



## The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Volume 4

Number 6

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### Incidents

#### **West Coast Parks**

##### **Winter Storms Hammer Parks**

Strong storms blowing in from the Pacific Ocean have caused closures and damaged facilities in at least two parks:

- *Mount Rainier NP* – Heavy rains have caused flooding and landslides in the park. All park roads have been closed and will remain closed indefinitely. At the time of the initial report on Sunday, there was no access to Paradise or to the Longmire Historic Landmark District. Park staff had to clear an emergency access route to evacuate National Park Inn guests and remaining park staff at Longmire. The park has since been running an escort convoy each day over a Forest Service back road for residents dealing with the landslide so they can get supplies. Historic structures, including the National Park Inn and other buildings within Longmire have also been damaged by floodwaters. It's expected that additional and extensive damage will be revealed as floodwaters recede and snow melts.
- *Yosemite NP* – High winds knocked down trees in the Sierra this past Sunday, forcing road closures in the park and contributing to widespread power outages. Wawona Road, a continuation of state Highway 41 from Wawona to Yosemite Valley, and Badger Pass Road were closed due to fallen trees as a result of high winds. In the mountain areas closer to Yosemite, the highest wind speeds reached 76 mph at Cascade Heights near North Fork at 7 a.m. Sunday. It was still blowing 40 to 50 mph there on Sunday afternoon.

Drier weather is expected this week, which should help bring down rivers and restore access to isolated areas.

Sources: [The News Tribune](#); [KOMO News](#); Larry Valenzuela, [Fresno Bee](#).

#### **Big Cypress NP**

##### **Two Killed When Motorcycle Hits NPS Vehicle**

Two people were killed after their motorcycle slammed into an NPS pickup that pulled in front of them in Collier County on Sunday afternoon.

The crash occurred at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Burns Road when a park employee driving a 2018 Dodge Ram pulled in front of the motorcycle while traveling east on U.S. 41. The pickup had a trailer attached and was a National Park Service law enforcement vehicle, according to investigating state troopers.

The motorcycle struck the side of the pickup; both its operator and passenger flew off the bike and struck the side of the pickup. The motorcycle passenger was run over by a third vehicle after they landed in the eastbound lanes of U.S. 41. The third vehicle was trying to avoid also hitting the pickup.

The driver of the third vehicle and the pickup were uninjured in the crash, which is under investigation at this time.

Source: Jake Allen, [Naples Daily News](#).

### **Cape Lookout NS Four Rescued From Shipwreck On Shackleford Banks**

The Coast Guard has rescued four sailors from a fishing trawler that wrecked along a dangerous stretch of water near the Outer Banks last Friday.

The crew members were lifted off the 78-foot fishing vessel before dawn as it was being wracked by strong winds and tossed by waves.

The trawler *Tamara Alane* came aground in the sands of Shackleford Banks, the southernmost barrier island in the park. The crew had reported engine trouble and fuel issues in a distress call around 3:30 a.m. after trying unsuccessfully to set their anchor. Eventually the boat began taking on water as it hit the beach.

Nobody was hurt in the incident. The Coast Guard and a marine salvage company surveyed the damage and began removing the vessel from the beach over the weekend after the weather calmed,

Source: [Winston-Salem Journal](#).

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

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

- *Everglades NP* – Additional details have been received regarding the solo kayaker who was rescued on Monday, February 3rd, after being missing in the park for a week. When found, the 67-year-old man was covered in mud, hypothermic and convulsing. After the man's bag, with his wallet and phone, washed up on the bank of the Lopez River and was found by rangers on Sunday, deputies worked with the park and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to find him. They downloaded data from his phone Sunday night and found his most recent coordinates logged on January 31st. The sheriff's office aviation unit began a targeted search of the area and found him a few miles from where his belongings were found. Source: Jake Allen, [Naples Daily News](#).
- *Indiana Dunes NP* – The park and its neighbors continue to deal with major beach erosion, which was aggravated by a storm last week. Waves have washed away the dunes that protect both a parking area and a portion of the nearby public road. Underground utilities are also in danger. In recent weeks emergency work has begun and the National Park Service is working cooperatively with the Town of Beverly Shores to remediate the problem. At a cost of \$325,000 to Beverly Shore residents, that includes the installation of 300 linear feet of sand bags piled above the high water mark on the beach, blocking off the parking lot and road. The lake's level, in combination with recent storm waves, has resulted in conditions this part of the lake hasn't seen in decades. Source: Patrick Elwood, [WGN News](#).

## **National/International Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center**

## Assistance To Australia Continues

NIFC is at PL 1.

Nine new large fires were reported last week; firefighters contained them all. Four were reported in Montana and one each in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Missouri.

As wildfires continue to burn in Australia, the United States is sending additional DOI and USFS wildfire personnel to assist with ongoing wildfire suppression efforts. As of last Friday, there were 78 firefighters and overhead in Victoria, 23 in New South Wales, and 5 in South Australia.

Because emergency management in Australia is a state responsibility, detailed information on operations in the above three states can be found at the following websites:

- New South Wales RFS – <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>
- Victoria – <https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/>
- South Australian Country Fire Service – <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp>

You can learn more about the US deployment at [https://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo\\_australia.htm](https://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_australia.htm).

**Wildland Fire News** – Stories pertaining to wildland fire and fire-related activities that involved the NPS and its fellow agencies around the globe.

- *Great Increase In Acres Burned By Wildland Fires In Grand Teton Forecast* – The journal *Ecological Applications* recently published an article entitled “[Can wildland fire management alter 21st-century subalpine fire and forests in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, USA?](#)” Here are a couple of excerpts: “Wildfires are about to become a whole lot more abundant and large, with acreage burned per year from 2018 onward about 1,700% greater than what burned on average between 1989 and 2017... In the process, projections are that more than a third of northern Teton Park conifers will be wiped out, unable to regenerate due to continued hot weather and the effects of megafires...Although the results of the climate modeling sound grim, the projections are par for the course for subalpine conifer forests in the Northern Rockies... Wildfire is part of the natural regime, and large stand-replacing blazes have burned over Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem forests approximately every 100 to 300 years since glaciers retreated. That frequency is increasing as human beings continue to warm the planet by spewing unnatural levels of heat-trapping carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.” Source: Mike Koshmrl, [Jackson Hole Daily](#).

## Resource Commitment Trend

Category	January 24	January 31	February 7
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	0	0
Type 1 Teams	0	0	0
Type 2 Teams	0	0	0
Crews	0	0	0
Engines	3	0	21
Helicopters	0	0	0
Total FF/Overhead	11	0	78

## Fires/Acreage

Category	2020 Total	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Variance
United States: YTD Fires	1,486	2,279	- 35%

United States: YTD Acres	28,092	44,568	- 37%

## 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

**February 5** – The Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment, having tried Donald John Trump, President of the United States, upon two articles of impeachment exhibited against him by the House of Representatives, and two-thirds of the Senators present not having found him guilty of the charges contained therein, ordered and adjudged that Donald John Trump be acquitted of the charges in said articles. On Article I, that in his conduct of the office of President of the United States, Donald J. Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency, the vote was 48 guilty, 52 not guilty, two-thirds of the Senators present not having pronounced him guilty, the Senate found the president is not guilty as charged in this article. On Article II, that in his conduct of the office of President of the United States, Donald J. Trump has directed the unprecedented, categorical, and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas issued by the House of Representatives pursuant to its "sole Power of Impeachment", President Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, the vote was 47 guilty, 53 not guilty, two-thirds of the Senators present not having pronounced him guilty, the Senate found the president is not guilty as charged in this article.

### House Actions

**February 4** - President Donald Trump delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress.

**February 5** - The House passed the following, among other bills:

- [H.R. 1620](#), to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program through FY 2024.
- [H.R. 1132](#), to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay.
- [H.R. 2247](#), to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound.
- [H.R. 4031](#), to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through FY 2026.
- [H.R. 4044](#), to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program through FY 2024,
- [H.R. 4275](#), to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program through FY 2024.

**February 5** – The Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled "Strengthening Community Recycling Programs: Challenges and Opportunities". Testimony was heard from Peter Wright, Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management, Environmental Protection Agency; and public witnesses.

**February 5** – The Committee on the Climate Crisis held a hearing entitled "Creating a Climate Resilient America: Overcoming the Health Risks of the Climate Crisis". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**February 5** – The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress held a hearing entitled “Article One: Fostering a More Deliberative Process in Congress”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**February 6** – The Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Non Tribal Public Witness Day”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**February 6** – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “Clearing the Air: Legislation to Promote Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**February 6** – The Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “A Threat to America's Children: The Trump Administration's Proposal to Undermine Protections from Mercury Air Toxics Standards”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**February 6** – The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Assessing the Transportation Needs of Tribes, Federal Land Management Agencies, and U.S. Territories”. Testimony was heard from Nelson Petty, Jr., Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, United States Virgin Islands; Christopher B. French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Aron Reif, Transportation Program Manager, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

## 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.

- *Santa Rosa Ranger Training Program ‘On Hold’* – The groundbreaking Santa Rosa Junior College program that has trained rangers at city, county and national parks across the country for more than four decades is in jeopardy after the spring session was canceled because of declining enrollment and anticipated tighter budgets. Longtime staff worry the yearlong hiatus will lead to a permanent end to the academy, a program founded in 1978 that pairs law enforcement training with park ranger-specific education over about 18 weeks, though school officials said they have not yet decided the fate of the academy. The article provides details on the causes for this action and the impacts it will have on area parks. Source: Nashilly Chavez, [The Post Democrat](#).

### 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.

- *Glacier Bay NP* – A group of several environmental activists submitted around 46,000 signed petitions from across the United States to the Alaska Regional Office this past Monday morning with the hope of holding Carnival Corporation more accountable for pollution in Alaskan waters. The groups present included Stand.earth, Pacific Environment, and Friends of the Earth. Together, they are a part of the Clean-up Carnival Coalition. At their rally, several speakers called out Carnival for their role in polluting Glacier Bay. In particular, they expressed their contempt with the company for dumping gray water and other harmful pollutants directly into the Bay in 2018. The petitions signed call for the National Park Service to take away operating permits from Carnival ships until they prove they will comply with environmental laws. They also call for a third-party monitoring system to be implemented upon every ship that sails in Alaska. Source: Taylor Clark, [KTUU News](#).

- *Mount Rushmore NM* – Fireworks, which were last seen in the park during the 2009 Fourth of July celebration, will probably be back this summer. The displays were discontinued due to concerns related to the pine beetle infestation in the Black Hills National Forest. The park is in the process of preparing an EA on the fireworks. Both the president and the governor of South Dakota have weighed in on the proposal. Source: Jody Heemstra, [Dakota Radio Group News](#).
- *Organ Pipe Cactus NM* – The construction of the section of the president’s border wall that passes through the park is continuing to draw attention and controversy. Bulldozers have rumbled along the border, clearing way for the wall’s construction, and now explosives are being used to chew into the landscape for better anchoring of the wall of concrete-filled steel bollards. “The construction contractor has begun controlled blasting, in preparation for new border wall system construction within the Roosevelt Reservation at Monument Mountain,” the U.S. Customs and Border Protection said on February 7th in a brief statement distributed to inquiring media. “The controlled blasting is targeted and will continue intermittently for the rest of the month.” While the agency said an “environmental monitor” was present during the blasting along the strip of land along the U.S.-Mexico border, they couldn’t say exactly what that individual’s role would be. The areas affected by the blasting also include sites sacred to Native American groups. “[T]he Nation categorically opposes the barrier construction projects,” said the chairman of the Tohono O’odham Nation, “because they directly harm and threaten both the lands currently reserved for the Nation ... and its ancestral lands that extend along the international boundary in Arizona.” Sources: Kurt Repanshek, [National Parks Traveler](#); Paulina Firozi, [Washington Post](#).
- *Yosemite NP* – A collection of 120 lantern slides of Yosemite from around 1900 has been donated to the park. They were taken by a man named Charles F. Oehler, then passed on through his family. The donation came his grandsons. Some of the images can be seen in the following story. Source: Dianne di Guzman, [SFGate.com](#).

### **Commenting On NPS Projects**

An alphabetical listing of National Park Service projects – physical, paper and otherwise – which have solicited public comments, plus due dates and URL’s to related sites. Park names for new entries are in **boldface**.

- *Alaskan Parks* – All of the parks in Alaska have opened up their proposed park compendium changes for 2020 for public review and comment. Links to each of the dozen parks can be found at [Alaska Region’s proposed compendium changes webpage](#). Comments are due by February 15th.
- *Everglades NP* – The Corps of Engineers’ Jacksonville District is seeking comments the final EIS for the Everglades Agricultural Area Southern Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area. The relevant documents can be found at [this link](#); look for item #35 titled “Central and Southern Florida, Everglades Agricultural Area” located under the multiple counties section of environmental documents by county. Closes February 24th. Send comments by email to [EAAReservoir@usace.army.mil](mailto:EAAReservoir@usace.army.mil) or to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, ATTN: Andrew LoSchiavo, 701 San Marco Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175.
- ***Grand Teton NP*** – The concessions contract between the park and Grand Teton Lodge Company will expire on December 31, 2021. The NPS is currently considering what visitor services to require or authorize in the next concessions contract, which has an anticipated effective date of January 1, 2022. Comments are being accepted until March 5th at [the park’s PEPC webpage](#).

### **The Federal Government**

News from around the federal government – including DOI, kindred agencies and the courts – of consequence to the NPS.

- *Trial Begins On Utah Claims To Roads On Federal Land* – “For the rest of February, U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups will hear evidence and arguments in his Salt Lake City courtroom over the fate of 15 roads that Kane County and the state of Utah insist belong to them under an obscure law enacted more than century and a half ago as a way to promote Western settlement,” reports the *Salt Lake Tribune*. “Known as RS2477, the long-repealed law has been the basis for Utah to lay claim to 12,000 routes on behalf of counties in 22 ‘quiet title’ lawsuits against the federal government. In search of a pathway through this potentially endless legal morass, Waddoups has singled out 15 ‘bellwether’ routes, including the famed Hole-in-the-Rock Road, following the route taken by intrepid Mormon pioneers, and the Paria River bottom, site of a 2009 protest ride. This case is expected to provide a framework for resolving the many other disputed routes splayed out across Utah’s public lands like a vast spiderweb.” Source: Brian Maffly, [Salt Lake Tribune](#).
- *Major Funding Increase Proposed For Hike/Bike Projects* – The federal government would offer up to \$500 million annually in competitive grant funding for sidewalks, bikeways and other “active transportation” projects for cyclists and pedestrians under a bill proposed by a trio of Democratic lawmakers in the House. Their bill was introduced on January 29th as House Democratic leaders unveiled a new “framework” for infrastructure investment and as Congress works to develop a new transportation funding bill for roads and transit that would replace the five-year program that is set to expire in September. Source: Bill Lucia, [Route Fifty](#).

## **The Coalition**

Summary of recent developments within the Coalition, including some of the actions that CNPCA took on your behalf.

- *Statement On Opening Monuments To Extractive Industries* – The Coalition issued a statement immediately after the Interior Department’s decision to open up land that was formerly protected as part of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments to oil, mining, and logging interests. Chair Phil Francis called the decision a “grave attack on our public lands.” [Link to statement](#).
- *Op-Ed On Drilling Near Parks* – Member Mark Butler submitted an op-ed to the *Nevada Current* in support of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto's recently introduced legislation – End Speculative Oil and Gas Leasing Act of 2020 – that would help protect Great Basin and other national parks across the West by prohibiting attempts to lease public lands with low-to-non-existent drilling potential. [Link to op-ed](#).
- *Proposed Energy Facility Near Joshua Tree* – The Coalition and several conservation organizations signed on to a joint letter sent to California Assembly Members Chris Holden and Laura Friedman expressing opposition to legislation that would favor projects like Eagle Crest pumped energy storage project, which is proposed to occur adjacent to Joshua Tree NP. [Link to letter](#).
- *Oil and Gas Leasing Act* – Executive council member Doug Morris urges support for HR3225 – the Restoring Community Input and Public Protections in Oil and Gas Leasing Act – in a recent letter to the editor in the *Missoulian*. [Link to letter](#).
- *Panel On Parks In Peril* – Member Gary Davis recently served as a panelist for a discussion of parks in peril at Outdoor Retailer, a business-to-business outdoor sports show for those working in the industry. [Link to summary of presentation](#).

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

## Park People

### **NPS Alumni**

#### **Passing Of Dee Molenaar**

Dee Molenaar, 101, NPS climbing ranger, legendary mountaineer, artist and author, died on January 19th.

Here are excerpts from the tribute to him that appeared in the *Seattle Times* last week:

“Anyone who has climbed Mount Rainier in the past 80 years has walked in the steps of Dee Molenaar, [who knew Rainier] so well that he referred to it simply as ‘the mountain’ where he hiked as a young man, a father, a National Park Service climbing ranger, a geologist and as an artist...

“Mr. Molenaar was one in a galaxy of accomplished Seattle-area mountaineers, but his star wasn’t as bright because he didn’t climb for the record books, or to feed his ego. For him, it was a way to study the earth as it rose to the sky, and to build community...

“In 1953, Mr. Molenaar was on the first team of Americans to attempt a summit of K2, the second highest mountain in the world. They reached the 25,000-foot mark of the 28,000-foot peak when one man developed a blood clot in his leg and the group turned back. On the way down, one climber slipped and the group almost perished. Another was swept away by an avalanche...

“In 1965, Mr. Molenaar and mountaineer Jim Whittaker — the first American to climb Mount Everest — led Sen. Robert F. Kennedy up Mount Kennedy, a 14,000-foot Canadian peak named to honor President John F. Kennedy after his assassination in 1963. The two men and their group got RFK to the summit, where he tearfully left mementos of his slain brother.

“Every decade, [he and his daughter Terrell] climbed together: Mount Rainier when she was 21, Mount Baker when she was 31 and Mount Adams when she was 41. Mr. Molenaar was 80 then, and felt he was holding the group back, so he waited at the base camp.

“Mr. Molenaar was the author of three books (*The Challenge of Rainier*, *Memoirs of a Dinosaur Mountaineer* and *Mountains Don’t Care, But We Do*); a ski instructor and an artist. He was also a cartographer who made detailed maps of mountain trails.

“Mr. Molenaar was born to Dutch immigrants in 1918 and grew up in California, where his father took him hiking in the Hollywood Hills. He served in the Coast Guard during World War II and graduated from the University of Washington in 1950 with a degree in geology. He was a civilian adviser in the Army’s Mountain & Cold Weather Training Command and a geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. He retired in 1983.

“He met his wife, Colleen, when they were both working at Mount Rainier — he as a climbing ranger and she in the gift shop (she had climbed Rainier twice on her own).”

Mr. Molenaar is survived by his children and four grandchildren. A public memorial will be held on Sunday, April 12th, at The Mountaineers Seattle Program Center.

Source: Nicole Brodeur, [Seattle Times](#).

### **NPS Alumni**

#### **Passing Of Bryce Workman**

Robert Bryce Workman, 85, author of the definitive history of the National Park Service uniform and NPS badges, died on January 20th.

Bryce was a Korean War veteran, serving in the Army. He worked at Harpers Ferry Center and retired from the National Park Service. He will likely be best remembered within the NPS for the five-volume



series he authored on the history of the NPS uniform and its badges. Here's a listing of the books in the series with links to the relevant HFC webpages:

- [Volume 1 – Badges and Insignia, 1894-1991](#)
- [Volume 2 – In Search of an Identity, 1872-1920](#)
- [Volume 3 – Ironing Out the Wrinkles, 1920-1932](#)
- [Volume 4 – Breeches, Blouses, and Skirts, 1918-1991](#)
- [Volume 5 – The Developing Years, 1932-1970](#)

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are two sons, David Bryce Workman and wife Katrina and Michael Scott Workman and wife Angela; 5 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on February 8th. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Carroll Hospice, 292 Stoner Ave., Westminster, MD 21157. The family invites you to leave a message or memory on the funeral home "tribute wall" at [www.hartzlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.hartzlerfuneralhome.com).

Source: Dennis Burnett.

### **NPS Alumni Passing Of Ed Wilson**

Edward "Ed" Wilson, a retired ranger who also held a DOI valor award, died on January 23rd in Enumclaw, Washington.

He is remembered as a gregarious man who loved climbing and the outdoors and inspired that same love in others. He was a military veteran of the Vietnam era. Following his military service, he spent a large majority of his time in Yosemite and eventually settled into a climbing ranger job in the Tetons, where he earned the valor award for the solo river rescue of multiple canoers on the Snake River. He eventually transitioned to a permanent career in law enforcement at Mount Rainier National Park.

He is survived by sons Casey Wilson (Emily) of Ashland, Oregon, and Gavin Wilson (Olivia) of Enumclaw; daughter Jennifer Farmer (Ernest) of Spokane; and three grandchildren.

A service with military honors will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3rd, in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent.

Memorial donations may be made to the National Parks Conservation Association, 777 Sixth St. N.W. #700, Washington, D.C., 20001, or online at: <https://secure.npca.org/site/Donation>. You can share a memory of Ed on the tribute wall at [www.weeksfuneralhomes.com](http://www.weeksfuneralhomes.com).

Source: [Courier-Herald](#).

### **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:

- *Ste. Genevieve NHP* – Chris Collins has been selected as the park's new superintendent. A Kansas native, Collins was most recently the chief of business and commercial services at Indiana Dunes National Park. He has been with the NPS for 16 years. Source: Mark Marberry, [Daily Journal](#).
- *Upper Delaware S&RR* – Jessica Weinman became the park's acting superintendent on February 3rd. She will serve in the position through May 30th. Weinman's last post was as facility manager at Steamtown National Historic Site. Regular superintendent Kristina Heister

is on temporary duty as acting deputy superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park for 120 days. Source: [The River Reporter](#).

## **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.

- *Baltimore-Washington Parkway* – On January 9th, the Howard Johnson Corporation paid \$38,000 in restitution to the National Park Service for damages and reforestation as a result of an encroachment along the parkway. Numerous trees had been cut down along the parkway to improve the visibility of a Howard Johnson hotel sign and the hotel's buildings from the road. Park and regional office rangers conducted an investigation and identified the park's boundary. The regional solicitor's office conducted lengthy negotiations with the hotel in order to get them to reimburse the park for the damages. Submitted by Einar Olsen and Mike Barnhart.
- *Badlands NP* – On August 14, 1993, seasonal fee collector Nancy Iversen told rangers that she was counting fee receipts in the Pinnacles ranger office at the end of her shift when a person wearing a mask and dark leather jacket opened the door to the office, ordered Iversen to keep her head down, took \$9,955.50 which she had been counting, then quickly left the building. An investigation was begun into the theft by the park, the county sheriff's department and the FBI, and Iversen was subsequently charged with theft of government property. On February 8th, Iversen was convicted on that charge. No sentencing date has yet been set. An operational note: The safes in use at that time have been replaced, and individual fee collectors no longer have access to other receipt funds. Submitted by Chief Ranger John Donaldson.
- *Fossil Butte NM* – Last August, park rangers, FBI agents, and BLM and county officers launched Operation Rockfish, a joint effort to check increased illegal fossil and artifact collection in southern Lincoln County. Throughout subsequent months, information was collected on illegal fossil quarries, evidence was gathered, and suspects were identified. On January 26th, rangers and county and BLM officers arrested two individuals on seven counts of theft of fossil and archeological material from public and private lands. Evidence seized included fossil fish, Indian artifacts, explosives and firearms. Damages to archeological resources has been placed at \$7,700, and the value of seized fossils has been estimated at \$9,140. Over three tons of evidence has been collected. Additional warrants will soon be issued for two more suspects, with charges expected against another six or seven within the next three months. Another 50 or so cases remain outstanding. Many of the suspects have a history of drug distribution and use and firearm possession. Illegal fossil collecting now rivals illegal drug sales in popularity in southwest Wyoming. Submitted by Chief Ranger Andy Banta.

## **Acknowledgements**

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- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Deb Liggett, Mark Forbes, Bill Walters, Bob Martin, Cathy Halainen

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.

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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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