



The Coalition Weekly Report

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Volume 4

Number 21

Incidents

Gulf Islands NS

Ship Island Closed Due To Damage From TS Cristobal

Ship Island, which was to reopen last Friday, remains closed due to damage caused by Tropical Storm Cristobal. The park estimates that it could be weeks before the storm damage is repaired and ferry service to Ship Island can begin for the year.

Cristobal caused more extensive damage to the ferry landing dock than Hurricane Nate in 2017. During Nate, two sections of the dock were damaged; following Cristobal, seven sections of the pier were found to be missing and the decking damaged.

The other barrier islands are now open but Ship Island remains closed and it could be weeks before people can return.

Source: Mary Perez, [Biloxi Sun-Herald](#).

Golden Gate NRA

Five Teenagers Saved At Ocean Beach

Five teenagers who were rescued from the water at Ocean Beach in San Francisco last Thursday afternoon are expected to recover. At least one victim was unconscious when he was pulled from the water, which is known for having dangerous rip currents.

Rescue swimmers from the National Park Service and the city fire department responded to the scene after receiving reports around 1:30 p.m. that people in the water needed help.

Source: [NBC Bay Area](#).

Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP

Rangers Use Short-Haul For First Time In Rescue

Rangers were able to put specialized training to use on June 2nd when they performed a short-haul rescue of an injured climber.

Earlier that day, the park received a report that a man had taken a 50-foot lead climbing fall on the Scenic Cruise climbing route in Cruise Gully. Despite having a broken ankle, the 43-year-old climber from South Jordan, Utah, was able to rappel to the base of the route.

Rangers responded and arranged for a short-haul rescue to the south rim helicopter landing pad. Black Canyon rangers have been training with Mesa Verde helitack for the last two years; this was the first short haul rescue conducted within the Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

Source: [Montrose Daily Press](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center National Preparedness Level Raised To PL 3

NIFC has raised the national preparedness level from PL 2 to PL 3.

Fire activity increased across the country over last weekend. The 51 large fires currently active have burned more than 242,000 acres in ten states. Several fires in the Southwest reported active or extreme fire behavior. Extreme weather conditions and strong winds caused the Mangum Fire in Arizona to gain 18,000 acres on Monday.

Park And Park-Related Fires

- *Grand Canyon NP* – The Mangum Fire, which is just outside the park on the Kaibab National Forest, has caused the closure of the North Rim. The fire began on the afternoon of June 8th and has burned over 30,000 acres. It is being managed by a Type 2 team; more than 500 firefighters and overhead personnel are assigned. Highway 89A is closed from Marble Canyon to Fredonia. Highway 67 from Jacob Lake to the park is also closed. Due to the road closures, the North Rim is presently inaccessible. The U.S. Forest Service has closed the entire fire area to entry. See the following link for more. Source: [InciWeb](#).

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	June 2	June 9	June 16
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	1	1	1
Type 1 Teams	1	2	1
Type 2 Teams	0	1	5
Crews	16	60	87
Engines	47	149	275
Helicopters	11	27	30
Total FF/Overhead	635	2,136	3,675

Fires/Acreage

Category	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Total	Difference
United States: YTD Fires	24,462	21,459	– 3,003
United States: YTD Acres	1,523,087	766,195	– 756,892

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

Congressional Actions

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

New Public Laws

Nothing to report.

Senate Actions

June 8 – Over the course of five days last week, the Senate began consideration of [H.R. 1957](#), the Taxpayer First Act, which is being used as the legislative vehicle for the Great American Outdoors Act due to the constitutional requirement that appropriations bills originate in the House of Representatives.

The Great American Outdoors Act would permanently appropriate funding of \$900 million annually from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to acquire lands within the federally designated boundaries of national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and BLM areas. The bill also would provide LWCF matching grants to state and local governments for public recreation in state, county, and urban park areas. Further, the bill would provide \$9.5 billion over the next five fiscal years to help address the deferred maintenance backlog of the national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, BLM lands, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Under the formula provided in the bill, the national parks would receive 70 percent of this deferred maintenance money, or roughly \$6.65 billion, which is estimated to address around half of the NPS deferred maintenance backlog.

A number of senators have filed proposed amendments to H.R. 1957 to authorize new national park sites, changes to existing national park sites, studies of potential park areas, and the establishment of a permanent national heritage area program within the National Park Service, among others. It appears that senators recognize that H.R. 1957 might be the only available vehicle to enact park and public land legislation this year and so they are trying to use this opportunity to attach their individual priorities to the bill. It remains to be seen how many, if any, of the proposed amendments will be successfully added. Further action on H.R. 1957 will take place through the course of this week.

June 9 – The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to examine wildfire management in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, after receiving testimony from Amanda Kaster, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior; John Phipps, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

June 10 – The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs approved the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, among other nominations.

June 11 – The Committee on the Budget approved the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

House Actions

June 9 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “Pollution and Pandemics: COVID-19’s Disproportionate Impact on Environmental Justice Communities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

National Park Service

National Park System

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

- *Director Issues Statement On Racial Injustice* – On June 9th, Deputy Director David Vela issued a statement regarding the National Park Service and issues of equity, justice, and the fight against systemic racism. Excerpts follow: “Through their voices and actions, individuals across the nation and around the world are addressing racial injustices within the black community. As the stewards of parks who protect the sites and tell the stories of this on-going struggle, I want to convey our voice, the voice of the National Park Service. The National Park Service is committed to fighting injustice and ensuring equity within our organization and in the way we welcome visitors to the places in our care. We understand that we have a role in this and will do more to make what we do more accessible and relevant to all communities...The National Park Service commits to lead change and work against racism. Specifically, we will work together in building strategies and tools that effectively engage all communities so that we become better allies for inclusion, equity, and equality. We also commit to work with our partners and supporters to engage in more dialogue with communities who have been missing from the discussions for far too long. In addition, we commit to doing a better job of listening and building a genuinely more inclusive environment both within the agency and with external communities. Your leadership is committed to be a champion for an organizational culture that is increasingly inclusive and participatory, which values the diverse ideas, experience, and background of every individual, and empowers an innovative, flexible, and resilient NPS to engage future opportunities and challenges.” The full text of the statement can be read at the following link. Source: [National Park Service](#).
- *NPS Visitor Spending Exceeded \$41 Billion Last Year* – In 2019, visitor spending in communities near national parks resulted in a \$41.7 billion benefit to the nation’s economy and supported 340,500 jobs. Visitor spending increased by \$800 million from 2018 to 2019 and the overall effect on the U.S economy grew by \$1.6 billion. In the last five years, visitor spending has increased by \$4.1 billion and the effect on the U.S. economy grew by \$9.7 billion. Additional details and links to related sites can be found at the following link. 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.

- *Andersonville NHS* – A lighter moment for a change: A maintenance supervisor at the park recently snapped a photo of a young fawn huddled next to a gravestone for an unknown Civil War soldier. The park posted the image to its Facebook page, where it was picked up by news media. You can see it at the following link. Source: [WTSP News](#).
- *President’s Park* – The NPS and Secret Service plan to reopen part of Lafayette Park in front of the White House today. Other areas of the park will remain closed to allow workers to deal with damage and address safety hazards. Lafayette Park in front of the White House is one of the country’s most prominent sites for political protests and other free-speech events. It’s been closed off since early last week. A newly erected high black fence blocking the square has been left up, even though recent protests have been overwhelmingly calm; the NPS says that it’s temporary, but hasn’t indicated when it’ll come down. Source: [WMAL News](#).
- *Sleeping Bear Dunes NL* – For the first time in the park’s history, Manitou Island Transit’s boats won’t be ferrying campers and day-trippers to the park’s twin islands this summer. Manitou Island Transit announced Tuesday that ferry service would be suspended for the 2020 season, citing safety issues with the docks on both islands. One of the issues on South Manitou Island is that Lake Michigan’s high water levels have lifted the dock off its pilings, rendering it unusable. On North Manitou Island, dredging is needed where sand has been

slowly filling in around the dock, making the water too shallow for the ferry boats to safely land. Source: Emily Bingham, [Michigan Advance Newspapers](#).

- *Theodore Roosevelt NP* – The park's South Unit road beyond the Wind Canyon Trail will be closed for up to two weeks for repairs following a culvert failure that caved in part of the roadway. It's not the only road closure in the popular South Unit – six miles of the scenic drive are closed from Badlands Overlook to the park's loop road junction due to a slump from erosion in 2019. Engineers are working to design repairs. Source: Jack Dura, [Bismarck Tribune](#).
- *Timucuan E&HP* – The North Florida Land Trust has announced that it has completed the sale of more than 2,500 acres of marshland along the Nassau River to park. This marshland is within the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve boundary and will become part of the preserve. NFLT bought the bulk of the land included in this purchase from the estate of Theodore Carey for \$750,000 in 2015 with this sale ultimately in mind. The rest of the parcels purchased by NPS were donated to NFLT in 2013 by the family of Noble Enge Jr. NPS bought both properties for \$750,000. The tract acquired in this transaction includes all the marshes off the northern end of Black Hammock Island surrounding the Eagle Bend Island community north of Yellow Bluff Road in Jacksonville and more than 800 acres of marsh along I-95. It largely consists of marshland and protects the oyster reefs, saltwater and brackish cordgrass, and black needle rush marshes that spread out for miles along the river's edge. These marsh habitats form a critical nursery for most of the commercial and recreational sports fish as well as foraging grounds for the shore and wading birds. Source: [WJXT/WCWJ News](#).
- *Yellowstone NP* – Researchers have discovered two ancient super-eruptions associated with the Yellowstone hot spot track. They took place between eight and twelve million years ago, creating a hot spot that today fuels the park's geysers, mud pots and fumaroles. The study appeared last week in *Geology*, the peer-reviewed publication of the Geological Society of America. The first event, known as the McMullen Creek super-eruption, impacted a nearly 4,600-square-mile stretch of modern-day Idaho and the second, known as the Grey's Landing super-eruption, impacted nearly 8,900 square miles of Idaho and Nevada. The super-eruptions released clouds of searing hot gas and ash at temperatures greater than 900 Celsius that spread at supersonic speed, sterilizing the land surface. An area the size of the state of New Jersey would've been enameled in solid black glass. Source: N'dea Yancey-Bragg, [USA Today](#).

NPS Projects

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

- ***Channel Islands NP*** – The park is proposing to construct a new campground at Prisoners Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. It would include six small, rustic individual campsites with a maximum capacity of 24 overnight visitors. [The comment period closes on July 12th](#).
- ***Denali NP*** – The park is considering implementing management decisions and constructing limited infrastructure to provide increased access and visitor opportunities in the park during the winter and shoulder seasons (approximately mid-September to mid-May). The webpage entry lists about a dozen proposed actions. [The comment period is open until June 30th](#).
- *Grand Teton NP* – The concessions contract between the park and Grand Teton Lodge Company will expire on December 31, 2021. The NPS is considering what visitor services to require or authorize in the next concessions contract, which has an anticipated effective date of January 1, 2022. An EA is being prepared that will examine potential new construction and facility improvements that may be included in the prospectus. Improvements would include constructing additional concession employee housing, installing fire protection enhancements, improving accessibility improvements, adding amenities at campgrounds, reconfiguring food

and beverage services, and relocating a concessioner-operated warehouse. [You can comment on the project through June 22nd.](#)

- *Mesa Verde NP* – The park is seeking public comment on an environmental assessment to evaluate the impacts of improving the existing Mesa Top Loop Roads and the intersection at the entrance of Mesa Verde National Park. [The comment period is open until June 19th.](#)
- *Voyageurs NP* – The park is taking comments on a site development plan for the Kettle Falls area. The plan will consider improvements to recreational amenities, accessibility, wayfinding, and overnight visitor opportunities, and improvements to housing options for staff in the area while assuring the on-going protection of natural and cultural resources. The plan is needed to identify site improvements such as access for boats, houseboats, and seaplanes; additional concession staff housing and visitor overnight lodging; trails and other day-use amenities; or other amenities within a historic landscape. [Comments will be taken until July 10th.](#)

Briefly Noted

Other matters of interest pertaining to the parks and their people.

- *Endangered National Parks* – This issue of *Outside* magazine has a list of what they believe to be the country's "eight most endangered national parks." It begins by listing the problems facing the NPS these days, from climate change to the maintenance backlog, then names the eight parks that "are the most concerning examples of how the entire system could soon be endangered." They are Rocky Mountain, Great Smoky Mountains, Glacier, Indiana Dunes, Gates of the Arctic, Saguaro, Everglades, and Joshua Tree. The article describes the problems facing each of these sites. Source: Jon Waterman, [Outside](#).
- *Great Outdoors Stamps* – The Postal Service has just released new "Enjoy The Great Outdoors" stamps. Here's how the Postal Service describes them: "The stamp art depicts five scenes of various outdoor activities — building a sandcastle, hiking, cross-country skiing, canoeing and biking. In these hand-sketched and painted designs, artist Gregory Manchess uses light and shadow to evoke a sense of wonder for these remarkable landscapes. Surrounding the pane of 20 stamps is a painting showing trees and the bank of a body of water. The small figures of a canoe in the water and a man standing ashore holding an oar are visible at the top of the selvage." The article includes an image of the sheet of new stamps. Source: [Sierra Sun Times](#).

Climate and Conservation

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

National and Worldwide Issues

Reports on the national and international climate and conservation crisis.

- *Pandemic Hits Ecotourism Hard* – The June 11th edition of the *Washington Post* has a story entitled "Halt In Ecotourism Threatens Conservation Efforts Worldwide." Countries and NGO's are trying to ameliorate the drying up of tourist funds, but their efforts are insufficient. "Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, investments in nature are in jeopardy as resources are diverted and tourism dollars supporting conservation dwindle," reports the *Post*. "Most world travel destinations have experienced shutdowns as borders have been shut, visas restricted and quarantines enforced to limit the spread of the virus. National parks, game preserves and wildlife sanctuaries in Africa, Asia and beyond have closed. The closures have led to reduced protection for wildlife and lost incomes as rangers, guides, drivers, cooks, animal caregivers and others have been let go. The U.N. World Tourism Organization estimates a decline of international tourism of 60 to 80 percent by the end of the year compared with 2019, with trillions of dollars and millions of jobs lost." The hope is that ecotourism will resume after the

pandemic abates, but alternatives to funding from ecotourism are already gaining popularity. “Among these are conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, biodiversity offsets, tax incentives and green and blue bonds — debt instruments to raise capital for ecological purposes.” Source: Hugh Biggar, [Washington Post](#).

- *Summers Are Lengthening, Winters Shrinking* – A recent study has shown that most locations globally, including in the United States and Canada, have seen their summer seasons lengthen and the winter seasons shrink. The vast majority of 6,000 weather stations analyzed globally, reports the *Washington Post*, now experience a longer summer compared with the previous 30-year reference period. In the United States and Canada, summer has expanded by an average of one week. The change in the length of winter is even more significant than the summer changes. While the United States and Canada see summer conditions that last an average of seven days more than they used to, the duration of winter conditions has shortened by an average of 15 days. In northern Canada and Alaska, the shortening of winter is especially dramatic. Along Alaska’s North Slope, the coldest part of winter in the most recent 30-year period is warmer than any of the winter days in the preceding 30-year period. See the article for maps illustrating these temperature changes. Source: Brian Brettschneider, *Washington Post*.

National Park System Issues

Reports on climate and conservation issues impacting the parks, including the impacts of climate change, protection of native flora and fauna, battles against invasive and exotic species, impairment of park ecosystems and habitat, threats to park carrying capacity, impacts on parks from abutting areas, and systemic pollution of all forms.

- *Western Parks* – “Microplastic particles equivalent to as many as 300m plastic water bottles are raining down on the Grand Canyon, Joshua Tree and other US national parks, researchers have found,” reported *The Guardian* in an article posted on June 11th. “In a survey of 11 remote western locations, also including the Great Basin and Craters of the Moon national parks, researchers discovered more than 1,000 metric tons of microplastic particles that had traveled through the atmosphere like rain or water particles.” According to the survey’s lead researcher, the new findings show an urgent need to reduce plastic pollution: “Although their full effects on the human body are still unknown, scientists are starting to raise public health concerns over microplastic particles: they’re small enough to lodge into lung tissue, which causes lesions and, in some cases of routine exposure, asthma and cancer.” Source: Valerie Yurk, [The Guardian](#).
- *Appalachian NST* – On Monday, the Supreme Court removed a major obstacle to the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a long-delayed and multibillion-dollar project meant to carry natural gas through some of the most mountainous scenery in central Virginia. The court ruled 7-2 that the U.S. Forest Service has authority to grant the pipeline right of way under the Appalachian Trail in the George Washington National Forest. Judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit threw out a Forest Service permit in December 2018, saying federal law prohibits any agency from approving a pipeline on “lands in the National Park System.” That includes the trail, the judges said. The pipeline’s builders, led by Dominion Energy, appealed to the high court, saying the ruling could create an impenetrable wall along the trail’s course, which runs from Georgia to Maine. The Trump administration weighed in on behalf of the project, arguing that even though the National Park Service administers the trail, the land beneath it is controlled by the Forest Service. Environmentalists opposing the construction argued that no pipeline has been granted a right of way across the trail on federal land since it became part of the park system. Other crossings are on private or state lands or on easements that predate federal ownership. Trying to separate the land from the trail is an “elusively metaphysical distinction” that “contradicts the government’s own long-standing approach to administering the trail,” the groups told the court in their briefs. Justice Thomas, who wrote the decision, said that the land the Appalachian Trail crosses still is under control of an agency that can approve the right of way. “The lands that the trail crosses are still ‘federal lands’ and the Forest Service may grant a pipeline right of way through them — just as it

granted a right of way for the trail,” he wrote. “Sometimes a complicated regulatory scheme may cause us to miss the forest for the trees,” he wrote. “But at bottom, these cases boil down to a simple proposition: A trail is a trail, and land is land.” Source: Robert Barnes, [Washington Post](#).

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.

- *Great American Outdoors Act* – There has been a lot of movement and good news concerning the Great American Outdoors Act. The Senate voted to invoke cloture earlier in the week and passed its third procedural vote late last Thursday night. There are several more procedural votes and a budget point of order coming up. Hopefully, a vote on final passage will be held this week. [Here is a link to the Coalition’s statement on the act](#).
- *Phil Francis Speaks On Above Act* – Coalition Chair Phil Francis appeared on the NPR program *This Green Earth* last week to talk about the act. [A recording of the show is available at this link](#).
- *CPANP Addresses Admin Attack On Marine Protected Area* – CPANP [issued a statement](#) on the president's plan to remove protections on the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, a nearly 5,000-square-mile area southeast of Cape Cod. In part, the Coalition’s statement mentions that "an attack on one national monument is an attack on them all and puts in jeopardy the many types of public lands and waters that symbolize America’s love for its cultural heritage and great outdoors."
- *Coalition Continues Opposition To Temporary Leadership* – The Coalition commented on DOI's move to leave temporary leaders in place indefinitely, including acting BLM head William Perry Pendley and acting NPS director David Vela. In [an interview with The Hill](#), Phil said that "a person in an acting position oftentimes but not always is just maintaining the day-to-day activities, as opposed to developing and employing a strategic plan, setting a direction for the agency. There are all kinds of benefits of having a permanent employee in place."
- *CPANP Opposes NEPA Pandemic Waiver* – The Coalition [issued a statement](#) on President Trump's recent executive order that will waive the environmental review process for some infrastructure projects, using the pandemic as justification. "The President’s recent executive order is not only unnecessary, it represents a real threat to our national parks. While the Coalition supports appropriate response to the pandemic, as well as a stable workforce and economy, we do not agree that our parks should be sacrificed for the ‘emergencies’ envisioned by this executive order."
- *Coalition Speaks Against Oil and Gas Drilling Near Parks* – CPANP [issued a joint press release](#) with NPCA and SUWA about the Trump administration's proposal to open up more than 110,000 acres of public land to oil and gas drilling, most of which lies in southern Utah near Canyonlands, Arches and Capitol Reef national parks. "Leasing public land for oil and gas drilling on the doorstep of these national parks will always be a threat to these irreplaceable resources. And right now, there is no good reason for BLM to push through a lease sale as communities across the country continue to deal with the social and economic impacts of the pandemic."

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

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.

- *Denali NP* – Albert Puig, 26, of Barcelona, Spain, was killed on June 9th when he fell 4,000 feet down the Orient Express on Mt. McKinley. Puig's two partners, also from Spain, were rescued from the 19,200-foot level of the West Rib later that evening. The three-man rescue party was dropped off by an Army Chinook helicopter from Fort Wainwright, as the park's high altitude Lama helicopter had been grounded by a minor accident. One of the two rescued climbers was treated for mild frostbite but was otherwise in relatively good shape; the second had severe frostbite on his hands and feet and remains hospitalized. The three climbers had been at the 19,200-foot level for four days. In addition to frostbite, rangers believe that they were suffering from high altitude related problems caused in part by climbing too high too fast. The climbers had started up the mountain on May 26th and had spent only eight days reaching their final camping site. Puig's death brings to five the number of fatalities on Mt. McKinley this season. There are about 425 climbers on Denali this week; to date, a total of 950 climbers have ascended the mountain. Submitted by Alaska Region PAO John Quinley.
- *Badlands NP* – On August 14, 1993, the park's fee collection office was reportedly robbed of \$9,695.50. The seasonal fee collector told rangers that she was counting fee receipts when a person wearing a mask and dark leather jacket suddenly opened the door to the office, ordered her to keep her head down, took the money which she had been counting, then quickly left the building. A joint investigation was conducted by rangers, the FBI and Pennington County sheriff's office. Inconsistencies during the investigation led to the woman's indictment by a grand jury for theft/embezzlement of public monies (18 USC 641). On February 8th, following a three day trial in Sioux Falls, she was convicted of theft of government property. On May 21st, she was sentenced in federal court to four years' probation with the first three months under house arrest; a \$1,000 fine; restitution of the full amount taken; and court costs. Submitted by Chief Ranger Scott Lopez.
- *Denali NP* – After attempting the summit of Mt. McKinley on June 13th, seven members of a Taiwanese climbing expedition were forced to bivouac at the 19,400-foot level due to high winds and whiteout conditions. On the following evening, four members of the group descended to 17,200 feet, where two American climbers put them in a snow cave and cared for them. Two of the Taiwanese, Jung Chung Chang and Hsieh Tzu Ching, were suffering from frostbite and required medical attention. Despite erratic weather, the park's Llama helicopter was able to evacuate them late on the morning of June 16th; they were then transferred to an Air National Guard Pavehawk helicopter and flown to a hospital in Anchorage. Later that morning, Jay Hudson and climbing ranger Joe Reichert searched the upper mountain by fixed-wing aircraft and located two of the three remaining climbers. The Llama made several attempts to reach them, but was unable to do so because of high winds. Volunteer rescue climbers Alex Low, Conrad Anker, Tim Light and Vince Langman climbed to the 17,200-foot level, where Light and Langman assisted the other two Taiwanese at that level in their descent of the mountain. Meanwhile, Low and Anker "sprinted" to the 19,400-foot level, where they found climbers Dois Min-Lin and Min Chung Wu and the body of their partner, Chiu Jui-Lin. Lowe and Anker, with the assistance of three Austrian climbers, helped the survivors reach the 17,200-foot level, where they were airlifted off the mountain by Army Chinook helicopters, then transferred to Pavehawks for the flight to the hospital. One of the four climbers has since been released; the remaining three will require considerable treatment for severe frostbite. Erratic winds and intermittent whiteout conditions severely hampered rescue efforts throughout the day. Submitted by Chief Ranger Ken Kehrer.

Acknowledgements

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

- Production: Steve Pittleman

- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, Emily Thompson, and Duncan Morrow
- Issue Contributors: Terry Allen, 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. Please don't submit them via his personal email address or Facebook page.

* * * * *

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."

To receive a copy of this free publication, join or support the coalition. Any current, retired or former salaried employee (GS, wage grade, seasonal, temporary, or SES) of the National Park Service can join the Coalition ([click on this link](#)). Coalition supporters can also join and receive the newsletter ([click on this link](#)). If you need to contact the Coalition office on other matters, including changes of address, [click on this link](#).

--- ### ---