



## The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, March 4, 2020

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### Incidents

#### **Olympic NP Runner With Broken Leg Crawls Ten Hours To Reach Help**

A trail runner who broke his leg on the Duckabush Trail on the morning of Saturday, February 22nd, facilitated his own rescue by crawling for more than 10 hours to reach help.

Joe Oldendorf, 26, was running on the trail when he slipped on an icy patch and fell. He later reported that he knew right away that something was wrong when he saw his foot flop to the side. He then decided to crawl toward a spot where he'd seen several people camping about three miles into the trail.

He then crawled for nearly seven hours before his phone received a text signaling that he'd reached a spot where he had cellphone service. Oldendorf tried dialing 911 three times before the call went through and then continued to crawl for another four hours before he saw the flashlights from a rescue crew around 4:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

The search and rescue crew covered Oldendorf with blankets and hot packs to prevent hypothermia and got him to a spot where a Coast Guard helicopter could land so he could be airlifted to a hospital.

Once he arrived at the Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, surgeons placed a rod into his tibia and a plate and screws into his fibula. They also treated the skin on his knees, rubbed raw from the hours of crawling. He was released from the hospital Sunday afternoon in a splint; it will take about 12 weeks for his leg to fully recover.

Search and rescue crews say Oldendorf's incredible grit and determination likely prevented more serious injuries.

Source: [KOMO News](#).

#### **Mount Rainier NP Missing Hiker Found By Searchers**

Searchers have found a 34-year-old woman who failed to return from a solo hike on the mountain last Sunday.

The woman was reported missing by her husband when she did not return from her hike and he could see her car still parked at Paradise on the web cam. At about the same time, another hiker reported seeing a woman matching her description at about 9,000 feet in the Muir snowfield late in the afternoon, which seemed a little late for someone to be headed down.

A pair of two-person crews went looking for her at about 10 p.m. Sunday but did not find any sign of her. On Monday morning, full search-and-rescue teams began hunting for the missing woman amid snowy conditions. While they were searching, she called around 9:30 a.m. and gave them her coordinates. Searchers found her shortly afterward just below the 8,000-foot level.

Source: [KOMO News](#).

## **National Park System Park Operating Status Summary**

A summary of recent openings, closures and other changes in the status of parks and their facilities,

- *Great Smoky Mountains NP* – The Bote Mountain Tunnel, which provides access to Cades Cove, reopened last week. The tunnel had been closed for two months for repairs. The work was done ahead of schedule, allowing traffic to head to Cades Cove in time for the first full weekend of the spring break season. The Cades Cove Campground is to reopen on March 5th. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#).

## **National/International Fire Situation**

### **National Interagency Fire Center Support Continues To Firefighters In Australia**

NIFC is at PL 1. Two new large fires were reported in Oklahoma last week; firefighters contained both of them.

Support for firefighting operations in Australia continues, with 101 firefighters and overhead committed to fires in Victoria and seven others in New South Wales. Detailed information on operations in the three states where most of the fires are occurring 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.

- *Dry California Winter Prompts Wildfire Concerns* – “There wasn’t a drop of rain in downtown San Francisco during the month of February, something that hasn’t happened since 1864,” writes Diana Leonard in the March 3rd *Washington Post*. “Across Northern California, many sites also recorded zero precipitation for the first time on record during what is typically the wettest month of the year...The record-breaking month extends the very dry start to 2020, which falls on the heels of two very wet years — 2017 and 2019. Those years followed the historic drought of 2012-2016...With most reservoirs near or above their average historical capacity, the state needs rain and snow less for its water supply this year than to keep the looming fire season at bay. According to the latest wildfire outlook for Southern California, fire season could ramp up in March.” Source: Diana Leonard, [Washington Post](#).
- *NIFC Releases Fire Forecast For March Through May* – NIFC’s Predictive Services Office has posted the wildland fire outlook summary for this spring. It parallels the above reported news story. Excerpts follow: “National fire activity remained low in February as most of the country remained out of season. The previous month’s progressive weather patterns stabilized as most locations along the West Coast became increasingly impacted by persistent high pressure

ridges that promoted very dry conditions across California, northern Arizona, and the western Great Basin. Many locations across these areas received less than 25% of average precipitation for the month...The central and southern Sierra Nevada Mountains of California and Nevada continued to lose ground under very dry conditions. By month's end, several basins were reporting between 45% and 55% of average snowpack....Entering March and continuing through April, the prolonged periods of dry conditions across Southern California may lead to periods of elevated fire potential during days experiencing offshore winds. However, a muted greenup should initially limit activity. Normal to Below Normal significant large fire potential is expected along the Rocky Mountain Front during the pre-greenup period due to sufficiently wet or snowy conditions experienced during late winter. Both the Southwest and Alaska will gradually transition into fire season in May with both regions peaking in activity by late June..." You can read the full and much more detailed forecast at the following link. Source: [Predictive Services, NIFC](#).

### Resource Commitment Trend

Category	February 7	February 21	February 29
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	21	0	7
Helicopters	0	0	0
Total FF/Overhead	78	2	18

### Fires/Acreage

Category	2020 Total	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Variance
United States: YTD Fires	2,511	4,769	- xx%
United States: YTD Acres	43,219	98,723	- xx%

Source: [NIFC Incident Management Situation Report](#).

### 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 25** – The Senate confirmed the nomination of [Katharine MacGregor](#), of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, by of vote of 58 yeas to 38 nays.

**February 27** – The Senate agreed to:

- [S. Res. 508](#), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the historic seating of Hiram Rhodes Revels as the first African American United States Senator.

- [S. Res. 315](#), memorializing the discovery of the wreckage of the *Clotilda*, the last known slave ship to arrive in the United States.
- [S. Res. 516](#), celebrating Black History Month.

## **House Actions**

**February 26** – The House passed the following bills:

- [H.R. 2427](#), to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network through FY 2025.
- [H.R. 473](#), to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia in commemoration of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.
- [H.R. 2490](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail. The bill passed by a vote of 402 yeas to 10 nays.
- H.R. 3399, to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program.
- [H.R. 1492](#), to authorize the inclusion of 160 acres of land by donation as part of the Yucca House National Monument in Colorado.

**February 26** – The Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on:

- [H.R. 5435](#), to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Chief of the United States Forest Service to meet certain targets for the reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases.
- [H.R. 5859](#), to establish forest management, reforestation, and utilization practices which lead to the sequestration of greenhouse gases.

Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

**February 26** – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing entitled “Destroying Sacred Sites and Erasing Tribal Culture: The Trump Administration’s Construction of the Border Wall”. Testimony was heard from Anna Maria Ortiz, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

**February 27** - The Committee on the Budget held a hearing entitled “Budget Priorities: Members’ Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives McCollum, Budd, Burgess, Cline, Correa, and Cloud.

**February 27** – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2021 EPA Budget”. Testimony was heard from Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

**February 27** – The Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations held a hearing entitled “Examining the Effect of the Border Wall on Private and Tribal Landowners”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

**February 27** – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on:

- [H.R. 3651](#), to authorize the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation to use, or enter into a lease or agreement to use for public outdoor recreation, up to 40 acres of the land in Nebraska City, Nebraska, that was conveyed for use as

an historic site and an interpretive center for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail under conditions.

- [H.R. 3681](#), to establish the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Initiative to facilitate the installation of zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure on National Forest System land, National Park System land, and certain related land. The administration opposed the legislation as it said the National Park Service (NPS) already has the authorities provided in this legislation, and needs to utilize resources to reduce the NPS deferred maintenance backlog and address other critical infrastructure needs.
- [H.R. 4236](#), to encourage recycling and reduction of disposable plastic bottles in units of the National Park System. The administration opposed the bill as it said in 2017 NPS rescinded the previous administration's effort to eliminate the sale of water in plastic water bottles in order to expand hydration choices for visitors. It said the program, which sought to eliminate sales of bottled water, in fact removed the healthiest beverage choice while still allowing sales of bottled sweetened drinks, and did not result in a marked reduction in waste in the 23 parks that installed the program. Rescinding the sales ban allowed visitors to decide for themselves how to best stay hydrated during a park visit.
- [H.R. 4512](#), to provide grants for projects to acquire land and water for parks and other outdoor recreation purposes and to develop new or renovate existing outdoor recreation facilities. Funding for these grants would come from revenue the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA). The administration opposed the bill saying it is inconsistent with the administration's proposal for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State and Local Assistance program in the President's proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021. In addition, they said enactment of this bill would eliminate the flexibility to change the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program as funding needs for outdoor recreation change.

Testimony was heard from Representatives Quigley, Barragán, Fortenberry, and Levin of California; Lena McDowall, Deputy Director, Management and Administration, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Allegra Haynes, Executive Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, City and County of Denver, Colorado; and public witnesses.

**February 27** – The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a joint hearing entitled "An Examination of Federal Flood Maps in a Changing Climate". Testimony was heard from Michael Grimm, Assistant Administrator for Risk Management, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Mark Osler, Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

**February 28** – The House passed [H.R. 2819](#), to extend the authority until January 2, 2024, for the establishment of a commemorative work in the District of Columbia in honor of Gold Star Families. The bill passed by a vote of 407 yeas with none voting nay.

## **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.

- *2019 Visitation Tops 327 Million* – Visitation to the national parks in 2019 exceeded 300 million recreation visits for the fifth consecutive year. The 327.5 million total is the third highest since record keeping began in 1904. Here are a few other numbers (see the press release for more): Visitation in 2019 surpassed 2018 by more than 9 million recreation visits, a 2.9 percent increase; recreation visitor hours have remained above 1.4 billion over the past four years; over the past five years, there have been nearly two billion recreation visits to national parks; 33 parks set new recreation visitation records in 2019; 14 parks broke records that they set in 2018. Source: [National Park Service](#).

- *NPF Student Engagement Hits More Than A Million* – The National Park Foundation announced last week that since 2011, it has engaged more than one million students in educational programs connecting them with national parks across the country. Here’s an excerpt from their press release: “Over the past nine years, more than one million students, many of whom are from underserved communities, have directly benefited from engaging with parks as classrooms. Together with its donors and partners, NPF has invested \$13.9 million since 2011 toward fostering the next generation of park champions. The organization’s goal is to connect 250,000 kids and adults to parks throughout 2020 via school field trips, service corps, volunteer efforts, and fellowships, thereby growing the community of people who benefit from and care about these treasured places. From local philanthropic organizations and friends groups, to local schools, to community-based organizations, partners are critical to this effort.” Source: [Trains](#).

## **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.

- *Bandelier NM* – The Main Pueblo Loop Trail will be getting a much-needed facelift this summer. Work is scheduled to begin on May 1st and expected to last from four to six months. A road paving project that began last fall is set to resume in mid-June and will take up to two months to complete. This project will also cause delays and short-term closures on the entrance road and in parking lots. Source: Carol Clark, [Los Alamos Post](#).
- *Everglades NP* – The park, which razed the rustic landmark Flamingo Lodge after a string of damaging hurricanes, is replacing the lodge with converted steel shipping containers. “As big metal boxes go, however, these will be very posh — 24 studio, one- or two-bedroom cabins complete with air-conditioning, bathrooms and comfy beds,” reports the *Miami Herald*. “The structures will be elevated at least 17 feet and could — at least potentially — be hauled away before a hurricane and storm surge rolls into the low-lying coastline. Room rates are still under consideration but a comfortable, mosquito-free overnight stay deep in the Everglades is an enticing proposition that will probably be worth a splurge.” The article also describes the 20 “eco-tents” the park opened last year on a portion of the walk-in campground at Flamingo. Source: Adriana Brasileiro, [Miami Herald](#).
- *Herbert Hoover NHS* – The park has issued a contract for flood protection from nearby Hoover Creek. Preparation for the project started 14 years ago with an environmental impact statement in 2006; another assessment of the same kind finished up last year. The reasoning behind the project is that heavy rainfall and spring time flooding can damage the park's resources. The total price for the project, which will begin next month, comes to \$3.6 million. Source: Vinny Lowerre, [KWVL News](#).
- *Yellowstone NP* – Yellowstone announced last month that it has begun “a major, multimillion-dollar housing improvement effort that will substantially upgrade National Park Service employee housing across the park.” There are four goals: 1) Replace 64 outdated trailers with high-quality modular cabins. Yellowstone currently has 64 trailers, built between 1960-1983, that house 80-100 employees annually. 2) Improve the condition of 150 non-trailer and non-historic housing units. Yellowstone is investing millions to upgrade dilapidated employee housing units between 2020 and 2023. Many of these units have not had improvements in decades. 3) Rehabilitate deteriorating historic homes. The park intends to improve the condition of a wide range of historic housing structures, many that date back to the late 1800s in Fort Yellowstone, a National Historic Landmark, and in other areas of the park. 4) Add new housing capacity. The lack of available housing in surrounding communities is substantially impacting workforce recruitment. Source: [National Park Service](#).

## **Proposed Sites/Site Redesignations**

At any given time, there seem to be a dozen or more proposals afoot for new areas or redesignations of existing areas. Here's a rundown of those currently in the news.

- *Alabama* – The state's [Black Belt region](#) would become a national heritage area eligible for funding and other benefits under a bipartisan move supported by members of the state's congressional delegation. It would incorporate 19 counties. Approval would open up the possibility of grants, staff and programs to help protect and improve the area's historic resources. Once the heart of the state's plantation economy during slavery, the region of western and southern Alabama is historically poor and underdeveloped. Called the "Black Belt" because of the color of its soil, the area also has a largely African American population. Source: [SFGate.com](#).
- *California* – A proposal is in the works for a California Gold Rush National Park. As envisioned, the park would help preserve the remnants of the California Gold Rush as well as interpret the significance of the gold mining period in the history of the state and country. It would be a partnership incorporating federal, state and local governmental entities as well as private parties. The park would include a number of related buildings in Placerville and would offer greater protection to historical resources such as Old Dry Diggins Mine, Hangtown Creek, documents pertaining to various Native American treaties, the Pearson Soda Works Building, the history of the Pony Express and its connection to Wells Fargo, Fiddletown as a Chinese heritage site, El Dorado Ranch and the Miwok heritage site, the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm and the geology of the gold strike itself. It would encompass an area 120 miles long and four miles wide. Source: Dawn Hodson, [Mountain Democrat](#).
- *Connecticut* – Efforts are underway to reauthorize the Last Green Valley Heritage Corridor and the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. Both are incorporated into [H.R. 1049](#), the National Heritage Area Act of 2019, which would reauthorize all 45 NHA's nationwide for 20 years. The Upper Housatonic Valley NHA includes 29 towns and covers along the Housatonic River watershed. It celebrates the heritage of the Berkshires and Northwestern Litchfield Hills. It includes over 50 sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Last Green Valley encompasses 26 towns in eastern Connecticut. It was designated an NHA in 1994 because of the region's unique natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources (the area is still 77 percent forest and farm). Source: Katrina Koerting, [Stamford Advocate](#).
- *West Virginia* – The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a field hearing in Beckley on February 22nd on the proposed redesignation of New River Gorge National River as New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. The legislation would include 72,186 acres in the newly designated site –the national preserve would have 64,495 acres, the national park side would have 7,691 acres in four areas – the Lower Gorge, Thurmond, Grandview and Sandstone Falls. Hunting would be allowed in the former, but not the latter. Source: Jordan Hatfield, [Montgomery Herald](#).

### **Commenting On NPS Projects**

A listing of National Park Service projects – physical, paper and otherwise – 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**.

- *Bureau of Land Management* – Comments are sought on the final programmatic EIS for wildfire fuel breaks in the Great Basin. The preferred alternative analyzes a full suite of manual, chemical and mechanical treatments, including prescribed fire, seeding, and targeted grazing to construct and maintain a system of fuel breaks. These treatments would be implemented along roads and rights-of-way on BLM-administered lands to minimize new disturbance and wildlife habitat fragmentation and to maximize accessibility for wildland firefighters. Comments are due by March 14th and may be submitted to the [BLM Land Use Planning and NEPA register](#).

- **Cabrillo NM** – The park is planning to renovate the Ballast View Rest Area. This project is needed in order to improve visitor access for the mobility impaired, correct unsafe conditions, and provide interpretive programs and demonstrations to more visitors in a safe, accessible environment while maintaining the Mission 66 characteristics of the property. Comments are being taken until March 21st at [the park's PEPC website](#).
- *Glacier NP* – The park is developing an EA for a telecommunications plan. The plan would “correct deficiencies in NPS radio, phone, and computer/data-based telecommunications systems that are essential to the performance of park operations and maintaining employee and visitor safety; provide for basic connectivity for non-governmental use in developed areas while preserving the ability to experience park resources and values; and protect park resources through the establishment of parameters for infrastructure, equipment, and coverage.” Comments will be taken until March 9th at [the park's PEPC webpage](#).
- *Glacier Bay NP&P* – The park's 1989 wilderness visitor use management plan will be updated this year. Comments will be taken until April 21st at [the park's PEPC webpage](#).
- **Korean War Veterans Memorial** – The Service, in cooperation with the Korean War Veterans Foundation, proposes the addition of a Wall of Remembrance at the memorial, located on the National Mall (Congress authorized a Wall of Remembrance as part of the memorial in Public Law 114-230). The wall must be consistent with the Commemorative Works Act, which ensures that commemorative works in areas administered by the NPS in Washington, D.C. are appropriately designed, constructed, and located. Comments on the project are being taken until March 16th at [the memorial's PEPC webpage](#).
- **Lewis and Clark NHP** – The park is preparing an EA for several interrelated projects – renovating the existing restrooms including a new family restroom area; expanding the enclosed entryway to improve visitor orientation and correct accessibility issues; upgrading the energy efficiency of the building by replacing outdated heating and cooling systems, replacing light fixtures, improving the insulation of the building, and replacing some windows; improving safety with fire sprinkler changes and modernizing exits; increasing the storage capacity of the curatorial storage room; and abandoning the current septic field and installing a new wastewater system and septic field. Comments will be taken until March 12th at [the park's PEPC webpage](#).
- **Mount Rushmore NM** – The park is preparing an EA to evaluate a proposal by the state of South Dakota to host a fireworks display at Mount Rushmore on July 3rd. Under the proposed action, the NPS would permit the state's Independence Day celebration, including a fireworks display and other entertainment. Similar events could be permitted in future years if conditions remain the same and impacts are as described in the document. The EA is available for public comment through March 30th at [the park's PEPC webpage](#).
- *Yellowstone NP* – The park is seeking public comment on an EA for a proposal to replace the Yellowstone River Bridge, which is located on the Northeast Entrance Road near Tower Junction. This project will maintain safe visitor access from the park's Northeast Entrance, which is part of the only road corridor in the park that is open year-round and plowed in the winter. Built in the early 1960s, the concrete deck, sidewalks, and parapets have deteriorated. Comments will be taken until March 15th 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.

- *New DOI Deputy Secretary Confirmed* – The Senate last week confirmed Katharine MacGregor as deputy secretary. The vote was 58 to 38. MacGregor has been serving as the acting deputy



secretary and was previously the department's deputy chief of staff. Environmentalists, however, have been critical of MacGregor. "Her conflicted ties to industry are clear. She has been a willing accomplice to Bernhardt by doing the leg work for his former clients and special interest allies," said Jayson O'Neill, Deputy Director of Western Values Project. Source: Rachel Frazin, [The Hill](#).

- *DOI Disclaims Climate Change In Official Documents* – Here's a gem from the March 2nd *New York Times*: "An official at the Interior Department embarked on a campaign that has inserted misleading language about climate change — including debunked claims that increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is beneficial — into the agency's scientific reports, according to documents reviewed by The New York Times. The misleading language appears in at least nine reports, including environmental studies and impact statements on major watersheds in the American West that could be used to justify allocating increasingly scarce water to farmers at the expense of wildlife conservation and fisheries. The effort was led by Indur M. Goklany, a longtime Interior Department employee who, in 2017 near the start of the Trump administration, was promoted to the office of the deputy secretary with responsibility for reviewing the agency's climate policies...The wording, known internally as the 'Goks uncertainty language' based on Mr. Goklany's nickname, inaccurately claims that there is a lack of consensus among scientists that the earth is warming. In Interior Department emails to scientists, Mr. Goklany pushed misleading interpretations of climate science..." See the article for more. Source: Hiroko Tabuchi, [New York Times](#).

## **Park People**

### **NPS Alumni**

#### **Passing Of Susan Haley**

Retired NPS curator Susan Elizabeth Ewing Haley, 62, passed away at her home in Livermore, California, on January 24th.

Susan was born to Mary Lou (Haseloh) and Earl Ewing in Hastings, Nebraska, on January 13, 1958. She grew up in Harvard, Nebraska, with siblings Jane, Anne, and Carl. She graduated in 1976 from Harvard High School in Harvard, Nebraska.

Susan graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University with a degree in music in 1980. She continued her education, receiving a dual master's degree in library science and colonial history at the University of Maryland. She worked as a supervisory museum curator for the National Park Service Archives and Records Center at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco until her death.

Susan is survived by her husband, Robert; her two children, Laura and Sean; her siblings, Jane Boilesen (Eugene) of Lincoln, Nebraska, Anne Dunlap (Richard) of Geneva, Florida, and Carl Ewing (Joyce) of Lincoln; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held for her earlier this month; a memorial will be held in Harvard at a later date. Donations can be made in Susan's name to the Harvard Public Library (309 N Clay Avenue, PO Box 130, Harvard, NE 68944-0130, [harpublib@gmail.com](mailto:harpublib@gmail.com)).

Source: [Hastings Tribune](#).

### **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:

- *Washington Office* – Effective April 12th, Jennifer Flynn, a 29-year veteran of the National Park Service, will be the agency's new associate director for visitor and resource protection. She will

be responsible for 30 Servicewide programs, 850 employees, and a budget exceeding \$200 million. Her areas of responsibility will include law enforcement, security and emergency services, fire and aviation management, risk management and occupational safety, public health services, regulations and special park uses, wilderness stewardship, the NPS component at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and the U.S. Park Police. Flynn is currently the superintendent at Shenandoah. Prior to that, she served in various areas as a federal law enforcement officer, an EMT-Intermediate, a structural firefighter, a wildland firefighter, a search and rescue technician, a jailer, a dispatcher, and a fee manager. She's also served as an ops chief on the Service's national IMT. Source: [National Park Service](#).

- *Fort Monroe NM* – Superintendent Terry E. Brown will step down on March 16th to become the Service's liaison to the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, the body tasked with planning the 250th anniversary of American independence. The position is a yearlong assignment that could be extended. It's not clear yet if Brown will return to Fort Monroe afterward. Source: Lisa Vernon Sparks, [Daily Press](#).

## **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.

- *Yosemite NP* – Maintenance workers spotted a fire in the kitchen of a 60-year-old park residence early on the afternoon of January 25th. An employee attacked the fire with a garden hose until park and concession engines arrived a few minutes later. The three engine companies were able to extinguish the fire fairly quickly. Damage to the structure and its contents was limited to about \$9,000, largely due to the quick action of the maintenance employee and the rapid response of the engine companies. Investigation indicates that work crews in the residence had placed a tarp over a kitchen counter, that the weight of the tarp had activated a toaster switch, and that the overheated unit had eventually caused the counter to ignite. Submitted by Brian Smith.
- *Hawaii Volcanoes NP* – On the afternoon of February 25th, resource management ranger Anson Smith, 50, and visitor Dottie Olsen, 63, were standing about 50 feet from a sluggish pahoehoe lava flow at the end of Chain of Craters Road when the flow ignited an underground pocket of methane gas, causing a subterranean explosion and blowing them about four feet into the air. There were about 30 other visitors viewing the lava flow at the time. Two EMT-certified rangers and two physicians in the group of visitors provided emergency first aid. Smith complained of neck, back and wrist pain; Olsen complained of back and shoulder pain. Both were taken to a nearby hospital and released the following day. The current eruption is providing exceptionally spectacular viewing for visitors; the park has accordingly had to supplement regular interpretation and protection staffing in the area with resource management and maintenance employees to assist with traffic control and interpretation. Although methane explosions are one of the unpredictable hazards associated with lava flows, this is the first reported injury from a methane explosion in the twelve-year history of the current eruption. Submitted by District Ranger Gail Minami.
- *Zion NP* – Just after midnight on February 28th, a Washington County deputy asked Zion rangers for assistance in stopping a vehicle that was heading toward the park on Utah Route 9. As two rangers from the park responded, the deputy reported speeds exceeding 100 mph, several attempts to ram his patrol vehicle, and shots being fired at him by an occupant of the vehicle. The driver of the fleeing vehicle lost control of the car three miles west of the park's entrance and went off the road; the male and female occupants fled on foot in opposite directions. Three other rangers responded and a search was begun. The woman was apprehended about an hour later by a county deputy. Around 3 p.m., park maintenance worker Paul Valencia, who was on-scene as an EMT for the Springdale/Rockville ambulance, noticed a bush shaking nearby and directed ranger Ed Dunleavy to the site, where the man

was found shivering so hard from the cold that he was shaking the adjacent bush. He was arrested and transported to a local medical facility for treatment of a head wound which he'd received earlier that day. While trying to steal the new vehicle of a local resident in order to escape from the area, the vehicle's 70-year-old owner had clubbed him in the head with a two by four, effectively dissuading him from stealing the car. Submitted by Chief Ranger Steve Holder.

## Acknowledgements

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- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Mark Forbes, Bill Walters, 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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