



The Coalition Weekly Report

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Incidents

Grand Canyon NP

Man Wanted For Murder Commits Suicide In Park

Former professional baseball player Charles Haeger, 37, who is suspected of shooting and killing his ex-girlfriend, was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound along South Rim Trail on Saturday evening.

Police say Haeger killed 34-year-old Danielle Breed on Friday night before fleeing. His abandoned grey 2020 Chrysler Voyager was found near Flagstaff on Saturday.

Haeger was a former professional baseball player and played for a number of teams throughout his career, including the Boston Red Sox, the San Diego Padres, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Seattle Mariners. His major league baseball career ended in 2010.

Source: Madeline Ackley, [Arizona Republic](#).

Yellowstone NP

Motorcyclists Charged With Harassing Bison

An Arizona man and a Utah man have each pled not guilty to charges that accuse them of riding motorcycles off-road in the park and harassing bison.

Dallin McAllister, 25, of Utah, and Tyler McAllister, 36, of Arizona, are each charged with operating a motor vehicle in prohibited areas and feeding, touching, teasing, frightening or intentionally disturbing wildlife. The incident occurred near Fountain Flats Drive on the afternoon of September 11th.

In a Facebook group titled "[Yellowstone National Park: Invasion of The Idiots!](#)" a user posted a video showing two motorcyclists riding off road within feet of several bison, including some calves. A woman on the video could be heard yelling at the motorcyclists "get out of the field." The video shows the motorcyclists ride away from the bison as a herd chases them back onto the road.

There will be a court hearing sometime this fall.

Source: Freddie Monares, [Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#).

Knife River Indian Villages NHS

Former Employee Sentenced For Theft From Park

A National Park Service employee indicted for theft of government property was sentenced in mid-September to two years on probation. Charles Folk of Bismarck must also pay about \$5,200 in restitution to the park.

Investigators alleged that Folk stole about \$10,000 worth of tools and equipment from the site over a two-year span.

The magistrate also ordered Folk to pay a \$500 fine, but did not order community service because Folk had completed 110 hours prior to sentencing.

Source: [Bismarck Tribune](#).

National Fire Situation

National Interagency Fire Center National Preparedness Level Drops To PL 4

NIFC is now at Preparedness Level 4, a step down from PL 5, its highest level.

Wildland firefighter continue to work on 65 large fires that have burned 3.8 million acres in 11 states. Firefighters have made progress toward containment goals on many large fires in California and Oregon.

Firefighters are being supported by Air National Guard aircraft and by crews and overhead from the Marine Corps (7th Engineer Support Battalion), Canada and Mexico.

Park And Park-Related Fires

- *Yosemite NP* – NIFC reports two significant fires in the park – the Blue Jay Fire (5,335 acres, 50% contained) and the Wolf Fire (1,092 acres, 60% contained).
- *Rocky Mountain NP* – The Cameron Peak Fire has burned 127,398 acres, up from 124,026 acres last Tuesday, and is now 42% contained. Due to the need for fire personnel to access the fire, Old Fall River Road has reopened and will remain open to vehicles until further notice. The road reopened on September 30th after being closed to vehicles since September 5th due to the Cameron Peak Fire.
- *Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs* – The Moraine Fire has burned 694 acres, up from 668 acres reported last Tuesday. It is 70% contained. The park reopened on Thursday, September 30th. The area was closed on September 15th because of an evacuation warning from the SQF Complex Fire. Potwisha and Lodgepole Campgrounds reopened on October 3rd. The evacuation warning has been lifted for most of Three Rivers, so entrance into Sequoia National Park and the trails within the park, including the Giant Forest, have reopened. The Mineral King area and some wilderness lands are still closed because of the fire. In Kings Canyon National Park, the Azalea Campground and concession services like the market and gift shop have also reopened. Source: [KMPH News](#).

Resource Commitment Trend

Category	September 22	September 29	October 6
Area Command Teams	3	3	1
NIMO Teams	4	4	2
Type 1 Teams	19	16	15
Type 2 Teams	16	13	14
Crews	534	515	405
Engines	2,379	1,972	1,819

Helicopters	231	236	217
Total FF/Overhead	30,681	27,172	22,787

Fires/Acreage

Category	2010-2019 Ave	2020 Total	Difference
United States: YTD Fires	48,643	44,914	- 3,729
United States: YTD Acres	6,180,606	7,875,504	+ 1,694,898

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

October 1 – The president signed into law, [H.R. 8337](#), making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021. The bill extends funding for all federal agencies through December 11, 2020. Signed on October 1, 2020. (Public Law 116-159)

Senate Actions

September 28 – The nomination of Amy Coney Barrett, of Indiana, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States was transmitted to the Senate.

September 30 – The Senate passed the following:

- [H.R. 8337](#), making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021. The bill extends funding for all federal agencies through December 11, 2020. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.
- [S. Res. 732](#), designating November 7, 2020, as ``National Bison Day".
- [S. Res. 733](#), recognizing 2020 as the centennial of the Preservation Society of Charleston, South Carolina.
- [S. Res. 735](#), designating September 29, 2020, as ``National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day".
- [S. Res. 740](#), designating October 7, 2020, as ``Energy Efficiency Day" in celebration of the economic and environmental benefits that have been driven by private sector innovation and federal energy efficiency policies.
- [H.R. 3399](#), to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.
- [S. 4403](#), to amend the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California in the program.

House Actions

September 28 – The House passed [H. Res. 1155](#), reaffirming the House of Representatives' commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States, by a vote of 397 yeas to 5 nays.

September 28 – The Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Police Cameras at the Department of the Interior: Inconsistencies, Failures, and Consequences”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. Jim Northup, Member of the Executive Council, [testified on behalf of the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks](#).

September 28 – The Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part IV): White Supremacy in Blue--The Infiltration of Local Police Departments”. Testimony was heard from Mark Napier, Sheriff, Pima County, Arizona; and public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

September 30 – The House passed the following:

- [H.R. 7340](#), to ensure that personal protective equipment and other equipment and supplies needed to fight coronavirus are provided to employees required to return to Federal offices.
- [H.R. 7496](#), to require Federal agencies to submit plans for responding to any resurgence of COVID-19.

September 30 – The Committee on Natural Resources approved the following bills, among others:

- [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. 970](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan for the removal of the monument to Robert E. Lee at the Antietam National Battlefield.
- [H.R. 1248](#), to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments within the York watershed in the State of Maine as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- [H.R. 3225](#), to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments in leasing on Federal lands for oil and gas drilling.
- [H.R. 3651](#), to facilitate the use of certain land in Nebraska for public outdoor recreational opportunities by the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc.
- [H.R. 4135](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove the statue to the memory and in honor of Albert Pike erected near Judiciary Square in the District of Columbia.
- [H.R. 4139](#), to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, and to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historical park.
- [H.R. 4840](#), to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument to transfer a few acres from the Bureau of Land Management to NPS, to authorize a small exchange of Bureau of Indian Affairs land for NPS lands, and to provide for cooperative management of 200 acres of state trust lands.
- [H.R. 5153](#), to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and for the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian lands.
- [H.R. 5458](#), to authorize the Department of the Interior to acquire, by donation, approximately 40 acres of specified nonfederal land for inclusion in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.
- [H.R. 5459](#), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park by authorizing an exchange of 0.18 acres of land between a private landowner and NPS.
- [H.R. 5472](#), to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site in the state of Georgia as the “Jimmy Carter National Historical Park”.
- [H.R. 5598](#), to provide for the protection of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and interconnected Federal lands and waters, including Voyageurs National Park, within the Rainy River Watershed in the State of Minnesota

- [H.R. 5852](#), to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the “Weir Farm National Historical Park”.
- [H.R. 7098](#), to expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park by approximately 1,150 acres, and to study additional land for future adjustments to the boundary of the park.

September 30 – The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Coping with Compound Crises: Extreme Weather, Social Injustice, and a Global Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

October 1 – The House passed the following:

- [S. 3051](#), to improve protections for wildlife. The bill concerns a number of programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sec. 110 of the act reauthorizes the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network through 2025. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.
- [H.R. 5068](#), to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.
- [H.R. 5126](#), to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices.
- [S. 1982](#), to improve efforts to combat marine debris. The bill now goes to the president to be signed into law.

October 1 – The Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Generating Equity: Improving Clean Energy Access and Affordability”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses. There were no witnesses from federal agencies at the hearing.

October 1 – The Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on [H.R. 5986](#), to restore, reaffirm, and reconcile environmental justice and civil rights, provide for the establishment of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Compliance and Enforcement.

October 1 – The Committee on Rules held a hearing entitled “Members' Day Hearing on Proposed Rules Changes for the 117th Congress”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Kilmer, Chairman Thompson of Mississippi, and Representatives Hoyer, Cline, Clyburn, Rodney Davis of Illinois, Castro of Texas, Taylor, Crist, Woodall, Davids of Kansas, Eshoo, Langevin, Ted Lieu of California, Murphy of Florida, Schneider, and Wasserman Schultz.

October 1 – The Select Committee on the Climate Crisis Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Creating a Climate Resilient America: Strengthening the U.S. Financial System and Expanding Economic Opportunity”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

October 2 – The House agreed to [H. Res. 1154](#), condemning QAnon and rejecting the conspiracy theories it promotes, by a vote of 371 yeas to 18 nays, with one voting present.

October 2 – Representative Tom Graves resigned as Representative for the Fourteenth Congressional District of Georgia, effective at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2020.

National Park Service

National Park System

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

- *Court Could Oust NPS Acting Director* – *E&E News* carried this report in its October 1st edition: “Two environmental watchdog groups asked a federal court in Washington yesterday to immediately remove acting National Park Service chief Margaret Everson, arguing she is unqualified and was illegally appointed by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. The groups, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and the Western Watersheds Project,

alleged that Bernhardt skirted the Federal Vacancies Reform Act by promoting Everson to the NPS post in August without first seeking Senate approval...In a motion filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia yesterday, the groups said the same legal standard that caused a federal judge in Montana on Friday to order the removal of William Perry Pendley as the acting head of the Bureau of Land Management should be applied to oust Everson. The groups asked the court for an expedited review of the case to prevent Everson from taking any additional official actions on behalf of the park service." Additional details are available in the following article. Source: Rob Hotakainen, [E&E News](#).

- *Kerfuffle Over 'Chief Ranger' Title, Part 1* – On September 26th, Bert Frost, regional director for three of DOI's new regions (Great Lakes, Mississippi Basin and Missouri Basin), issued this short memorandum to all Midwest Region's superintendents: "As part of our regions' ongoing work to strengthen relationships with American Indian communities and foster a more inclusive workplace, we need to recognize our colloquial use of 'chief' as an informal job title is disrespectful and hurtful to American Indian partners and employees. When I was the Alaska Regional Director, I strongly encouraged park superintendents and regional program managers to instead use officially classified position or other recommended titles; I now ask you to do the same. I strongly encourage all park and regional office program managers to transition their workforce away from using the 'chief' title, beginning October 1... I look forward to hearing about your progress and ask that you strive to complete this important Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work for your park or program within a year." Source: National Park Service.
- *Kerfuffle Over 'Chief Ranger' Title, Part 2* – On September 30th, Bert Frost followed up on his September 26th memorandum with this note to all MWR superintendents: "After additional conversations with a number of folks, I have decided my email from last week may have been a little premature to send out to the region. There are many nuances associated with the title chief and perhaps I should have done some additional due diligence before sending it out. For example, understanding all the different meanings of the word, talking with folks in BIA or other agencies in the department to get their take and understanding of the word, or working with our new head of Indians Affairs for the NPS. Finally, these types of policies are usually decided on a Bureau or department wide basis and we need to make sure title changes are made in a coordinated way. For these reasons I am withdrawing my request. I am sure we will have additional conversations on this topic and as they occur, I will keep you informed." [Editor's note: The term 'chief' has been around since 1300 AD and refers to the "head, leader, captain; the principal or most important part of anything." The meaning evolved in the late 1500s to designate the head of a clan and in the early 1700s was extended to include heads of Native American tribes]. Source: National Park Service.
- *Campground Management* – The NPS is developing a campground modernization strategy "to ensure our second century of NPS campgrounds supports both visitors and employees." An internal NPS team has developed draft design guidelines to centralize campground design information. These include details on spatial requirements for expanding campsites to accommodate RV use and guidelines on how to meet accessibility codes while maintaining cultural resource integrity. A kickoff workshop was held at the end of last January. Internal outreach included interviews of 17 parks and NPS programs; external outreach has been completed with interviews of all public land agencies including state parks. The guide will be a clearinghouse of best practices and the interviews allowed data collection so the team could incorporate existing guidance. The NPS Campground Design Guide will be available for public review and comment on [DSC's PEPC website](#) through December 4th. 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.

- *Acadia NP* – The park is about to start the second phase of construction of its Acadia Gateway Center. Phase One of the construction, completed in 2012, included a bus maintenance facility, park-and-ride lot, propane fueling station, access road and administrative offices for Downeast Transportation, the nonprofit operator of the Island Explorer shuttle bus system and countywide transit systems. Phase Two will establish a full-service intermodal facility and Acadia National Park information center. That construction is expected to cost \$23 million. Planners have moved the project from concept to preliminary design. Phase Two construction is expected to take place from 2021 to 2023. It will include a visitor center, a pedestrian plaza, bus berths and circulation areas for Island Explorer and commercial tour buses to line up. Level 2 electric charging infrastructure will be installed for future charging stations. Source: [Construction Equipment Guide](#).
- *Arches NP* – The *St. George Spectrum & Daily News* ran an article last Friday on the ongoing issue of overcrowding in the park and on the effort to find consensus solutions: “Because of parking lot size, overcrowding and safety concerns, Arches has been forced to turn people away for hours of the day, mostly during weekends. In September, nearly every weekend — and lately many weekdays — have been met with closures and disappointing turnarounds for visitors in a record-setting month... there have been fights in parking lots, city-style honking and once, someone allegedly called 911 over a parking spot.” In 2015, the park initiated a Traffic Congestion Management Plan and Environmental Assessment to figure out the best road forward. But, after 421 public comments on the plan, they decided to cancel it and complete a more thoughtful planning process that focuses on where and how visitors access the park. The park has accordingly started over – they plan on conducting more surveys and studies in February. Source: K. Sophie Will, [St. George Spectrum & Daily News](#).
- *Cape Hatteras NS* – The park is developing rules on replenishing battered dunes and shrinking shorelines along the Outer Banks. The new guidelines would speed up permitting over the next 20 years and set parameters for projects such as widening beaches and rebuilding sand barriers to ocean overwash. Dozens of replenishment projects have taken place over the years, from constructing the first dunes in the 1930s to building jetties and widening beaches, but they’ve been done on a case-by-case basis without long-term guidelines in place. The permitting process is arduous and routes through multiple government agencies. These changes aim to speed up and smooth out the process, while also adding long-term consistency, for the swath of coastline that spans 67 miles from Nags Head to Ocracoke. Nine villages such as Rodanthe, Buxton and Hatteras Village lie along the park’s beaches. The park is taking comments on the proposed guidelines until November 2nd at [the park’s PEPC webpage](#). Source: Jeff Hampton, [Virginian-Pilot](#).
- *Death Valley NP* – The park continues to experience record-breaking heat. This year will go down as the fourth-hottest summer in Death Valley history after the park recorded some of the hottest days ever recorded on Earth. But intense heat hasn’t stopped visitors from coming. In fact, some are drawn by the prospect of baking in a record swelter — what park officials have dubbed “heat tourism.” Meanwhile, residents are having to adapt in novel ways. Homes in the valley now have naturally occurring extremely hot tap water due to rising ground temperatures. To adapt, residents are turning off their hot water heaters and using them instead as reservoirs to cool water down. If done successfully, they can have room-temperature water come out of the hot faucet and hot water come out of the cold. Source: Megan Calfas, [Los Angeles Times](#).
- *Grand Canyon NP* – The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the National Park Service have entered into an agreement to reduce the number of bison present on the North Rim of the park: “In a concerted effort to disrupt the 'refuge effect' that allows the bison herd to grow where there is no pressure on them, the agreement includes a number of tools for herd reduction including live capture and translocations, hazing and lethal removal by skilled volunteers. Given the current distribution, abundance, density and the expected growth of this herd, the public and the NPS is concerned about increased impacts on park resources such as water, vegetation, soils, archaeological sites and values such as visitor experience and wilderness character. Reducing the herd size to under 200 bison will protect the ecosystem, park resources and values.” Source: Kaitlyn Thomas and Anne Ackroyd, [Market Screener](#).

- *Hawaii Volcanoes NP* – During Kilauea’s months-long eruption in 2018, the lava lake within its caldera drained, the crater deformed and began to crumble under the pressure of repeated earthquakes, and lava erupted from fissures in the volcano’s nearby lower east rift zone. Now it’s becoming a lake. What started as a few puddles among the boulders at the bottom of the crater in July 2019 has continued to steadily rise to become one of the hottest lakes in the world. Earlier this month, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reported that the lake had reached a depth of 43 meters or 140 feet. In August, USGS measured the temperature of the lake to be as hot as 185 degrees Fahrenheit, possibly heated by local gas vents or the nearby rocks. In addition to the scalding temperature and the constant potential for volcanic explosions, USGS also reports sulfur dioxide dissolved in the lake, which can create a sulfurous acid. Source: Eric Mack, [Forbes](#).
- *Mount Rainier NP* – The USGS is working to install detectors that will provide alerts when lahars, or volcanic mudslides, are issuing from the mountain. Lahars are viewed as the primary volcanic hazard with potential to impact people living, working, or recreating in the area. The park has approved five new monitoring locations within its developed administrative areas that have independent utilities. However, the remaining 12 proposed sites have the potential to affect historic properties or wilderness character within the national park. These proposed monitoring and lahar detection sites will be evaluated through an environmental assessment. The EA will be available for public review and comment this winter. You can review and comment on the proposal at [the park’s PEPC webpage](#) until October 30th. Source: [National Parks Traveler](#).
- *San Juan Island NHP* – In a press release that echoes Alfred Hitchcock’s “The Birds,” the park is warning visitors to be wary of owl attacks. Recent aggressive behavior by owls has resulted in at least four known attacks on visitors in the park. These encounters have been reported on English Camp’s Bell Point Loop Trail in recent weeks. Park staff have been working with Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and regional National Park Service experts to identify behavior patterns and develop safety recommendations. The article lists some of the possible causes for the attacks. Source: [San Juan Islander](#).
- *Zion NP* – Zion (and Arches) are reporting that that they’re dealing with unprecedented levels of graffiti. Examples at Zion include "BLM" and "Trump 2020" scratched into rocks, bright blue spray paint quotes, names carved into trees and boulders, stickers overtaking signs, and handprints covering rock walls. The Narrows, Pa’rus Trail, Kayenta Trail and other heavily trafficked areas are most plagued by the graffiti. “Because of cyanobacteria [in the Virgin River] we’ve decreased patrols [in the Narrows], so we’re not getting ahead of it,” said Daniel Fagergren, the park’s chief ranger. “Graffiti begets graffiti, and if you don’t get on that and clean it right away a few names become a dozen.” To remove the graffiti from the stone, rangers have to scrub, wipe and sometimes grind the work off of the rock. This takes away the natural erosion, speeds up the erosion process and changes the look of the area. Source: K. Sophie Will, [St. George Spectrum & Daily News](#).

Briefly Noted

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

- *ANPR’s 43rd Annual Rendezvous* – Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Association of National Park Rangers will be holding its annual conference online from October 15th to October 18th. Participants will be able to talk about work in the National Park Service, learn about the Service’s history, and meet rangers from across the United States. Presentations include: NPS Deputy Director Shawn Bengé; NPS Associate Director Jennifer Flynn; Stress Management and Resilience; Highlights from the 9th World Ranger Congress in Nepal; Challenges with Dual Careers; The Yosemite Riot - 50 Years Later; How to Engage Deaf and Hard of Hearing Visitors

in Your Park; One Planet, One Park (Shelton Johnson). You can learn more [at this link](#). Source: Bill Wade.

- *Yosemite's Ranger Club* – September 26th marked the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the storied Rangers' Club in Yosemite Valley. The Yosemite Conservancy, which has been supporting the preservation of this National Historic Landmark, has created a webpage to commemorate the event. It includes photos, history and an update on the club's restoration. Source: [Yosemite Conservancy](#).
- *More Park Lists, Photo Essays* – It seems at times that there's hardly a publication in this country that hasn't published a "best of" NPS list (best park beaches, best lesser known parks, etc.) or a photo essay with beautiful images of NPS areas. Here are a few more, with the URLs included in the story's headline: NPCA's blog has a series of pictures under the heading "[Spooky, Beautiful Photos of Abandoned Park Towns](#)," *Forbes* magazine has a story with ten images entitled "[Star Map Company Reveals Top National Parks For Stargazing](#)" that's about Lucky Stars, a star map company that has released a list ranking all of the 62 U.S. national parks according to how good they are for stargazing; *USA Today* recently ran an article entitled "[You Can Scuba Dive In These 10 National Parks](#)," and *Huffington Post* has a piece which contains "[Stunning Photos Of All 62 U.S. National Parks](#)."

The Federal Government

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

- *E-Bike Regulations* – Last Friday, DOI announced that it had finalized electric bike (or e-bike) regulations that will pave the way for land managers to allow more people, especially older Americans and those with physical limitations, to experience bicycling on public lands managed by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. [Secretary's Order 3376, Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes](#), calls on Interior bureaus to develop policies and regulations to allow for e-bike use where traditional bicycles are allowed and to bring federal land e-bike experience more in line with state rules. The National Park Service policy adopted over a year ago has already resulted in more than 385 national parks evaluating e-bike use. The expanded bicycling experience has already been adopted at popular parks like Great Smokey Mountains, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Zion, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Acadia, Grand Teton, Olympic, and Glacier. Source: [Department of the Interior](#).
- *Judge Removes BLM Director* – In late September, a federal judge ruled that the president's leading steward of public lands has been serving unlawfully, blocking him from continuing in the position in the latest pushback against the administration's practice of filling key positions without U.S. Senate approval. BLM acting director William Perry Pendley served unlawfully for 424 days without being confirmed to the post by the Senate as required under the Constitution. The ruling came after Montana's Democratic governor in July sued to remove Pendley, saying the former oil industry attorney was illegally overseeing an agency that manages almost a quarter-billion acres of land, primarily in the U.S. West. Pendley's position as acting director was one of several major leadership roles that the Trump administration has sought to fill through temporary appointments and without going through the normal confirmation process. Trump said he was nominating Pendley in June. But the nomination was withdrawn earlier this month after the confirmation process threatened to become contentious, potentially disrupting key U.S. senate races in Colorado and Montana. Source: Associated Press via [NBC 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.

- *Oil and Gas Leasing* – More than 300 Coalition members [signed on to a letter](#) sent to DOI, urging the Department to work with Congress to fix our broken oil and gas leasing system and recommending that they halt lease sales until the pandemic subsides and Americans can fully engage in federal decision-making processes again:
- *Oil and Gas Leasing Around Chaco* – CPANP joined a number of partners in [submitting extensive comments](#) regarding BLM's proposed resource management plan amendment on oil and gas leasing in the Greater Chaco Area:
- *Testimony on Police Cameras* – Coalition executive council member Jim Northup [testified before the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations'](#) remote oversight hearing, “Police Cameras at the Department of the Interior: Inconsistencies, Failures, and Consequences.” In his testimony, Jim conveyed the Coalition's stance that the use of both in-car and body cam systems by DOI law enforcement officers and park rangers is imperative to having a law enforcement program that is totally professional, transparent, accountable to and trusted by the public.
- *Boundary Waters Protection Legislation* – CPANP [signed on to a letter](#) in support of [H.R. 5598](#) Boundary Waters Wilderness Protection and Pollution Prevention Act. This bi-partisan legislation would permanently protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Voyageurs National Park, Canada's Quetico Park, and their headwaters in the Superior National Forest from harmful and toxic mineral extraction that would irreparably pollute this pristine watershed for future generations.
- *Diversity Training* – The Coalition joined more than 100 other organizations in a [letter to Congress](#) opposing OMB's recent memo on diversity training and calling on Congress to support the engagement of federal agencies in training they deem "appropriate and necessary to try to enhance awareness of diversity, harassment and discrimination challenges, employee morale, opportunities for advancement, workplace culture and more."

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.

- *Grand Teton NP* – Late on the night of September 25th, Jenny Lake rangers received a report of an overdue rock scrambler who'd last been seen near the Cascade Canyon trail around 3 p.m. that afternoon. A hasty team began a search for the man, identified as 24-year-old Keith Berlin of West Seneca, New York; they found his pack, but no sign of Berlin. Further efforts that night were equally fruitless. Two park dog teams, eight climbing rangers and the park's contract helicopter joined in the search the following morning. Searchers focused on the steep, semi-technical and technical climbing terrain on the lower slopes of the Storm Point - Ice Point massif. Around 11:30 a.m., ground searchers found Berlin wedged beneath a large boulder. He had suffered from multiple traumatic injuries and was unresponsive. Berlin was stabilized by park medics, then lowered several hundred feet down a talus slope on a litter, transported by boat across Jenny Lake, transferred to an ambulance, and taken to a hospital in Jackson, where he was admitted with a crushed lumbar vertebra, a head injury, and multiple contusions and lacerations. It appears that Berlin fell an undetermined distance down a near-vertical cliff. The impact from his initial fall was apparently cushioned by a dense grove of aspen trees, which likely prevented more serious and possible fatal injuries. Submitted by Chief Ranger Colin Campbell,

- *Yosemite NP* – On the evening of September 26th, Wawona District rangers received a report of an injured woman at lower Chilnualna Falls. Lori Flint, 32, had fallen about 30 feet onto a granite slab and sustained multiple injuries. Two park medics provided advanced life support; a rescue team comprised of 14 employees, including the Wawona fire crew, performed a difficult litter evacuation in darkness to get her to a waiting ambulance. Doctors determined that Flint had suffered a punctured lung, broken ribs, ruptured spleen and fractured humerus, elbow, clavicle and toes. Alcohol is suspected as a contributing factor. Submitted by Chief Ranger's Office.
- *Isle Royale NP* – Seasonal ranger Dean Martinson was traveling by boat up the Rock Harbor channel at the northeast end of the park on the night of September 23rd when he saw flashing lights from the lakeshore trail. Upon investigation, he found that several visitors were seeking help for an ill hiker at Three Mile campground, several miles from the shore. Martinson hiked to the campground and found that Fred Gengler of Mankato, Minnesota, was suffering from an acute abdomen and that his vital signs were deteriorating. Drug therapy was begun, and an air ambulance was summoned from St. Mary's hospital in Duluth. The helicopter picked Gengler up at 1:15 a.m. This was the first use of the St. Mary's service by the park, which only recently established a working partnership with the hospital - specifically because of the hospital's twin engine and night flying capability, crucial to the park because of Isle Royale's isolated location and distance from shore. Submitted by Chief Ranger Peter Armington.

A Closing Observation

"A land ethic for tomorrow should be as honest as Thoreau's *Walden* and as comprehensive as the sensitive science of ecology. It should stress the oneness of our resources and the live-and-help-live logic of the great chain of life. If, in our haste to 'progress,' the economics of ecology are disregarded by citizens and policy makers alike, the result will be an ugly America. We cannot afford an America where expedience tramples upon esthetics and development decisions are made with an eye only on the present."

Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, *The Quiet Crisis*, 1963

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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.

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