



The Coalition Weekly Report

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Incidents

Yellowstone NP

Two Fined, Jailed For Walking In Thermal Area

Two Pennsylvania women have been fined \$350 each and ordered to serve two days in jail for being off the trail in a thermal area of the park. The incident occurred on June 11th.

Tara L. Davoli, 31, and Sarah A. Piotrowski, 30, both of Philadelphia, were seen off the boardwalk walking in a thermal area, which resulted in damage to orange bacterial mats at Opal Pool in the Midway Geyser Basin. Witnesses confronted them in an effort to get them to stop.

The women were also ordered to pay \$107 for damages to Opal Pool. They've been banned from Yellowstone for two years and will serve two years of unsupervised release. The amount of restitution was based on a damage assessment conducted by the Yellowstone geologist and a thermal research crew.

Source: Phil Drake, [Great Falls Tribune](#).

Cape Hatteras NS

Boy Survives Shark Attack

A 16-year-old boy is recovering after being attacked by a shark just south of Salvo. The teen's father sprang into action to help his son fight the shark off.

Tim Arthur said his son Nick was jumping over waves on a sandbar about 25 feet offshore when he suddenly heard him screaming. Arthur said the shark had bitten into his son's thigh and would not let go, even as his son hit the predator on the head with his hands. The father said he rushed over and started kicking and punching the shark. A kick to the nose finally forced the shark to let go.

The boy was treated at a medical facility in Nags Head after the incident, which occurred at approximately 4 p.m. Thursday.

Arthur said that the shark left more than 40 teeth marks on his son's thigh. The injuries were non-life-threatening but required 17 stitches. The teenager was released later that night and is on crutches.

Source: Vandana Rambaran, [WSFX News](#).

Homestead NM

Flash Flood Hits Park

Rainfall of more than seven inches in just a few hours caused a flash flood on Cub Creek last Thursday night and early Friday. Park staff are assessing the damage to determine the full impact. The park's trail system will remain closed this week.

The park went into its emergency operations mode following the torrential downpours. Park personnel filled sandbags in case the floodwater drew close to the monument's education center and other buildings, including the Freeman School. Only a small amount of water got into the school; floodwaters came close to the south side of the education center, but didn't enter it.

Source: [News Channel Nebraska](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center Fire Activity Centers On Arizona, Alaska, New Mexico

NIFC has set the national preparedness level at PL 3.

Nationally, 33 large fires have burned a total of more than 544,395 acres. More acres burned in Arizona than any other state, followed by Alaska and New Mexico. Fires in the Southwest were active over last weekend.

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 of the Grand Canyon. The fire has burned 69,277 acres and is 28% contained. It's being managed by a Type 2 team; 669 overhead personnel and firefighters are committed. Click on the following link for more info. Source: [InciWeb](#).
- Tonto NM* – The park was closed on June 19th due to the proximity of the massive Bush Fire, which had burned nearly 190,000 acres through yesterday. The fire is 42% contained. There's no word on when the park will reopen. Source: [InciWeb](#), [National Park Service](#).

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	June 9	June 16	June 23
Area Command Teams	0	0	0
NIMO Teams	1	1	1
Type 1 Teams	2	1	3
Type 2 Teams	1	5	5
Crews	60	87	97
Engines	149	275	277
Helicopters	27	30	40
Total FF/Overhead	2,136	3,675	4,530

Fires/Acreage

Category	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Total	Difference
United States: YTD Fires	25,483	22,439	– 3,044
United States: YTD Acres	1,650,218	1,008,914	– 641,304

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 15 – The Senate agreed to [S. Res. 620](#), designating June 19, 2020, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States.

June 16 – The Senate agreed to:

- [S. Res. 502](#), recognizing the 75th anniversary of the amphibious landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II and the raisings of the flag of the United States on Mount Suribachi.
- [S. Res. 533](#), supporting the goals of International Women's Day.
- [S. Res. 542](#), commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp during World War II.

June 16 – The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to examine the impacts of COVID-19 on the energy industry, after receiving testimony from Stephen Nalley, Deputy Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; David M. Turk, International Energy Agency, Paris, France; and public witnesses.

June 16 – The Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing to examine police use of force and community relations, after receiving testimony from Erin Nealy Cox, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, and Bill Woolf, Senior Advisor to the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, both of the Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

June 17 – The Senate passed [H.R. 1957](#), the Great American Outdoors Act, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Indian Education, and to provide permanent, dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, by a vote of 73 yeas to 25 nays.

As passed by the Senate, H.R. 1957 permanently appropriates 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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) areas. The bill also provides LWCF matching grants to state and local governments for public recreation in state, county, and urban park areas. Additionally, the bill now permanently makes five other programs eligible for the LWCF monies annually as discussed below.

Further, H.R. 1957 appropriates \$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.

Of particular note is that since 1964, when the LWCF Act was signed into law, LWCF monies have only been available for federal land acquisition and state recreation and development grants. However, over the past several years, the appropriations committees of the House and Senate have also allocated a portion of LWCF monies for five other programs. Collectively, these five programs received \$117.7 million in FY 2020, with their individual program amounts for FY 2020 shown below. These programs are:

- the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (which provides grants to states and territories to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed, and listed species) - \$30.8 million in FY 2020.
- the American Battlefield Protection Act (which provides grants for the preservation of non-federally owned battlefields from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War) - \$13 million in FY 2020.
- the Highlands Conservation Act (which provides land conservation partnership grants in the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) - \$10 million in FY 2020.
- the Forest Legacy Program of the U.S. Forest Service (which provides grants to states to protect working forests under threat of conversion to non-forest uses, typically commercial or residential development) - \$63.9 million in FY 2020.
- the Department of the Interior's Valuation Services Office (which determines appraisal values for lands being purchased by the federal government) - \$10 million in FY 2020.

According to the language passed by the Senate in H.R. 1957, these five programs are now permanently eligible to receive LWCF monies annually. The appropriations committees of the House and Senate still have the flexibility under the law to change the amounts proposed to be allocated among these five programs after the president's budget is submitted; however, with the requirement that the annual \$900 million be allocated each year, there will be more programs competing for the LWCF monies than originally envisioned by the 1964 LWCF Act.

While a number of senators proposed amendments to H.R. 1957 to authorize new national park sites, to make changes to existing national park sites, to authorize studies of potential park areas, and to establish a permanent national heritage area program within the National Park Service, among others, none of the amendments were allowed under the procedures established by the Senate for consideration of H.R. 1957. Senators will have to wait for other opportunities that might come up during the rest of this year's congressional session for possible consideration of these proposed amendments.

June 17 – The Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to examine responding to the challenges facing recycling in the United States, after receiving testimony from Senator Udall; and public witnesses.

June 18 – The Senate agreed to [S. Res. 630](#), designating June 20, 2020, as "American Eagle Day" and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.

June 18 – The Committee on Foreign Relations held a hearing to examine COVID-19 and international pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response, including, [S. 3829](#), to advance the global health security and diplomacy objectives of the United States, improve coordination among the relevant Federal departments and agencies implementing United States foreign assistance for global health security, and more effectively enable partner countries to strengthen and sustain resilient health systems and supply chains with the resources, capacity, and personnel required to prevent, detect, mitigate, and respond to infectious disease threats before they become pandemics, after receiving testimony from James Richardson, Director of Foreign Assistance, Department of State; Chris Milligan, Counselor, United States Agency for International Development; and Garrett Grigsby, Director, Office of Global Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services.

House Actions

June 16 – The Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Racial Disparity in the Military Justice System--How to Fix the Culture”. Testimony was heard from Brenda Farrell, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management Team, Government Accountability Office; Lieutenant General Charles N. Pede, Judge Advocate General, U.S. Army; Vice Admiral John G. Hannink, Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General Jeffrey A. Rockwell, Judge Advocate General, U.S. Air Force; Major General Daniel J. Lecce, Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps; and a public witness.

June 16 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Reviving our Economy: COVID-19’s Impact on the Energy Sector”. Testimony was heard from public witness. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

June 16 – The Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Cybercriminals and Fraudsters: How Bad Actors Are Exploiting the Financial System During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

June 17 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Health Care Inequality: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 and the Health Care System”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

June 17 – The Committee on the Judiciary approved [H.R. 7120](#), the Justice in Policing Act of 2020, to hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct in court, improve transparency through data collection, and reform police training and policies.

June 18 – The Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled “Climbing Again: Stakeholder Views on Resuming Air Travel in the COVID-19 Era”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

June 18 – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing, among other bills, on:

- [H.R. 244](#), to authorize a western state to relinquish to the United States state land grant parcels wholly or primarily within federal land management areas, including national parks and wilderness areas, and to select in exchange public land within the western state. The authority is available for 20 years after the date of enactment.
- [H.R. 2611](#), to direct the Department of the Treasury to establish separate special accounts for the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation (the federal land management agencies) for the deposit of rental fees received by such agencies for communications use authorizations on federal lands that are granted, issued, or executed by them. The rental fees received by each federal land management agency shall remain available for expenditure for agency activities related to communications sites (those areas of federal lands designated for telecommunications uses).
- [H.R. 3682](#), to provide for greater consultation between the Federal Government and the governing bodies of land grant-mercedes (a community land grant issued under the laws or customs of Spain or Mexico that received a patent from the United States or has been recognized under State law) and acequias (a waterway in the State recognized as an acequia or a community ditch under State or Federal law, including the diversions, storage facilities, and easements of such waterway) in New Mexico and to provide for a process for recognition of the historic-traditional boundaries of land grant-mercedes,
- [H.R. 5040](#), to direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression,

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.

- *Park Police Under Scrutiny For Lafayette Park Actions* – Since the still unexplained shooting of an unarmed motorist, Bijan Ghaisar, by two USPP officers in 2017, the Park Police have been under intense scrutiny. The confrontation with citizens and the media in Lafayette Park the week before last has greatly intensified that scrutiny – and anger at officers’ actions in the park. Here are two representative selections from the media. In an editorial in the *Washington Post* on June 17th, the paper’s editorial board noted “that there was a time not long ago when the U.S. Park Police...were known for their disciplined and judicious handling of protests. That time is gone, and the agency’s hard-earned reputation is in tatters.” Along with the rough handling of demonstrators, two officers assaulted journalists from one of Australia’s main television channels, thereby creating an international incident. Said the *Post*: “A law enforcement force once respected for its restraint and accountability has morphed into something less professional, more sinister and utterly at odds with its motto: ‘Integrity, Honor, Service.’” The Sierra Club posted an opinion piece on June 15th: “The violent actions of the US Park Police during this period of citizen protest are very likely unconstitutional. The strong-arm tactics also run counter to the national park system’s mission to ‘preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.’ If the US Park Police can’t be trusted to uphold the democratic values of the National Park Service—if it has been reduced to a shock force that can be marshaled by corrupt politicians to attack political opponents exercising their First Amendment rights on public lands—then it should be disbanded.” Sources: Editorial Board, [Washington Post](#); Jeremy Miller, [Sierra](#);
- *Support Sought For Opposition To New Alaska Hunting Regs* – Trustees For Alaska has sent along a note about their campaign against the new hunting regs for the state and seeking support for it. As reported in *The Hill*, the Coalition has strongly opposed these [“appalling” new regulations](#) (see also the section with Coalition news below). Here’s the text of the Trustees’ letter: “The National Park Service recently finalized a regulation that allows sport hunters to bait brown bears, shoot wolves during the denning season, and a number of other practices authorized by the State of Alaska within national preserves in Alaska. This new regulation specifically overturns a regulation adopted in 2015 that prohibited these practices, and any other sport hunting regulation aimed at manipulating wildlife populations. The 2015 rule codified the Park Service’s decades-old position that wildlife management under the State of Alaska’s Intensive Management Act and principles of sustained yield conflicted with the Park Service’s mandates under Alaska National Interests Conservation Act and the Organic Act. This new rule issued by the Trump administration reverses that long-held position and largely abdicates the Park Service’s authority to regulate sport hunting to protect wildlife within the preserves (to read more about this issue, please check out Trustees’ blog – <https://www.trustees.org/trump-agencies-strip-protections-for-alaska-wolves-and-bears/>). Trustees for Alaska fights for the land, water, wildlife and people in Alaska. Trustees is Alaska’s only Alaska-based environmental nonprofit law firm, and has been at the forefront of protecting Alaska since 1974. Trustees provides free legal advice and representation to conservation groups, citizen groups, Tribal and Indigenous organizations, and individuals, and defends and protects Alaska in court, Congress, and our state legislature. I invite you to contribute to the fight against efforts to undermine protections for wildlife and wildlife diversity in national preserves by giving to Trustees. Trustees relies on support from individuals like you to make their important work possible, which is to protect Alaska’s public lands and wildlife. Please consider making an online gift by using this unique [Donate Now page](#) to designate your gift to

this issue. Trustees also welcomes general support gifts, which provide flexibility to address their overall programs. If you have any questions, please call Tracy Lohman, Trustees' development director, at (907) 433-2006 or (907) 440-9908, or email her at tlohman@trustees.org. Thank you for your consideration. Source: [Trustees for Alaska](#); Rebecca Beitsch, [The Hill](#).

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.

- *Denali NP* – The abandoned bus in the park's backcountry, popularized by the book *Into the Wild* and the movie of the same name, was removed last week. The Alaska National Guard removed it with a heavy-lift helicopter as part of a training mission. The bus has long attracted adventurers to an area without cellphone service and marked by unpredictable weather and at times swollen rivers. Some have had to be rescued or have died. Christopher McCandless, the subject of the book and movie, died there in 1992. Source: Becky Bohrer, [Army Times](#).
- *New River Gorge NR* – The park's visitor center in Thurmond is currently undergoing renovations. The building has been renovated several times since its construction in 1904, mostly recently when it became a VC in 1995. Its now receiving a new slate roof. Construction crews are using the same material as the current roof in order maintain the building's historic integrity. Work should be completed next month. Source: [WVNS News](#).
- *Yellowstone NP* – Stories about the super volcano beneath the park and its "imminent" eruption appear with remarkable regularity in the media, despite facts to the contrary. According to recent research, though, the trend appears to be in the other direction. A [new report in Geology magazine](#), reports the *New York Times*, "suggests that this volcanic menace may be losing its strength, and that you can be a bit less alarmed the next time you read a viral headline about that super volcano out west." The park's volcanic activity is due to a migrating hotspot under the earth. Researchers have identified two past super-eruptions that "paint a picture of the hot spot's activity waning over time. Between 6 and 11 million years ago, giant eruptions once took place rather frequently, roughly every half million years. But his findings show that, since that time, such eruptions have become less frequent, occurring about every 1.5 million years." Source: Matt Kaplan, [New York Times](#).
- *Zion NP* – "A sprawling network of camping resorts soon could begin unfolding in the Kolob highlands on Zion National Park's northern boundary, potentially resulting in an influx of overnight use in a remote and scenic part of southern Utah," reports *The Salt Lake Tribune*. "Late last year, Ian Crowe, a St. George real estate broker, filed applications with Washington County officials to develop up to nearly 3,000 camping sites, including yurts, tents, vintage trailers, shipping containers, even treehouses, near Kolob Reservoir and the park's Lava Point, about 25 miles up the winding Kolob Terrace Road from the town of Virgin." The project is on hold for the moment because a scheduled public hearing had to be canceled due to the pandemic; the same is likely to happen to the rescheduled meeting. The article examines the pros and cons, mostly the latter. The developer's attitude concerning the opposition is reflected in a comment made by its lawyer: "Negative public opinion is no legal basis for rejecting the [required] permits..." Source: Brian Maffly, [The Salt Lake Tribune](#).

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.](#)
- *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.

- *How To Die In A National Park* – The usual spate of summer lists of ‘best’ parks for one feature or another has an interesting addition this summer – a list in *Budget Travel* of “the six worst ways to die in a national park (and how to stay alive).” The six are as follows (you’ll have to read the story for the illustrations of each): Dissolving in a Yellowstone hot spring; falling off of Angel’s Land in Zion; murdered by a serial killer in Shenandoah National Park; eaten by a bear in Katmai National Park; getting lost in Death Valley; catching Covid-19 at the Grand Canyon. Source: Laura Brown, [Budget Travel](#).
- *Harry Yount’s Hiring As A Ranger Recognized* – *Oil City News* in Casper, Wyoming, ran a story on the 80th anniversary (June 21, 1880) of “Rocky Mountain” Harry Yount being hired as Yellowstone’s first gamekeeper – a man that Horace Albright would call the “father of the ranger service, as well as the first national park ranger.” The short piece includes some details on Yount and some quotes from him. Source: Greg Hirst, [Oil City News](#).

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 at the end of each entry.

- *Great American Outdoors Act* – As noted above, the Great American Outdoors Act passed the Senate last week. The Coalition issued several statements/quotes in support of this action. [Click here.](#)
- *Increased Funding For Park Transportation Systems* – The Coalition signed on to a joint letter sent to members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in support of the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act (INVEST in America Act), especially the increased funding levels for federal lands to help address the aging transportation assets in our national parks. [Click here.](#)
- *Congratulating Yellowstone On Its COVID-19 Reopening Plan* – CPANP sent a letter to NPS Acting Director Vela to commend Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly, his staff, and local public health partners for their outstanding management and implementation of the park’s COVID-19 reopening plan, which includes proactive and weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing of employees which will be shared with the public. [Click here.](#)
- *New Alaska Hunting and Trapping Regs* – The Coalition issued a sign-on letter request to former NPS Alaska superintendents and regional directors, asking them to sign their names to a letter sent to Assistant Secretary Wallace in opposition of the final NPS rule regarding

hunting and trapping in national preserves in Alaska. The letter that they signed can be found at the following link. [Click here](#).

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

Park People

NPS Alumni

Bob Stanton Receives Murie Spirit of Conservation Award

Last week, Teton Science Schools announced that Robert “Bob” G. Stanton had been chosen to receive the Murie Spirit of Conservation Award and Lia Cheek selected for the Murie Spirit of Conservation Rising Leader Award. An event recognizing the two will be held virtually on August 11th.

Bob Stanton was the first African American to be appointed as director of the National Park Service, serving from 1997 to 2001. He was also the first career civil service employee appointed to the position since Russel E Dickson. Confirmed by the United States Senate and appointed by President Bill Clinton, Stanton served as the 15th National Park Service director.

Beginning with his appointment by Interior Secretary Stewart Lee Udall in 1962 as a seasonal park ranger at Grand Teton National Park, he has dedicated his life’s work to improving the preservation and management of the nation’s natural and cultural resources.

During his decades-long career, Stanton received five honorary doctorate degrees and numerous awards, including the Department of the Interior’s highest award, the Distinguished Service Award. Though retired from the NPS, he continues to devote much of his time to various professional and civic affairs, serving currently and in recent years as a leader in the Student Conservation Association, Guest Services, Inc, the African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation, the Environmental Law Institute, the Rosenwald Park Campaign, and the Endangered Species Coalition.

“Bob Stanton is a hero to American public land and conservation,” said Chris Agnew, Teton Science Schools’ executive director. “Beyond his leadership in the National Park Service, his legacy will be in his mentorship for so many conservation leaders now and years into the future.”

Source: [Buckrail](#).

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:

- *Hovenweep/Natural Bridges NMs* – Vernon Cody has been selected as the new superintendent of Hovenweep and Natural Bridges National Monuments in southeast Utah. Cody has more than 27 years of National Park Service experience. He took on his new duties on June 21st; prior to that, he served as the chief of facility maintenance at the Flagstaff Area Monuments in Arizona, which includes Wupatki, Sunset Crater Volcano and Walnut Canyon National Monuments. Source: [Cortez Journal](#).
- *Ozark NSR* – Jason Lott is the new superintendent of Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Lott has been serving as the acting superintendent since Larry Johnson’s retirement in January. Before moving to Ozark, Lott was the superintendent at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico. He’s been with the National Park Service since 2002. Source: [National Park Service](#).
- *Cuyahoga NP* – Lisa Petit has been selected as the new deputy superintendent of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, James A. Garfield National Historic Site and First Ladies National Historic Site. She began her National Park Service career at Cuyahoga in 2000 as a wildlife biologist

and in 2006 became chief of the its resource management program. Petit oversaw all science, engineering, design, planning, environmental compliance and resource stewardship activities for the park. Source: [Akron Beacon Journal](#).

Mailbox

Mailbox consists of emails to the editor (BHalainen@gmail.com) on matters pertaining to this newsletter. All emails on issues entailing Coalition actions – proposed, ongoing or otherwise – should go to the Coalition’s main office in Washington (<https://protectnps.org/contact-us/>).

Dear Editor:

In regards to the article by the Forest History Society on the Stoneman Meadows riots in Yosemite recently brought to the attention of the membership, I appreciate you observing that there were some inaccuracies in the article.

Although this article has the appearance of being an accurate, peer-reviewed report on the riots, it is not. One major error identified the superintendent of Yosemite as “superintendent Robert L. Arnberger” who subsequently ordered rangers into the meadow in 1970. In 1970, I was a GS-4 seasonal park technician at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, looking for an opportunity to start a career in the NPS.

This is a pretty fundamental error and obviously calls into question the credibility of the entire article. I caution anyone referring to this article to distrust it completely. While I would have been honored to be superintendent of Yosemite at any time in my career I certainly have no claims on the Stoneman Meadow riots in 1970!

I greatly appreciate all the work you and others do putting this newsletter together.

Rob Arnberger

Dear Editor:

Something that I have really missed in recent months in the weekly report is the closing inspirational thought that used to appear regularly.

There were so any great quotes from Stewart Udall, Sigurd Olson, former directors Dickenson and Drury and many other great preservationists and conservationists. It would be especially nice to see them return, especially in these difficult times.

Todd Bolton

Dear Todd:

You are among a number of people who’ve asked that these quotes reappear. The only reason that they ended when they did was because I’d run through the entirety of the extensive collection put together by the NPS in 1951 and updated in 1966. But you’re right – this is a good time to bring them back. As you’ll see (below), they’re back...

Editor

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.

- *Mojave NP* – During the night of June 15th, the park superintendent's garage and vehicle at his residence in Barstow were vandalized with threatening statements. A person or persons wrote the following on both: "COPS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, PIGS AND YOU", followed by a target and the number "187", the section of the California penal code that deals with homicide (and commonly used in graffiti). The vehicle's windows were also broken out. The superintendent is often in uniform and in association with BLM and NPS rangers involved in the transition of the park from BLM management. It's believed that the attack was directed towards him because of this association. Local law enforcement officers took the preliminary report and are conducting an investigation in conjunction with the NPS and BLM. Submitted by Chief Ranger Bill Blake.
- *Grand Canyon NP* – A two-month-long drug investigation of Fred Harvey company employees concluded on June 15th with the arrests of 15 employees and the execution of eight search warrants. Employees were arrested on felony and misdemeanor charges including sale, distribution and possession of drugs, illegal sale of alcohol, and possession of weapons. Drugs seized during the arrest and search warrant execution included methamphetamines, peyote and marijuana. An NPS agent from the Washington office conducted the investigation in conjunction with investigators from Grand Canyon and Yosemite. Approximately 30 law enforcement rangers and officers from Grand Canyon, Lake Mead, Glen Canyon, the Coconino County sheriff's department and the Williams police department executed the warrants and made the arrests without incident. A police dog from Williams located drugs and paraphernalia within Fred Harvey work areas. Arrests were made within the concession housing area, El Tovar kitchen and dining area, and Bright Angel kitchens. The investigation is continuing; more arrests are pending. Submitted by Chief Ranger's Office.
- *Lake Clark NP&P* – On the afternoon of June 21st, the Port Alsworth field office received reports of an aircraft accident on the Tazamina River. Rangers flew to the site and found wreckage of two planes in the river just inside the park's boundary. A local lodge transported them to the scene by jet boat, where they confirmed that there had been five fatalities and no survivors. Rangers interviewed witnesses at the scene, who reported that the two planes had struck each other in a near head-on collision. State troopers arrived on scene two hours later; extrication and recovery was completed by 1 a.m. the following morning. A joint NPS, state and NTSB investigation is underway. Submitted by Chief Ranger Joe Fowler.

A Closing Observation

"I earnestly recommend the establishment of a Bureau of National Parks. Such legislation is essential to the proper management of those wondrous manifestations of Nature, so startling and so beautiful that everyone recognizes the obligations of the Government to preserve them for the edification and recreation of the people...every consideration of patriotism and love of Nature and of beauty and of art requires us to expend money enough to bring all of these natural wonders within easy reach of our people. The first step in that direction is the establishment of a responsible bureau, which shall take upon itself the burden of supervising the parks and of making recommendations as to the best method of improving their accessibility and usefulness."

President William Howard Taft

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- Production: Steve Pittleman
- Regular Correspondents: Don Hellmann, Dennis Burnett, Rick Smith, Emily Thompson, and Duncan Morrow

- Issue Contributors: Bill Fitzgerald, Cathy Halainen, Larry Hilaire, John Townsend

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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