



The Coalition Weekly Report **Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

Volume 4

Number 32

Incidents

Rocky Mountain NP Search In Progress For Missing Man

A search is in progress for Steven "Steve" Grunwald, 24, who was last heard from on August 28th, a day before he was believed to be attempting the Glacier Gorge Traverse – a roughly 19-mile route over 11 peak summits that includes a section of fifth-class climbing and other difficult terrain. A friend of Grunwald reported him missing on Thursday, and park rangers found his vehicle parked at the Glacier Gorge Trailhead.

Grunwald's brother describes him as adventurous with a love for the outdoors. He adds that Grunwald has plenty of experience in the backcountry and survival training.

Crews were focusing last Friday on the upper Glacier Gorge area near McHenry's Peak and Arrowhead. They are concerned that more than ten days have passed since he disappeared and that they aren't sure if Grunwald was prepared for the winter blast that brought in eight to ten inches of snow to the area.

High winds and snow are making the search difficult. An aerial search will be undertaken once the winds die down.

Source: Ryan Osborne, [The Denver Channel](#).

Glacier NP Injured Climber Rescued From Mount Gould

A climber was airlifted off of Mount Gould on September 1st after he fell and cut his leg and was unable to get off the 9,553-foot peak along the Garden Wall on his own.

Fortunately, he had cellphone service on the mountain and was able to call 911 shortly before 6 p.m. Two Bear Air responded and airlifted the man off the mountain to the Lake McDonald helipad at the Apgar horse corral.

The climber was then taken to the hospital by ambulance for treatment.

The standard west face climbing route up Mount Gould is rated as Class 3 by Glacier Mountaineering Society. The route includes steep scrambling with moderate exposure.

Source: [Daily Inter Lake](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center

More Than 30,000 Firefighters And 50 IMT's Committed To 87 Large Fires

NIFC remains at Preparedness Level 5, the highest of five levels.

Firefighters and support personnel continue to work toward containment goals on 87 large fires that have burned more than 4.6 million acres in ten states. Residents near 39 large fires in California, Oregon, Washington and Colorado remain under evacuation orders.

A NIMO team (Reinarz) has been assigned to provide wildland fire support to California. A second NIMO team (Day) has been assigned to provide wildland fire support to federal land management agencies in Oregon and Washington.

Two hundred thirty-three soldiers from the 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion based out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington are deployed in support of the August Complex.

One RC-26 aircraft with Distributed Real-Time Infrared (DRTI) capability and support personnel from the 141st Air Refueling Wing (Washington Air National Guard) has been deployed to Fairchild AFB in support of wildland fire operations.

Two MAFFS C-130 air tanker and support personnel each from the 153rd Airlift Wing (Wyoming Air National Guard) and the 146th Airlift Wing (California Air National Guard) have been deployed to support wildland fire operations in California.

Three wildland fire suppression crews and three overhead personnel from Quebec, Canada, are supporting fire suppression efforts in the Northern California Area.

Park And Park-Related Fires

- *Rocky Mountain NP* – The Cameron Peak Fire has now burned over 100,000 acres. It's just 4% contained. A total of 1,016 firefighters and overhead team members have been committed. Minimal fire behavior is reported, with creeping, single tree torching and smoldering. Numerous structures are threatened; evacuations, area, road and trail closures are in effect. The fire burned into the park on Saturday, September 6th, and has encompassed approximately 7,050 acres in the Cascade Creek, Hague Creek and Mummy Pass Creek drainages in steep thick beetle killed forests with significant standing dead trees as well as dead and down fuels. Old Fall River Road will remain closed until further notice. Included in this closure are Old Fall River Road, Chapin Pass Trail, North Fork Trail, North Boundary Trail, Stormy Peaks Trail, Mummy Pass Trail, Comanche Peak Trail, Mirror Lake Trail, Poudre River Trail, Crater Trail, Colorado River Trail, Red Mountain Trail, Grand Ditch Access, Skeleton Gulch Trail, Thunder Pass Trail, Little Yellowstone Trail, and access beyond the Holzwarth historic site. Closed cross country travel zones include Cascade Creek, Cache La Poudre, South Cache La Poudre, Hague Creek, and Mosquito Creek. Numerous wilderness campsites are also included in this closure area.
- *Point Reyes NS* – The Woodward Fire has burned 4,920 acres and is now 96% contained. Structures and communication infrastructure are threatened; area, road and trail closures are in effect.
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs* – Sequoia National Park closed on Tuesday due to the Castle Fire on the SQF Complex. All entrances have been closed and many park staff have been evacuated. On Monday, the fire forced an evacuation order for the community of Three Rivers just outside the southern entrance to Sequoia National Park. The SQF Complex fire started last month and includes both the Castle Fire and the Shotgun Fire. As of Monday night, it had burned 101,420 acres and was 12% contained. Kings Canyon National Park remains open. All

park campgrounds will be closed with reservations canceled and refunded. Source: Thaddeus Miller, [Sacramento Bee](#).

- *Crater Lake NP* – On September 10th, Crater Lake issued a Level 1 evacuation notice for the entire park. The Level 1 notice informs residents and visitors to “be ready” for a potential evacuation, including employee dormitories and trailer sites, in the event that a fire approaches these areas. Current or projected threats from nearby fires indicate that there may be a need to evacuate in the future, but no mandatory evacuations are in effect at this time. Park visitors and residents are not at risk at this time. While the fires have resulted in road closures outside of the park, roads within the park remain open except for Pinnacles Road, which has been closed due to the threat of falling trees.
- *Oregon Caves NM* – The park has been closed due to the proximity of the 136,000- acre Slater Fire. The fire’s northern edge is just over two miles southwest of the park. Highway 199 remains closed from a point south of Cave Junction, Oregon, to Hiouchi, California, north of Crescent City. Park staff living in the monument and preserve were evacuated on September 9th and relocated safely to Selma, Oregon.

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	September 1	September 8	September 15
Area Command Teams	1	1	3
NIMO Teams	2	3	4
Type 1 Teams	19	14	20
Type 2 Teams	13	19	23
Crews	445	449	579
Engines	2,033	1,424	2,266
Helicopters	241	217	251
Total FF/Overhead	26,463	22,337	30,116

Fires/Acreage

Category	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Total	Difference
United States: YTD Fires	45,068	42,270	- 2,798
United States: YTD Acres	5,904,923	6,712,663	+ 807,740

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

August 14 – The president signed into law [S. 2163](#), to establish the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, and to study and make recommendations to address social problems affecting Black men and boys. (Public Law 116–156).

Senate Actions

September 9 – The Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing to examine [S. 614](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a final rule relating to removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife, after receiving testimony from Senators Enzi and Daines; and public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 9 – The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs held a hearing to examine the nominations of John Gibbs, of Michigan, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and John M. Barger, of California, Christopher Bancroft Burnham, of Connecticut, and Frank Dunlevy, of California, each to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, with the nominees testifying and answering questions in their own behalf.

September 9 – The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing to examine vaccines, focusing on saving lives, ensuring confidence, and protecting public health. Testimony was provided by Francis S. Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health, and Vice Admiral Jerome M. Adams, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

House Actions

September 9 – The Committee on Oversight and Reform Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a hearing entitled “Ensuring a Free, Fair, and Safe Election During the Coronavirus Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from Jay Ashcroft, Secretary of State, Missouri; and public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 9 – The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “The Impact of the COVID–19 Crisis on University Research”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 10 – The Committee on Financial Services held a hearing entitled “The Need for Financial Aid to America's States and Territories During the Pandemic: Supporting First Responders, Assisting Schools in Their Efforts to Safely Educate, and Preventing Mass Layoffs”. Testimony was heard from Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor, New Mexico; Tim Walz, Governor, Minnesota; Laura Kelly, Governor, Kansas; Lourdes Leon Guerrero, Governor, Territory of Guam; and a public witness. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 10 – The Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing entitled “Providing the Census Bureau with the Time to Produce a Complete and Accurate Census”. Testimony was heard from J. Christopher Mihm, Managing Director, Strategic Issues Team, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

The Federal Government

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

- *White House Directs Agencies To Relax Law Enforcement* – “A memo produced by the White House and sent to agency heads last week instructs them to make significant changes to how and when they bring enforcement cases, telling them not to open multiple investigations into the same company and urging them to seek political appointees’ approval before proceeding with an inquiry,” reports the *Los Angeles Times*. The new guidance, released on August 31st, came from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, or OIRA, a unit of the White House that does not typically get involved in enforcement policy. “At a time in our nation’s history when even-handed, statutory-based enforcement should be vigorously supported and encouraged, this policy goes in the opposite direction,” said John Cruden, who served as

assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. He added that the memo "provides an excuse for agencies to reduce or eliminate enforcement." Source: Anna M. Phillips and Del Quentin Wilder, [Los Angeles Times](#).

- *Administration's Losing Record In Court Documented* – The September 12th *Washington Post* published an article on the administration's poor track record on cases heard in federal court, including a host of environmental regs: "The administration's remarkable string of litigation losses is clear and measurable. Its legal positions tend to the extreme; its efforts to implement them are regularly shoddy. Judges aren't having it — even Republican-appointed judges. The administration prevailed only 47 percent of the time before the high court during its last session, "a worse record than that of his predecessors going back at least as far as Franklin D. Roosevelt." But the record is much worse in lower courts. "The New York University School of Law's Institute for Policy Integrity has calculated that just 14 percent of the Trump administration's regulatory actions were upheld against challenges in the lower courts — the rest were blocked or withdrawn. Trump's recent predecessors have tended to win on regulatory matters at least 60 percent of the time." Source: Ruth Marcus, [Washington Post](#).
- *New CCC Proposed* – A bill introduced in Congress by Senator Dick Durbin would create a jobs program to tackle conservation projects that would be overseen by Interior and Agriculture. The [RENEW Conservation Corps Act](#) mirrors President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps, which was created during the Great Depression in the 1930s. The National Bureau of Economic Research proclaimed in early June that the U.S. economy entered into a recession in February due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Durbin's bill is one of several introduced over the last few months to create civilian jobs programs for matters such as expanding the public health workforce and safely administering elections during the pandemic. If enacted, the bill would authorize \$55.8 billion over a five-year period for a million Americans over the age of 16 to work on conservation projects nationwide. These could involve planting trees, restoring wildlife habitats and wetlands, controlling invasive species, conducting fish and wildlife surveys, monitoring water quality, and working on other projects deemed necessary by the Interior and Agriculture secretaries. Participants' terms would be at least 12 weeks, but no more than a year. They would be paid what is "appropriate for the type of work" they do, but no less than \$15 per hour, and could receive up to a \$5,500 credit for post-secondary education and training for future jobs. Source: Courtney Bublé, [Government Executive](#).

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.

- *Wildlife Populations Falling Globally* – The new [Living Planet Report 2020](#) from the World Wildlife Fund reveals that monitored population sizes of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians declined globally by an average of 68% between 1970 and 2016. Most profoundly, there have been species declines of 94% in Latin America and the Caribbean and 84% in freshwater habitats. The most important direct driver of this loss is land use change, in particular the conversion of pristine native habitats into agricultural systems. While climate change is not yet the greatest driver of biodiversity loss globally, the report states that in the coming decades climate change will become as, or more important than, other drivers. Source: Monica Medina and Miro Korenha, [Our Daily Planet](#).
- *Melting Glaciers Are Filling Unstable Lakes* – Researchers have compiled [the first global database of glacial lakes](#) and found that they increased in volume by nearly 50 percent over the last few decades. That growth, largely fueled by climate change, means that glacial lake floods

will likely strike more frequently in the future. The researchers measured how the number and size of glacial lakes evolved from 1990 through 2018. The team found that the number of lakes increased to over 14,300 from roughly 9,400, an uptick of more than 50 percent. The volume of water in the lakes also tended to swell over time, with an increase of about 50 percent. Lakes at high latitudes exhibited the fastest growth. Source: Katherine Kornel, [New York Times](#).

- *Siberia Experiencing Massive Explosions Caused By Gas Thawing In Permafrost* – A natural phenomenon first observed by scientists just six years ago and now recurring with alarming frequency in Siberia is causing the ground to explode spontaneously and with tremendous force, leaving craters up to 100 feet deep. The explosions occur underneath small hills or hummocks on the tundra where gas from decaying organic matter is trapped underground. Contained beneath a layer of ice above and permafrost all around, the gas creates pressure that elevates the overlying soil. The explosions occur when the pressure rises or the ice layer thaws and breaks suddenly. Source: Andrew Kramer, [New York Times](#).

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.

Climate Change

- *Death Valley NP* – Record-breaking heat continues in Death Valley. The high last Saturday was 125 degrees, smashing the daily record of 119 set in 2017. That temperature is also its all-time hottest temperature for September (the previous record was 123, set in 1996). As noted in a previous edition, the park reached 130 degrees on August 16th, one of the hottest temperatures ever recorded (if it is confirmed). Source: Mark Davis, [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#).

Native Species

- *Mount Rainier NP* – Wolverines have returned to the park for the first time in more than 100 years. NPS scientists say they have discovered the first reproductive female wolverine and her two kits in the national park. Wolverines are extremely rare – it's estimated that there are only 300 to 1,000 in the lower 48 states. Source: [KOMO News](#).
- *Mammoth Cave NP* – The park and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources earlier this month stocked about 1,200 individual mussels into the Green River in order to restore a federally-listed endangered species historically found in waters of the commonwealth. The rayed bean, a species of freshwater mussel, has not been found in Kentucky waters in more than four decades. The mussels for this restoration effort were moved from the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania because of a tar spill. Source: Paul Hitchcock, [Morehead State Public Radio](#).
- *Yellowstone NP* – An investigation has been launched after hundreds of dead fish were found in the Yellowstone River. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks said the cause of death of around 200 fish is yet to be confirmed, but is believed to be the result of a proliferative kidney disease, or PKD, which is caused by a parasite in the water. Reports of dead fish began at the end of August and since then biologists have been visiting different sections of the river to assess the situation. They found dead mountain whitefish across several sections of the river, which stretches almost 700 miles through Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. The agency plans to monitor conditions on the river but says no closures or restrictions are currently in place. Source: Hannah Osborne, [Newsweek](#).

Abutting And Through-Park Developments

- *Big Cypress NP* – A Mississippi-based oil company has dropped plans to drill for oil just outside the park, a move heralded by the South Florida Wildlands Association that had challenged the drilling permit. Tocala, LLC, cited no reason for abandoning the lease when it asked the state to withdraw the permit and release the bond the company had posted. The permit was for an area involving a mix of private and state lands, including Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area, adjacent to the northern boundary of the preserve. Endangered Florida panthers that make Big Cypress home use this area as well. Source: Kurt Repanshek, [National Parks Traveler](#).

Carrying Capacity

- *Olympic NP* – Roads and trails that provide access to Lake Cushman and the Staircase entrance to park were closed by the Forest Service on August 21st due to extreme overcrowding. Recent increased visitation along narrow Forest Service roads 24 and 2451 has far exceeded capacity and led to gridlock, creating hazardous conditions for the public, the park and Forest Service staff. "The extreme numbers of people recreating at Lake Cushman are creating unsafe conditions and degrading the experience for everyone," said a district ranger. "No one wants to be stuck in a six-mile long traffic jam on a narrow gravel road with no way to turn around." The area will be closed and there will be no access to Lake Cushman except for residents who live beyond the road closure, emergency response personnel and administrative staff. The closure of the road, associated day-use sites and trailheads will continue until the weather cools and visitation returns to a manageable level. Source: [KOMO News](#).
- *Acadia NP* – The park has received \$9 million in federal funding to help pay for a second phase of development at the Acadia Gateway Center – part of a broader plan to commit nearly \$50 million to projects aimed at better managing the increasing number of visitors to the park. Combined with an expected redesign of the existing visitor center property in the Bar Harbor village of Hulls Cove and the removal of the information center on Thompson Island, where the causeway connects Mount Desert Island to the mainland, the planned expansion at the Trenton facility is "a key piece" to the Acadia's new plan for how it will manage motor vehicles inside the park. The goal of developing the site in Trenton is to get more visitors to leave their personal vehicles there and instead ride Island Explorer buses onto Mount Desert Island so there will be less vehicle congestion in downtown Bar Harbor and at popular park sites such as Sand Beach and the summit of Cadillac Mountain. As part of the park's new traffic management plan, it also plans to implement a vehicle reservation system for certain times of the day for Ocean Drive, where Sand Beach is located, and Cadillac's summit. Source: Bill Trotter, [Bangor Daily News](#).
- *Buffalo NR* – A plan to decrease congestion in Boxley Valley has been approved. The valley has become more and more of a popular area for visitors to stop and look at elk, making traffic congestion a major problem. Said the local sheriff about the significant increase in visitation to the area: "Sometimes they'll park in the road. They'll park against traffic, or they'll park partially in the road and get out and leave their vehicles to go look at the elk, so they're partially blocking the highway." With the plan now being approved, the park will seek to fix the problem when funds become available through grants. Source: Caitlin Sinnett, [KYTV News](#).
- *Mount Rainier NP* – The park is attempting to find solutions to increased overcrowding, particularly in the summer. Visitation increased by 30% between 2008 and 2018, with 70% showing up between June and September, causing hour-long waits to get into the park and filling up restrooms and parking lots. This is causing visitors to get creative – and destructive – by finding their own places to park. A planning process has been begun that will establish the framework for managing the flow of visitors at key destinations along the Nisqually to Paradise roadway corridor- particularly during peak visitation months. You can comment on the plan on [the park's PEPC webpage](#) until October 5th. Source: [King5 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 embedded in each entry.

- *Proposed Changes To NPS Concession Regs* – CPANP has been working closely with NPCA on the proposed changes to the NPS concessions regulations. Several EC members have met with numerous offices on both the House and Senate sides to discuss the problems with some of the proposals. In addition, [we submitted comments this week](#), stating that while we applaud NPS efforts to improve some aspects of the regulations, there are proposed changes to the rules that do not appear to be helpful to both the Service and the concessioners:
- *Great American Outdoors Act* – Coalition members have submitted several op-ed articles in support of the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. One of those, by Sheridan Steele, was [published in the Bangor Daily News](#) this week.
- *Proposed Changes To ESA* – The Coalition joined over 60 other organizations and [signed on to comments](#) prepared by the Southern Environmental Law Center in opposition to the Fish and Wildlife Service's and National Marine Fisheries Service's proposal to add a new and unnecessary definition of "habitat" to the Endangered Species Act's implementing regulations.
- *FOIA Response* – The NPS sent a [response to our FOIA request](#) regarding the closure of portions of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial on August 17th to allow for filming of a Republican Campaign advertisement featuring Vice President Mike Pence.

Source: Emily Thompson, Communications and Advocacy Coordinator.

Park People

NPS Alumni Tribute To The Late Phil Ward

As noted in past editions, career ranger and former regional chief ranger for Western Region Phil Ward died while in hospice care in Tucson on August 28th. We have since received a tribute written by his wife, Jo.

Phil was born in 1934 and raised on a ranch in the Alamosa, Colorado. He attended Adams State University, working his way through college by playing the piano in dance bands and organ at weddings and funerals.

He spent a short time in the Army after graduation, then joined the NPS. His first job was as a seasonal ranger at Great Sand Dunes. Over his 39-year career, he worked at Blue Ridge Parkway, Natchez Trace Parkway, Colonial, Great Smoky Mountains and Point Reyes. He was an associate regional director in Western Region when he retired in January, 1995.

Phil married Jo Kubran in 1994.

Phil loved to play the piano and attend concerts and enjoyed giving his grandchildren piano lessons. He was an ardent cook and enjoyed being in the kitchen. After moving to Arizona in 1995, he obtained his real estate license and also served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Friends of Saguaro National Park(www.friendsofsaguaro.org). Condolences to Jo should be sent to P.O. Box 17064, Tucson, AZ 85731.

Source: Stu Croll, Dick Martin

National Park Service Recent NPS Management Changes

Here's a listing of recent personnel changes in the NPS. Click on the links following the brief summaries for additional details:

- *Washington Office* – Dorothy FireCloud has been selected as the new NPS Native American affairs liaison. She will assume her new duties on October 11th. FireCloud is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She has a juris doctorate from the New Mexico School of Law and has been a member of the New Mexico State Bar since 1991. She currently serves as the superintendent at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot. Prior to joining the NPS in 2006, FireCloud worked on water rights with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and held several positions with the Forest Service, including acting district ranger at Tongass National Forest, acting deputy forest supervisor at Black Hills National Forest, and acting director for the tribal relations program in Washington D.C. She served as the USFS Southwest tribal program manager, and as the team leader of the national implementation team on tribal relations that developed an extensive report on programs and policies to fulfill USFS trust responsibilities, many of which were enacted through farm bill legislation. Source: [National Park Service](#).
- *Sequoia/Kings Canyon NPs* – Clay Jordan has been named the superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. He is currently the deputy superintendent at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In 35 years with the NPS, Jordan has also spent time at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Shenandoah National Park, Fire Island National Seashore, Olympic National Park, Cape Cod National Seashore, and Mount Rainier National Park. He has served as the acting chief ranger for Interior Region 1, the 13 states that make up the U.S. Northeast. In 2010, he served as a deputy incident commander on the interagency team managing the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response along the Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida Panhandle coasts. Source: Vongni Yang, [Visalia Times-Delta](#).

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.

- *Grand Teton NP* – President Clinton and his family concluded their two-week stay in the Jackson Hole area on Thursday, August 31st. Among the concluding events was a night camping trip on August 27th at the JY Ranch, a private inholding within the park - believed to be the first time a President has camped in a tent in a national park since Teddy Roosevelt's time. The family boated across Jenny Lake and took a five-mile round-trip hike in Cascade Canyon with park public affairs officer Linda Olson the following day; they enjoyed classic mountain panoramas, wildflowers, and up close and personal views of two bull moose. The Clintons made an appearance at the "Wheels Up" party on Wednesday evening to offer personal thanks to the interagency management team for their assistance and support throughout their vacation. Incident commander Jim Northup presented President Clinton with an "Incident Commander" vest at the gathering. The President thanked him, then said that he would have to start wearing it around the office. The President then spoke to those gathered about the importance of national parks and how he wished that he could provide the opportunity for every American child to see what he'd seen during his two week vacation in Grand Teton and Yellowstone. Those who participated in the event agreed that President Clinton demonstrated a very strong and positive interest in the national parks throughout his visit. Submitted by Chief Ranger Colin Campbell.
- *Women's Rights NHP* – A 75th anniversary celebration of American women gaining the right to vote was held in the park on August 26th. Over 1200 visitors came to the park on Women's Equality Day for a full day of activities, including a VIP reception attended by the state's lieutenant governor and by 40 other federal, state and local dignitaries. About 500 marchers participated in a reenactment of a suffrage march and attended a suffrage rally in People's Park. Helen Thomas, UPI's White House correspondent, gave a rousing speech calling for all

women and men to continue to use their right to vote. A high point of the day was a re-signing of the Declaration of Sentiments, often called the Declaration of Independence for women, by over 500 VIPs and visitors. The event received national television and press coverage and was considered a success. Submitted by Superintendent Joanne Hanley.

- *Olympic NP* – On September 2nd, Shari Rubin, 31, and Karen Starke, 30, headed out on a planned six-day-long, 50-mile hike through Enchanted Valley, over Anderson Pass, and along Six Ridge Trail, intending to return to Graves Creek on September 7th. They failed to return on schedule and were reported missing on September 8th. A search was begun which eventually involved helicopters, dogs, and over 70 people, including rangers and members of volunteer SAR organizations. A large rock "SOS" was spotted by the crew of one of the search helicopters on the 10th, and the two women were soon found. Both were in good condition. Rubin and Starke became lost on a little-used section of the Six Ridge Trail on what was to have been the last day of their hike. After an unsuccessful effort to return to the trailhead via a cross-country route, the pair built the "SOS" in a snowfield at the head of Six Stream and proceeded to follow the drainage downstream toward Staircase, where they were found. Submitted by Public Affairs Officer Barb Maynes,

A Closing Observation

"The most important reason for preserving historic sites and buildings is not primarily economic. If they are to be preserved, our people must believe in the value of continuity in the life of the community, linking past generations with the present generation and with the generations yet to come. They must believe that tradition is an essential part of community and national life. They must believe in the worthwhileness of remembering and preserving the best of the creative achievements of our ancestors."

Hillary A. Tolson, Assistant Director, NPS, 1933-1963

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: Larry Frederick, 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](#).

--- ### ---