



The Coalition Weekly Report Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Volume 5

Number 3

Incidents

Yosemite NP Park Closed By Powerful Winter Storm

The park was closed last week due to a powerful windstorm that toppled trees and caused millions of dollars in damage to vehicles, homes and park facilities.

No injuries were reported as a result of the “Mono” wind event, which swept across the region in east-central California last week and caused widespread power outages. The “high wind event” left “downed trees, debris and damage to park facilities,” Yosemite officials tweeted Tuesday. Later that day, the park said it was assessing damage assessments, clearing trees and repairing facilities.

Among the trees knocked down were two giant sequoias. Damage to facilities, employee homes and vehicles ran into the millions of dollars, with the park’s Wawona community hit hardest. The event was the biggest in terms of wind speed and damage in at least 25 years.

The park will remain closed at least until Saturday, January 30th, conditions permitting. When it reopens, it will be open 24 hours per day. Upper Pines Campground will open on February 8th. Yosemite Valley Lodge and The Ahwahnee will open on February 5th. Visitors will be able to enter the park using El Portal Road (Highway 140), Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 from the west), and Hetch Hetchy Road.

Areas south of Yosemite Valley (including Badger Pass, Wawona, Mariposa Grove, South Entrance, and Wawona Road) will remain closed until further notice.

[Full story \(1\)](#). Source: Paul Davidson, *USA Today*. [Full story \(2\)](#) . Source: *Sierra Sun Times*.

Everglades NP Planes Crash In Separate Accidents; No Deaths Or Injuries

Eight people were rescued last week from two separate small plane crashes in South Florida.

In the first crash, campers helped bring to shore four people who were in a single-engine Piper Saratoga that crashed near Cape Sable, the southernmost point of the Florida mainland. The small plane had taken off from Page Field in Fort Myers headed for Marathon in the Florida Keys when it went down about a half-mile from shore in about 10 feet of water, according to the National Park Service.

No one was injured. The plane’s tail remained protruding from the water, so a warning was issued to boaters. No information was released about the possible cause of the crash.

In the second crash, a Piper Saratoga aircraft with four people went down about 25 miles northeast of Marathon on Friday. Park rangers and officers from the Monroe County Sheriff Office rescued them. No one was injured.

[Full story](#). Source: WINK News.

Harpers Ferry NHP Woman Hit And Killed By Tree

A Maryland woman died in the park last Sunday after being struck by a “broken tree,” according to a National Park Service spokeswoman.

Rangers found that a tree to which a hammock was attached had broken and struck the park visitor. Amanda Martin, 29, was found dead along the Shenandoah River on Virginius Island in the park.

The park is leading the investigation, with help from the Harpers Ferry Police Department.

[Full story](#). Source: Julie E. Green, Hagerstown, *Herald-Mail*.

Colorado NM Injured Hiker Rescued Following 30-Foot Fall

A 41-year-old hiker was injured in a 30 foot fall in the park last week. He had to be rescued from the area known as No Thoroughfare Canyon on Monday.

The man left on the hike with a friend from the upper trailhead. They got past the second waterfall and were in a rugged area when the man fell. His hiking partner tried to call for help on his phone but they couldn't get any service at that location. The partner had to hike for about 20 minutes to get enough of a signal to make the emergency call.

It took rescue crews about three hours to get the injured man to a helicopter, which took him to the hospital at nightfall.

[Full story](#). Source: Jesse Sarles, KCNC News.

Glen Canyon NRA Owner Of Houseboat Management Company Arrested

The owner of a houseboat management company is accused of mismanaging money intended for maintenance and storage fees, causing the owners and shareholders of 34 houseboats on Lake Powell to nearly lose their boats.

Jordan Blackwell Schneiman, 41, was charged in Third District Court with nine counts of unlawful dealing of property by a fiduciary and engaging in a pattern of unlawful activity, both second-degree felonies.

The Utah Attorney General's Office began investigating Lake Point Management LLC, a houseboat management company, in January 2019. Several groups that share ownership in houseboats based in Page, Arizona, at the Antelope Point Marina on Lake Powell were affected. Investigators identified a total of 34 legal entities that suffered a substantial risk of loss or detriment due to Schneiman's unlawful conduct. These entities are each comprised of approximately nine to 18 members or shareholders who are fractional owners in one of the 34 houseboats.

Schneiman was hired to manage the care, maintenance and expenses of the houseboats, including annual dues, repair fees, general maintenance and storage fees, according to the charges. As time passed, houseboat owners discovered that their houseboats had accrued substantial debts while under Schneiman's care. Many of the houseboats owed thousands of dollars to the marina in

delinquent slip fees. Marine insurance coverage had lapsed on some of the houseboats for failure to pay premiums. Some houseboats had expired vessel registrations.

When owners tried to regain control of the management of their houseboat accounts, they found that in many cases the entity bank accounts had balances of zero or negative balances. Overdraft fees had been accruing and many accounts had been closed by the bank. Houseboat entities were forced to negotiate settlements with the marina and other vendors.

According to prosecutors, Schneiman used Lake Point Management's general business account to pay for business and personal expenses. He would then transfer funds from one houseboat entity's account to pay the expenses of another houseboat. By the end of 2018, the general manager for Antelope Point Marina threatened to pull 20 houseboats under Schneiman's care out of the water because they were behind \$800,000 total in fees and storage costs.

[Full story](#). Source: Pat Reavy, *Deseret News*.

Colonial NHP Employee Arrested For Illegal Use Of Government Credit Cards

Jeffrey Gaddis, an automotive mechanic and fleet manager for the park, has pled guilty to theft of government property and wire fraud in federal court.

Records state that each of the 120 park-owned vehicles had a credit card that was supposed to be used for official purposes only. Documents indicate that another employee at the park noticed irregularities on some of the credit cards statements, including abnormal purchases at Lowes and Home Depot. There were also irregularities with a purchase of about \$540 for truck tires from a Pep Boys store in Newport News.

Record showed that the credit cards were used to buy fuel in the local area, showing a pattern occurring in Gloucester County before 6 a.m. and after 2:30 a.m., which is unusual because employees at the park who use the vehicles were supposed to obtain fuel from the gas pumps within the park.

The Office of the Inspector General and the Investigative Services Branch of the National Park Service were contacted, and they opened an investigation.

Investigators found that between 2016 and 2018, there were improper charges on 40 different credit cards for purchases that included fuel, as well as vehicle parts that did not match the vehicle to which the card was issued, totaling more than \$8,000.

When confronted, records say Gaddis said he was using the credit cards for fuel so that he could get to and from work and had gotten behind on his bills. He allegedly admitted to using one of the credit cards to buy new tires for his truck.

He will be sentenced in June.

[Full story](#). Source: Margaret Kavanagh, WTKR News.

National Park System Follow-ups On Previously Reported Incidents

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

- *National Mall* – The fortress of fences and barricades that took over downtown Washington for Inauguration Day is being dismantled, but remnants of a heightened security presence will remain in the nation's capital far beyond the tense transition of power. The D.C. National Guard will remain on standby until January 30th as part of an ongoing effort to present an enhanced posture to deal with the threat of white extremism in the city. The city is working

with the U.S. Secret Service and the Biden administration to evaluate security tactics and strategies, such as whether all joint sessions of Congress should be designated National Special Security Events. [Full story](#). Source: Emily Davies, Michael Brice-Saddler and Peter Hermann, *Washington Post*.

- *Hawaii Volcanoes NP* – Hawaiian Volcano Observatory continues to closely monitor Kīlauea’s seismicity, deformation, and gas emissions for any sign of reactivation, and maintains visual surveillance of the summit and the East Rift Zone. Lava activity is confined to Halema‘uma‘u with lava erupting from a vent on the northwest side of the crater. As of this past Monday, the lava lake was about 205 meters (673 feet) deep and only the western half is active. SO2 emission rates remained elevated. The summit tiltmeters are on an inflationary trend; seismicity remains elevated but stable, with steady elevated tremors and a few minor earthquakes. There is no seismic or deformation data to indicate that additional magma is currently moving into either of Kīlauea’s rift zones. SO2 and H2S emissions from Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō were below instrumental detection levels when measured on January 7th. Please see following for additional technical information. [Full story](#). Source: Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center Wind Event Kicks Up Fires In California

The national preparedness level remains at PL 1.

Eighteen new large fires were reported in nine states last week (a significant wind event in California caused several of them) Firefighters continued to work on two large fires in California and one in Oklahoma. Twenty large fires were contained last week.

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	January 8	January 15	January 22
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	0	0	0
Type 1 Teams	0	0	1
Type 2 Teams	0	0	0
Crews	0	9	5
Engines	2	10	51
Helicopters	0	1	0
Total FF/Overhead	11	65	334

Fires/Acreage

Category	2011-2020 Ave	2021 Total	Difference
United States: YTD Fires	768	1,265	+ 497
United States: YTD Acres	12,934	22,745	+ 9,811

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

January 1 – The president signed into law [H.R. 6395](#), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year (Public Law 116–283). See [House action of December 8th](#) in the coalition’s weekly report of December 16th for a list of the provisions that affect the NPS. [PROVIDE LINK TO DECEMBER 16 COALITION REPORT HERE].

January 5 – The president signed into law the following bills:

- [H.R. 6435](#), to direct the Federal Trade Commission to develop and disseminate information to the public about scams related to COVID–19 (Public Law 116–287).
- [H.R. 5458](#), to authorize the Department of the Interior to acquire, by donation, approximately 40 acres of specified nonfederal land for inclusion in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado (Public Law 116–301).
- [H.R. 5459](#), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park (Public Law 116–302).
- [H.R. 5852](#), to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the “Weir Farm National Historical Park” (Public Law 116–305).
- [H.R. 7460](#), to extend the authority for the establishment by the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation of a commemorative work to commemorate the mission of the Peace Corps and the ideals on which the Peace Corps was founded (Public Law 116–318).

January 13 – The president signed into law the following bills:

- [H.R. 1472](#), to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park (Public Law 116–328).
- [H.R. 1492](#), to authorize the inclusion of 160 acres of land by donation as part of the Yucca House National Monument in Colorado (Public Law 116–329).
- [H.R. 1923](#), to require the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter-dollar coins in commemoration of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote. The design on the reverse of each coin shall be emblematic of the accomplishments and contributions of a prominent woman who was a resident of a state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. territory (Public Law 116–330).
- [H.R. 3250](#), to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of the noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools (Public Law 116–336).
- [H.R. 4044](#), to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program. This bill reauthorizes for FY 22- FY 26 and revises the National Estuary Program, which provides grants to protect or restore estuaries of national significance by expanding the types of projects that qualify for grants under the program, such as projects that address issues related to coastal resiliency, stormwater runoff, or accelerated land loss (Public Law 116–337).
- [H.R. 5126](#), to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices (Public Law 116–340).
- [H.R. 5472](#), to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the “Jimmy Carter National Historical Park (Public Law 116–341).

Senate Actions

January 19 – The Senate agreed to [S. Res. 5](#), honoring the memory of Officer Brian David Sicknick of the United States Capitol Police for his selfless acts of heroism on the grounds of the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

January 19 – Senator Kamala D. Harris, of California, submitted a letter of resignation from the United States Senate, effective January 18, 2021, in order to prepare for the duties as Vice President of the United States.

January 20 – The Senate agreed to the following:

- [S. Res. 6](#), to elect Patrick J. Leahy, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to be President pro tempore of the Senate of the United States.
- [S. Res. 7](#), expressing the thanks of the Senate to the Honorable Chuck Grassley for his service as President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate and to designate Senator Grassley as President Pro Tempore Emeritus of the United States Senate.
- [S. Res. 8](#), notifying the President of the United States of the election of a President pro tempore.
- [S. Res. 9](#), notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a President pro tempore.
- [S. Res. 10](#), electing Gary B. Myrick, of Virginia, as Secretary for the Majority of the Senate.
- [S. Res. 11](#), electing Robert M. Duncan, of the District of Columbia, as Secretary for the Minority of the Senate.

January 20 – The Chair laid before the Senate the following:

- The certificate of election of Senator-elect Jon Ossoff, of the State of Georgia, and the oath of office was then administered as required by the U.S. Constitution and prescribed by law.
- The certificate of election of Senator-elect Raphael Warnock, of the State of Georgia, and the oath of office was then administered as required by the U.S. Constitution and prescribed by law.
- The certificate of appointment of Senator-designate Alejandro Padilla, of the State of California, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Senator Kamala Harris of California. and the oath of office was then administered as required by the U.S. Constitution and prescribed by law.

January 20 – The nominations of the following were transmitted to the Senate:

- Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.
- Janet Garvin McCabe, of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.
- Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior.
- Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.
- Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Neera Tanden, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

House Actions

January 21 – The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the over 400,000 Americans who have passed away from the COVID-19 virus.

Joint House/Senate Actions

January 20 – The House and Senate met for the Inauguration of President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr. and Vice President Kamala Devi Harris.

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.

- *Court Bans Permits And Fees For Commercial Filming* – “In a huge win for filmmakers, a D.C. federal judge has ruled that it's unconstitutional for the National Park Service to require permits or charge fees for commercial filming on its land,” reports *Hollywood Reporter*. An Indie director had challenged the rule in December 2019. The statute at issue ([read it here](#)) didn't require a permit for non-commercial filmmaking, and there was a specific exemption for news-gathering. Violations could result in fines or up to six months in prison. Central to the dispute is whether the act of filming is protected speech or just the finished work, and whether the commercial nature of a project could qualify as a content-based restriction. “[The plaintiff’s] filmmaking at these parks constitutes a form of expressive speech protected by the First Amendment,” wrote the judge in her opinion, adding “the creation of a film must also fall within the ambit of the First Amendment’s protection of freedom of expression. To find otherwise, would artificially disconnect an integral piece of the expressive process of filmmaking.” She adds an important caveat: “In issuing this injunction, the Court observes that a more targeted permitting regime for commercial filming, which is more closely connected to the threat posed by large groups and heavy filming equipment, may pass constitutional muster in the future.” [Full story](#). Source: Ashley Cullins, *Hollywood Reporter*.
- *State Department And NPS Partner To Strengthen Fulbright Exchanges* – The State Department, the NPS and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board have announced the establishment of the Fulbright-National Parks Partnership. The agencies will combine efforts, resources, and ideas to increase environmental and cultural awareness throughout the world through Fulbright exchanges. The virtual ceremony was the inaugural event of the Fulbright Program’s 75th anniversary year. The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship international academic exchange program, designed to increase mutual understanding between people of the United States and other countries. The Fulbright Program annually supports more than 8,000 students, scholars, artists, and professionals from the United States and more than 160 countries to study, teach, conduct research, exchange ideas, and find solutions to shared international challenges. Since its inception, the Fulbright Program has provided over 400,000 participants with opportunities to make positive impacts on their communities and the world. [Full story](#). Source: National Park Service.

Around The Parks

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

- *Castillo de San Marcos NM* – Beginning this coming Sunday, a new \$7.95 priority mail stamp bearing a stylized image of the 349-year-old fort on the Matanzas River will go on sale at post offices across the country, including those in St. Augustine, home to the historic structure. Part of a trio of new stamps to announce the Post Office's 2021 price changes, the image of the Spanish fort at 1 S. Castillo Drive is also joined by a set of 36-cent postcard stamps called “barns,” as well as a 20-cent stamp used for each added ounce of weight called “brush rabbit.” [Full story](#). Source: Colleen Michele Jones, *St. Augustine Record*.
- *Padre Island NS* – A small barrier island in the park has become the latest front in an ongoing war to stop a poisonous invasive plant that is spreading across the southeastern United States. An Invasive Species Strike Team spent three days in the park in December, trying to eradicate all forms of Brazilian peppertree. The peppertree — also known as rose pepper and christmasberry — is a shrub-like tree with a resin that is noxious in the same way as poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. Brazilian pepper(tree) tends to produce a dense canopy that

shades out other plants and provides a very poor habitat for native plant species. This invasive species is also known as an allelopathic plant that produces chemicals that inhibit growth or germination of neighboring plants. A nonprofit volunteer service agency known as American Conservation Experience supplied the team, which is based on a program introduced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Invasive Species Strike Teams use any means necessary to destroy invasive species, from plucking up seedlings to cutting down mature trees, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. [Full story](#). Source: Mark Price, *Miami Herald*.

- *Mammoth Cave NP* – Several construction projects at the park’s Green River Ferry have either been finished or are reaching completion. The ferry resumed vehicle shuttle operations early in January. The ferry service had been closed since September to complete a vehicle ramp project to extend the access ramp by 30 feet into the Green River. Other improvements, detailed in the story, include canoe/kayak launching points, a trail and a pedestrian bridge. [Full story](#). Source: John Reecer, *Bowling Green Daily News*.
- *Route 66 NSB* – On December 23rd, President Trump signed The Route 66 Centennial Commission Act (S1014) into law. Now the countdown begins—not for the year 2020, but for the year 2026, the 100th birthday of historic Route 66. Though no longer part of the US highway system, Route 66 continues to be a popular tourist destination for both domestic and international travelers. The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership, established in part by the NPS, is taking a leadership role in the celebration of Route 66’s 100th birthday. A five-year series of birthday celebration initiatives begins in 2021, culminating in 2026, the road’s centennial year. A major part of the initiatives involves developing a Visionary Fund to support Route 66 through preservation, economic development, promotion, and research and/or education projects. The goal is to position the historic highway, the communities along the road, and the people who live there for success during the next 100 years. [Full story](#). Source: *Claremore Daily Progress*.

The Federal Government

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

- *President Sends Out Video Message To All Employees* – President Biden filmed and transmitted a short (3:18) “Message for All Career Staff” on January 21st, one of his first actions after being inaugurated. He commends federal employees for their patriotism and sense of public service and for their “professionalism, honor and integrity.” [The video can be seen at this link](#).
- *Biden to Sign Executive Order Killing Schedule F* – Fulfilling a campaign promise, President Biden has signed an executive order rescinding a series of orders issued by former President Trump aimed at gutting federal employee unions and stripping federal workers of their civil service protections. “Employees converted to Schedule F would lose virtually all of their civil service protections and could be fired without cause,” says *Government Executive*. “Although it appears agencies did not act quickly enough to convert any career civil servants to the new job classification before the end of Trump’s term, it is unclear whether any agencies were able to use the executive order to burrow political appointees into career positions, as many experts fear.” [Full story](#). Source: Erich Wagner, *Government Executive*.

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.

- *NPS Covid Infections* – The Coalition submitted yet another [FOIA request](#) for COVID-19 infection numbers in NPS employees.

- *Point Reyes GMP Amendment* – CPANP [signed onto a letter](#) sent to the California Coastal Commissioners, asking them to fast-track concurrence with a Consistency Determination for the Proposed Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Amendment. The 98 signers were a diverse group, yet all united in the request that the Coastal Commission object to the Point Reyes plan at its January 14, 2021, commission meeting.
- *NPS Second Century Action Coalition* – The Coalition is an active participant in the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition, a national coalition dedicated to promoting the protection, restoration, and operation of the National Park System to benefit the health and well-being of current and future generations. We [signed onto a letter](#) sent to the Biden administration in support of numerous investments in our parks.
- *Great American Outdoors Act Implementation* – CPANP joined NPCA as a [co-signer in a series of recommendations](#) related to GAOA and deferred maintenance implementation, emphasizing that leadership at DOI and NPS must provide the necessary oversight to ensure improved transparency and project equity - and that potential pitfalls in implementation are avoided.
- *Mandatory Mask Wearing* – The Coalition [issued a statement](#) in support of President Biden's recent executive order mandating masks in all federal buildings and on federal property. In a document shared with the Biden transition team prior to the Inauguration, we recommended that mask wearing become a non-negotiable, on-the-job requirement and that the public be required to wear masks on federal property on Day One of Biden's term.
- *Opposition To Trump's Planned National Garden of American Heroes* – CPANP [sent a letter](#) to the new Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, urging the Biden administration to repeal former President Trump's misguided and ill-conceived executive order establishing a National Garden of American Heroes.

Source: Emily Thompson, Associate Director of Engagement, Coalition to Protect America's National Parks

From The Archives

This section contains incidents taken from *Morning Report* issues published during the corresponding week (approximately) 25 years ago in 1996. All entries appear in the original verb tense; "submitters" are those people who originally submitted the incident report.

Note: There's just one entry this week because the incident affected so many parks...

East Coast Areas – A number of reports have been received regarding the severe floods which occurred in river drainages throughout the Mid-Atlantic states:

- *Harpers Ferry* - Flood waters entered all buildings in the lower town area of the park. Approximately 112 park and Harpers Ferry Center employees removed exhibits and artifacts from buildings prior to the arrival of flood waters. Park residences and the bookstore were evacuated. As of late Sunday, more than \$1 million in damage had been identified; that number is expected to increase. Cleanup operations are now underway. The lower town portion of the park will be closed until further notice. Other areas of the park remain open.
- *C&O Canal* - About 90% of the 180-mile-long park has been flooded. The Great Falls tavern and Williamsport visitor centers, the Seneca resource management office and the historic Abner Cloud house were evacuated. Sandbags were employed to protect some structures. Heavy scouring and breaches of the canal towpath and flooding of numerous historic and private structures have been reported. The entire park is closed at this time, and no determination has been made on when it may be reopened.

- George Washington Parkway - Flooding at Great Falls was the worst since Hurricane Agnes in 1972. Water completely flooded the park's overlooks, which are normally scores of feet above the river. The entire park was closed for safety reasons. A Park Police helicopter was utilized to rescue five people who became stranded on rock outcrops, and also assisted in the removal of six kayakers who were involved in unsafe boating practices. Many people were cited by Park Police officers for illegal entry into closed areas, mostly adjacent to the river. Sand bags were successfully utilized to prevent serious property damage to the visitor center and a transformer. The historic Patowack Canal and locks were flooded, and damage is expected. Extensive damage is also expected to trails. Between 60 and 70 park personnel were involved in emergency operations. Sections of the parkway south of Key Bridge were closed, resulting in significant disruptions to area traffic, including traffic to National Airport. The parkway has since reopened. Areas of the parkway under construction suffered some damage, and will have to be reconstructed.
- Catoctin - Buildings, roads, telephone systems and a lagoon pumping facility were flooded. Extensive damage is expected to the recently completed Central Road and Foxville-Deerfield Road projects. Water damaged carpeting in park headquarters, the visitor center, and the gymnasium. The park remains open, though some buildings are closed.
- Prince William - Flooding along several major park streams damaged 25 backcountry footbridges and eroded fire roads, causing a total of about \$30,000 in damage.
- Manassas - Flooding along Bull Run caused about \$25,000 in damage to trails and footbridges, but the park remains open.
- National Capital Parks East - Flooding forced the closure of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, portions of the Langston golf course, two marinas, and five boat clubs. Damage is expected at the latter facilities.
- National Capital Parks Central - Several park roads were closed, which disrupted traffic in downtown Washington. All roads have been reopened except for portions of Ohio Drive. The park's headquarters building was completely flooded, causing damage to carpeting, furniture and equipment. The heating system was knocked out. All monuments and memorials are open, but the East Potomac golf course has been closed. Five live deer which were washed down the Potomac ended up in the vicinity of the Tidal Basin. They eventually left the area despite efforts to arrange for them to be tranquilized and transported out of town.
- Rock Creek - Flooding forced the closure of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway for several days, but it reopened on Monday. Several other roads and structures were also flooded, including Pierce Mill, which had three feet of water in its basement. The heating system at the mill was damaged. Assessments of impacts on trails and cross park sewer lines are underway.
- Monocacy - Four feet of water flooded the visitor center, but park staff members were able to save about 90% of the building's contents. A mile of split rails fence was lost, and two footbridges and a trail were damaged. The visitor center will be closed for several days.
- Antietam - The flooding of Antietam Creek caused the temporary closure of several park roads. Damages include loss of a thousand feet of post and rail fencing and one small monument. Farm lanes were gulleyed, the Mumma and Spring houses were flooded, and the historic Burnside bridge suffered some flood-related stress. The park remains open.
- Delaware Water Gap - Three buildings at Milford Beach and another three at Smithfield Beach - all built within the last six years as part of the overall development of those two sites - have suffered serious damage and will have to be completely rehabilitated. Two retention ponds at Milford Beach will probably have to be rebuilt. Grounds, fences, roads, signs and other features of both areas will have to be substantially replaced or rehabilitated. The Eshback Ridge dam was drained yesterday to prevent failure. A pedestrian foot bridge and boardwalk

railings at Dingmans Falls were washed away, and the area has been closed until further notice. George Childs Park and the lower trail at Raymondskill Falls have also been closed due to extensive damage. Five miles of Old Mine Road in New Jersey were reclaimed by the river; that portion of the road will be closed indefinitely. The Poxono boat launch area and the Depew beach and recreation area have suffered moderate to serious damage. Damage assessments and cost estimates are still underway.

A Closing Observation

"No other nation on earth so swiftly wasted its birthright; no other, in time, made such an effort to save what was left. We need to remind ourselves constantly that the land itself is what must be saved; that, like liberty, democracy, and all the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, like everything we truly value to the point where we might die for it, the heritage of our lands is not a fact, but a responsibility, an obligation, a task. A pleasure."

Author and environmentalist [Wallace Stegner](#)

Acknowledgements

This newsletter comes to you through the efforts of a number of people:

- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Emily Thompson, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, Duncan Morrow and Mark Forbes
- Issue Contributors: Steve Hastings, Vaughn Baker, Roberta D'Amico, Cathy Halainen, Bill Walters, David Manski

If you see something that might be of interest to Coalition members, send it to Bill Halainen at the Weekly National Park System Report: BHalainen@gmail.com. Please don't submit them via his personal email address or Facebook page.

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The *Weekly National Park System Report* is a publication of The Coalition To Protect America's National Parks. It is prepared by Coalition member Bill Halainen, former editor of the *NPS Morning Report*, and produced and disseminated by Coalition member Steve Pittleman.

The Coalition is a non-profit organization of past and current NPS employees and their allies that "studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation and protection of the National Park System and mission-related programs of the National Park Service."

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