



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018



**POLICE
FEDERAL AGENT**

the yearly magazine of the NPS Investigative Services Branch

Atlantic Field Office
pages 12-17



North Central Field Office
pages 18-23



Southwest Field Office
pages 24-29



Pacific Field Office
pages 30-35



The Investigative Services Branch of the National Park Service provides critical investigative and other law enforcement support to a wide range of customers.

Our core mission is the immediate and long-term protection of park resources, visitors, assets, employees, and residents.

We accomplish this through detection, investigation, apprehension, and successful prosecution of persons who violate laws of the United States of America while within, or while affecting, the National Park System.

- from the ISB Mission Statement

Cover: a Special Agent of the NPS Investigative Services Branch. NPS photo.

Inset: Special Agents in the field. NPS photos.

Background: Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve. NPS photo by P Myers.



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www.nps.gov/ISB



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*Highlights of the
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Questions and comments
are welcome.

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Message from Russell Roy, Chief of ISB

NPS Family, Partners, and Friends:

We are honored and proud to serve you. The core mission of the Investigative Services Branch (ISB) is and will continue to be “the long-term protection of park resources, visitors, assets, employees and residents. We will accomplish this through detection, investigation, apprehension, and successful prosecution of persons who violate the laws of the United States of America while within, or while affecting the National Park System.”

In this year’s report, I would like to provide some context of ISB’s progression since 2013 when I took over as Chief. My predecessor, Scott Hinson, endorsed me to serve as acting Chief for a year as he transitioned into retirement.

Two weeks into my new assignment, the federal government shut down at the start of the new 2014 fiscal year. Afterwards, federal agencies faced a sequestration, causing a significant reduction to ISB’s budget. The branch was forced to conduct an urgent analysis of its workload and workforce.

This analysis resulted in the transfer three ISB agents to the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), and the restructuring of ISB’s leadership model. Though we lost some positions, we gained financial sustainability for the program.

That year, we surveyed the investigative needs of parks, regions, and our external law enforcement partners. Their valuable insight helped shape our answer to the question, “Who are we and what is our mission?”

We got to work on creating materials and portals to better identify who we are, what we do, and how to contact us.



Chief Russell Roy. NPS photo.

Our online sites have served as a catalyst and tool for the parks, regions, and public to interact with ISB. We currently have well over 13,000 dedicated followers on social media, many of whom have provided numerous tips and leads in support of our investigations.

As Chief, much of my time as been spent on workforce management, developing team-building strategies, and setting program goals. A team building strategy that I am most proud of is the development of our Battle Buddy Initiative. This idea was adopted from my time spent in the military. ISB Special Agents are stationed across the country and may see some of the other agents only once per year. The Battle Buddy Initiative further promotes an ISB Team atmosphere, pairing agents from different field offices and removing geographical lines.

Over the past 6 years, some talented members of our staff have retired or moved on to other positions. To them I extend my thanks and recognition for their service.

Continued on the next page.

Message from Chief Roy, continued

Among the goals set over the years, those of 2017 particularly exemplified our overarching strategic plans for the program. I adopted the six pillars of policing in President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing:

Pillars of Policing

1. Building Trust and Legitimacy
2. Policy and Oversight
3. Technology and Social media
4. Community Policing & Crime Reduction
5. Training & Education
6. Officer Wellness & Safety

To further meet the investigative needs of the Service, we examined the various talents of the agents and developed specialized teams.

After effectively managing our allocated budget since the sequestration and reprioritizing our services, we have been able to fill several Special Agent vacancies over the past three years, thus creating a workforce of 20% new hires.

I am thoroughly proud of the dedication to service by my staff. They are all intelligent, clever, and most of all, a fun group of people to work with. They are champions in my eyes!

I have decided to retire at the end of March 2019. My career and journey with the National Park Service has been incredible, exciting, and rewarding. My team has made me look like a genius, and for that I am thankful. I will miss you all dearly. Though I am sad that I will not have the opportunity to get to know and work with our newest agents, they are in good hands and are now members of an amazing family.

To those who have coached and mentored me or just provided some guidance along the way...I say "thank you and God bless you." I am a better agent, person, husband, and father because of it!

Stay focused my friends! Mentor somebody who doesn't look like you ... and have a purpose!

Background: sunrise in Friendship Hill National Historic Site. NPS photo by A Arnold.
Inset: a bald eagle in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve. NPS photo.

Our mission, vision, and values are clear:

MISSION: The immediate and long-term protection of park resources, visitors, assets, employees, and residents.

VISION: Provide the highest-quality investigative and law enforcement support to parks, regions, and other stakeholders.

VALUES: Honesty. Integrity. Respect. Service.

What We Do: Investigations and More



ISB Special Agents carry out a wide range of investigative and law enforcement activities for parks and regional offices across the National Park System.

As our Special Agents investigate complex, sensitive, and/or long-term cases of all types of crimes, we work closely with US Park Rangers in the field every day. Investigations include crimes of violence, major property crimes, fraud, embezzlement, major resource violations, drug cultivation, and other incidents.

We are available year-round and around the clock, and we typically cover the costs associated with deployment of assets.

ISB: the Investigative Services Branch of the National Park Service
www.nps.gov/ISB

Services we provide include:

- Case Preparation Guidance and Support
- Computer Forensics Support and Investigation
- Covert and Undercover Operations
- Crime Scene Management and Processing
- Criminal Investigations
- Intelligence Analysis and Support
- Interviews and Interrogations
- Investigative Skills Instruction
- Officer Involved Shooting Response Team
- Operations Planning and Support
- Outside Agency Liaison
- Sources of Information Management
- Technical Surveillance Support and Equipment
- Tip Line use - Any Park, Any Time
- Training and Mentoring
- Warrant Planning, Support, and Execution
- Wildland and Structure Fire Investigation



Message from Christopher Smith, Special Agent in Charge

The women and men who make up the National Park Service Investigative Services Branch (ISB) are dedicated and passionate to accomplish a mission they truly believe in. They work day and night, answering calls for assistance from all across the service, working with our partners to ensure those who violate the law while in or affecting the National Park System are held accountable.

Our branch is successful because of the people who comprise it. Though our program is small, our team is highly skilled and committed to what we do. Every supervisor, special agent, intelligence analyst, and administrative employee works hard to accomplish our mission together.

2018 increased the public's awareness of ISB to unprecedented levels. Outside Magazine published an article titled "*The FBI of the National Park Service*" showcasing the work ISB Special Agents do everyday. More info and a link to the article is on page 38. Our following on various social media platforms was again robust in 2018, with posts reaching 1.3 million viewers over the year. This is a significant accomplishment from a work unit of less than 35 people.

The attention triggered a number of ongoing projects and helped demonstrate the quality of work done by a group of people who do not look for fame or accolades, but rather take pride in their service when justice was done for a victim and the offender was held accountable.

In 2018 the program hired three new special agents and two supervisors from a group of incredibly qualified applicants. These three were the highest qualified applicants from a list of more than 800 qualified. Our new supervisors were already leaders in ISB and now can execute those leadership qualities as supervisors.

ISB routinely participates in individual criminal investigations but also broader department efforts. Additionally, ISB Special Agents are agency leaders in their efforts to support victims of crimes and are routinely recognized for their dedication to ensure victims get what they need. One such award is covered on page 10.

I am immensely proud of the work done by every employee in the Investigative Services Branch. They make sacrifices every day to make the world a better place; some of their work is highlighted in this report. No matter what the circumstances are, they will make sacrifices and go the extra mile to ensure justice is done and victims are heard.



SAC Christopher Smith. NPS photo.

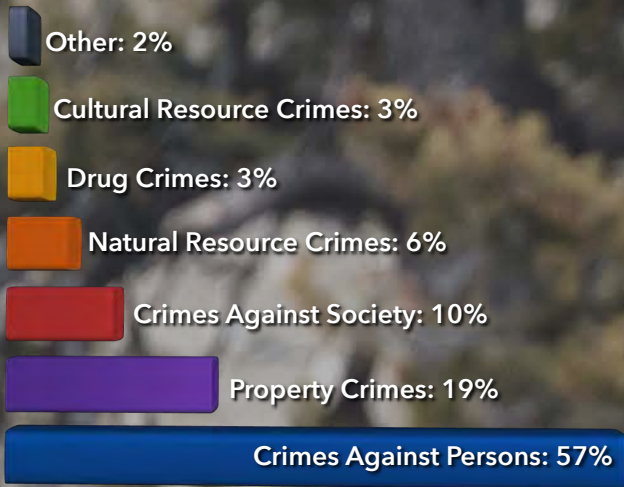
Background: photo of a bald eagle donated to ISB; used with permission.

At a Glance: Statistics

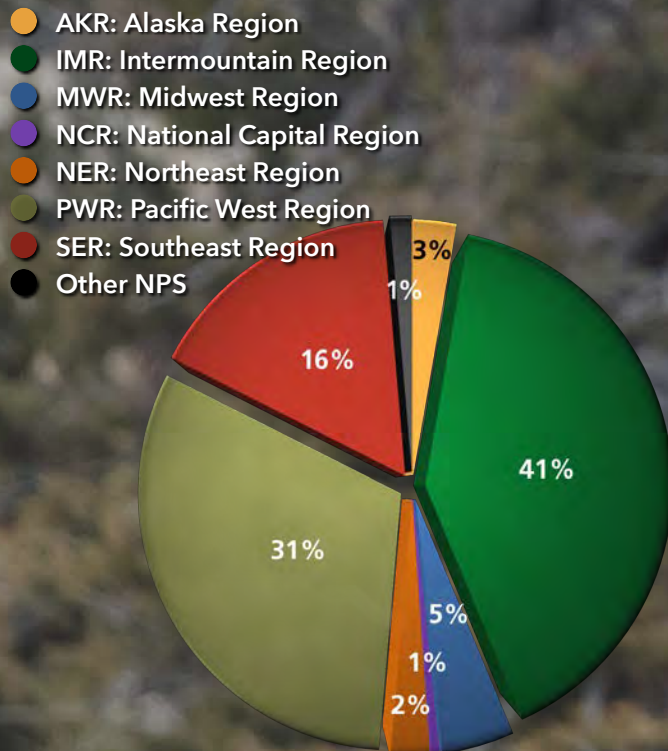
A bald eagle in Yellowstone National Park.
NPS photo by J Frank.



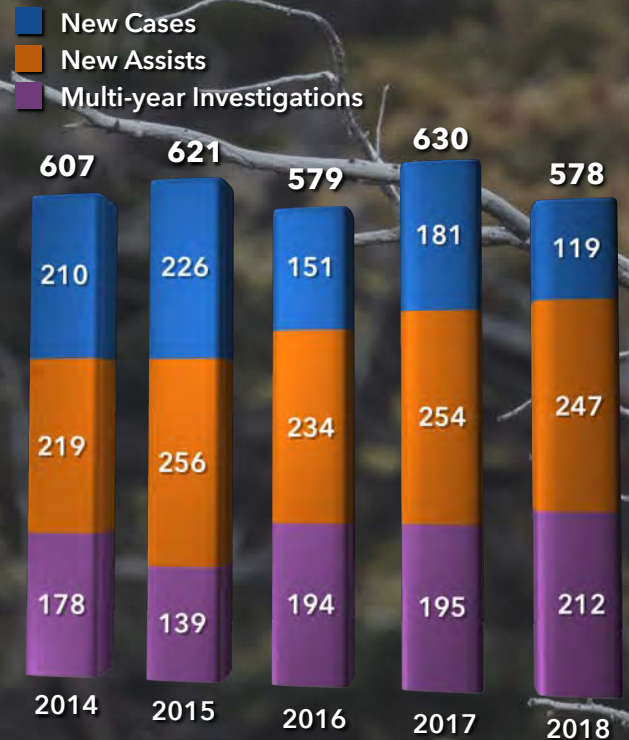
Types of New Cases in 2018



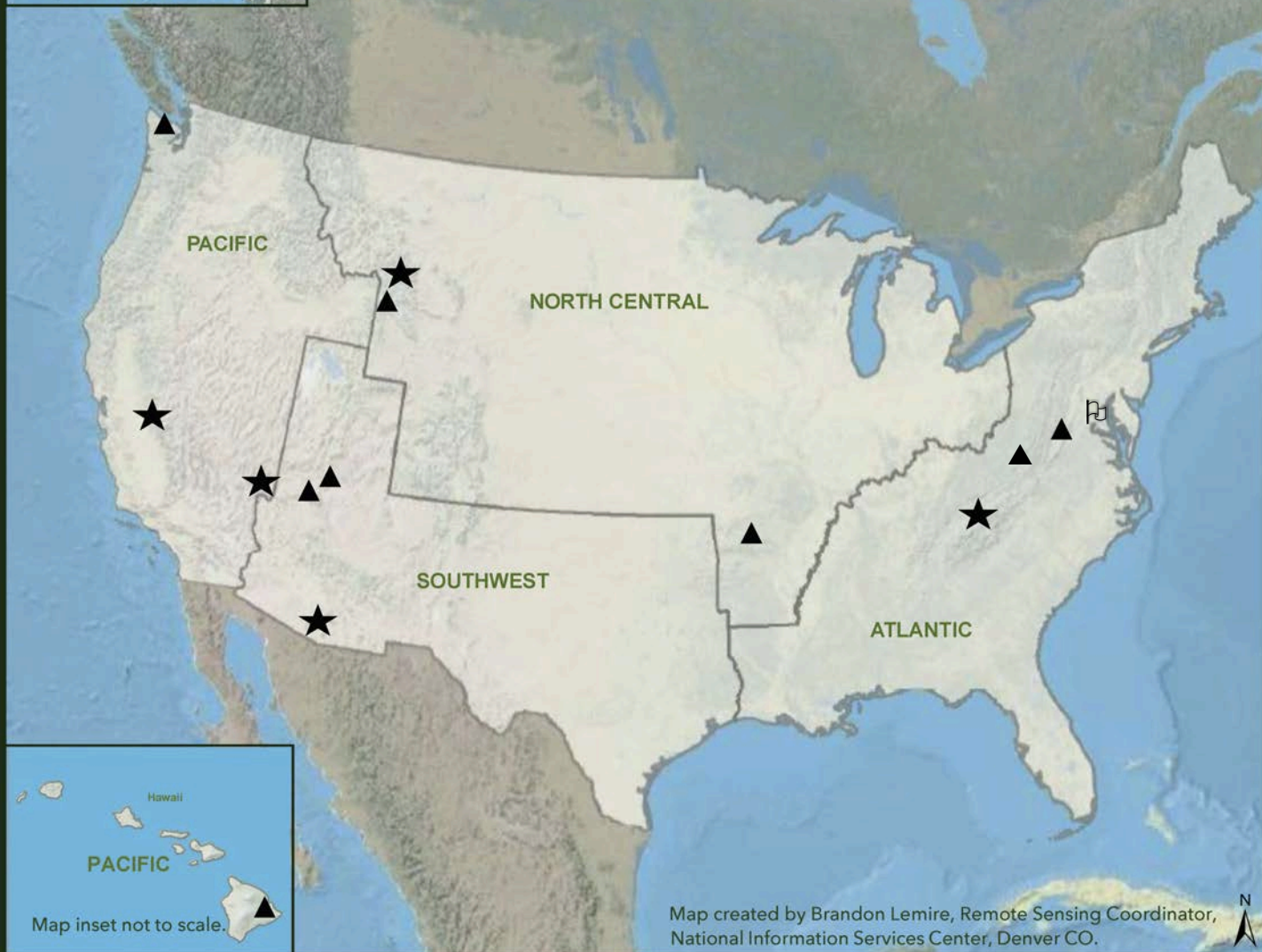
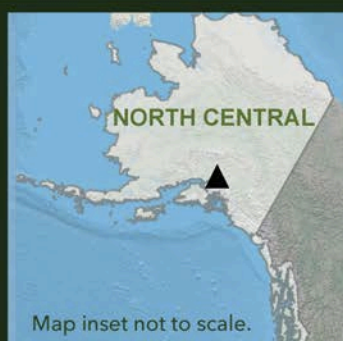
New ISB Cases & Assists by NPS Region in 2018



Five Year Comparison: Total Cases by Type



Field Offices of the NPS Investigative Services Branch (ISB)



Map created by Brandon Lemire, Remote Sensing Coordinator, National Information Services Center, Denver CO.

★ ISB Supervisory Office staffed by an ASAC and Special Agent(s)

▲ ISB Resident Office staffed by Special Agent(s)

🏠 Headquarters

Not shown: Guam (GU), American Samoa (AS), Northern Mariana Islands (MP), Puerto Rico (PR), US Virgin Islands (VI).

PACIFIC FIELD OFFICE

WA, OR, ID, CA, NV, HI, GU, AS, and MP

NORTH CENTRAL FIELD OFFICE

AK, MT, WY, CO, ND, SD, NE, KS, MN, IA, MO, AR, WI, IL, IN, MI, and OH

SOUTHWEST FIELD OFFICE

UT, AZ, NM, TX, and OK

ATLANTIC FIELD OFFICE

ME, NH, RI, VT, MA, CT, NY, PA, WV, VA, MD, DC, KY, DE, NJ, TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS, LA, FL, PR, and VI

Awards and Recognitions

Each year, ISB employees (Special Agents, Intelligence Analyst, and support staff) receive accolades from our agency and partnering stakeholders. What follows are a few notable acknowledgements.

ISB Special Agent honored during Crime Victims' Rights Week

An ISB Special Agent was among those honored by the Department of Justice and US Attorney's Office during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The year's observance took place April 8-14, 2018 with the theme "Expand the Circle: Reach All Victims."

In recognizing professionals who have shown special commitment to helping crime victims, Assistant US Attorney for the District of Arizona Elizabeth Strange hosted a ceremony on April 12. AUSA Strange presented the Special Agent with a certificate commemorating her service and acts above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of federal crime victims.

Noting that the Special Agent works difficult and challenging cases, AUSA Strange said, "She not only works hard to bring offenders to justice, she also places a special emphasis on providing much needed assistance to crime victims. [The Special Agent] works countless hours both on and off duty to assist victims through the criminal justice process while gaining their trust and respect."



US Attorney for Arizona Elizabeth Strange (R) presented a certificate to an ISB Special Agent during Crime Victims' Rights Week.

NPS photo.

Time in Service Awards:

Two members of the NPS Investigative Services Branch achieved the milestone of 15 years of US Government Service, one marked 20 years, and one reached 30 years.

Moving Up, Moving On:

Two ISB Special Agents were promoted to Assistant Special Agents in Charge, and another ISB Special Agent retired in 2018 after 27 years with the National Park Service.

Thank you for your service, and congratulations!

Background: NPS photo of a rainbow in Petroglyph National Monument.

ISB is dedicated to ensuring that every victim of or witness to a crime that occurs within the National Park Service community is treated with dignity and respect, and that they are informed of their legal rights. Support and services are available throughout the continuum of care. More information is on the US Department of Justice website: ovc.gov/help/index.html

"The crimes against people that we investigate come from all over the system and involve parks of a variety of jurisdictions," says Special Agent in Charge Christopher Smith. "As law enforcement officers, we often see people on the worst days of their lives, days that will change the path of their lives forever. By providing good victim support and assigning a victim specialist or coordinating to ensure that victim gets the services they need, we help provide the foundation they need to recover. Ultimately, that is our goal — that justice is done and that they can return to their lives, and have a full and complete life."

Training is a critical element in Victim-Witness Support. NPS Law Enforcement officers may access a new video on NPS Victim Assistance through the DOI Talent portal (qualifies towards required victim assistance training/continuing education).

Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award: Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jeff Sullivan

In the tradition of Harry Yount, the first and archetypal national park ranger, the National Park Service (NPS) honors individuals for the art and science of rangers. Yount is credited with setting the standards for performance and service by which the public has come to judge the rangers of today. He lends his name to a national award recognizing the "overall impact, record of accomplishments, and excellence in traditional ranger duties" by an exceptional cadre of NPS rangers. This year's recipient of the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award is Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Jeff Sullivan.

ASAC Sullivan is not only a highly skilled criminal investigator; he is a leader and mentor whose 35 year legacy will continue well beyond his NPS career. He supervises the ISB Pacific Field Office, supporting NPS sites in California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Hawai'i, and the Pacific Islands.

In nominating ASAC Sullivan for this award, his peers recognized him for his noteworthy career that began in Ozark National Scenic Riverways in the early 1980s. He has served as a US Park Ranger in several parks and was one of the first NPS Special Agents. He also helped establish and was the first supervisor for the NPS Office of Professional Responsibility.

ASAC Sullivan has conducted thousands of significant investigations throughout the National Park System. He has investigated many high profile crimes ranging from commercial and natural resource violations to serial murders. He has served as an undercover agent in multi-year undercover investigations that focused on combating commercial natural resource and wildlife crimes and violations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Throughout his career, ASAC Sullivan has led, established, and/or developed numerous teams and task forces. These include the Yosemite National Park Special Response Team, the Pacific West Region Special Event and Tactical Team #2, and the Officer Involved Shooting Response Team.

Often sought as an instructor, ASAC Sullivan has taught law enforcement classes for state, local and federal law enforcement agencies. He instructs classes that vary from advanced firearms to the investigation of crimes against national resources and persons. He is passionate about teaching, knowing it will improve the future protection of America's national parks.

ASAC Sullivan's peers say his personality leads him to be a natural leader and mentor. He is charismatic, humble, and leads from the field. He is kind and compassionate with victims, rangers, and agents. Many NPS managers, chief rangers, and investigators are relieved to see him walk onto a scene or hear his voice on the phone. He is the calm one when there is turmoil.

ASAC Sullivan embodies the core values of the National Park Service. For over three decades he has answered the call and worked tirelessly to protect the people and natural resources of our national parks. His legacy will have long lasting impact on the people who protect our national parks, and will allow for their enjoyment by future generations.



NPS Deputy Director of Operations Rick Obernesser (L) presents the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award to ASAC Jeff Sullivan (R). NPS photo.



MINNESOTA

MAINE

VERMONT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

WISCONSIN

MASSACHUSETTS

MICHIGAN

RHODE ISLAND
CONNECTICUT

NEW YORK

IOWA

NEW JERSEY

PENNSYLVANIA

OHIO

MARYLAND
DELAWARE

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

SHENANDOAH NP

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WEST VIRGINIA

NEW RIVER GORGE NR

VIRGINIA

MISSOURI

KENTUCKY

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NP

NORTH CAROLINA

TENNESSEE

SOUTH CAROLINA

MISSISSIPPI

ALABAMA

GEORGIA

PUERTO RICO & US VIRGIN ISLANDS

Map inset not to scale.

FLORIDA

Legend:

- ▲ ISB Resident Office:
staffed by Special Agent(s)
- ★ ISB Supervisory Office:
staffed by an ASAC
and Special Agent(s)
- 🏠 Headquarters

Atlantic Field Office

The Atlantic Field Office serves the Investigative Services Branch (ISB) mission in three National Park Service regions — the Northeast, National Capital, and Southeast. Within that area are 23 states (46%), 167 NPS units (40%), and half of the US population. The field office is currently staffed with one Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) and five Special Agents.

The year proved challenging; the ASAC was called upon to supervise two field offices through the summer when another ASAC retired, and the Atlantic Field Office started the year short one field position from a retirement the previous year. An experienced Special Agent retired this year after 27 years with the National Park Service - 23 of which were spent as a Special Agent and Criminal Investigator. With his departure, the field office carried the additional caseload with even fewer investigators.

Special Agents from ISB's other field offices stepped in to help, leading many Atlantic Field Office investigations for much of the year. The field office was happy to welcome two new Special Agents in October and November. Both investigators bring valuable skills and experience working the full spectrum of criminal investigations.

Special Agents of the Atlantic Field Office led many complex and labor-intensive investigations throughout 2018. These included several homicide investigations, significant embezzlement and theft investigations, a kidnapping investigation, and several sexual assault investigations.

Please see the following pages for a summary of new and significant incidents from 2018.



Val-Kill Bridge in Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site. NPS photo.

Atlantic Field Office

New Significant Investigations:

Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Theft of Government Property

In March, ISB Special Agents began an investigation of theft of government property in the park's North District maintenance area. Approximately \$20,000 worth of government equipment and building materials were identified as being stolen. One suspect has been charged and most of the stolen property has been recovered. Charges are pending for another suspect.

Blue Ridge Parkway - Murder

On April 23, ISB Special Agents responded to a reported homicide on the parkway near Roanoke, VA. They initiated an investigation with the assistance of the FBI and state agencies, revealing a verbal altercation between two motorists. During the altercation, Hector Escoto Munguia brandished a weapon at Keith Sidwell, a retired police officer. Sidwell then shot Escoto Munguia. In July, the US Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia announced they had reviewed the case and are not going to charge Sidwell in the death of Escoto Munguia, due in part to the self-defense doctrine.

Blue Ridge Parkway - Kidnapping / Assault

In September, ISB Special Agents began investigating a reported kidnapping and physical assault that occurred within the boundaries of Blue Ridge Parkway in the Asheville, NC area. Several search warrants were served where evidence was identified indicating the reported kidnapping and assault were a false report. Charges are pending against the reporting party for false statements.



Background: a seastar on sand in Cumberland Island National Seashore. NPS photo.

Atlantic Field Office



A foggy morning in the Crabtree Falls area of Blue Ridge Parkway. NPS photo.

Blue Ridge Parkway - Murder / Aggravated Sexual Abuse

On July 24, ISB Special Agents were called upon to initiate a homicide investigation within Blue Ridge Parkway near the Pisgah Inn, with the assistance of the FBI and state agencies. Shawn Pendergraft, an employee of the Pisgah Inn, reported that his coworker, Sara Ellis, was missing. Pendergraft stated that he and Ellis both got off work shortly after 4 pm and decided to go for a hike on an unnamed trail near the employee housing area of the Pisgah Inn. He also stated that shortly after starting their hike it began to rain; Ellis decided to return to the housing area while he continued to hike. Pendergraft further stated that on his way back, upon reaching the point where he last saw the victim, he saw Ellis's umbrella and hat lying on the ground. He informed management staff at the Pisgah Inn that Ellis was missing. US Park Rangers and first responders searched the area and located Ellis's body lying off an embankment, near a trail. The next day, Pendergraft admitted to investigators that he was responsible for Ellis's death. In December 2018, Pendergraft was indicted on first degree murder and aggravated sexual abuse.

Cumberland Island National Seashore - Embezzlement / Theft / Fraud

In July ISB Special Agents and the Camden County Sheriff's Office initiated an investigation into the embezzlement of over \$100,000 from a concession operation. Investigators identified the prime suspect and charges are pending.

Atlantic Field Office

Case Updates and Closures of Previous Investigations

Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Murder

On March 29, 2015, ISB Special Agents responded with the FBI to a stabbing that had taken place inside Oconaluftee (Smokemont) Baptist Church inside the park. Johnathan Hill, Forrest Dakota Hill (no relation), and the victim drove to the church together, and over the course of their visit, Forrest Hill stabbed the victim with a knife during an unprovoked attack, causing the victim's death. Investigators determined that the victim was stabbed at least 16 times in the chest, back, neck, and elsewhere. Forrest Hill pleaded guilty to second degree murder in April 2016 and was sentenced to more than 16 years imprisonment. Johnathan Hill pleaded guilty at a separate court hearing in December 2017 to a charge of accessory after the fact to second degree murder; his sentence was handed down in June 2018.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Identity Theft / Auto Burglaries

In June 2017, US Park Rangers took a report of several auto burglaries in the Greenbrier area. The victims reported their stolen credit cards had been used at retail and entertainment businesses in Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. ISB Special Agents initiated an investigation and identified the suspects who were indicted in June 2018 and pleaded guilty in September 2018. Sentencing was scheduled for January 2019.



Early morning in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. NPS photo.

Atlantic Field Office



NPS photo of Timothy King and another motorcyclist in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Reckless Endangerment

In July 2017, a 13 year old juvenile standing next to a truck in a pullout in the park was hit by a motorcycle whose driver lost control going around a corner at a high rate of speed. The driver of the motorcycle fled the scene. ISB Special Agents investigated the collision and identified the driver of the motorcycle. Timothy King admitted to investigators that he was involved in the incident and that he left the scene. In February 2018, King was indicted and arrested on a felony violation of Tennessee's Reckless Endangerment law. King pleaded guilty in June 2018 and was scheduled for sentencing in early 2019.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Human Remains Located and Identified

In August 2017, a resource management employee located a handgun in the forest where the Chimney Top fire had burned in 2016. A US Park Ranger hiked with the employee to the area where the gun was located, and found several small fragments of bone. ISB Special Agents initiated an investigation and worked with the state medical examiner's office to do a more thorough search of the area where they located more remains. Investigators worked leads to positively identify the deceased and the manner of death. An abandoned vehicle was located in the area where the remains were found in 2009. Items found inside the vehicle were still located in evidence and matched items found on the scene, including the handgun. Investigators sent remains and familial DNA to be tested for the registered owner of the vehicle and received a match. The manner of death is believed to be suicide.

Blue Ridge Parkway - Murder

On September 9, 2016, US Park Rangers observed a vehicle parked on the roadside in an area without trails, picnic facilities, or campsites. A man and child descended a steep embankment from the vehicle. The rangers approached to investigate and the man suddenly stabbed the child with a knife, killing her. The rangers took the man, Seth Willis Pickering, into custody and attempted to provide medical aid to the young victim, who died on scene. Pickering pleaded guilty to the charge of First Degree Homicide in a separate court hearing earlier this year, and further admitted that he had committed the crime willfully, deliberately, maliciously, and with premeditation. Pickering was sentenced to a lifetime prison term.

Background: the Loft Mountain area in Shenandoah National Park. NPS photo.



- Legend:
- ▲ ISB Resident Office: staffed by Special Agent(s)
 - ★ ISB Supervisory Office: staffed by an ASAC and Special Agent(s)

North Central Field Office

The North Central Field Office of the NPS Investigative Services Branch (ISB) includes the Midwest Region, Alaska Region and the northern parks within the Intermountain Region of the National Park System. Seventeen states and 110 NPS sites fall under its umbrella.

This past year, ISB committed considerable time and effort on operations in Alaska to support both ISB investigations and US Park Rangers in the field.

In another successful collaboration, a US Park Ranger spent the summer working with the North Central Field Office in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. She worked several cases including sexual assaults in the short amount time she was assigned to ISB. We were thankful for this collaborative effort and look forward to future ISB Detailer opportunities in the North Central Field Office.

For close to a year, an ISB Special Agent of the North Central Field Office served in a detail as chief ranger of a Midwest Region park. His tenure occurred during a very challenging time for the park and his leadership provided unequivocal support for the rangers stationed there.

Finally, at the close of 2018, the long term/ multi-agency Ptarmigan Lake Lodge investigation came to close with the successful prosecution of several individuals who violated the Lacey Act, destroyed resources within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, and cheated hunters.

This case involved more than 2,600 hours of investigative work and 3 years to complete. It resulted in the successful felony prosecution of offenders whose sentences included restitution, confinement, and the surrender of the first guide license issued in Alaska.

See the following pages for an in-depth look at this and other new and significant incidents from 2018 throughout the North Central Field Office.

NPS photo of Dall sheep by L Law.



The Lacey Act covers all fish and wildlife and their parts or products, plants protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species or Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), and those protected by State Law. Commercial guiding and outfitting are considered to be a sale under the provisions of this Act. More about the Lacey Act:

www.fws.gov/international/laws-treaties-agreements/us-conservation-laws/lacey-act.html

North Central Field Office

Yellowstone National Park - Sexual Battery

As a result of an investigation led by an ISB Special Agent, a man who committed sexual battery within Yellowstone National Park was sentenced to serve 12 months in prison. Micah Nathaniel Heck, age 25, must then serve a year of supervised release and pay over \$1,600 in restitution and fines. Additionally, pursuant to sentencing Heck must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. 20901). Heck was charged after an incident on September 3, 2017 within a concessionaire employee dormitory in the Old Faithful area of the park. Working with a US Park Ranger, the ISB Special Agent obtained substantial evidence to support criminal charges against Heck, who was indicted and later located and taken into custody in Claude, Texas. The US Attorney's Office for the District of Wyoming prosecuted the case. The sentence was handed down in US District Court for the District of Wyoming.

Yellowstone National Park - Assault with a Dangerous Weapon

On July 18, 2018, Jackson Coombs assaulted a park visitor in a park restroom. Coombs attempted to conceal his face, entered a women's bathroom, and proceeded to beat down the stall door where a visitor was using the facility. Coombs used bear spray against the visitor then began beating her with his fists. The visitor screamed and fought back to the best of her ability and managed to begin sliding under the adjacent toilet partition while Coombs continued to bludgeon her face and body. Eventually, another visitor overheard the attack, came into the bathroom and subdued Coombs — but not before sustaining injuries himself. US Park Rangers arrived on scene and placed Coombs under arrest. Coombs was charged with two counts of felony assault with a dangerous weapon and one count of felony assault resulting in severe bodily injury. Coombs pleaded guilty to one count of felony assault with a dangerous weapon and one count of simple assault, and is scheduled for sentencing in April 2019. The close coordination of investigative efforts by US Park Rangers and ISB Special Agents was crucial in obtaining a successful prosecution.



North Central Field Office

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve - Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Theft of US Government Property, Motor Vehicle Theft

An interagency investigation by the NPS Investigative Services Branch and other investigators resulted in a man being sentenced to prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Timothy Keith Igou, age 31, was ordered to serve 37 months behind bars followed by 3 years probation. While trying to elude Alaska State Troopers on December 9, 2016, Igou drove a stolen Ford F250 truck onto an ATV trail and crashed into a tree. Igou then abandoned the truck and ran off through the woods. Prints in the snow led the troopers to a trailer stolen from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve bearing stolen license plates. They found Igou hiding inside and took him into custody. Inside the stolen truck was a loaded handgun. Igou's cell phone contained a photo of a person's hand, taken inside a Ford F-250 truck, holding the handgun. Forensic evidence showed that Igou had used his phone to search the internet for information related to the gun's serial number. The phone also contained numerous Craigslist entries related to the sale of handguns. In one text message from October 20, 2016, Igou wrote, "Can u givehim [sic] my gun[?]" Also located in the stolen truck were a glass pipe with a white residue of methamphetamine, dozens of vehicle keys for various makes and models, and two license plates - one of which was registered to the stolen truck. Igou had previously been convicted of a felony drug crime and a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. Both convictions meant Igou was prohibited from possessing firearms. At the sentencing hearing, the federal judge noted that Igou was a danger to the community, and that his sentence was intended to both protect the public and deter the defendant from future criminal acts. Igou's conduct was, the judge stated, "felony stupid." ISB Special Agents and a US Park Ranger of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve worked on this interagency investigation with the Alaska State Troopers and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The US Attorney's Office for the District of Alaska prosecuted the case.

Yellowstone National Park - Trespass, Interference, Damage to US Government Property

On the morning of January 16, 2018, park staff discovered 52 bison, held at the Stephens Creek facility for possible quarantine, had been released from the pens. US Park Rangers and ISB Special Agents opened a criminal investigation of the incident and park staff worked to locate and recapture the bison. The bison were being held and tested for brucellosis at Stephens Creek as part of a plan being considered to establish a quarantine program in support of augmenting or establishing new conservation and cultural herds of disease-free plains bison. The program would also enhance cultural and nutritional opportunities for Native Americans, reduce the shipment of Yellowstone bison to meat processing facilities, and conserve a viable, wild population. The Stephens Creek facility is closed permanently to the public.

Bison in Yellowstone National Park.
NPS photo by N Herbert.



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve —

A multi-year interagency investigation resulted in the conviction and sentencing of three men who violated the Lacey Act and other federal laws. In early 2019, Casey Richardson (age 48), Jeffrey Harris (age 45), and Dale Lackner (age 74) were each sentenced to serve five years of probation, pay restitution, and perform community service for hunting-related violations involving Dall sheep and brown bears in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

According to court documents, a federal investigation was launched in December 2015 after an anonymous letter was received by the State of Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Wildlife Investigations Unit. The letter indicated illegal hunting activities were occurring at Ptarmigan Lake Lodge (PLL). Located within the park, PLL is owned and operated by Urban Raho and is permitted as a concessionaire to provide sport hunting guide services. The hunt area within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is within the boundaries of State of Alaska Game Management Unit 12. Records revealed that PLL had charged four of its clients a total of approximately \$58,000 associated with four illegally harvested Dall sheep and other wildlife.

Richardson and Harris are not Alaska residents nor registered guides. Lackner is an Alaska resident and was a registered guide beginning in 2015. During the 2014 and 2015 hunting seasons, out-of-state hunters illegally hunted and killed Dall sheep at PLL without being accompanied by a registered guide. In 2014, Harris guided an out-of-state hunter at PLL, with the hunter harvesting a Dall sheep. Harris falsified the hunt record indicating the hunt was conducted by a registered guide.

In 2014, at PLL, Harris harvested two brown bears without a guide present and without possessing a harvest ticket or locking tag for either bear. One of the brown bears was harvested out of season and the hunt record was falsified. Also in 2014, Richardson conspired with Lackner to harvest a Dall sheep at PLL. Lackner falsified the State of Alaska Sheep Harvest Report indicating he harvested the sheep and later transported the sheep to Montana, to Richardson.

In 2015, Richardson guided three out-of-state hunters, on three separate hunts at PLL. All three hunters harvested Dall sheep. Harris falsified two of the hunt records indicating the hunts were conducted by registered guides. Lackner falsified the third hunt record indicating that hunt was conducted by a registered guide.

In 2014 and 2015, multiple illegal bait site locations were determined to be maintained by PLL and not registered with the State of Alaska. Xylitol, an artificial sweetener which is toxic to canines and birds, was used at the unlawful bait sites to poison wolves and bears.

On July 5, 2016, the National Park Service suspended Raho's concession contract pending the outcome of the criminal investigation and directed Raho to refund all hunt clients that may have been booked for 2016 and 2017 hunt seasons. Raho was issued a Federal Violation Notice for an unregistered bait site, surrendered his State of Alaska guide/outfitter license, and made a donation to the National Park Foundation. Justin Field, of Team Fate Outdoors, was issued a Federal Violation Notice for unlawful commercial filming, without a permit, of a 2015 Dall sheep hunt.

Images from the court file show the involved men and/or clients engaged in illegal hunts within the preserve.

Interagency Investigation Stops Wildlife Poaching



Prior to sentencing, Richardson pleaded guilty to one count of misdemeanor Conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and two counts felony Conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act. Harris pleaded guilty to one count felony Conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act, one count felony Lacey Act False Record, one count False Statements, and one count Conspiracy to Use Substance to Incapacitate Game. Lackner pleaded guilty to one count misdemeanor Conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and one count felony Lacey Act False Record.

As part of their sentence, Richardson was also ordered to pay \$14,000 in restitution, Harris was ordered to pay \$26,000 in restitution, and Lackner was ordered to pay \$6,000 in restitution. Restitution was to be made to the Department of Interior Restoration Fund on behalf of the National Park Service, and to the State of Alaska. The defendants are prohibited from any hunting or to assist in any hunting for the five years of probation. They were each ordered to perform over 100 hours of community service, and assist in providing and paying for public service announcements which would include a statement about the importance of understanding and following hunting laws and regulations. In addition, Richardson and Harris were each sentenced to serve three months in a halfway house followed by three months of home confinement, and Lackner was sentenced to six months of home confinement. During the periods of home confinement, the defendants will be on electronic monitoring.

The mission of the National Park Service (NPS) is 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. At 13.2 million acres, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is the largest national park in the United States, the largest wilderness area in the National Park System, and a World Heritage site. It is home to a substantial population of Dall sheep and provides a unique and world class opportunity for sport hunting. Additionally, subsistence users share and depend on these resources to sustain their way of life.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NPS Investigative Services Branch, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, with assistance from US Park Rangers. The US Attorney's Office, District of Alaska prosecuted the case.



Legend:

- ▲ ISB Resident Office: staffed by Special Agent(s)
- ★ ISB Supervisory Office: staffed by an ASAC and Special Agent(s)

Southwest Field Office

The Southwest Field Office serves the ISB mission for parks located within Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah. We currently have Special Agents stationed at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park, Saguaro National Park, and in Tucson, Arizona.

During 2018, two agents served as Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge for the Southwest Field Office while that vacant position went through the hiring process. During their details, the agents demonstrated the field office's ability to provide leadership and supervision.

The ASAC of the Atlantic Field Office also supervised the Southwest Field Office for a span, allowing agents to return to a focus on field work. An ISB Special Agent was selected for the permanent ASAC position in late September; this ended an 18-month-long vacancy and brought increased stability to the program.

Throughout 2018, Special Agents from the Southwest Field Office investigated a wide array of cases involving crimes against people (sexual assault, physical assault, child abuse, homicide, stalking), property crimes (burglary, theft of government property, embezzlement), drug crimes (drug smuggling, drug distribution), and resource crimes (vandalism). Investigators from this field office also served on or assisted the Officer Involved Shooting Team for incidents that occurred on National Park Service lands in the fall.

Additionally, the entire field office provided coverage for investigations of border-related crimes in support of the Department of the Interior's ongoing focus on Southwest Border Enforcement Operations. Special Agents also provided significant advisory and mentoring roles on ranger-led cases in parks throughout the field office, including illegal drone use for commercial filming in multiple parks.

Special Agents of the Southwest Field Office traveled to other field offices, as well, providing assistance with cases and taking the lead on investigations. These included sexual assault, murder, crimes against children, and wildland fire investigations.

The Southwest Field Office continued the cold case investigation of the 1980 disappearance of Chiricahua National Monument Ranger Paul Fugate. More about this and other noteworthy cases closed or adjudicated in 2018 are included on the following pages.



The Watchman in Zion National Park.
NPS photo by S Stio.

Southwest Field Office

Grand Canyon National Park — Possession of Child Pornography

An investigation by ISB Special Agents and US Park Rangers brought to justice a man who committed crimes against children. Joshua Faber, age 29, was sentenced in federal court to serve 42 months in prison followed by lifetime supervised release for felony possession of child pornography. The investigation began in October 2016 when Faber, then an employee of a national park concessionaire, was reported to have downloaded an extensive amount of child pornography onto his laptop. Rangers and ISB agents served search warrants for Faber's residence and computer, seizing more than twenty digital devices for forensic examination. The investigation revealed more than 3,000 images and video files appearing to depict the abuse of children. Investigators sent the suspect files to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), which confirmed that more than 600 files depicted the sexual abuse of children whose identities were already known to authorities. Meanwhile, during an interview with investigators, Faber confessed to viewing and downloading pornographic images and videos of children. Investigators presented the case for prosecution to the US Attorney's Office. Faber was indicted by a grand jury, arrested, and ultimately pleaded guilty. In addition to his prison term and lifetime probation, Faber was ordered to pay \$3,000 in restitution to one of the child victims known to NCMEC. He forfeited all digital devices to the government and must comply with lifetime registration as a sex offender. Faber is prohibited from owning or possessing firearms, must attend and participate in a sex offender treatment program, may have no contact with children under the age of 18, and must meet other conditions of sentencing. This outcome was the direct result of a witness taking the brave step to report the crimes, which have real and lasting impacts upon the involved victims.

Grand Canyon National Park — Violation of the Endangered Species Act

A man was charged for the illegal taking of rare fish protected by the Endangered Species Act, bringing to a close an interagency investigation by US Park Rangers, ISB Special Agents, the Havasupai Tribe, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The investigation began when an employee of the park witnessed the illegal take of humpback chub, a fish listed as federally endangered, in October 2014. Joao Paulo Ribeiro Ferreira, age 33, was seen fishing with a group in Havasu Creek below Beaver Falls. The pool they were in is on the boundary of the national park and the Havasupai Indian Reservation. Ferreira caught and gutted two humpback chub, a species of fish endemic to the Colorado River Basin. Investigators followed leads across agency and state boundaries to locate the group of men observed taking this endangered species. Through their dedicated efforts, they were able to show that Ferreira did knowingly and intentionally take the fish protected by the Endangered Species Act. He was charged and fined by the USFWS for this act.



Background: Chiricahua National Monument. NPS photo by R Stewart.

Southwest Field Office

Chiricahua National Monument — Cold Case Investigation: Missing US Park Ranger

Almost 40 years after Chiricahua National Monument Ranger Paul Fugate went for a hike and vanished without a trace, the National Park Service (NPS) has raised its reward fund in the case to \$60,000. Decades after initial leads in Fugate's disappearance grew cold, new information has prompted NPS investigators and Cochise County (AZ) Sheriff Mark Dannels to renew their request for the public's help in solving the 38-year-old mystery. On January 13, 1980, Paul Braxton Fugate, then age 41, was working in the monument's visitor center in southeastern Arizona. At about 2 p.m. that day, he left the building to hike a park trail and was never seen again. Ranger Fugate was wearing his "green and gray" Park Service uniform, including the official NPS Arrowhead patch on his upper shirtsleeve and a gold-colored ranger badge pinned over his heart. Although search teams combed the surrounding area extensively multiple times, they found no sign of the missing ranger. Investigators suspected foul play early on, and a formal missing-person case remains open. During the first few years after Fugate's disappearance, the reward fund grew to \$20,000. With this renewed focus, the NPS is now offering up to \$60,000 for information leading to Fugate's whereabouts and/or the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for his disappearance.



Although humpback chub once flourished in the natural conditions of the Colorado River amid its warm turbid waters and seasonally fluctuating flows, the species now faces serious population declines. It is also listed as a Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona and is on the Navajo Endangered Species List as one whose prospect of survival or recruitment is in jeopardy. The National Park Service has been working with the Bureau of Reclamation and the USFWS since safeguard, restore, and monitor the humpback chub.

Humpback chub. NPS photo by M Trammell.

Southwest Field Office

Grand Canyon National Park — Officer Involved Shooting Incident

On October 11 at approximately 1:00 am, an officer involved shooting incident occurred on the South Rim. The suspect was taken into custody and there were no ongoing public safety concerns. The park remained open and all visitor services were available. The involved US Park Ranger and the suspect sustained minor injuries due to the incident. The suspect was transported to a local hospital for assessment. The NPS has national policy that governs response to an officer involved shooting incident within park boundaries to ensure investigations are conducted with thoroughness, professionalism and impartiality. ISB Special Agents immediately arrived on scene, led the investigation, and notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). NPS Law Enforcement Officers are highly-trained federal officers who serve and protect park visitors and the natural and cultural resources within parks. Upon completion of the investigation, it will be submitted to the United States Attorney's Office District of Arizona. Additionally, the NPS Office of Professional Responsibility will provide an objective and thorough internal investigation into the officer's actions.

Though rare, officer involved shooting incidents (OIS) are sensitive, complex, and involve a variety of serious ramifications.

ISB has a dedicated team to respond to OIS. Depending on jurisdiction type for the NPS unit where the incident occurs, the team will either lead the investigation or will jointly investigate with the agency of primary jurisdiction.

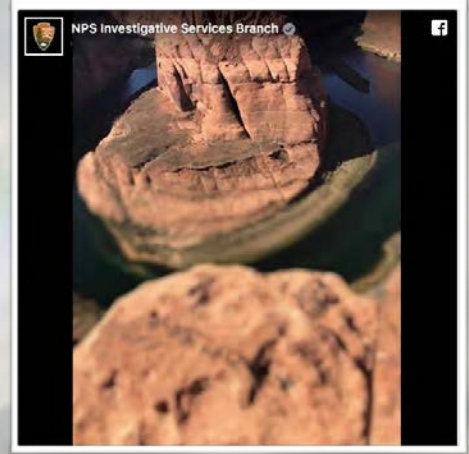
Tumacacori National Historical Park. NPS photo.

Southwest Field Office

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area — Vandalism of Natural Resources

Images posted on social media in late October by a man who vandalized rocks at Horseshoe Bend brought widespread public concern. ISB received many tips from the public reporting the damage, and assisted US Park Rangers to swiftly identify and contact the person responsible. The man accepted responsibility, was cited, and fined for Vandalism of Natural Resources.

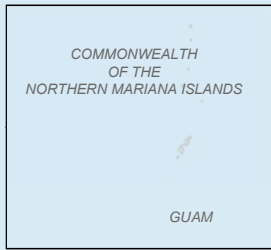
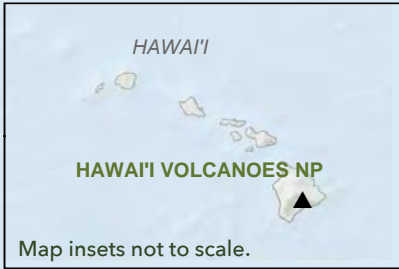
Image sent to ISB of vandalism on sandstone at Horseshoe Bend in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and posted to ISB's social media platforms.



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument — Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substance

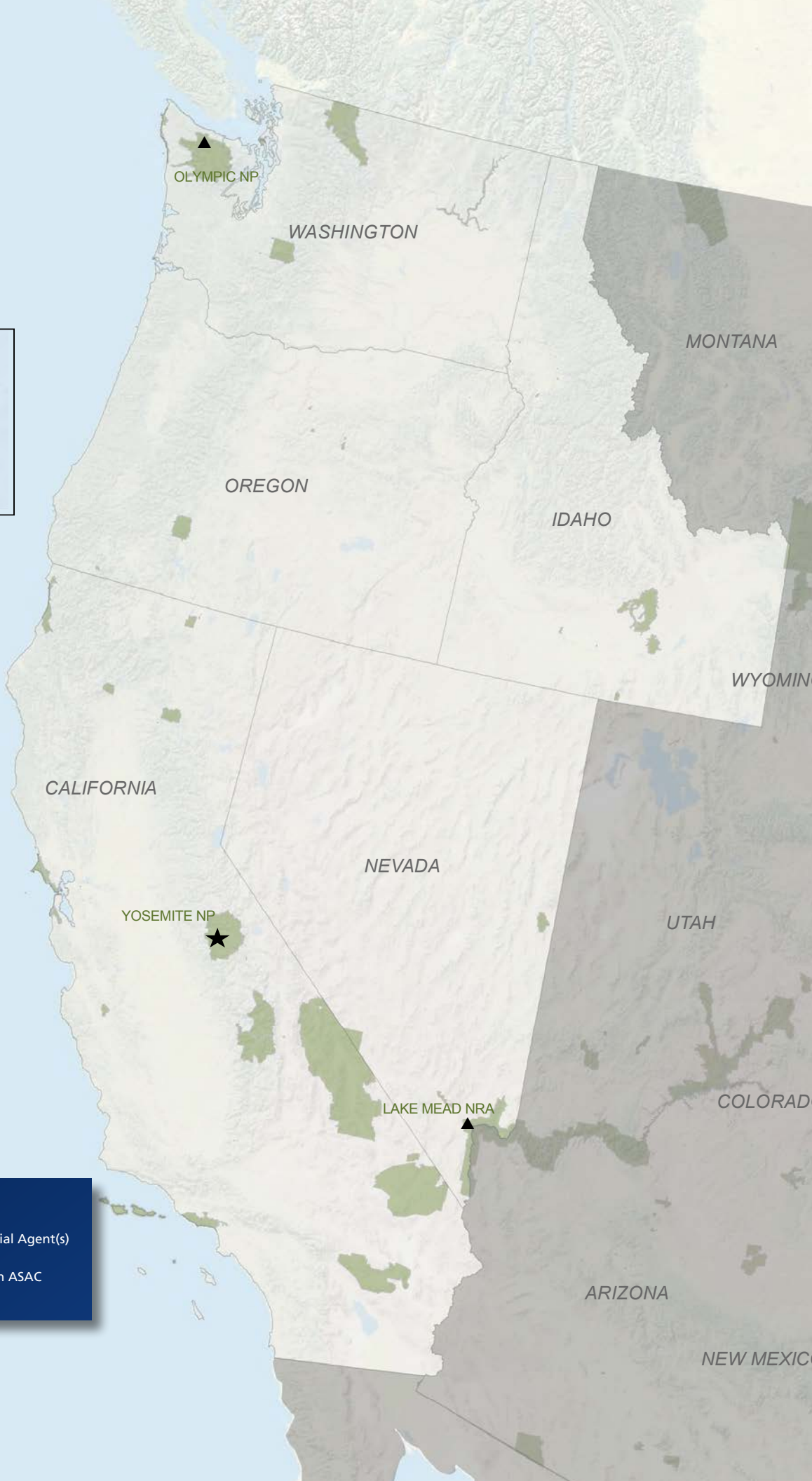
An investigation by US Park Rangers and ISB Special Agents led to the conviction and prison sentence of a man for drug trafficking in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. In December 2018, Jesus. R. Gomez, age 26, was sentenced in federal court to serve 5 years imprisonment followed by 4 years supervised probation. Gomez was contacted by rangers on South Puerto Blanco Road on July 11, 2018. During the contact, rangers conducted a field investigation that led to the discovery of over 100 kilograms of a controlled substance (suspected marijuana) concealed in a hidden compartment of the vehicle driven by Gomez. It was also determined that the vehicle had entered the United States illegally, without inspection, through a breach in the International Boundary fence. Rangers requested ISB's assistance and two investigators responded to the park. Gomez was arrested and the contraband and vehicle were seized. The total weight of the contraband was 239.44 lbs of processed marijuana with an estimated street value of \$191,558. The US Attorney's Office, District of Arizona accepted the case for prosecution the next day. Gomez was ultimately charged with violation of 21 USC 841, Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana. Following a criminal indictment, Gomez pleaded guilty at a separate court hearing in September 2018. This case was assisted by the US Border Patrol Ajo Station, Pima County Sheriff's Department, and the Tucson District Office of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).





Legend:

- ▲ ISB Resident Office: staffed by Special Agent(s)
- ★ ISB Supervisory Office: staffed by an ASAC and Special Agent(s)



Pacific Field Office

Anchored in Yosemite National Park, the Pacific Field Office of the Investigative Services Branch (ISB) provides investigations and law enforcement support services for the entire Pacific West Region of the National Park Service (NPS). ISB Resident offices are staffed at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and Olympic National Park.

Of the 76 NPS units covered by the Pacific Field Office, 29 are in California, 17 are in Washington, 9 are in Hawai'i, 6 are in Idaho, 7 are in Oregon, 4 are in Nevada, and 1 is in Arizona. An additional 3 NPS sites are in the territories of the South Pacific Islands.

Though the Pacific Field never enjoyed full staffing capacity in 2018, it was happy to welcome a new Special Agent in the fall. Throughout the year, agents from this field office opened 49 new investigations and worked a total of 117 open cases. As 2018 drew to a close, the successful closure rate for those cases was strong, with each field agent carrying a robust caseload.

The year's investigations were complex and included violent crimes, sexual assault incidents, and homicide/manslaughter cases.

Additionally, the Pacific Field Office provided several internship opportunities for seasonal US Park Rangers. Working with ISB during their off season, these interns provided valuable assistance to the working agents by doing research, organizing cold case files, and preparing those files for electronic storage. The interns also assisted agents on investigations by reviewing documents, providing records analysis assistance, and researching information and leads for follow-up by agents. More information about ISB's Intern and Detailer programs is on pages 36-37.

Please see the following pages for noteworthy cases that closed in 2018. Additional cases are pending court action, and agents are carrying many more active investigations into 2019.

Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park.
NPS photo.



Pacific Field Office

Haleakalā National Park — Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Strangulation

An interagency investigation resulted in the conviction and prison sentence for a visitor who assaulted his wife in the park. Matthew Berckmann, age 44, was ordered to serve 41 months imprisonment followed by 3 years of supervised release. A federal jury found Berckmann guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon and assault by strangulation at a separate court hearing. The charges stemmed from an incident on October 18, 2017 at Hosmer Grove Campground in the park. A US Park Ranger and two Maui Police Department officers responded to the campground after a 911 call at about 1:00 pm. Court documents describe how witnesses saw Berckmann threaten a woman with a large kitchen knife while pinning her to the ground by holding his forearm against her throat. Berckmann was taken into custody on scene by the ranger, and an ISB Special Agent led the investigation at the park's request. Investigators learned that Berckmann had outstanding warrants both in Florida relating to an arrest for domestic battery by strangulation, and in New Jersey relating to an arrest for terroristic threats and simple assault. A criminal complaint was filed and a federal warrant was issued for his arrest. Berckmann was subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury for assault with a dangerous weapon and assault by strangulation. He was apprehended in December 2017 after a joint effort to locate him was initiated with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Berckmann remained in custody pending the outcome of his trial, and was turned over to the Bureau of Prisons upon sentencing. This case was prosecuted by the US Attorney's Office, District of Hawai'i. The National Park Service thanks the Maui Police Department and the FBI for their assistance in the investigation.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area — Attempted Homicide

A prison term of 81 months was handed down to a man who fired multiple shots at security guards at a marina in the park. Jamie J. Dulus, age 29, pleaded guilty in January 2018 to charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and use of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence. Dulus was charged after an incident that occurred on August 10, 2017 at the Las Vegas Boat Harbor Marina. Court records describe how Dulus, acting belligerently as the marina bar was closing, was asked by two security guards to leave the area. Dulus argued with the guards as he walked down the walkway leading to the parking lot. The guards followed him to ensure he left the area. Dulus then set his beer bottle on the ground, lifted his shirt, and grabbed a .25 caliber Raven handgun from his waistband. Dulus aimed and fired once at each security guard, and then started running towards the guards firing one more shot. When Dulus reached the two guards, he pressed the barrel of the handgun to one guard's forehead. The second guard was able to pull Dulus's hand away as another shot was fired. The guards were able to wrestle Dulus to the ground, remove the gun from his hand, and restrain him until US Park Rangers arrived on scene. An ISB Special Agent worked with US Park Rangers during the investigation, and prepared the case for prosecution by the US Attorney's Office, District of Nevada.

Pacific Field Office

Death Valley National Park — Destruction of Resources and Endangered Species

A convicted felon who fired a shotgun at the Devils Hole gate padlock, destroyed a surveillance camera and equipment, and harmed endangered pupfish was sentenced to prison. Trenton Sargent, age 28, pleaded guilty in July to one count of violation of the Endangered Species Act, one count of destruction of United States property, and one count of felon in possession of a firearm. Sargent was sentenced in October to 12 months and a day in prison followed by 3 years supervised release. Sargent admitted that he and co-defendants Edgar Reyes, age 37, and Steven Schwinkendorf, age 31, rammed their ATV into the fence surrounding Devils Hole, severely damaging the gate. Then, Sargent fired a Mossberg 500 shotgun at the padlock on the gate. After their attempts to open the gate were unsuccessful, the men scaled the fence. Once in the enclosed area, they destroyed a sensor center for cameras and equipment for the area, and destroyed a park video surveillance camera. Sargent then stepped into the water onto the Devils Hole shallow shelf, smashing pupfish eggs and larvae during the peak spawning season. Reyes and Schwinkendorf pleaded guilty to destruction of government property and violation of the Endangered Species Act at separate court hearings. They were each sentenced to one year probation. The inch-long, blue Devils Hole pupfish is a Nevada state and federally listed endangered species. The Endangered Species Act was enacted to provide a program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species. Devils Hole is the only location in the world where this species of pupfish exists in the wild, and is a detached unit of Death Valley National Park. Just weeks before the April 30, 2016 incident, a scientific survey of Devils Hole observed only 115 pupfish, which are among the rarest fishes on Earth. The investigation was conducted by US Park Rangers, ISB Special Agents, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nye County Sheriff's Office.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area — Lacey Act and Other Violations

A three-year interagency investigation by ISB Special Agents and the US Fish and Wildlife Service into the theft and international trafficking of cacti from Lake Mead National Recreation Area has concluded with a guilty plea. William Schwartz, age 54, pleaded guilty to four felony charges including Theft of Government Property, Lacey Act False Labeling, Smuggling, and Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine. Evidence gathered during the investigation indicates that Schwartz removed approximately 300 cacti from within park boundaries and other surrounding federal lands. Schwartz used eBay and other online means to advertise, sell, then ship the stolen cacti to international buyers from approximately 13 different countries. Along with possible incarceration for the offenses, Schwartz agreed to pay \$22,000 in restitution and will be banned from entering Lake Mead National Recreation Area and surrounding federal lands for 3 years. Other agencies and personal that assisted in this case included the United States Postal Inspection Service, US Marshals Service, NPS Flagstaff Area Parks Law Enforcement Ranger Division, Lake Mead Law Enforcement Ranger Division, and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area Resource Management Division. The US Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona handled prosecution. Sentencing was scheduled for February 2019.

Volcano House view in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. NPS photo by J Wei.

Pacific Field Office

National Park Service and Other Public Lands — Theft and Trafficking of Archeological Resources

An investigation by ISB Special Agents resulted in a prison term for a man who trafficked prehistoric artifacts looted from public lands. Gary Womack, age 60, was sentenced to serve 15 months imprisonment for three felony violations of the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). Court records show that Womack bought approximately 30 artifacts illegally removed from a Hopewell culture burial mound in Indiana. Such mounds are sacred spaces built by American Indians almost 2,000 years ago. Hopewellian people gathered at earthwork complexes for feasts, funerals, and rites of passage. Womack also trafficked artifacts from American Indian burial sites in Kentucky and the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. He was implicated in the trafficking of artifacts from Channel Islands National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and other public lands in Arizona and New Mexico. The cultural artifacts included prehistoric chert blades, stone tools, ancient ceramic pots, and a ladle. Womack pleaded guilty to the charges in March 2018. During the sentencing hearing, the federal judge told Womack that he was disturbed that Womack had chosen to dig the graves of the ancestors of American Indians for profit, and had done so while being well aware of the laws he had chosen to violate. "The remains that are within the soils of our original homelands contain the hallowed remains of human beings, our ancestors," stated Second Chief Ben Barnes of the Miami, Oklahoma Shawnee Tribe in a letter presented during the hearing. "We would urge the court to send a message... that ARPA violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law." ISB Special Agents from across the National Park System conducted the three-year investigation with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Bowling Green Resident Agency, and prepared the case for prosecution by the US Attorney's Office for the Western District of Kentucky.

Olympic National Park — Vehicular Assault by DUI

Following an investigation led by an ISB Special Agent, a man was sentenced to prison for two counts of vehicular assault in Olympic National Park. Kelly Lee Landry, age 51, was driving along Lake Crescent in the park in September 2017 when he crossed into the oncoming lane and hit another vehicle head-on. Court documents describe the immense impact of the collision, which sent the other vehicle over a steep embankment toward the lake. The driver of the other vehicle required a lengthy and difficult extrication; both occupants sustained severe life-threatening and debilitating injuries. US Park Rangers and more than 20 personnel from Clallam County Fire District 2 conducted the rescue. On scene, Landry told rangers that he had been driving his employer's truck to a casino. Inside the truck's cab were pipes and other drug paraphernalia. The ISB Special Agent worked with rangers and Washington State Patrol troopers during the investigation, and determined that Landry was driving while under the influence of methamphetamines and marijuana. He was subsequently charged, indicted, and arrested. Landry pleaded guilty and was ordered to serve two spans of 18 months incarceration (concurrent) followed by 36 months supervised release, and must pay restitution to both victims. "When drugs come into your life, your honesty, integrity, and life go out the door," stated the US District Court judge who presided over the case. "It's a tragedy for everyone." Both victims will have permanent limitations of the use of their limbs as a result of the collision. In their statements to the court, both expressed their hope that Landry would succeed in treatment for his addiction.

Eureka Sand Dunes in Death Valley National Park. NPS photo by K Moses.

Pacific Field Office

Lake Mead National Recreation Area — Assault (Road Rage)

On January 14, 2018, ISB Special Agents were dispatched to the scene of a shooting in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Investigators determined that Cameron and Schyler Thomas were involved in an altercation with other park visitors and chased them in their vehicle when they left. Cameron Thomas opened fire on their vehicle with a handgun, once through the rear window and passenger side headrest. The bullet tore the jacket of the person sitting in the passenger seat. Cameron Thomas pleaded guilty to assault with intent to inflict serious bodily harm and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. He was sentenced to serve 70 months in prison followed by 4 years probation, and was ordered to pay \$1,300 restitution and to forfeit the gun used in the crime. Schyler Thomas pleaded guilty to simple assault and was sentenced to time served (approximately 3.5 months) and one year of supervised release during which he is required to get his GED and a full-time job.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area — Attempted Homicide and Child Endangerment

US Park Rangers responded on June 9 for a report of a woman attempting to drown an infant in the Stop Sign Cove area of Lake Mohave, within Lake Mead National Recreation Area. ISB Special Agents were dispatched to conduct the investigation, which identified the involved woman as Justine Renee Kirklen. She was arrested and charged with felony child abuse. Kirklen was sentenced in February 2019 to serve 30 months incarceration followed by 36 months supervised release. She lost parental rights for the infant victim, and must participate in mental health and substance abuse counseling.

Olympic National Park — Child Luring and Sexual Assault

In November 2016, James C. Overton, age 36, drove from the Marysville, WA area and met with a 15-year-old girl at a gas station in Port Angeles, WA. Overton, aware of the girl's age, had been communicating with her since she was 13 years old on the application KIK, as well as by telephone and text. These communications included discussions about sex acts and the exchange of photos. When they met, Overton drove into Olympic National Park and parked just inside the boundary. There Overton had the girl perform a sexual act with him. During an interview with ISB Special Agents, Overton admitted to the electronic and sexual contact with the girl. He also admitted he was having similar communication with other underage girls in other parts of the United States. Working with Department of Homeland Security agents, ISB Special Agents served Overton with a search warrant. Images of child pornography were found on his electronic devices. Overton was arrested, charged, and has pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor and possession of child pornography. Sentencing is set for April 2019.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area — Vehicular Homicide

A single vehicle crash was reported on Placer Cove Road within the park on the afternoon of March 17, 2017. The crash left 17-year-old Kalob Meyer dead at the scene. US Park Rangers and ISB Special Agents investigated the incident and determined that the driver, Corey W. Brown, then age 19, was under the influence of marijuana. While driving in an erratic and reckless manner, the truck he was operating rolled, killing Meyer. Brown pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs resulting in death and is scheduled for sentencing in early 2019.

ISB Detailer Program

The ISB Special Agent Detailer Program has established a path for US Park Rangers and/or US Park Police Officers to enhance their criminal investigation skills since 2009. The program can help them determine whether or not they want to pursue a career as a special agent. ISB has hosted detailers in most of its field offices.

Detailers experience firsthand what working as a special agent entails. They lead investigations, execute search warrants, issue subpoenas and court orders, make arrests, and participate in court proceedings.

A major tool of the program is the Special Agent Detailer Training and Evaluation Handbook. It provides an overview of the policies and procedures administered during the ISB Detailer Program. It also provides detailers with clear program expectations and documents their training and experience.

Detailers who become self-sufficient in a short period of time assist special agents by working their own cases. This helps reduce caseload and increases ISB's overall efficiency and effectiveness. Costs associated with the detailer program are shared in most cases between ISB and the detailer's home park. Typically, base pay is funded by the park and Law Enforcement Availability Pay (LEAP) is funded by ISB. The detailer is usually converted to Criminal Investigation Series 1811 for the duration.

We were pleased to welcome a US Park Ranger to a permanent position with ISB in 2018; that ranger had spent several months with us on assignment.

As ISB Special Agents frequently work with US Park Rangers in the field, many take the initiative to mentor those rangers who show clear interest in criminal investigations. Both work groups prosper from this sharing of training and experience.

ISB Internship Program

Internships also provide strong opportunities for ISB and potential special agent candidates. Interns continued to work alongside ISB Special Agents in select field offices in 2018.

Interns have generally been those with some NPS seasonal law enforcement experience or criminal justice majors from a nearby university. Availability of housing is often a determining factor whether ISB has the ability to host interns.

Interns, who are considered volunteers and not necessarily subject to intensive background checks, may be limited or restricted as to how they can assist investigators with their criminal cases.

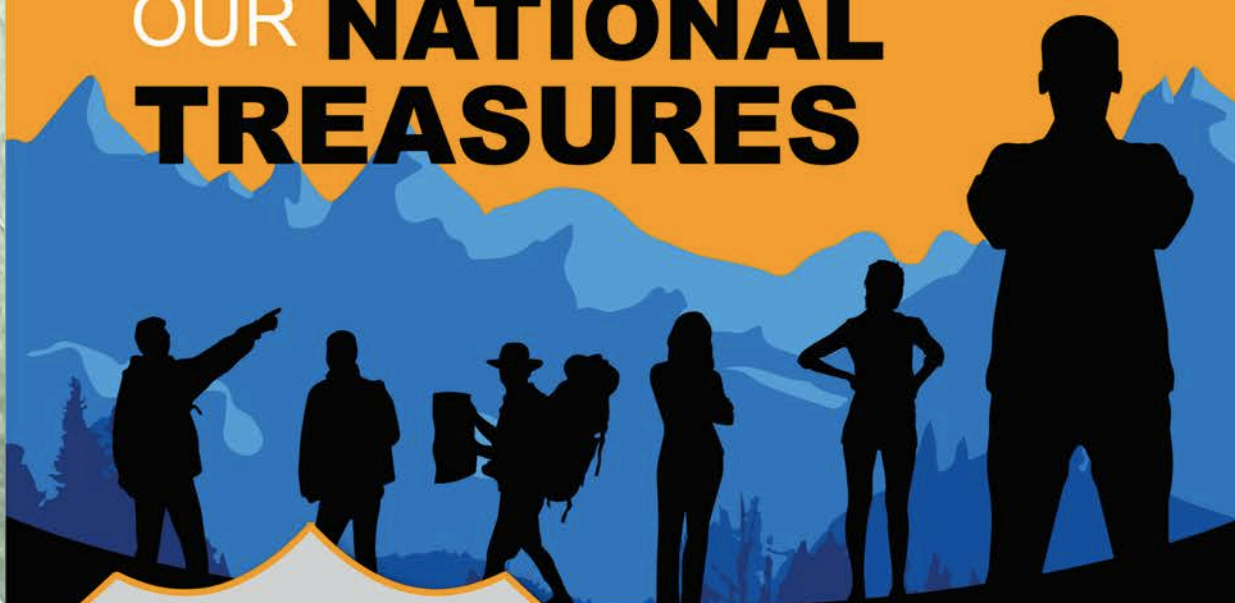
They have nonetheless provided valuable case support, undertaken special projects, and carried out the kinds of administrative tasks that keep daily operations strong. In 2018, interns stationed at our Pacific and Atlantic field offices contributed more than 1,350 hours of much appreciated service to ISB at minimal cost to the program.

To apply for an ISB internship, send us your bio - a brief statement of your experience, interest, and where you might like to serve. Be sure to include your availability dates and how we can reach you. Email nps_isb@nps.gov

More information is on our website
www.nps.gov/orgs/1563/internships-and-details.htm

A US Park Ranger & K9 at the site of an investigation.
NPS photo.

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR NATIONAL TREASURES



HOW CAN I HELP?

If you see something suspicious in any national park service location, or if you have information that could aid an investigation, stay safe and tell us about it.

Talk to any NPS employee for help in reporting suspicious activity, or give the Special Agents of the NPS Investigative Services Branch a call.

CONTACT US:

CALL or TEXT the ISB
Tip Line 888-653-0009

ONLINE at nps.gov/ISB
and click "Submit a Tip"

EMAIL nps_isb@nps.gov

MESSAGE on Facebook
[@InvestigativeServicesNPS](https://www.facebook.com/InvestigativeServicesNPS)
or Twitter and Instagram
[@SpecialAgentNPS](https://www.instagram.com/SpecialAgentNPS)

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ISB: THE INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Behind the Scenes

A journalist with Outside Magazine's online publication took an in-depth look into criminal investigations in the National Park System.

In her article, Rachel Monroe writes *"the 33 special agents assigned to the Investigative Services Branch handle the most complex crimes committed on NPS land ... The elite special agents assigned to the ISB — the National Park Service's homegrown equivalent to the FBI — are charged with investigating the most complex crimes committed on the more than 85 million acres of national parks, monuments, historical sites, and preserves administered by the National Park Service, from Alaska's Noatak National Preserve to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. They have solved homicides, tracked serial rapists hiding in the backcountry, averted kidnappings, and interdicted thousands of pounds of drugs. They've busted a reality TV host who poached a grizzly bear and infiltrated theft rings trafficking in looted Native American artifacts. But the ISB remains relatively unknown to the general public and even to fellow law enforcement ... "*

Read more at www.outsideonline.com/2353856/national-park-service-investigative-services-branch

Background: a bald eagle perched in a coastal spruce tree. Photo donated to ISB / used with permission.

NPS Investigative Services Branch • October 16, 2018 •

"We have the best job, because we get to put all the pieces together ... "

Want to know more about who we are and what we do? Check out an article published today about the Special Agents of the NPS Investigative Services Branch.

#NPS #FindYourPark #SpecialAgent #USParkRanger Outside Magazine

ISB: the Investigative Services Branch of the National Park Service
www.nps.gov/ISB

OUTSIDEONLINE.COM

The FBI of the National Park Service

The 33 special agents assigned to the Investigative Services Branch...



www.nps.gov/ISB



@InvestigativeServicesNPS



@SpecialAgent_NPS



@SpecialAgentNPS

Always On

People from more than 50 countries across the globe kept up with ISB online in 2018, reaching posts from our sites over 1.3 million times. This outreach helps us protect parks throughout the National Park System and the resources, wildlife, visitors, employees, and residents therein.

It also augments investigations throughout the year and helps us bring justice for victims of crimes.

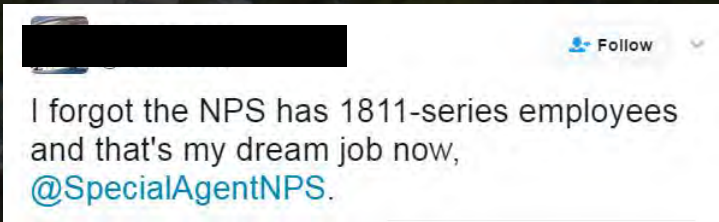
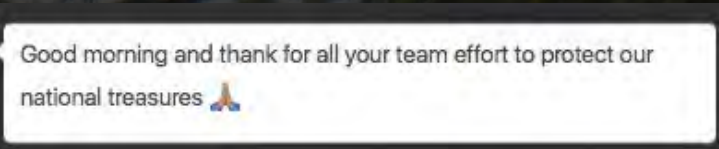
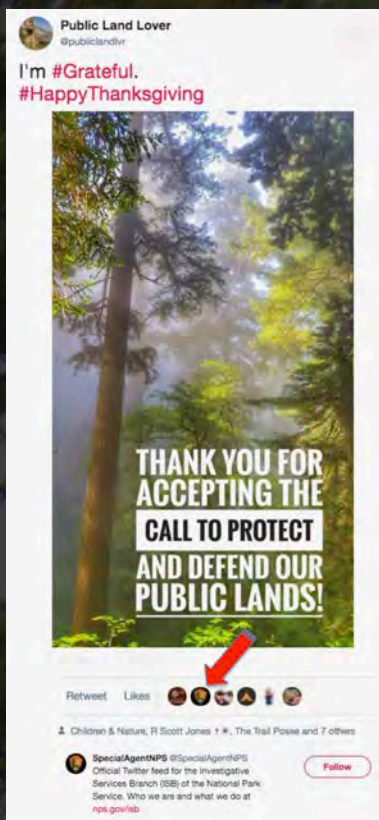
Tips from the public brought to light new incidents on National Park Service and other public lands, and aided cold case investigations.

We put social media to good work, with posts from our platforms translated into more than 40 languages. Even before the launch of our new Instagram page in the fall, our sites saw a remarkable 47% increase in followers over the year.

Our case updates and other posts were also featured in training presented by the FBI National Academy on *Media and Managing the Law Enforcement Image*.

The national and worldwide news cycles never stop, and we are thankful to our followers who help us share case updates, alerts, requests for information, and operational updates for the Investigative Services Branch of the National Park Service.

Whether you prefer Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or our official website that anchors it all, we are there.



Thanks! It's our dream job, too.


NPS Investigative Services Branch




 **Tip Line 888-653-0009**

 www.nps.gov/ISB

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An ISB Special Agent at an incident scene in Grand Canyon National Park. NPS photo.