



GUARDAPARQUE

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Guardaparque is a bi-weekly publication prepared and issued by the International Ranger Federation (IRF), an organization of non-governmental and governmental ranger organizations from around the world. **Guardaparque** carries reports on emergency service and law enforcement incidents, on protection of parks and the natural and cultural resources within them, on programs to educate visitors and communities on the values of parks and protected areas, and on the people who are responsible for all these activities. If you have a submission for **Guardaparque**, please send it to the editor, Bill Halainen, at Bill_Halainen@nps.gov.

*NOTE: Due to travel and other obligations, there have been on issues of **Guardaparque** since January. Biweekly issues resume with this edition.*

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Nepal – Royal Bardia National Park Rhino Poached, Security Guard Killed

Suspected poachers have killed a one-horned rhino in Royal Bardia National Park. The body of a Nepali Army soldier who was providing security for the park was found nearby. The rhino, an endangered species, was missing its horn, a prized item for poachers. The soldier's body was found about 400 meters away. Security officials suspect that an armed gang made up of four or five poachers might have been responsible.

Nepalnews.com, 4 April

Thailand – Khlong Wang Chao National Park Locals Blame Officials For Killing Of Forest Official

Community leaders have blamed state authorities with various illegal interests for last month's murder of a forest official in Khlong Wang Chao National Park. Denchai Thitsakulsawang, the headman at Ban Pha Phueng village, said the murder of Viroj Chuakaopim, who was known to be tough on forest encroachment, was not the work of ordinary timber poachers. Before the March 23rd shooting, which happened in front of his daughter, the head of the Khlong Wang Chao national park protection unit had seized a number of illegally cut logs in the park, said Mr Denchai. "Even though he was tough on illegal logging, Viroj usually warned villagers and told them about the impact of deforestation. So the villagers could not have been angry enough to kill him," he said. Following the murder, a policeman was also killed and two others wounded while on their way to the scene. Scattered around the scene of the shooting were spent AK-47 bullets. According to Mr Denchai, the Wang Chao district is a transit point for narcotics, logs and immigrants from the border districts of Mae Sot and Phop Phra.

Bangkok Post, 6 April

United States – Buffalo National River Artifact Digger Sentenced

In January 2006, rangers received a report of possible artefact digging in the Lower Wilderness area of the park. Rangers and the park archaeologist investigated the digging. They discovered 45 excavations in a known archaeological area, and that over 2,000 cubic feet of dirt had been excavated from the six acre site. Evidence was also recovered from the site that helped rangers identify a suspect. Three rangers had also recorded observations in their patrol logs that put the suspect in the area of the archaeological site between October 2005 and January 2006. Rangers interviewed Carl Ray Henderson in February 2006. When confronted with the evidence, Henderson confessed to digging at the site. Over the next six months, Henderson recovered and returned some of the artefacts from the site, as well as artefacts and human bones from other sites he had excavated.

In March 2007, Henderson was indicted by a federal grand jury for a felony violation of the U.S. Archaeological Resource Protection Act. Henderson pled guilty to this offense in July 2007. He failed to appear for his sentencing, though, so the judge issued an arrest warrant. Henderson was arrested by U.S. marshals and held in Fort Smith until sentencing on February 27th. He was sentenced to 21 months in federal prison and a year's supervised probation and ordered to pay \$2,720 in restitution for a felony conviction of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act.

National Park Service Morning Report, 11 March

United States – Yellowstone National Park Women Protesting Bison Removal Arrested

On the morning of March 26th, Albright Visitor Center staff reported that two women had secured themselves to a structural pillar inside the visitor center in an apparent act of protest. After responding rangers evacuated and closed the visitor center, they determined that the women were bison activists protesting the park's participation in the interagency bison management plan (IBMP). Under this plan, bison leaving the park, potential carriers of a disease called brucellosis, are frequently destroyed, an action that has caused considerable controversy.

The stated intent of the women's act was to secure the superintendent's agreement to a list of demands that included withdrawing from the IBMP. After the women were extricated from the metal pipe apparatus that encased their hands and forearms and from its locking mechanisms, they were arrested and taken to the park jail. Charges of criminal interference and disorderly conduct have been filed by the assistant U.S. Attorney. The women were released on a bond and the case has been continued. The incident, covered by local and national media, caused a three-hour closure of the visitor center and the lockdown of several administrative buildings.

National Park Service Morning Report, 31 March

Australia – Litchfield National Park Man Rescues Wife From Crocodile

An Australian woman who was attacked by a crocodile in the Northern Territory's Litchfield National Park credits her husband's quick actions for her survival. Wendy Petherick said the crocodile clamped its jaws down on her leg while she was in waist-deep water and attempted to pull her under and that she tried to pry the crocodile's jaws apart to free her leg. "For a croc that size, a two-meter (6.5 foot) croc, and being a little person, I had to fight back," she said. "He would have dragged me, death rolled me and killed me. He just grabbed me by the leg, if he would have grabbed me up towards my stomach, I reckon I would have been dead. " She said the croc gave up on trying to make her into a snack after her husband, Norm Moreen, jumped on the beast and attacked its eyes. Petherick said she likely would have died without the rescue. "There's no time for fears you see, when you want to save someone, especially the one you love," Moreen said. Petherick suffered five puncture wounds and doctors said she will likely be hospitalized for at least two more days while they monitor her for infection.

United Press International, 2 April

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

United States – Olympic National Park Rare Species Reintroduced Into Park

Eleven fishers, members of the weasel family related to mink, otter and marten, were released in the park in January, marking the first step toward restoring these small, reclusive mammals to the state of Washington.

A small group of area students and project partners watched one of the releases as two female and one male fisher ran from their transport boxes into the ancient forests above Altair Campground. Fishers are native to the forests of Washington, including the Olympic Peninsula, but vanished from the state decades ago because of over-trapping in the late 1800s and early 1900s and habitat loss and fragmentation.

Fishers were listed as a state endangered species in 1998 by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and were designated as a candidate for federal listing in 2004 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act. Restoration of fishers to Washington and Olympic National Park is the result of a strong and diverse alliance, including federal and state agencies along with non-profit partners. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Park Service are co-leading the project, while the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are instrumental partners in supporting both the transport of fishers from British Columbia and post-release monitoring. Olympic National Forest is also cooperating on the project. Each of the animals was fitted with a tiny radio transmitter to allow biologists to track their movements and activities as they settle in to their new habitat. Results of this monitoring will not only add to scientists' understanding of fisher in the ecosystem, but will be used to refine and adjust future releases within the park. Over the next three years, approximately 100 fishers will be released within Olympic National Park.

InsideNPS, 30 January

PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Australia – Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park New National Park Created In Victoria

Leading environmental groups have praised the creation of a new 18,000 hectare National Park in Victoria's southwest. The Victorian National Parks Association and the Wilderness Society say the development of the new Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park, near Portland, is a great boost for biodiversity.

In the lead-up to the Victorian election in November 2006, the government promised to add most of the Cobboboonee to the existing Glenelg-Hopkins National Park, and turn the remainder into a forest park.

ABC Online, 30 March

Prepared and published by the International Ranger Federation as a service to rangers around the world. Submissions should be sent to Bill Halainen at Bill_Halainen@nps.gov .
