician who had treated Buchheit; he said that Buchheit's injuries were not of a type consistent with an attack by a sturgeon, but were more probably caused by rope burn. All indications are that the alleged fish attack was a hoax. Submitted by Chief Ranger Rich Littlefield.

- *Kenai Fjords NP* – Exit Glacier was swept off its terminal moraine during the recent Alaska floods. Fifty feet of the leading ice edge and one third of the terminal moraine washed away. Kettle ponds disappeared under an avalanche of sediment; ice chunks now dot the outwash plain. A 150-foot section of the Exit Glacier road was washed out, and the road has accordingly been closed at Resurrection Bridge. Work is also underway to repair Exit Glaciers trails, all of which were affected by the flooding. Segments of the newly-constructed upper section of the Harding Icefield trail sustained heavy damage, and the bridge and trailhead sign-in station at the beginning of the trail were buried under 15 feet of sediment. The entire Exit Glacier area remains closed. A six-person maintenance crew from Denali began about four weeks of road and trail rehab work on Tuesday. They brought two dump trucks and a D3 bulldozer from Denali with them. Damage has been estimated to be in excess of \$100,000. Submitted by Peter Fitzmaurice.

A Closing Observation

"Preservation of the future may be the most important instinct in the fabric of life on earth. It is certainly the most beautiful. Somehow we must nurture the diminishing instinct to protect the generations to come, bringing it to the conference rooms of power and politics and industry. For if we thoughtlessly barter away the lives and futures of our children and grandchildren for more convenience, we will have made the most shameful bargain in the history of man."

Marine conservationist [Jacques Cousteau](#), 1977

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- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Emily Thompson, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, Duncan Morrow and Mark Forbes
- Issue Contributors: Holly Bundock, Bill Walters

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 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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